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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA**

BRIAN TINGLEY,

Plaintiff,

v.

NICHOLAS W. BROWN, in his official capacity as Attorney General for the State of Washington; **DENNIS WORSHAM**, in his official capacity as Secretary of Health for the State of Washington; and **SHAWNA FOX**, in her official capacity as Assistant Secretary of the Health Systems Quality Assurance division of the Washington State Department of Health,

Defendants.

Case No. 3:21-cv-05359-RJB

**PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR
RELIEF FROM JUDGMENT**

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1 **Introduction**

2 In *Chiles v. Salazar*, the Supreme Court rejected the Ninth Circuit’s decision
3 in this case by an 8–1 vote. 146 S.Ct. 1010 (2026). The *Chiles* Court named *Tingley*
4 *v. Ferguson* in its opinion, resolved the circuit split against the Ninth Circuit’s
5 *Tingley* decision, evaluated a Colorado law just like the one in *Tingley*, and adopted
6 the very arguments Plaintiff Brian Tingley made in this case. Despite this legal
7 vindication, the judgment here continues to bind Tingley, forcing him to self-censor
8 and chill his speech. Tingley Supp. Decl. ¶ 13–14. The judgment, therefore, violates
9 his constitutional rights and causes him ongoing, irreparable harm.

10 Enter Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60(b)(6): a “grand reservoir of equitable
11 power” allowing relief from judgment “to ensure that justice be done in light of all
12 the facts.” *Henson v. Fid. Nat’l Fin., Inc.*, 943 F.3d 434, 439–40 (9th Cir. 2019). In
13 this case, justice means relieving Tingley from a legally incorrect judgment and
14 allowing his case to proceed under *Chiles*. That’s the only way to lift the burden on
15 his protected speech and allow him to counsel his clients, as *Chiles* says he can.

16 In contrast, protecting Tingley prejudices no one. Washington’s law
17 discriminates based on viewpoint and thus “represents an egregious assault” on
18 Tingley’s “inalienable right to think and speak freely” when helping his clients
19 achieve their goals. *Chiles*, 146 S.Ct. at 1029 (citation modified). Washington has no
20 interest in seeing Tingley’s rights violated. Justice and this circuit’s Rule 60(b)(6)
21 precedent justify relieving Tingley and allowing his case to proceed under a correct
22 understanding of the law.

23 **Background**

24 **A. Tingley wants to counsel minors in ways that violate Washington’s**
25 **law.**

26 Plaintiff Brian Tingley is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with 20
27 years’ experience counseling clients. (Compl. ¶ 70, ECF No. 1; Tingley Decl. ¶ 3,

1 ECF No. 2–1, Tingley Supp. Decl. ¶1–2.) Tingley works with his clients to help them
2 achieve the personal goals that they choose for themselves. (Compl. ¶ 79; Tingley
3 Decl. ¶ 14; Tingley Supp. Decl. ¶ 4.) He counsels both adults and minors. (Tingley
4 Supp. Decl. ¶ 3.) In all cases, his counseling consists of nothing but conversation:
5 asking his clients questions, listening empathetically, and offering suggestions
6 about how they can better understand themselves, their relationships, and their
7 emotions. (Compl. ¶ 76; Tingley Decl. ¶ 13–14, 66; Tingley Supp. Decl. ¶ 4.) This
8 allows clients to pursue the behavioral changes they desire and live the lives they
9 want to live. (Tingley Decl. ¶ 14.)

10 Tingley’s Christian faith informs his perspective. He never imposes his views
11 on clients; rather, they come to him to work toward *their* chosen goals. (Compl. ¶ 27,
12 79–80; Tingley Decl. ¶ 9, 14–15; Tingley Supp. Decl. ¶ 4, 9.) Often, his clients choose
13 to work with him because they share his Christian faith and desire a counselor who
14 shares their worldview. (Compl. ¶ 71; Tingley Decl. ¶ 8; Tingley Supp. Decl. ¶ 9.)

15 As part of this worldview, Tingley and many of his clients believe that true
16 flourishing comes from living consistently with who God created them to be, even
17 more than pursuing their own feelings or desires. (Compl. ¶ 67–68, 127–130;
18 Tingley Decl. ¶ 26–30, 32; Tingley Supp. Decl. ¶ 5–7.) This perspective holds in all
19 facets of life, including issues of sex, gender, and sexuality. (Compl. ¶ 126–127, 129,
20 147; Tingley Decl. ¶ 23–24, 60.) Tingley’s faith teaches that it is possible, by God’s
21 grace, to be transformed and to live consistently with God’s commandments.
22 (Compl. ¶ 127–129, 147; Tingley Decl. ¶ 31–32; Tingley Supp. Decl. ¶ 7.)

