

# Bruce C. Hafen Professorship of Law

BY LOVISA LYMAN



## “If I had a son

who was going to practice law, I can think of no finer example than Bruce Hafen in terms of the measure of the man, what he has accomplished, and what he stands for as a lawyer, advocate, servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, and a scholar,” averred Elder Ralph W. Hardy, Jr., Area Authority Seventy who, with his wife, Carole, was instrumental in establishing the Bruce C. Hafen Professorship of Law. The professorship, officially inaugurated September 21, 2001, recognizes Elder Hafen’s lasting positive influence on law students during his long and exemplary career as professor and dean

at the Law School and will help fund teaching, scholarship, and other forms of educational and professional achievement among outstanding faculty.

Of Elder Hafen’s contribution to scholarship, Carl S. Hawkins, former Law School dean, professor emeritus, and speaker at the September 21 meeting, observed that half of the school’s original faculty were practitioners turned law professors. To gain the respect of legal scholars and the judiciary, they needed to join the professional conversation. “Bruce led the way for the younger faculty” in the early days of the Law School when he had “five major law review articles published that won the respect of the legal academy and law policy decision makers.”

Elder Hardy concurred with Hawkins and predicted that the Law School’s “biggest mark and its biggest contribution” in the future will be “the way it helps to reinforce, refine, promote, and defend the institution and law of the family,” one of Elder Hafen’s best-known areas of scholarship.

Elder Dallin H. Oaks, also in attendance on September 21, endorsed Hawkins’ and Hardy’s assessments of Elder Hafen’s contributions, further noting Hafen’s multiple roles in the establishment of the Law School, including participation in selecting the first Law School dean, planning the building and library, and recruiting the first class.

At the same time Elder Hafen was working to get the Law School started, Elder Hardy was making his own significant contributions to the school. Dean H. Reese Hansen noted that Elder Hardy “got us believing that we could raise money to establish professorships to assist with Law School challenges with faculty salaries, summer research, and research assistantships” and championed a formal relationship between the new Law School and LDS lawyers worldwide. Besides donating generously in money and advice, Elder Hardy served as the first chair of the J. Reuben Clark Law Society. Elder Oaks remarked on Elder Hardy’s service to the Church as chair of the Washington Committee of Public Affairs and “key advisor to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on all matters governmental.” He characterized Elder Hardy as a “remarkable lawyer and advisor,” a “modest man” who performs in “an invisible and savvy way.”

Elder Oaks concluded that it is “gratifying . . . to see a benefactor who is as worthy as the honoree.” In what he called a “coincidence of qualifications,” the Law School will be blessed by the “Ralph Hardy–funded professorship named for Bruce Hafen.”