



ICYMI: Case Before State Supreme Court Could Expand Legal Liability, Raise Costs for Property Owners

Pending Decision Underscores Need for Reinstating “Open and Obvious” Protection

Lansing, MICH (Oct 8, 2026) – Today the Michigan Supreme Court heard oral arguments in [*Molitoris v Saint Mary Magdalen Catholic Church*](#), a case that could vastly expand legal liability and raise costs for Michigan property owners.

A [2023 ruling](#) from the State Supreme Court overturned Michigan’s open and obvious premise liability, a longstanding legal protection for Michigan property owners that helped small businesses combat frivolous slip-and-fall lawsuits.

The 2023 decision only impacted property when and where visitors engaged in commerce, but today’s case seeks to further expand a property owner’s liability to anyone allowed on someone’s property, regardless of the reason, by further eliminating the little protections that remained for property owners.

“Today’s case has the potential to make Michigan an outlier amongst outliers, leaving property owners across the state with nearly the weakest legal protections and highest costs in the nation,” **said Zach Rudat, Director of the Michigan Alliance for Legal Reform.** “If Michigan’s Supreme Court further erodes legal protections for property owners, Michigan lawmakers can and should respond with legislative action that restores reasonable safeguards and discourages frivolous lawsuits.”

[House Bill 4582](#) would restore Michigan’s open and obvious premise liability doctrine, a protection that exists in 41 states across the political spectrum. The bill awaits further action in the Michigan State Senate.

The Michigan Alliance for Legal Reform is a coalition of 45 Michigan associations and employers dedicated to reining in lawsuit abuse and restoring balance and fairness in Michigan’s legal system. Learn more at MIAllianceForLegalReform.com.

Contact: Zach Rudat, MI Alliance for Legal Reform, zach@MIAllianceforLegalReform.com or 989-640-8140.