

# THE CHRISTIAN LAWYER®

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A PUBLICATION OF CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY

## WHEN GOD CALLS YOU TO SOMETHING NEW

*Retirement, Change, and Life's Unexpected Curve Ball*



### **ALSO IN THIS ISSUE**

*A Lawyer's Exit Strategy* by Brent Amato  
*A Curve Ball Or A Perfect Pitch?* by Tim Klenk  
*How Much Is Enough?* by Michael Wang



David Nammo,  
Executive Director  
and CEO

The question of what to do with a law degree – whether after graduation, after practicing several years, or approaching retirement – is really a broader and deeper question. It is a question of how we define who we are as individuals – our value, success, failure, and God’s calling on our lives.

A book sits on my shelf behind me titled *What Can You Do With A Law Degree: A Lawyer’s Guide to Career Alternatives Inside, Outside & Around the Law*. Its premise is that you have a law degree, but you don’t want to practice law. So now what? Or, in the alternative, you have a law degree, have retired (or are being forced to retire), and now what do you do?

As you read through the articles in this issue, you will hear from lawyers who decided to take their law degree and do something other than practice law. You will also hear from lawyers who had it all planned out – before life threw them a curveball.

Ultimately, this is about a Christian worldview of who we are in Christ and what He calls us to do – essentially, our vocation.

For some of us, we measure success and calling by looking at failure – whether we didn’t graduate top of our class, didn’t join a highly-rated law firm, have not obtained partnership, and so on. We think we are out of God’s will because we aren’t loving our work. I believe we are using the wrong measuring tool.

I still meet lawyers who sneer at me because I “don’t practice” law and, instead, run a ministry. The assumption is that I am not capable of actually succeeding as a lawyer, so I had to take the next best thing.

It is those same folks who panic when they get laid off, are forced to retire, or have to find something other than the practice of law as a job. And, if we admit it, we are all guilty of this same thing – seeing our value as a person or professional only through the lens of our job title.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

But it is hard not to do so. In my past, I have been laid off, been forced to search for work after passing the bar because I lived in a state where I was not licensed to practice, and even had to take odd jobs here and there.

In all of that, I learned that my value as a child of God, a father, a husband, a lawyer, or even a person does not flow from my job. Rather, my value flows from the One who loves me and died for me. The value of anything is the price someone is willing to pay for it. In that economy, we are priceless because God purchased us with His own life. It took me a while to not only understand this principle, but to live as if it is true.

In his “Letters to Rulers of People,” Francis of Assisi wrote, “Keep a clear eye toward life’s end. Do not forget your purpose and destiny as God’s creature. What you are in His sight is what you are and nothing more. Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received – fading symbols of honor, trappings of power – but only what you have given: a full heart enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice, and courage.”

My prayer is the same for you, no matter where you are in your career or life. May you always remember you are “beloved,” that God is never surprised, and that He has great plans for you.

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# A Lawyer's Exit Strategy

BY BRENT AMATO

I was vocationally conflicted. My simple vocational resume just touched the surface:

“Brent practiced transactional law in the Chicago area for forty years, specializing in corporate business and non-profit work. That practice was split about equally between private practice as a partner at two law firms and in-house corporate practice for two publicly-traded companies, first as an Associate Counsel and then as General Counsel. As of December 31, 2014, he retired from the practice of law. During those years and since, Brent has sought to integrate his Christian faith and his law practice through the following:

(1) Christian Legal Society, first as a board member and President and now as a staff member working with lawyers and law students; (2) Peacemaker Ministries and Crossroads Resolution Group as a Certified Christian Conciliator for conflict resolution and mentor and teacher; (3) two legal aid ministries whose missions are to meet the legal and spiritual needs of the poor; and (4) Judson University as a Business Law Adjunct Professor.”

On one hand, upon graduation from law school, I felt I was clearly called by God to the practice of law. On the other hand, for a very long time, I felt I was called to leave the practice of law to engage in full-time vocational ministry.

“Exit Strategy.” Who in the workplace has not heard of the term? I wonder, however, how many attorneys have seriously considered the concept, much less have one? After many years of wrestling with the concept, I executed one. The pilgrimage and decision involved considering what criteria should not and should be part of a Christian lawyer's exit strategy and the promise, purpose, prerequisites, players, and planning involved in this great vocational adventure.

## I. Criteria For The Consideration Of An Exit Strategy

Let's start with a variety of circumstances that might start the thought process. Perhaps you are an attorney who is “seasoned”

or “over-seasoned” and feels it is time to close a practice and move on. Or maybe you are a younger attorney who has lost his passion for a job and wants a change of scenery or to withdraw completely from the practice. Or you could be someone who has experienced a firm implode, a corporation become subject to a “downsizing” or “hostile takeover,” or the loss of a sole partner. Even more intriguing, perhaps you are an attorney who has experienced an unexpected “close encounter of the spiritual kind.” In some manner, God has unsettled your “nest.” Like Moses, perhaps a “burning bush” in the wilderness (Genesis 3), or like Saul of Tarsus, perhaps a “blinding light” on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-16).

