

PruneYard Shopping Center v. Robins

APPELLANT

PruneYard Shopping Center

APPELLEE

Robins

LOCATION

The Pruneyard

DOCKET NO.

79-289

DECIDED BY

Burger Court (/courts?court=Burger Court)

LOWER COURT

Supreme Court of California

CITATION

447 US 74 (1980)

(<https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/447/74>)

ADVOCATES

Elinor Hadley Stillman (advocates/elinor_hadley_stillman)

Argued the cause for the United States as amicus curiae urging affirmance

Philip L. Hammer (advocates/philip_l_hammer)

Argued the cause for the appellee

Max L. Gillam, Jr. (advocates/max_l_gillam)

Argued the cause for the appellants

ARGUED

Mar 18, 1980

Facts of the case

High school students seeking support for their opposition to a United Nations resolution against Zionism set up a table in PruneYard to distribute literature and solicit signatures for a petition. A security guard told them to leave since their actions violated the shopping center's regulations against "publicly expressive" activities.

Question

Did PruneYard's regulations violate the students' free speech rights?

Conclusion

Sort: [by seniority](#) [by ideology](#)

[≤≤](#) decision 1 of 2 [≥≥](#)

UNANIMOUS DECISION

MAJORITY OPINION BY WILLIAM H. REHNQUIST

William J. Brennan Jr. Byron R. White Harry A. Blackmun William H. Rehnquist



Warren E. Burger Peter Stewart Thurgood Marshall Lewis F. Powell John Paul Stevens

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Yes. Since the California Constitution protected "speech and petitioning, reasonably exercised, in shopping centers even when the shopping centers are privately owned," PruneYard could not prevent the students from soliciting on its property. The Court argued that it was within California's power to guarantee this expansive free speech right since it did not unreasonably intrude on the rights of private property owners.

Cite this page

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