

MSCF Minute



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Janus v AFSCME Coverage

by Gretchen Long, MSCF Secretary

Last Tuesday evening, MSCF hosted a discussion on the US Supreme court case Janus vs AFSCME. This case, which is the [third](#) time the Supreme Court has taken on the issue of agency fees, will have far-reaching implications for public sector unions and beyond. The amount of coverage and analysis this case has received is indicative of its potential impact, which many call the [biggest labor case of the century](#). The case has even warranted [coverage](#) in Teen Vogue. In this week's article, we share some highlights of that coverage.

For those who are still not quite sure what the case is about, [this NPR story](#) provides a good place to start, and this [New York Times piece](#), which draws heavily from [this report](#) by the Economic Policy Institute explores the groups and individuals who are behind the case and how this case fits into a larger effort to weaken and eliminate unions.

The basis of the case is a First Amendment challenge to the practice of collecting fair share dues that has many concerned about [judicial activism](#) and has prompted concerns about how the [public will view the court](#).

The First Amendment argument has also garnered [support for the union's case](#) from some unusual places, is prompting [further lawsuits](#) in anticipation of a decision against AFSCME, and [some speculation](#) that the case will actually help unions.

While some analysts see [a path for AFSCME to prevail](#) and for the court to uphold the precedent of fair share dues, the majority opinion seems to be the [court will rule](#) against the unions. This has led to a great deal of coverage around the potential effects of the ruling on issues like [wages](#), [pensions and healthcare](#), [economic opportunity](#), and [pay equity](#).

According to most headlines (and analysts), the Janus ruling will [negatively impact union membership](#) in the short term, but the long term effects are unknown, and [many union leaders and supporters are optimistic](#).

While we await the decision, which most expect will come in June, we will continue preparing for a future that promises to be significantly different than our past. You can find opportunities to get involved in those preparations

below.

You can also find further coverage of the legal arguments at [SCOTUS blog](#), and a recording of our faculty forum discussion by clicking on the forum icon below.



Click on the picture above to view a legislative update from Mark Grant, MSCF legis. liaison

MEMBER ORGANIZER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

This six week program, May 21—June 30, will provide training for members in organizing and leadership skills through a combination of classroom learning and in field organizing experience. Applications can be found on the MSCF website under Members Only. Applications are due by April 20, 2018.

MSCF LEGISLATIVE LIAISON TRAINING MARCH 20

The day will include information sessions, guest speakers, legislative training, and meet and greet with legislators.

DELEGATE ASSEMBLY BREAKOUT SESSIONS ANNOUNCED!

The DA breakout sessions on April 6, 2018, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., will be the following:

- Leadership Development Opportunities
- ESI Member Benefits
- TRA Information session
- TIAA Information session