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*What then, should be the driving force for an exit strategy? . . . Simply put, nothing less than the call of God.*

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What should not necessarily be the driving force to an exit strategy? Let's start with nothing short of death. My first boss, a fantastic lawyer, died in his 80s still practicing! Short of death, how about a certain age? By default, just accept a conventional normal or early retirement age. How about your circumstances in your practice – your working conditions or

boss? Achieved all your goals? Other compelling circumstances? But then, Paul didn't have much to say for his lofty achieved goals (Philippians 3:4-8) or for circumstances as a driving force (Philippians 4:11-12).

What then, should be the driving force for an exit strategy? Once again turning to Paul, we read “...I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.... I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:12, 14). Simply put, nothing less than the call of God.

## II. Principles For An Exit Strategy

God's Word presents principles to guide and encourage one considering an exit strategy.

What is God's promise to you? “For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and to me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for me with all your heart.

And I will be found by you,' declares the Lord...' (Jeremiah 29:11-14a).

What is God's purpose for you? You were "created for good works" (Ephesians 2:10). You are "exiting" but not "retiring." Consider Abraham (Genesis 12:1-4, 17:1-14) and Caleb (Joshua 14:6-15). They had "paid their dues" and could have just "retired." But they didn't, and why would anyone ever want to disengage from the meaningful things of life and miss leaving a God-directed legacy? Aren't we all called to do all to the glory of God (I Corinthians 10:31)?

While each person brings a unique set of factors to the exit strategy arena, what might be some prerequisites that might help you prepare for such a move?

- First, acknowledging and accepting that life is a series of seasons and that change is inevitable and appointed by God (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 11a). But take heart, I once heard someone say, "Change dislodges people from very comfortable places to far better places."
- Diligence; it's never too early to start (II Peter 1:2-10)
- Adopting a "Christian Trinitarian" strategy
  - Submitting to God, the Father (Proverbs 16:9)
  - Fixing your eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-2a) and following Him (John 21:7-22)
  - Being filled with (controlled by) the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:15-18)
- Shedding
  - Idols and the "jealous mistress" (I John 5:21)
  - Rational and logical excuses (Luke 9:59-62)
- Recapturing your "first love" (Revelation 2:2-5, 7a)
- Seeking things above (Colossians 3:1-2)
- Pressing forward (Philippians 3:12-14)

Who could be some of the players in your exit strategy?

- Your spouse, hopefully a partner and friend through life, who is committed to you and your vocation
- Adult (mature, if not Christian) children (I Timothy 4:12)
- Wise counselors (Proverbs 11:14, 13:20): a "Paul" (someone more spiritually mature than you), a "Barnabas" (someone you have done life with), a "Silas" (someone you have done ministry with), and a "Timothy" (someone you can equip/mentor; if possible, a child or grandchild)
- Prayer warriors (Ephesians 6:18-20)

In my case, I was blessed to have all of these players play a role in my exit strategy!

### III. Planning For The Exit Strategy

Imagine having made the decision for an exit strategy. Do you have a plan for moving from the decision to the execution? Again, everyone's situation is unique, but there are some concepts that apply to all in this transition. You definitely want to be on your "A Game:"

- Pray without ceasing (I Thessalonians 5:17)
- Know yourself (Romans 12:3). Take or retake diagnostic personal assessments to pinpoint personality, strengths, weaknesses, spiritual gifts and what you are truly passionate about.
- Read, read, read (II Timothy 4:13) spiritual, vocational, educational, interesting, intriguing or "Bucket List" books
- Get your "affairs" in order (I Corinthians 14:40). First and foremost, address your relationships that need reconciliation (Matthew 5:9, 23-24, Romans 12:18). Then, attend to your health, as well as legal and financial issues, including estate planning, debt reduction, budgeting, social security, insurance/Medicare, and educational funding.
- Become your own marketing agent, whether it be just networking, a website, or more
- Determine the "non-negotiables" in your life (Ephesians 5:15-16) whether they be devotional life, corporate worship, family time, periodic scheduled events or activities, ministry, exercise, and recreation
- If applicable, implement necessary succession management at your existing job
- Leave well (II Timothy 4:7, 2:2); "wean" is always better than "cold turkey." Make sure you leave a legacy and hopefully a God-glorifying one.
- Take a "Sabbatical" before you reengage
- Expect unexpected blessings (Ephesians 3:20-21)

