



CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY NEWS RELEASE

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**RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES GROUPS
URGE SUPREME COURT TO DEFEND RFRA**

A coalition of religious and civil liberties organizations, led by the Christian Legal Society, filed a brief today authored by Professor Douglas Laycock in the HHS Mandate cases in the United States Supreme Court in support of Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood Specialties.

The brief urged the Court to protect all Americans' religious liberty by accurately interpreting and fully enforcing the Religious Freedom Restoration Act ("RFRA"). Christian Legal Society and many of the organizations on the brief actively participated in the effort to pass RFRA, which has been the guardian of Americans' religious freedom for two decades. The brief supports the challenge of three closely-held family businesses to the federal government's controversial requirement that religious objectors pay for drugs and devices that they believe end human lives.

Professor Laycock is a preeminent religious liberty scholar and the Robert E. Scott Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Virginia School of Law. He is vice president of the American Law Institute and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

"Religious liberty is among America's most distinctive contributions to humankind," remarked David Nammo, Executive Director & CEO of the Christian Legal Society. "But it is fragile and too easily taken for granted. By sharply departing from our nation's historic, bipartisan tradition of respecting religious conscience, the HHS Mandate poses a grave threat to religious liberty and pluralism."

Christian Legal Society was joined by nine other religious organizations: American Bible Society, Anglican Church in North America, Association of Christian Schools International, Association of Gospel Rescue Missions, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, The Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod, Prison Fellowship Ministries, and World Vision, Inc.

The Supreme Court will hear the argument in the cases of *Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby, Inc.*, No. 13-354, and *Conestoga Wood Specialties, Inc. v. Sebelius*, on March 25, 2014.

The Christian Legal Society is a nationwide association of Christian attorneys, law students, and law professors. www.clsnet.org