

**QUESTION 6    THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION SHOULD GO IN BLUEBOOK II**

The State of Michigan established its Nova Scholarship Program to assist low-income, academically gifted students with college expenses. The scholarship may be used at any accredited public or private college or university in Michigan. In accordance with the Michigan Constitution, the program guidelines provide that recipients may not use the \$5000 annual scholarship to pursue a degree program in theology or religious vocation. Art 1, § 4 of the Michigan Constitution provides in relevant part:

No person shall be compelled to attend, or, against his consent, to contribute to the erection or support of any place of religious worship, or to pay tithes, taxes or other rates for the support of any minister of the gospel or teacher of religion. No money shall be appropriated or drawn from the treasury for the benefit of any religious sect or society, theological or religious seminary; nor shall property belonging to the state be appropriated for any such purpose.

Ron was awarded a Nova Scholarship and chose to attend Oslow College, a private, church-affiliated, accredited college that is eligible to participate in the program. Ron selected pastoral ministries as his major. It is uncontested that his chosen major is a "religious vocation" degree. Ron was advised that, while he could take some religious classes, he could not use Nova Scholarship funds to pursue a degree in pastoral ministries. Ron refused to select another major and was denied Nova Scholarship funds. Ron filed suit, arguing that the denial of the scholarship funds violated his First Amendment Rights and the Equal Protection Clause.

**Are Ron's arguments likely to prevail? Explain your answer.**

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