23 This worldview is often countercultural. Tingley’s clients seek—and Tingley
24 desires to provide—counseling consistent with those goals and beliefs. (Tingley
25 Supp. Decl. ¶ 10–11, 13, 15; Tingley Supp. Decl. ¶ 10–12.)

26 But Washington makes Tingley’s approach illegal when counseling minors.
27 Washington’s counseling ban prohibits conversations between a counselor and a

1 client under 18 if those conversations seek change related to “sexual orientation or
2 gender identity,” including “efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions, or to
3 eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of
4 the same sex.” RCW § 18.130.020. On the flip side, Washington expressly allows
5 “counseling ... that provide[s] acceptance, support, and understanding of clients or
6 the facilitation of clients’ coping, social support, and identity exploration and
7 development that do[es] not seek to change sexual orientation or gender identity.”
8 *Id.* Violations of this law are severe, including fines up to \$5,000 for each violation,
9 suspension from practice, and even the loss of license and livelihood. RCW
10 § 18.130.160.

11 **B. The Ninth Circuit’s decision in *Tingley* formed a key part of the**
12 **circuit split that the Supreme Court has now resolved in**
13 ***Tingley*’s favor.**

14 In May 2021, Tingley challenged Washington’s law on First and Fourteenth
15 Amendment grounds because it restricted his ability to counsel minors to help them
16 identify and act consistent with their faith on matters of gender identity and
17 sexuality. Compl. ¶¶ 188–263. A few months later, the district court denied Tingley’s
18 preliminary-injunction motion and dismissed the case entirely with prejudice,
19 holding that the challenged law satisfied rational-basis review. Order, ECF No. 47,
20 at 14–15. Tingley appealed.

21 In September 2022, the Ninth Circuit affirmed, applying rational basis
22 review. *Tingley v. Ferguson*, 47 F.4th 1055, 1079 (9th Cir. 2022). Tingley moved for
23 rehearing en banc, which the Ninth Circuit denied with five judges dissenting.
24 *Tingley*, 57 F.4th at 1073, 1082 (O’Scannlain, J., dissenting from the denial of
25 rehearing en banc; Bumatay, J., dissenting from the denial of rehearing en banc).

26 Tingley then petitioned for certiorari, which the Supreme Court denied in
27 December 2023, with Justices Thomas and Alito publishing dissents and Justice

1 Kavanaugh noting that he would grant the petition. *Tingley v. Ferguson*, 144 S.Ct.
2 33, 35 (2023) (Thomas, J., dissenting from the denial of certiorari; Alito, J.,
3 dissenting from the denial of certiorari). Justice Thomas’s dissent expressed “no
4 doubt” that the constitutionality of so-called conversion therapy bans would “come
5 before the Court again.” *Id.* at 35. And Justice Alito’s dissent noted a “conflict in the
6 Circuits” on the issue. *Id.*

7 Meanwhile, *Chiles v. Salazar*—a case challenging a nearly identical
8 counseling law in Colorado—had been on appeal at the Tenth Circuit for nearly a
9 year. Notice of Appeal, *Chiles v. Salazar*, No. 1:22-cv-02287-CNS-STV (D. Colo. Dec.
10 20, 2022), ECF No. 56. The Tenth Circuit ruled against the plaintiff in *Chiles*,
11 mirroring and citing the Ninth Circuit’s *Tingley* decision. *Chiles v. Salazar*, 116
12 F.4th 1178 (10th Cir. 2024). Chiles then petitioned the Supreme Court for
13 certiorari, which the Court granted in March 2025, setting the case for argument in
14 the October 2025 term. Pet. for Writ of Cert., *Chiles v. Salazar*, No. 24–539 (U.S.
15 Nov. 8, 2024); 145 S.Ct. 1328 (2025) (granting petition). On March 31, 2026, the
16 Supreme Court ruled for Chiles—adopting the same reasoning that Tingley had
17 advocated in this case. *Chiles*, 146 S.Ct. 1010. The Supreme Court held that
18 counseling conversations are protected speech and that laws like Colorado’s censor
19 that speech based on viewpoint. *Chiles*, 146 S.Ct. at 1029. The *Chiles* decision cited
20 this case three times, wrapping up the 8–1 majority opinion with a quote from
21 Justice Thomas’s dissent from denial of certiorari in this case. *Chiles*, 146 S.Ct. at
22 1019–20, 1029.

