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Course: EDAL 560 K-12 Law
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Case Analysis

Meyer v. Nebraska

Case Analysis Relevant Facts: A teacher in Zion Parochial School in Nebraska, by the name of Meyer, was convicted. He violated the Nebraska statute that forbade him from teaching any foreign language other than English to students who have not yet successfully completed eighth grade. Meyer was reading in the German language to a ten-year-old.

Meyer was arrested, tried, convicted and fined \$25. Although many people offered to pay his fine, he refused. The statute had been enacted during the First World War, ostensibly as an act of the police power of the state during 'an emergency.' (rhapsodyinbooks, 2009)

Legal Issue: Whether the "1919 Nebraska law prohibiting the teaching of foreign languages to school children before high school violated the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment" (rhapsodyinbooks, 2009).

Opinion of the Court: Yes (7-2).

Reasons for the Court Opinion: Because teaching the children in the language of their mother tongues would injure the United States. In addition, teaching them in their home language before high school would instill in them ideas and sentiments that would not be in the best interest of the USA.

Reference

rhapsodyinbooks. (2009, August 2). June 4, 1923 – The Supreme Court Decides Meyer v. Nebraska. Retrieved October 10, 2021, from <http://legallegacy.wordpress.com/2009/08/02/june-4-1923-%E2%80%93-the-supreme-court-decides-meyer-v-nebraska/>

Your total Score = 50/50

Comments

This case, Meyer v Nebraska, showcased the issue of teaching a foreign language and speaking another language (German). The law was passed during WW1 - a wartime Act. The Supreme court held that this was not valid because the US was not at war).

Nicole, I truly appreciated your concise analysis of this case.

Your write-up of the Relevant Facts of the case was Excellent. Your description of the legal issues and the Court's answer was Great - short and sweet.

The Reasons for the Court's Opinion Section was Excellent - concise and precise.

Thanks for your great paper, Nicole. Again, you are really doing great work in this class.

Thought for YOUR day

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.