### IV. A Case Study: Andrew Luck

He was a professional football quarterback with the Indianapolis Colts, the No. 1 NFL draft pick, an all-star and leader of his team. Then, as a result of a series of serious injuries, at age 29, just weeks before the start of the regular season, he retired. Some observations about Luck that are instructive:



- “He never needed to force football into a conversation or activity and was happy to spend time with anyone or anything he found stimulating. That, or use his elevated platform to share his passions with others.” (Connor Orr, *Sports Illustrated*, September 9, 2019)
- “The sport wouldn’t define him. Many admired him and it had nothing to do with sports. He was a man who genuinely loves to try anything, which is what makes him capable of doing anything.” (Connor Orr, *Sports Illustrated*, September 9, 2019)
- “He has the wisdom of knowing we have to follow our hearts in this life, and that we ultimately owe it to ourselves to keep on moving down the path to chase new dreams, no matter what the rest of the world thinks. This is our one and only shot at life, and we need to go all in.” (Nathaniel Nakadate, Luck’s professor at Stanford)
- “His football career is over, which means, for now, people are speaking about Luck in terms of an ending. But his retirement is also about what he was doing all along, and about the many things outside of throwing a football that ultimately matter. Football is over, but as John

Green [author] says, ‘With Andrew, I wouldn’t put anything in the past tense.’” (Connor Orr, *Sports Illustrated*, September 9, 2019)

## V. Counterpoint

Okay, I know what some of you are thinking: “I am clearly called to my practice of law; I love it; and God is blessing it. No need for any exit strategy.”

My first “word” to you: praise God, rejoice, give thanks, and stay the course with all that you have to give! My second “word” to you: be cautiously content! Moses, as a shepherd in the wilderness, didn’t wake up one day, realizing he was going to see a “burning bush which spoke” to call him to a new, radically different vocation. He thought it would be another day with sheep, but God had other plans for him. Paul, a religious zealot on the road to Damascus, didn’t wake up one day, realizing that he was going to encounter a “blinding light” to call him to a new, radically different vocation. He thought it would be another day of persecuting Christians, but God had other plans for him.

I tell lawyers of all ages that it is never too early to start considering their “exit strategy.”

Most of the young ones look at me as if I’m crazy. Many of the older attorneys look at me as if I have a concept that is worthy of their attention but never considered. How about a modest first step for all? Make sure you are engaged in something that is pleasing to God, enriching for you, and has nothing to do with your practice of law. At least you won’t have to agonize over re-inventing yourself when the exit strategy becomes a reality.

“There is an appointed time for everything... God has made everything appropriate in its time” (Ecclesiastes 3:1a, 11a).



Brent Amato is Christian Legal Society’s Chicagoland Law Student & Attorney Ministries Coordinator. Brent leads Project Barnabas, which seeks to identify and train lawyers in the later stages of their careers as mentors and encouragers. Brent practiced business/corporate law in the Chicagoland area since 1976 and retired as Vice-President, General Counsel for Heritage-Crystal Clean. Brent is a family man, married to Sherrie since 1976. They are blessed with two children and five grandchildren.

A black and white photograph showing a woman from the back, hugging a young girl. The woman's hand is on the girl's shoulder. The girl has her eyes closed and a peaceful expression. The background is dark.

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# A Curve Ball Or A Perfect Pitch?

BY TIM KLENK

Sometimes life throws us a curve ball, but by God's grace it can become a perfect pitch. I know this, because I got one of those curve balls, and it proved to be a big challenge, but as I look back on my life since then, I can see that it really was a perfect pitch.

I practiced law for 44 years in Chicago. I first worked for Kirkland & Ellis and left to join Pope, Ballard, Shepard & Fowle, eventually becoming the managing partner there. Then, through a series of mergers, I ended up at the Bryan Cave firm from which I retired in 2009 at the age of 70. Because I had enjoyed doing arbitrations so much over the years for the American Arbitration Association (AAA) alongside my regular law practice, I continued arbitrating cases for the AAA after my retirement.

My wife, Jo, and I were happy and healthy and enjoying being together more and more. Every day except Sunday we either worked out at our local fitness center or ran outdoors together. I was in excellent physical health. Nevertheless, we began to think about what we should do about long-term healthcare for when we "got old." Knowing that our only daughter, an elementary school teacher, could not care for us if we ever needed serious nursing or memory care, we began thinking about whether downsizing and moving to a retirement community would be prudent. After visiting a few places and doing some research, we decided that Shell Point Retirement Community in Fort Myers, Florida, would be the ideal choice. Then we promptly put the whole idea on the back burner.

A couple of years later, I thought it was time to prayerfully reconsider what our retirement plans should be. So, after flying down to Florida to look at Shell Point again, we made the decision to proceed and, after completing our physicals and other prerequisites, bought an apartment there on October 6, 2011, intending to become snowbirds for several years while we downsized before taking up permanent residence in Florida.