23 **C. After *Chiles*, Tingley wants to counsel contrary to Washington’s**
24 **law, but still cannot because of the final judgment against him.**

25 Since this Court entered judgment against Tingley, he’s been actively chilling
26 and self-censoring his speech in two distinct ways. (Tingley Supp. Decl. ¶ 28–29, 33,
27 40–44.) *First*, he’s turned down prospective minor clients who want counseling that

1 Washington prohibits: counseling directed at achieving the client’s goal of avoiding
2 same-sex behavior or developing comfort with their sex. (Tingley Supp. Decl. ¶ 23.)
3 He’s done this on at least six occasions, and he will continue to turn down
4 counseling requests that put him at undue risk of violating the law. (Tingley Supp.
5 Decl. ¶ 23.) *Second*, he’s avoided saying on his website that he offers counseling for
6 young people on gender and sexuality issues consistent with his Biblical worldview.
7 (Tingley Supp. Decl. ¶ 36–40.) But he would like to. (Tingley Supp. Decl. ¶ 38–39.)
8 The only reason he is not posting that statement or counseling on forbidden view-
9 points is the judgment entered against him. (Tingley Supp. Decl. ¶ 40.)

10 **Argument**

11 Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60(b)(6), courts may relieve a party
12 from final judgment for “any other reason that justifies relief.” Tingley deserves
13 relief under this catchall provision because of the intervening Supreme Court
14 decision in *Chiles*. In a change-of-law situation like this, the Ninth Circuit considers
15 six non-exclusive factors that balance how squarely the legal change affects the
16 judgment against any applicable finality interests. *Henson*, 943 F.3d at 446; *Phelps*
17 *v. Alameida*, 569 F.3d 1120, 1132–33 (9th Cir. 2009). The Court also looks at the
18 totality of the circumstances and whether granting the motion promotes justice.
19 *Henson*, 943 F.3d at 440, 446. Tingley here (I) satisfies the six *Phelps* factors and
20 (II) justice overwhelmingly favors undoing the judgment against him.

21 **I. Tingley satisfies the six *Phelps* factors for relief under FRCP 60(b)(6).**

22 Courts considers six non-exclusive factors “flexibly and in their totality” to
23 evaluate a Rule 60(b)(6) request: “(1) the nature of the legal change...; (2) whether
24 the movant exercised diligence...; (3) the parties’ reliance interests in the finality of
25 the judgment; (4) the delay between the finality of the judgment and the Rule
26 60(b)(6) motion; (5) the relationship between the change in law and the challenged
27 judgment; and (6) whether there are concerns of comity that would be disturbed by

1 reopening a case.” *Bynoe v. Baca*, 966 F.3d 972, 983 (9th Cir. 2020). Tingley satisfies
2 each factor.

3 **A. *Chiles* directly contradicts the prior holding in this case on an**
4 **unsettled legal question.**

5 *Chiles* resolved the core legal questions here—whether the First Amendment
6 protects counseling conversations and whether laws like Washington’s discriminate
7 based on viewpoint. *Chiles*, 146 S.Ct. at 1029. These issues were unsettled at the
8 time of the Ninth Circuit’s decision in this case. Indeed, there was a circuit split.
9 Compare *Otto v. Boca Raton*, 981 F.3d 854 (11th Cir. 2020), with *King v. Governor*
10 *of the State of New Jersey*, 767 F.3d 216 (3d Cir. 2014), and *Tingley*, 47 F.4th 1055,
11 both abrogated by *Chiles*, 146 S.Ct. 1010; see also *Tingley v. Ferguson*, 144 S.Ct. 33,
12 35–36 (2023) (Justice Alito’s dissent from denial of certiorari noting that “the Ninth
13 Circuit’s holding is based on the highly debatable view that its prior decision in
14 *Pickup v. Brown* survived at least in part our decision in *National Institute of*
15 *Family and Life Advocates v. Becerra*....”)(citations omitted).

