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## Preface: Life in the Law: Religious Conviction

James R. Rasband

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# Preface

*James R. Rasband*

This collection of essays continues BYU Law School's effort to build an architecture of ideas to assist lawyers in their endeavor to integrate religious faith with commitment to the highest professional ideals. The manifestation of that effort with which readers will likely be most familiar is the Law School's twice-yearly publication of the *Clark Memorandum*. The *Life in the Law* series, of which this is the third volume, recaptures highlights from the *Clark Memorandum* and also collects from other settings some of the most thoughtful insights by LDS lawyers and lawyers of other faiths. These essays acknowledge that while the law is a noble profession, it is fraught with potholes and traps for the unwary. In *The Pilgrim's Progress* John Bunyan provided an allegory to assist 17th-century travelers as they wended their way from this world to the heavenly city. With wit and wisdom, the contributors to *Life in the Law: Religious Conviction* undertake a similar challenge for 21st-century lawyers.

My hope is that this essay collection, the *Clark Memorandum*, and the other work we do at BYU Law School to erect an architecture of rigorous thinking about the relationship among religious faith, the rule of law, and professional service will have an enduring influence on our commitment to each of these precepts.

In addition to the three compilers and the chapter authors, there are various members of BYU Law School and the campus community I would like to thank for their contributions to *Life in the Law: Religious Conviction*. These include Anne Apuakehau, Jeanette Befus, Cameron Carter, Jaylen Dodd, Dave Eliason, Diane Foerster, Matt Imbler, Lena Harper, Jessica Jones, Doug Maxwell, Robert L. Maxwell, Natalie Miles, Marny Parkin, and Bjorn Pendleton.

*James R. Rasband received his JD from Harvard University in 1989 and clerked for Judge J. Clifford Wallace of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit 1989–1990. He served as associate dean of research and academic affairs at J. Reuben Clark Law School 2004–2007 and associate academic vice president for faculty at Brigham Young University 2008–2009. The lead author of the textbook Natural Resources Law and Policy, 2nd ed. (2009), he is currently the Hugh W. Colton Professor of Law and dean of J. Reuben Clark Law School.*