A few weeks later, however, on November 1, less than a month after closing on our Shell Point apartment, I received that unexpected curve ball. While working out on an elliptical trainer in the fitness center near our home, I collapsed. It was obviously a

stroke. The doctors told me, as they administered the TPA clot-busting drug, that the suspected clot would dissolve and I should recover right away. They were wrong. Instead, my symptoms worsened and, even in the emergency surgery that followed, a clot was never found. The doctors were dumbfounded and unable to account for either my stroke, which they said should never have happened while I was vigorously exercising, or for the ineffectiveness of the TPA. I was left with severe handicaps in my ability to speak, swallow, walk, and use my right arm and hand, but mercifully with my cognition intact.

My stroke resulted in my "incarceration" in a rehabilitation hospital near our home for a month during which I worked hard at speech, physical, and occupational therapy. At the end of the month, they "invited" me to stay for another, but Jo had a better idea. She checked on the rehab facilities at Shell Point, and they looked perfect for what I needed. I could become an inpatient,

and Jo could live in our apartment—only a three-minute walk around the lagoon on which we lived. Plus, with December's winter in progress in Illinois, moving to Florida became even more attractive. Because of my speech impediment, I couldn't conduct trials anymore, so I resigned from the AAA, Jo packed some suitcases, and we flew to Florida. For the next two months, I continued intensive therapy after which I felt ready to move

"home" to our apartment having made significant progress in all my disabilities. I continue today doing various exercises, especially those related to speaking and swallowing.

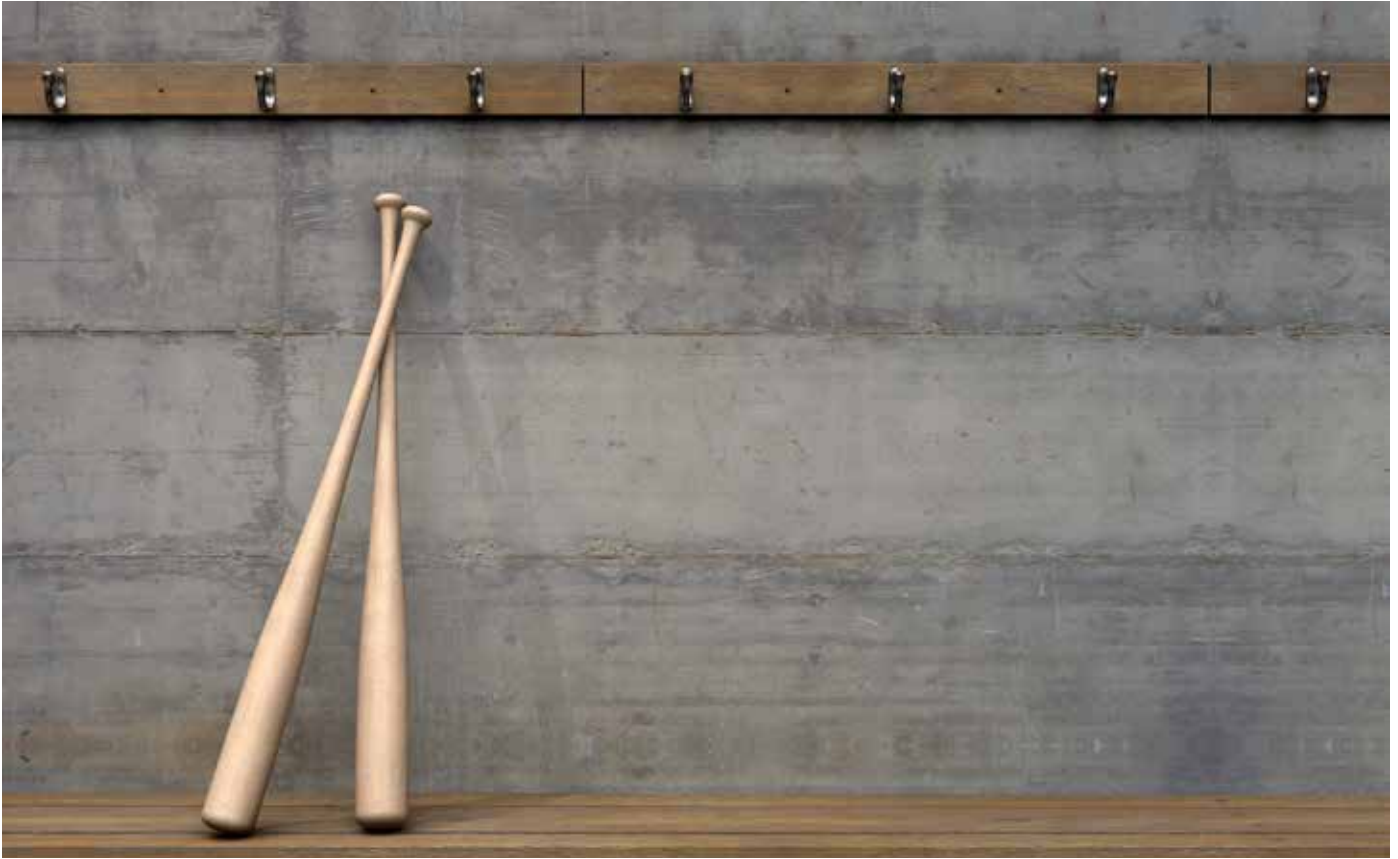
Over the following few months, Jo and I came to the realization that continuing to live in our Illinois home was not practical. So, we made plans to sell our home and move permanently to Shell Point. We went back to Illinois in the summer, put our house up for sale, sold it in six days, downsized with lightning speed, and moved permanently to Florida.