16 The first *Phelps* factor analyzes the nature of the legal claim, with changes to
17 unsettled law favoring the movant. 943 F.3d at 446. In *Phelps*, the petitioner sought
18 relief from judgment after 11 years of unsuccessfully trying to have his claims heard
19 on the merits only to have the court side with him on the legal analysis “regarding
20 the core disputed issue in [his] case . . . fifteen months after his appeal became
21 final[.]” 569 F.3d at 1136. The court emphasized that later judgment’s adoption of
22 the petitioner’s argument and found that the intervening decision’s resolution of an
23 unsettled issue favored granting relief from judgment. *Id.*

24 So too here. The *Chiles* court adopted the approach Tingley advocated—that
25 counseling conversations are protected by the First Amendment, and that laws like
26 Washington’s discriminate based on viewpoint when applied to speech like his. Pl.’s
27 Br. Supp. Mot. Prelim. Inj. 7–12, ECF No. 2. Indeed, *Chiles* flatly rejected the

1 argument that counseling speech is unprotected conduct. *Chiles*, 146 S.Ct. at 1023.
2 Because *Chiles* resolved the unsettled issues at the heart of this case, the first
3 *Phelps* factor strongly favors relief from judgment. *See Phelps*, 569 F.3d at 1130–32.

4 **B. Tingley exhausted every available avenue for consideration of**
5 **his claims.**

6 For the second *Phelps* factor, courts evaluate whether the movant diligently
7 pursued relief in his first case. *Bynoe*, 966 F.3d at 983. And Tingley did. He
8 appealed the final judgment against him, lost at the Ninth Circuit, sought en banc
9 review, and petitioned the Supreme Court for certiorari. *Tingley v. Ferguson*, 47
10 F.4th 1055 (9th Cir. 2022), *reh’g en banc denied*, 57 F.4th 1072 (9th Cir. 2023), *cert.*
11 *denied*, 144 S.Ct. 33 (2023). Tingley could hardly do more. In fact, the movants in
12 *Phelps* did roughly the same thing in a similar situation. 569 F.3d at 1136–37. The
13 court deemed this a “sterling example of diligence” that set the second factor
14 “strongly in his favor.” *Id.* at 1137. Tingley acted with similar diligence.

15 **C. Relief from judgment does not harm reliance interests and**
16 **would promote confidence in the judicial system.**

17 For the third factor, courts evaluate “the extent of the parties’ reliance
18 interests on the judgment.” *Bynoe*, 966 F.3d at 985. The mere “abstract interest in
19 finality” does not preclude relief from judgment. *See id.* at 985–87 (internal
20 quotation marks omitted).

21 Here, Washington has no legitimate reliance interest in violating Tingley’s
22 rights now that the Supreme Court has clarified how the First Amendment applies
23 to its counseling law. Nor does anything else about this case create a reliance
24 interest. After all, Tingley brought a pre-enforcement challenge. So traditional
25 reliance issues do not come into play: the prior judgment did not involve any
26 payment that must be undone, nor must Washington undo any action with respect
27 to third parties. The judgment’s primary effect falls on Tingley and his potential

1 clients who seek his counseling, many of whom desperately want help pursuing the
2 goals that Washington’s law forbids. Because the state has no cognizable reliance
3 interests in continuing to suppress Tingley’s free-speech rights, this factor favors
4 relief.

5 **D. Tingley promptly seeks relief from judgment.**

6 For the fourth factor, courts evaluate whether the movant acted quickly after
7 the change in law. And here, Tingley’s motion comes soon after the *Chiles* decision.
8 *Bynoe*, 966 F.3d at 986 (finding that “delay” between the final judgment and
9 60(b)(6) motion “can be offset by a petitioner’s diligence” in seeking reconsideration.)
10 In fact, Tingley filed this motion within weeks of the Supreme Court issuing its
11 mandate. *See* Mandate, *Chiles v. Salazar*, No. 24–539 (U.S. May 4, 2026). That
12 timeline easily satisfies the requirement that “individuals seeking to have a new
13 legal rule applied to their otherwise final case should petition the court for
14 reconsideration with a degree of promptness.” *Bynoe*, 966 F.3d at 986. To be sure,
15 this motion comes nearly three years after final judgment. But that is of little
16 moment since the effect of the judgment was to lock in the status quo—Mr. Tingley
17 self-censoring and chilling his speech—rather than to alter the parties’ positions.
18 Now the Supreme Court has clarified that this result violates the First Amendment;
19 no one is prejudiced by re-opening this case to do justice.

20 **E. *Chiles* controls the dispositive issue here.**

21 For the fifth *Phelps* factor, courts consider whether the “original and
22 intervening decisions at issue” are linked. *Henson*, 943 F.3d at 452. When the link is
23 close, “the court will be more likely” to grant the 60(b)(6) motion. *Id.* (brackets
24 omitted). Courts also consider whether the intervening change in law is
25 “dispositive,” though it need not necessarily “require a different outcome.” *Bynoe*,
26 966 F.3d at 986. When a later “decision definitively resolve[s] a preexisting conflict
27 in the law,” this “weigh[s] in favor of granting relief under Rule 60(b)(6).” *Phelps*,

1 569 F.3d at 1139.

