



DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

This issue of the *Clark Memorandum*, like so many before it, captures a part of why the project of building a great LDS law school is worth the candle. I am pleased that BYU Law School provides a place for the reconsideration of Oliver Cowdery's role as "the first Mormon lawyer"; for a faculty colleague to reflect on the critical trait of humility in our lawyering endeavors; for an associate justice on the California Supreme Court to speak about Martin Luther King Jr. and the good Samaritan; for an Idaho state court judge to describe the need to pursue justice for the innocent, even in difficult circumstances; for another accomplished judge and BYU Law graduate to consider our obligation to be guardians of the law; and for one of our graduates to describe her work on behalf of religious liberty. I suppose these sorts of subjects could be considered at other law schools and on the pages of other magazines, but I am convinced that the academic freedom we enjoy at BYU is key to facilitating careful thinking and writing about the relationship between religious faith and professional commitment, as well as about the intersection between law and faith more generally.

The pages of the *Clark Memorandum* of course reflect only a small part of the dialogue that happens each year at BYU Law School and at Law Society chapter events throughout the United States and the world. Last year at BYU Law School

- » more than 300 judges, academics, alumni, and distinguished practitioners visited.
- » federal judges came for our jurist-in-residence program.
- » Nell Newton, dean at the University of Notre Dame Law School, presented our annual Bruce C. Hafen Distinguished Lecture.
- » a variety of immigration law scholars presented papers at our annual Law Review Symposium.
- » more than 20 young legal academics from law schools throughout the West presented papers at the Rocky Mountain Junior Scholars Forum, which we originated a few years ago and now cohost with the University of Utah's S. J. Quinney College of Law.
- » more academics participated with our students and faculty in colloquia in which students critiqued the papers of visiting scholars in addition to preparing their own papers.
- » other scholars came to present their scholarly works-in-progress to our faculty.
- » the International Center for Law and Religion Studies hosted dozens of academics, government officials, and religious leaders from all over the world.

I'll forego a longer list—and please appreciate my sacrifice. I'm all about *BIRGing*—the term social psychologists use to describe the practice of **B**asking **I**n the **R**elected **G**lory of others' accomplishments until those accomplishments are perceived as one's own. I am proud of the energy of students and colleagues to make BYU Law School a place alive with ideas.

As you would expect, most of these visitors did not specifically engage in the intersection of law, faith, and professional ideals that is common to the pages of the *Clark Memorandum*. But the language of intersection does not circumscribe the pursuit of truth, which includes consideration of important questions of law and policy and so much more. And there is real value in recognizing that rigorous inquiry can reside alongside abiding faith. Whether the connection to faith is more or less foregrounded, my sense is that for students, faculty, and visitors alike, the very mission of BYU Law School to consider the laws of men in the light of the laws of God prompts and enables the sort of inquiry that seeks truth and produces the work found on the pages that follow.

I hope you enjoy this issue and that our paths cross soon, either here in Provo or elsewhere around the world, when I have the chance to visit with alumni and members of the Law Society.

Warm regards,



JAMES R. RASBAND