It has now been over eight years since my stroke, and as I look back upon this whole period of time, I have been amazed to see how God was at work and how He has led us and has made "all things work together for good" (Romans 8:28). It is difficult at first to see how "good" can come out of having a stroke, but now it has become clearer to me.

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*So, if "life" throws you  
a curve ball, remember  
that God only throws  
perfect pitches.*

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Only by God's providential appointment could we have purchased our apartment less than a month before my stroke. What a gift to have it ready for us when we needed it most! With having given virtually no thought to its location or decorating in advance, it is in a beautiful and convenient location and meets our needs perfectly. We even get to enjoy dolphins, manatees, ospreys, and other birds each day in or near the lagoon. A two-bedroom apartment is no longer attractive to us. We like being close together too much.

Having the rehab facility and therapists closely available to us is wonderful! It is located in a building that also houses skilled nursing, memory care, hospice, pharmacy and the main medical center where we are able to see our doctors and dentist. In addition, we can easily visit others who need encouragement. I have had several opportunities to practice "speech exercises" with friends who recently had strokes, doing our "oohs and ahs," and "tongue push-ups" – out, in, up, down, left and right. I'm not sure who was laughing most at who! While I have learned to laugh at myself, I also am better able to empathize with those who are struggling with disabilities and bring them some measure of encouragement and hope.

One lesson I have often had the pleasure of applying, I learned from my father early in life. His favorite verse was Philippians 4:4: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" He

had it all over our house and, later in life, even got permission to number his house 44 Clearview Drive, and when he died, he was flashing 4-4 with the fingers of his hand. God has given me much joy despite my remaining handicaps, and my goal is to "rejoice always."

Probably the biggest Romans 8:28 "good" to come out of my stroke has been the exponential increase in the love Jo and I share for each other (which was great before my stroke) and knowing I am in God's hands and doing what he has for me to do. I am so grateful!

So, if "life" throws you a curve ball, remember that God only throws perfect pitches, so HIT A HOME RUN. Be alert for what God is doing and what He has to teach you, knowing it is for your good, whether or not you understand it at first.



Tim Klenk was a former president of CLS and a board member for 25 years. He now serves on the board of Advocates International. He practiced law with large firms in Chicago for 43 years with the objective of demonstrating how his Christian faith affects his practice of law.

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# My Vocational Journey

BY MICHAEL WANG

What do you want to be when you grow up? This is a question that many of us have contemplated. Admittedly, I had not given much thought to this when I was growing up. As the oldest of four children, I probably should have been more proactive in thinking this through when I was younger.

My parents were first generation immigrants from overseas, one from mainland China and the other from Taiwan. My father was a physician who had received his medical education and degree overseas before coming to Chicago for his residency and training when he was in his late 20s. I was born in Taiwan and came here to Illinois when I was one.

My dad worked hard, as he had to learn a new language and culture while learning how to practice medicine as an internist in private practice. My mom stayed home to raise us kids. Neither of my parents were Christians, but I was introduced to the Christian faith in my middle school years through a local Chinese Church that taught Chinese language classes on Sundays.

After attending this Chinese language school for some time, I was invited to a youth group summer retreat the summer after my eighth-grade year, and that is where I accepted Christ. In high school, I generally did well and got pretty good grades. I did relatively well in math and science, as well as music. I also made a number of friends. I really started to grow in my faith in my high school years.

Growing up, my dad was a hard worker, had a genuine passion for helping his patients and friends, and also had an excellent work ethic. My mother also worked hard at home, raising us four kids. She had always encouraged me to study hard to become a doctor. When I finally applied to college, I had not given much thought to my potential career, so I chose the “easy” route – medicine (pre-med).

Enter my undergraduate years at the University of Michigan. That was a really enjoyable and fun period of time for me – but alas, not when it came to organic chemistry. Organic chemistry was a turning point to reevaluate my career choice. After many follow-up conversations with other pre-med and med students, as well as doctors, I decided to go a different route. Unfortunately for me, my spiritual journey took a few steps backwards in college. I really could have used some Christian mentors and friends during that

time – as well as a strong faith and relationship in God – but I did not seek them out.

