

News and Current Events :: University settles suit over distribution of religious tracts

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NEW ORLEANS — A lawsuit filed after a Messianic Jew was blocked from distributing a religious tract at the University of New Orleans because it might offend some people has been settled.

The American Center for Law and Justice, which filed the suit on behalf of New Orleans missionary Michelle Beadle, said on Aug. 16 that UNO had revised its policy regarding free speech on campus and agreed to permit Beadle to distribute her tracts.

At issue was a tract that asserted that almost any subject is acceptable for polite conversation, but one statement still triggers an angry response from people: "Jews should believe in Jesus."

The suit, filed last year in federal court in New Orleans, alleged that university policy, which requires religious material to be presented to a university official for approval, lacked sufficient guidelines for determining whether the material could be distributed.

ACLJ senior counsel Stuart Roth said religious material distributed on the campus no longer must be reviewed.