

Letter from the Dean

With this issue of the *Clark Memorandum*, we welcome a much larger circle of readers—the expanding membership of the J. Reuben Clark Law Society, many of whom are not alumni of the BYU Law School.

Within the past year, the faculty and administration of the Law School have been talking at length with their alumni leaders and with leaders of the bar in various parts of the country about creating a national organization for lawyers who share an interest in BYU and an interest in the professional aspirations for which the name of J. Reuben Clark stands. The response to these conversations has been widespread, strong, and affirmative.

The events of last November brought together several elements in that response, suggesting what such an organization might look like: On November 16, 1987, in Washington, D.C., fifty alumni from the Law School were sworn in as members of the Supreme Court Bar (See story on p. 22) That same evening, these relatively young lawyers (all graduated since 1976, the year of the Law School's first graduating class) had dinner with more than 200 other Washington-area lawyers and their guests.

The dinner was planned by a committee composed of both Law School alumni and nonalumni attorneys interested in the Law School. In addition to featuring remarks by Rex Lee, the dinner honored the memory of the late Jim Reese, a relatively young attorney from northern Virginia whose life represented an exemplary balance of public service, professional achievement, and religious commitments.

I also announced at the dinner the creation of the Hugh W. Colton Professorship in Law (see story on p. 27), an endowment of several hundred thousand dollars made possible primarily by members of the Washington "prototype chapter" of the J. Reuben Clark Law Society. Moreover, one nonalumni lawyer who was present at the dinner but otherwise wishes to remain anonymous sent the Law School a \$50,000 contribution as the direct result of his participation in that day's activities.

This evening was so successful that a second annual Washington event was planned on October 14, 1988, with Elder Dallin H. Oaks as featured speaker. We announced the funding of a new professorship named for the late Robert W. Barker, a prominent Washington, D.C., lawyer and former president of the Washington, D.C., LDS temple.

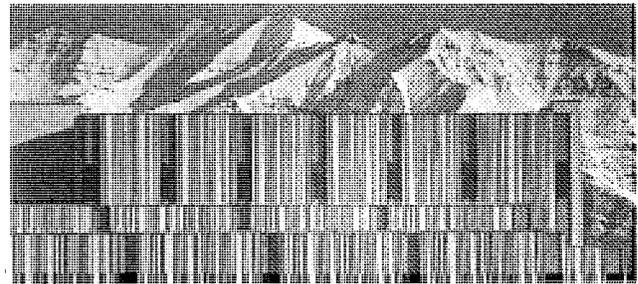
We will continue to have a national alumni organization, organized primarily around representatives within each graduating class, who will help plan class reunions every five years and sponsor other activities, such as the first annual alumni dinner in Salt Lake City on October 7, 1988. Our national alumni chair is Val Christensen, a partner in LeBoeuf, Lamb, Leiby & MacRae in Salt Lake.

In addition, Ralph Hardy, a partner in Washington's Dow, Lohnes & Albertson and a graduate of Boalt Hall, chaired the first Washington dinner and will now chair the National Board of the J. Reuben Clark Law Society. This board, made up of

both alumni and nonalumni lawyers, held its first meeting in Provo on October 7, 1988. We are already assembling the material needed to publish a national professional directory of Law Society members. Lawyers in various cities around the country are beginning to think about local chapters of the Society, which may conduct annual dinners and sponsor other local professional activities.

A thoughtful and tasteful publication is an important element in a high quality, professional, and nationwide organization of this kind. The *Clark Memorandum* seeks to fill that need. It will henceforth become the official publication of the J. Reuben Clark Law Society, and will be distributed to Society members two times a year. The *Memorandum* will continue to feature information about the Law School and the activities of faculty and alumni, but will also share stories and ideas of interest to all lawyers who share the professional and personal aspirations for which the Law School and the name of J. Reuben Clark stand. Two articles in this issue especially illustrate such material—published versions of memorable talks given to our law students over the past two years by Elder James E. Faust and Elder Dallin H. Oaks, members of the LDS Council of the Twelve Apostles.

I am genuinely enthusiastic about the creation of the Law Society. This immediate broadening of the Law School's base of friendly support (call it "instant alumni") offers a senior level of advice and financial reinforcement that compares favorably with the alumni organizations of the nation's oldest and finest law schools. We encourage nonalumni Society members to continue supporting the law schools from which they obtained their own degrees. But by means of their additional support, the Law School at BYU can seriously sustain its upward climb toward being one of America's most influential and respected schools of law. As it does so, I believe that increased stature will reflect favorably upon each member of the Law Society, including our own alumni.



One nonalumni lawyer put it this way: "Because my colleagues know I am a committed Mormon, my professional reputation and the reputation of the BYU Law School are deeply intertwined, whether either of us likes it or not."

Further, and of equal significance, the Law Society will create a vehicle for communication and interaction among a group of lawyers who, like J. Reuben Clark himself, seek in their professional attitudes and in their personal lives to serve others through the grand profession of law. We need mutual reinforcement for those aspirations these days—I think the J. Reuben Clark Law Society will help provide it.

More information about membership in the Society will be forthcoming soon. —Bruce C. Hafen

