



The current justices of the U.S. Supreme Court.

File Photo

## Court won't hear Minnesota case

BY GINA HOLLAND  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court declined Monday to be drawn into a debate over the teaching of evolution in America's public schools.

The refusal is a victory for schools that require teachers to instruct on the subject even if the teacher disagrees with the scientific theory.

It's a loss for a Christian biology teacher in Minnesota who was reassigned amid questions about his views on evolution. Justices declined without comment to review Rodney LeVake's case.

"This case presents the court with an opportunity to reaffirm that public high school teachers are not First Amendment orphans," LeVake's attorney, Wayne B. Holstad, wrote in court filings.

LeVake briefly instructed his

Minnesota high school students on the subject, but told a colleague that he had scientific doubts about Charles Darwin's view of species' gradual change. Evolution describes development of life on Earth from single-celled organisms over about 3.5 billion years.

When confronted by school leaders in 1998, he proposed offering students "an honest look at the difficulties and inconsistencies of the theory without turning my class into a religious one."

LeVake, who is a Christian, believes that God created the world in six days, known as creationism. He was reassigned to a ninth-grade teaching job in the southern Minnesota town of Faribault, home to about 20,000 residents.

His case presented the Supreme Court an opportunity to revisit the debate over public school instruction on the origin of

man. In 1987, justices struck down a Louisiana law that prohibited the teaching of evolution without equal time for creationism.

The school district argues that LeVake wants permission to teach his own views.

"This court has never held that under the First Amendment, schools are the mere instruments of the advancement of the individual agendas of its teachers," Kay Nord Hunt wrote in court filings for the school.

LeVake, who has a master's degree in biology education, contends that his reassignment violated his constitutional rights to free speech and freedom of religion.

A judge had dismissed a lawsuit LeVake filed against the Faribault School District, and Minnesota appeals courts upheld the dismissal. LeVake appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

### NOTICE MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED FIRMS

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is seeking minority and women-owned firms (M/WBE) to bid on upcoming highway projects throughout the State. The Locations of the projects are:

Project No.	County/Route	Type	Location	Metric/English	GOALS BY PERCENT		
					DBE	MBE	WBE
8.1371001	Granville	Grading, Drainage, Paving & Culvert.	0.138 MI	English	10%		
6.451003R	Hamett	Milling, Resurfacing & Pavement Markings.	1.070 MI	English		6%	3%
7.5111262 ETC	Rockingham	Resurfacing & Pavement Markings.	24.230 MI	English		8%	4%
8.1541001	Chatham, Lee, Wake	Median Guardrail.	31.100 MI	English	12%		
8.1571301	Randolph	Widening, Grading, Drainage & Paving.	1.586 MI	English	10%		
8.1581101	Richmond	Grading, Drainage, Paving & Structure.	0.193 MI	English	5%		
7.6511234 ETC	Anson	Milling & Resurfacing.	14.590 MI	English		8%	4%
7.6711236 ETC	Mecklenburg	Milling & Resurfacing.	28.676 MI	English		8%	4%
7.6911238 ETC	Union	Milling, Resurfacing & Pavement Markings.	38.730 MI	English		8%	4%
6.751002R	Watauga	Milling, Resurfacing & Pavement Markings.	4.980 MI	English		5%	3%
7.8111311 ETC	Gaston	Milling, Resurfacing & Pavement Markings.	24.260 MI	English		7%	4%
7.8221307 ETC	Iredell	Milling, Resurfacing & Pavement Markings.	13.410 MI	English		7%	4%
7.8411240 ETC	Buncombe	Resurfacing & Pavement Markings.	41.310 MI	English		7%	4%
7.8511241 ETC	Burke	Resurfacing & Pavement Markings.	29.250 MI	English		7%	4%
7.8611243 ETC	Madison, Yancey	Resurfacing & Pavement Markings.	31.210 MI	English		7%	4%
7.8711242	McDowell	Milling, Resurfacing & Pavement Markings.	20.060 MI	English		7%	4%
7.88112244 ETC	Mitchell	Milling, Resurfacing & Pavement Markings.	13.300 MI	English		7%	4%
7.8911245 ETC	Rutherford	Resurfacing & Pavement Markings.	30.760 MI	English		7%	4%
8.2951201	Henderson	Grading, Drainage, Paving & Structure.	0.270 MI	English	9%		

DIV. NO.	DIV. ENGINEER	LOCATION	TOWN	TELEPHONE
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0003	H.A. Pope	124 DIVISION DRIVE	WILMINGTON	(910) 251-5724
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\*\*\* MONDAY, January 14, 2002 6 PM - MIDNIGHT \*\*\*

North Raleigh Hilton - 3415 Wake Forest Road - Raleigh, N.C.

LETTING DATE: January 15, 2002

Prime contractors will be available to receive quotes for trucking, sub-contracting and materials. M/WBE's needing more information and/or technical assistance may come to Room 522 to meet with representatives from the Bennington Corp., NCDOT's Supportive Provider. (919)832-6027

NCDOT Office of Civil Rights & Business Development 1-800-522-0453

Certification of highway contracting firms: Richard Chrisawn  
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