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Texas V Johnson

1. **Full Case Name:** State of Texas V Gregory Lee Johnson
2. **Year of the Case:** 1989
3. **Appellant:** State of Texas
4. **Appellee:** Gregory Lee "Joey" Johnson
5. **Facts of the Case:** Johnson was arrested for flag desecration after burning an American Flag in front of Dallas City Hall, in protest of the Reagan administration. The law in Texas prohibits vandalizing respected objects.
6. **Decision of the Lower Court:** The Supreme Court of Texas ruled that desecrating the American flag is against state law. Johnson would receive one year jail time and \$2000 fine.
7. **Legal Aspects of the Case:** Questioned whether or not desecrating the American flag is protected under the First Amendment.
8. **Decision of the Supreme Court:** The Supreme Court overturned the decision and ruled that desecrating the American flag in front of City Hall is protected under freedom of speech because while Johnson is desecrating the American flag, he is expressing himself with a clear purpose.
9. **The Rule of Precedent:** The precedent set by this case was that United States Citizens have an implied right of freedom of expression if there is a clear purpose to their actions.