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OCTOBER 31, 2022

## IMPORTANT CASES THIS WEEK



*Houston Community College System v. Wilson*



*United States v. Ross*



*Weems v. United States*

## Houston Community College v. Wilson

### First Amendment Rights for elected officials.



Photo from the Houston Chronicle

Five years after being elected to the Board as a trustee, Wilson began to criticize other trustees. In response, the Board censured him and barred him from holding any

officer positions. Wilson sued citing a violation of his First Amendment right to free speech. The Court ruled against Wilson as history and precedent affirm that mere censure does not violate the First Amendment. Further, the Court held that the censure was not a "materially adverse action" and could therefore not be considered under the First Amendment. Read the full decision [here](#).

## United States v. Ross

### Probable cause and the Fourth Amendment.

After receiving a tip that Ross was selling drugs out of his car, police officers pulled him over, opened his trunk, and found a stash of heroin. Another search at the station revealed \$3200 cash. Both of these searches were conducted without a search warrant. The Court ultimately held that this case did not violate the Fourth Amendment because it met the criteria in which a search warrant would have been granted especially as a result of the probable cause the officers had. Read the full decision [here](#).



Photo from Giatras Law Firm

## Weems v. United States

### Eighth Amendment & the Philippine Bill of Rights

Weems was convicted of falsifying public and official documents while he worked as a disbursement officer in the Phillipine Islands. He was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment, life surveillance, and perpetual absolute disqualification. He filed for a writ of error citing the Philippine Bill of Rights. Since that document had been taken from the Eighth Amendment, the Court interpreted it the same way and found his sentence to qualify as cruel and unusual punishment. Read the full decision [here](#).



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