

Per Curiam

FREE ET AL. *v.* ABBOTT LABORATORIES, INC., ET AL.  
CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR  
THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

No. 99–391. Argued March 27, 2000—Decided April 3, 2000

176 F. 3d 298, affirmed by an equally divided Court.

*Daniel A. Small* argued the cause for petitioners. With him on the briefs were *Michael D. Hausfeld*, *Matthew F. Pawa*, *Eric L. Olson*, *Daniel E. Gustafson*, *Howard J. Sedran*, and *Don Barrett*.

*Frank Cicero, Jr.*, argued the cause for respondents. With him on the brief were *Craig A. Knot*, *Christopher Landau*, and *Max R. Shulman*.\*

PER CURIAM.

The judgment is affirmed by an equally divided Court.

JUSTICE O’CONNOR took no part in the consideration or decision of this case.

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\**Jane Bishop Johnson* filed a brief for the State of Louisiana as *amicus curiae* urging reversal.

Briefs of *amici curiae* urging affirmance were filed for the Chamber of Commerce of the United States et al. by *Evan M. Tager*, *Robin S. Conrad*, and *Donald D. Evans*; for the Product Liability Advisory Council by *John H. Beisner*; and for the Securities Industry Association by *Stuart J. Kaswell*.