As a second generation Asian-American, I felt the cultural and parental pressure to pursue a “successful” (think prestige and money) career. Because it was now not going to be in medicine, my next “logical” thought for a successful career was to pursue either business or law. I quickly changed my major to economics and decided to go to law school after I graduated. While I had by now given a good amount of thought into the reasons why I did not want to pursue medicine, I still had not given much thought as to why I should pursue business or law.

Next up was law school at the University of Minnesota. Fortunately for me, God had a plan to draw me back into a closer relationship with Him during my time in Minnesota, and He put some wonderful people in my life, including my second-year roommate who was a strong Christian. This roommate was one of several significant influences in bringing me back to Christian community and my faith. The true highlight of my law school years was my return to God.

After I graduated from law school, I returned to Chicago. By then, I had a strong desire to share my faith with my parents. God was incredibly generous in this regard, and a few years later, I was able to see my dad come to faith in Christ.

My first lawyer job was with a small law firm that specialized in real estate law. I had a wonderful boss who was very kind to me and is still my friend to this day. It had taken me over six months to find that job. In hindsight, that six-month period was a good thing, as it allowed me to grow closer to God, becoming more involved with my church and reading my Bible. I met some great friends and mentors at church during those six months, and they helped me deepen my walk with Christ.

Within a few years, I had changed jobs and now worked for a bank trust company, where I would be for the next eight years. I had been approached by a trust officer at this bank to see if I would consider working for them. My law firm did work with this bank, and the lure of a higher salary and benefits of a larger corporation drew me in. Initially it was interesting, but over the next several years I realized I was becoming bored. It was during this time that I started developing a passion and interest in investing and personal finance. I found myself spending much of my



free time seeking out and reading financial magazines, books, and articles. I also came across Larry Burkett on Christian radio and was really encouraged and fascinated by his biblical counsel to Christians who had financial questions. I had also joined several lawyer and/or bank Bible studies during this time.

As my interest in personal finance developed, I started to consider whether the Lord might be leading me towards a career change in financial planning instead. I had also met and married my wife, Laura, by this time. After much prayer and seeking out godly counsel from some of my attorney friends and others, my wife and I felt a sense of peace in this career transition. I had asked the other lawyers in my Bible study to pray for me during this time, and some of them even introduced me to financial planners they knew. I had also taken a career assessment survey through a Christian firm (also through Larry Burkett), which confirmed that financial planning could be a good career fit for me. This organization, called Career Direct (<http://careerdirect.org>), is still helping people today.

Because I am a relational person and have always loved people and numbers, this new career would turn out to be a great fit for me. My first few years in financial planning were more

challenging than I expected. We had just welcomed our first child into our family when I made the “leap of faith” from a secure and salaried position with a large bank to a new position that essentially depended on my ability to generate clients. I quickly learned that having a lot of friends and being a relational person didn’t necessarily translate into being a rainmaker. We struggled, we prayed, and we tried to trust in God to provide. He always did provide, though it was not necessarily in the ways we preferred. I earned my CFP® designation and, within a few years, I was introduced to a financial planning firm looking for client service and support. I joined them and have now been with that same firm for over 15 years. This was another answer to prayer. I was able to learn the practice of financial planning without the immediate pressure of finding clients.

In my early years in financial planning, I found the local CLS chapter in Chicago. This was a great group of believers and, though I was initially shy and felt like an outsider, they made me feel welcome. I wasn’t sure if I belonged, as I wasn’t practicing law like most of them, but they always encouraged me and made me feel at home.

# JUSTICE THAT RESTORES

Shortly after joining CLS, I also joined another organization, Kingdom Advisors, which I like to call the “CLS-equivalent” for Christian financial professionals. Much like how CLS encourages its members to integrate their faith into the practice of law, Kingdom Advisors encourages its members to integrate their faith and biblical principles of finance into the practice of financial planning. There I earned my CKA® or Certified Kingdom Advisor designation.

Over the years, I grew to embrace and love the tenets of CLS – religious liberty, fellowship, justice, legal aid, law students, and the integration of faith into law. My involvement in our local chapter and our local board has reinforced this over time. I also truly appreciate how Kingdom Advisors provides a similar context and support group for Christian financial professionals.

Looking back, my career path was clearly non-traditional as a lawyer, but the journey I have been on has been richly blessed. I have grown in my faith, learned to depend on God, trusted in Him, and made many friends along the way. I experienced doubt in my initial career choice, joy in eventually finding a calling and vocation that I absolutely love, and continued excitement in God challenging me to step out of my comfort zone day to day. Proverbs 3:5-6 is a favorite verse of mine: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.”



