



Race-Based Handouts?

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The decision won't be the end of the matter, but it's a good sign.

U.S. District Judge Mark Pittman [has ruled](#) that a federal agency established to give subsidies to businesses, in its current form called the Minority Business Development Agency, may no longer use race or ethnicity as a criterion for distributing benefits.

The [ruling](#) comes in response to a [lawsuit](#) filed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty on behalf of three business owners who weren't allowed to apply for help from the MBDA because they're white. The plaintiffs argue that the Agency violates the constitutional requirement of equal treatment under the law.

According to Judge Pittman, although "the Agency may

intend to serve listed groups, not punish unlisted groups, the very design of its presumption punishes those who are not presumptively entitled to MBDA benefits."

Supporting rights-based governance, I'm no fan of any welfare programs. As long as we have them, though, why should the handouts or the ability to apply for them be determined by race?

Government-imposed racial discrimination is unjust on its face. It should be extirpated wherever it exists. The Minority Business Development Agency is one of those places.

If Pittman's ruling is allowed to stand, it may have a salutary effect on many other agencies and programs.

The MBDA's *name* presents a problem, however.

I guess it won't be too hard to remove the word "Minority" and call the agency the Business Development Agency.

Or just shut it down.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.