2 Here, Tingley checks all those boxes. This case and *Chiles* involve nearly
3 identical statutes, nearly identical plaintiffs, nearly identical speech, and nearly
4 identical claims and legal arguments. Both cases were brought by licensed
5 counselors who seek to engage in voluntary, speech-only counseling with clients
6 under 18 desiring to pursue government-forbidden goals.

7 The statutes are functionally equivalent. Washington’s law prohibits
8 counseling that “seeks to change an individual’s sexual orientation or gender
9 identity,” including “efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions, or to
10 eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of
11 the same sex,” while allowing “counseling or psychotherapies that provide
12 acceptance, support, and understanding of clients or the facilitation of clients’
13 coping, social support, and identity exploration and development.” RCW
14 18.130.020(4) (a)–(b). Likewise, Colorado’s law bans “any practice or treatment ...
15 that attempts or purports to change an individual’s sexual orientation or gender
16 identity, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions or to eliminate
17 or reduce sexual or romantic attraction or feelings toward individuals of the same
18 sex,” but it permits “practices or treatments that provide: (I) Acceptance, support,
19 and understanding for the facilitation of an individual’s coping, social support, and
20 identity exploration and development.” Colo. Rev. Stat. § 12-245-2023.5 (a)–(b).

21 Both plaintiffs made similar First Amendment arguments. *Compare* Opening
22 Br. of Appellant at 16–34 (arguing that Washington’s law restricts protected speech
23 based on viewpoint), ECF No. 9, *with* Opening Br. of Appellant at 15–31, *Chiles*, No.
24 22–1445, ECF No. 010110823587 (10th Cir. Mar. 8, 2023) (arguing that Colorado’s
25 law does the same).

26 And both appellate courts upheld the challenged statutes under the same
27 rational-basis reasoning. *Tingley*, 47 F.4th at 1078–1080; *Chiles v. Salazar*, 116

1 F.4th 1178, 1214–15(10th Cir. 2024) (quoting *Tingley*, 47 F.4th at 1077, 1082–83)
2 (“we join the Ninth Circuit in concluding a ‘law[] prohibiting licensed therapists
3 from practicing conversion therapies on minors is a regulation on conduct that
4 incidentally [involves] speech.’”)

5 When the Supreme Court denied certiorari in this case, *Chiles* had already
6 been appealed to the Tenth Circuit. And the dissent from certiorari in this case
7 expressly recognized that this issue would again come before the Supreme Court
8 and exhorted the Court to decide it then. *Tingley*, 144 S.Ct. 33 (Thomas, J.,
9 dissenting from denial of certiorari). The Court did so in *Chiles*.

10 Further, the *Chiles* opinion itself cites the Ninth Circuit opinion in this case
11 twice and even quotes the dissent from the denial of certiorari. *Chiles*, 146 S.Ct. at
12 1019–20, 1029. And Washington state characterizes the Colorado law as “materially
13 similar” to its own in an amicus brief it filed alongside other states in *Chiles* Br. for
14 Washington et al. Supp. Resp’t, *Chiles v. Salazar*, No. 24–539, at 16 (U.S. Aug. 26,
15 2025).

16 And while *Tingley* need not prove that *Chiles* resolves this case in his favor,
17 *Bynoe*, 966 F.3d at 986, it did. The Supreme Court held that the nearly identical law
18 at issue there “censors speech based on viewpoint ... an egregious assault” on the
19 “inalienable right to think and speak freely[.]” *Chiles*, 146 S.Ct. at 1029 (cleaned
20 up). Often, statutes that discriminate based on viewpoint are per se violations of the
21 First Amendment. *Iancu v. Brunetti*, 588 U.S. 388, 393–99 (2019) (finding a
22 viewpoint-based law unconstitutional without additional scrutiny). At a minimum,
23 such laws must pass strict scrutiny. This “unforgiving” standard presents a
24 formidable hurdle that is almost universally “fatal,” and this case should be no
25 exception. *Free Speech Coal., Inc. v. Paxton*, 606 U.S. 461, 484–85 (2025). Indeed,
26 the only two times appellate courts applied strict scrutiny against laws like
27 Washington’s the laws failed. *Otto v. Boca Raton*, 981 F.3d at 868–70; *Cath.*

1 *Charities of Jackson, Lenawee, & Hillsdale Ctys. v. Whitmer*, 162 F.4th 686, 696
2 (6th Cir. 2025).