Michael Wang is a financial planner with Private Vista, LLC, an independent financial planning firm representing clients throughout the U.S. He holds both the CFP® and CKA® designations, with specialized knowledge in the area of biblical financial counsel.

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# The Next Adventure

BY STEPHEN HSU

God has called our family to an exciting adventure. In February 2018, I sold my law practice and began transitioning into full-time vocational ministry. Thereafter, our family sold our suburban home to move into the city to start attending an urban church plant before coming on staff in April 2018. Here are some of the pivotal moments that led us to our decision.

In the beginning of 2017, my wife Serina and I both sensed a nudging to leave behind our current way of living and pursue vocational ministry. We were not sure what that looked like nor did we have any idea how to do anything differently. Serina started researching various overseas mission opportunities, as well as seminary options. I didn't feel comfortable, however, applying to a seminary on my own and believed that if I were to attend seminary it would be best if I were being sent by a local church, as my home church had once offered to do.

Serina had always questioned in the back of her mind how she would know which option was truly God's calling. In response to her question, a Christian mentor advised her to simply pray and wait for God to work. Though this should be common practice, it was actually a quite foreign experience for her because she was so used to "doing" and making things happen on her own. With God's help, she heeded that advice and stopped researching and simply brought her requests to the Lord.

After a few months passed by, I "randomly" received a text in the summer from an old friend, who was the lead pastor of church in Chicago, asking if I would ever consider working as a bivocational pastor at one of their church plants. We met up in September and discussed a proposal for me to pastor a church plant with the possibility to then be sent with a team for overseas missions in three to five years. When I shared that with Serina, we both had this burning excitement in our hearts. This pastor did not realize that the opportunity he offered us aligned perfectly with our private prayers and hopes.

A couple weeks later, an attorney who had been working for me asked if I would be interested in selling my practice to her. Both she and the pastor had no prior knowledge that we had just been recently discussing changing my career. Not only that, they both separately suggested that this transition happen by January 2018,

which also happened to be the end of my current law office lease. So many things just started to line up, effortlessly, without our doing. Whenever a doubt would arise, God seemed to answer us in very specific ways concerning this decision to assure us, who often have very little faith, that He is in control – whether it was a specific check amount, specific affirming things people said to us, or things we read in our Bible.

Right before Christmas 2017, my Christian attorney mentor and office mate, Lou Bellande, a lifelong CLS member, suddenly passed away. The passing of this dearly loved and generous friend reminded us that life is short and to choose to live for eternal consequences. As God had brought this mentor into my life when I started my own private practice 12 years ago, this mentor's death had been another confirmation for me to close this chapter of my career. Even during our last meal together, Lou was so encouraging and excited for me to go into pastoral ministry and to work with a significant student population. Lou's life verse was from Psalm 71:18:

Even when I am old and gray,  
do not forsake me, my God,  
till I declare your power to the next generation,  
your mighty acts to all who are to come.

We believe we have been called out of my law practice and our suburban home to join what seems to be a ministry in line with our hearts and calling. I desire to learn how to live out what God seems to be searing onto our hearts in calling us to "lose our lives for His sake to find it" (Mark 10:39). We desire to find Him to be our ultimate treasure where our hearts will find rest.



Stephen Hsu began his law practice as a trial attorney, after which he opened a private practice in Chicago, where he practiced for almost 20 years. In 2018, Stephen was hired as a pastoral intern at the Church of the Beloved's South Loop campus. He is extravagantly blessed to be married to Serina, a clinical psychologist who felt called to be a pastor's wife before Stephen felt called to be a pastor. Stephen and his wife have been richly rewarded with four children to disciple: Raya, Zach, Hope, and Magdalene.



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# How Much Is Enough?

BY MICHAEL WANG

Retirement. The very word seems to generate questions. Will I have enough to retire? When should I retire? What am I once I retire? Am I still a lawyer? And how does retiring from this occupation help me fulfill God's purpose for my life?

According to Wikipedia, "retirement" is the withdrawal from one's position or occupation or from one's active working life. A person may also semi-retire by reducing work hours.

This is an interesting definition. Do you think about retirement as "withdrawing" from work?

In the Bible, there is really only one example of retirement, which affects only the Levites in Numbers 8:23-26:

The LORD said to Moses, "This applies to the Levites: Men twenty-five years old or more shall come to take part in the work at the tent of meeting, but at the age of fifty, they must retire from their regular service and work no longer. They may assist their brothers in performing their duties at the tent of meeting, but they themselves must not do the work. This, then, is how you are to assign the responsibilities of the Levites."

Notice that even after age 50, the Levites may continue to work "part-time" – that is, they "may assist their brothers in performing their duties...." There is, however, no similar instruction to non-Levites.

This could be instructive for us. Should we retire at all? If we do, should we consider at least part-time work in retirement? What does God think about this? The answer will vary from individual to individual. Proverbs 16:3 says, "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans."

