

# Former Indiana Teacher Wins \$650,000 in Religious Discrimination Case Over Pronouns

A former Indiana teacher has won a large religious discrimination settlement against the school district that forced him out after he refused to violate his Christian beliefs.

Brownsburg Community School Corporation has agreed to pay \$650,000 to settle the lawsuit brought by former high school music teacher John Kluge, who declined to use personal pronouns that did not match students' biological sex.

Kluge, who taught orchestra and music theory at Brownsburg High School, was represented by Alliance Defending Freedom, aided by attorneys Michael Cork, Kevin Green, and Ros Stovall. In addition to the financial payout, the district has agreed to train its senior staff on how Title VII of the Civil Rights Act protects religious employees from discrimination.

Kluge filed the lawsuit after the district tried to force teachers to refer to students using transgender names and pronouns. He argued that complying with the policy would violate his sincerely held religious beliefs.



***Order Chad McDonald's New Book, "Defeating Darkness" on !***

In 2017, Brownsburg had initially granted Kluge a religious accommodation under Title VII, allowing him to address all students by their last names. But then several students and teachers complained, and the district revoked the accommodation and forced Kluge to resign in 2021.

In August of 2025, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit ruled that the case should proceed to a jury trial. The court cited the U.S. Supreme Court's 2023 decision in *Groff v. DeJoy*, which clarified that employers must accommodate employees' religious beliefs.

In light of that significant ruling by the Supreme Court, Brownsburg chose to settle the case rather than face potential liability during trial.

"After almost five and a half years, common sense has prevailed at Brownsburg," said ADF Senior Counsel and Vice President of U.S. Litigation David Cortman. "This settlement confirms what the law has always said: Public schools cannot force teachers to violate their religious beliefs."

*To read the full story, visit our content partners at CBN News.*

*Reprinted with permission from . Copyright © 2026 The Christian Broadcasting Network Inc. All rights reserved.*