3 **F. No comity interests preclude relief.**

4 For the final *Phelps* factor, courts consider whether comity interests should
5 preclude relief from the judgment. *Henson*, 943 F.3d at 453. For example, in *Jones*
6 *v. Ryan*, the court held that comity concerns “weigh[ed] strongly” against a federal
7 habeas petitioner who had been convicted by a state court when relief from judg-
8 ment would upset the ruling on his habeas petition, which had been fully considered
9 and denied on the merits, and would risk upending the state court’s judgment
10 against him. 733 F.3d 825, 840 (9th Cir. 2013).

11 But no interest like that arises here. This case has been in federal—not
12 state—court from the outset, and Tingley has no prior state-court judgment at
13 stake. So traditional comity concerns do not apply. As in *Henson*, “considerations of
14 comity between the independently sovereign state and federal judiciaries ... do not
15 apply here at all, because this case does not involve a federal habeas petition that
16 challenges a state conviction.” *Henson*, 943 F.3d at 453 (cleaned up). To the
17 contrary, First Amendment challenges to state laws like this one are brought under
18 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Such lawsuits simply do not raise comity concerns. *See Mitchum*
19 *v. Foster*, 407 U.S. 225, 242 (1972) (“The very purpose of § 1983 was to interpose the
20 federal courts between the States and the people, as guardians of the people’s
21 federal rights—to protect the people from unconstitutional action under color of
22 state law....”) (internal quotation marks omitted). So this factor supports Tingley.

23 **II. Justice favors relief from judgment.**

24 Beyond the six *Phelps* factors, the Ninth Circuit also considers overall context
25 and the interests of justice. *Bynoe*, 966 F.3d at 983. These considerations include
26 whether there was a “relevant alteration to constitutional rights, “the injustice
27 borne by the petitioner absent a re-opening of the judgment,” and “whether the

1 change in law resolved an unsettled legal question.” *Id.* at 983–84.

2 Each of these factors also favors Tingley. Tingley’s case deals with his
3 constitutional rights (First and Fourteenth Amendment rights); he will suffer grave
4 injustice if the judgment remains (the loss of his constitutional rights going
5 forward); his prospective clients with state-forbidden goals are also suffering
6 because they cannot access the helpful counseling they seek; and the law was
7 unsettled at the time of the lower court’s decision (see *supra* § I.A).

8 Past cases support Tingley’s request for relief here. In *Ratha v. Rubicon*
9 *Resources*, the plaintiffs lost because the court ruled that the statute did not allow
10 private actions for plaintiffs’ claims. 168 F.4th 541, 548–49 (2026). Fifteen days
11 later, Congress amended that statute to expressly allow private actions for the
12 conduct plaintiffs had alleged, thereby resolving a circuit split. *Id.* at 549, 555. The
13 Ninth Circuit found that this change in law favored relief from judgment as it
14 clearly indicated the proper interpretation of the law, which had been unclear
15 before. *Id.* at 562. And in *Phelps*, the court emphasized that “the legal arguments
16 that Phelps put forward ... were rejected by the judges before whom he appeared,
17 only to be fully embraced within a matter of months by judges authoring a more
18 authoritative, controlling opinion in a different case.” *Phelps*, 569 F.3d at 1123. In
19 both situations, a plaintiff lost his case, and then a higher authority rejected the
20 legal predicate and analysis of those decisions, effectively overruling them. So too
21 here. The Supreme Court resolved a circuit split on First Amendment protections
22 for counselor speech, effectively overturning the Ninth Circuit’s decision in this
23 case.

24 Basic justice also favors Tingley. Courts’ “grand reservoir of equitable power”
25 under 60(b)(6), *Henson*, 943 F.3d at 439–40, allows them to “vacate judgments
26 whenever such action is appropriate to accomplish justice,” provided the element of
27 “extraordinary circumstances” is satisfied. *Liljeberg v. Health Servs. Acquisition*

1 Respectfully submitted this 27th day of May, 2026.

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23 **Certification**

24 I certify that this memorandum contains 4,181 words, in compliance with the Local
25 Civil Rules.

1 **Certificate of Service**

2 I hereby certify that on May 27, 2026, I electronically filed the foregoing
3 document with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system which will send
4 notification of such filing to all counsel of record who are registered users of the
5 ECF system.

6
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