EBBETS CHAVEZ *&* KOFA X

**ATTORNEYS AT LAW, LLP**

To: First-Year Associates

From: Brandi Bickering, Senior Partner

Re: Precedent for *Connolly v*. *Austin Independent School District*

You will, of course, need to consider precedent in determining whether or not we should accept this case. Attached is relevant case law for the *Connolly* case. As I have noted earlier, the 1996 decision in *United States* v. *Virginia* (*VMI*) may help us with our current case. Another case, *Vorchhiemer v. School District of Philadelphia* (1977) , may also be of use. The Supreme Court is going to want to know whether or not *VMI* and/or *Vorchheimer* apply to Mr. Connolly’s situation and why.

In examining *VMI*, keep in mind these questions:

1. What did the Supreme Court say about the lack of a truly parallel program, despite the existence of Virginia Women’s Institute for Leadership (VWIL)? Is this important to our case? Why or why not?
2. What did the Supreme Court say about whether the exclusion of women from the Virginia Military Institute was based on real gender differences or archaic notions about women? Is this discussion helpful to our case? Why or why not?
3. Is there anything else in the majority opinion or the dissenting opinion that we should consider or could use when preparing our case?

In examining *Vorchheimer*, keep in mind these questions:

1. The court found that Philadelphia’s policy was acceptable. Did they consider whether or not this exclusion of boys/girls was based on inherent differences between men and women?
2. If women/men were allowed would there be consequences? Why or why not? What would be the consequences be?

Is there anything else in the majority opinion or the dissenting opinions that we should consider or could use when preparing our case?