

Supreme Court Issues Decision on the Affordable Care Act's Contraceptive Mandate

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The U.S. Supreme Court's 5-4 decision in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.* was announced yesterday. The Court held that the Affordable Care Act (the "ACA"), which requires employers to provide their female employees with no-cost access to contraceptives, violated the Religious Freedom Restoration Act as applied to certain employer-provided health plans. Importantly, the Court limited its ruling to closely-held corporations (under IRS rules, a corporation that is controlled by five or fewer individuals) with sincerely held religious beliefs relating to contraceptives.