Where did the concept of "retirement" come from anyway?

Mitch Anthony, in his excellent book *The New Retirementality*, gives a good historical background on the relatively modern development of the "retirement" concept in his first chapter.

Around the time of World War II, after the advent of the modern Social Security retirement system and the increasing popularity

of pension plans, the financial services industry stepped in to create and help market the "American retirement dream." Think golfing, relaxing on your favorite beach, and sipping your favorite drink all day long. If you would just invest some money in their financial vehicles, you could be on your way to achieving this dream. With the industrialization of America, many Americans were now working in "jobs" and not vocations. Productivity and efficiency were elevated to primary importance, while meaning and purpose became secondary. Jobs became a means to an end, and many people increasingly became dissatisfied with their jobs.

For the remainder of this article, I will address financial planning considerations with respect to retirement planning. For those of you interested in the many other non-financial factors to consider in retirement, I highly recommend reading Mitch Anthony's book.

Do you believe that God owns it all? Psalm 24:1 says, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." If God owns it all, this can shape our

perspective and guide us in our job as stewards or managers of His resources.

Here is a list of some important (though not necessarily exhaustive) financial planning and retirement considerations and associated questions, regardless of your age or retirement status. Luke 14:28 is instructive here as well: "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?"

- Lifestyle expenses: You will need to quantify both your current and anticipated future expenses in retirement. For example, will you spend more in the early years of retirement, perhaps to do more traveling?
- Dependent expenses: Do you have aging parents, children (think "boomerang generation"), grandchildren, or others for whom you will need to provide financial assistance?
- Income sources: Evaluate Social Security, pension income, income-producing real estate, other

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*Do you believe that  
God owns it all?*

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business(es), etc. How reliable are each of these income sources? Should you take Social Security early or wait? If married or divorced, what spousal claiming strategies should you consider?

- Investment resources and allocation: What investments do you own, and how liquid are they? What are their tax characteristics (taxable vs. IRA vs. Roth, etc.)? Do you have an overall investment strategy to meet your goals? Do you have a hodgepodge of investments all over the place, and should you consider consolidation? Are you taking too much risk, or perhaps not enough risk? Should you roll over your 401k plans or pension plans? Solomon shares with us in Ecclesiastes 11:2: “Divide your portion to 7 or even to 8, for you do not know what misfortune may occur on the earth.”
- Taxes: How much are you paying now, and how might that change in retirement? From which investment asset sources should you spend first, and is this tax-efficient? What might future tax rates look like compared to today? Will you be subject to the federal estate tax, or your own state estate tax?
- Domicile: Will you move to a different state? If so, what is the tax impact?

- Charities: Do you have favorite charities or missionaries whom you support? Any new ones? What is your charitable giving plan in retirement? Have you considered using a donor-advised fund like National Christian Foundation (NCF)? Giving can provide a multiplicative financial return today, even more so than any investments our own portfolios might generate. “Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.” (Mark 4:8-9). See also 2 Corinthians 9:6-7.
- Primary home: Will you stay, downsize, or upsize?
- Other real estate: Is it income-producing, and will you keep it or sell at some point? Have you considered the tax impact?
- Debt: If you have debt, what are your plans to pay it off? Should you pay off your mortgage, or keep it for a tax deduction?
- Law practice: If you are in private practice, do you have a succession plan in place? Are you part of a larger firm, with possibly several retirement options, or are you a solo practitioner? If you are a sole practitioner or work in “other than private practice,” will you consider finding younger attorneys whom you can mentor and with whom you can continue friendships? If



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you have employees, have you prayerfully considered the impact of your retirement on them?

- Business(es): Do you or your spouse have an existing business? Will you continue it? Or will you start a new business in retirement? This is very common now.
- Life expectancy projection: Is there longevity in your family? How can you plan for this?
- Insurance evaluation: This is a good time to review all of your insurance coverage to evaluate ongoing need, any coverage gaps, and appropriate amount of coverage. Consider life, disability, long-term care, auto/home, umbrella, etc.
- Health insurance: If you retire before age 65, you will need to plan for interim health coverage before you qualify for Medicare.
- Other financial goals: Do you plan to trade up your house or buy a vacation home? Travel? Hobbies? Autos? Charitable goals? Education savings for grandchildren (or even yourself)? Many retirees are going back to school to learn and keep mentally sharp, and even for training in a second career.
- Estate planning: Do you have a current will and/or trust? Powers of attorney? Will this need to be coordinated with beneficiary designations of your retirement plans and insurance (i.e., should a trust be the beneficiary)? Are you experienced enough in this area to do this yourself, or should you hire an experienced estate attorney instead? (See Ecclesiastes 2:18-19 and Proverbs 13:22).
- Balance: What is your ideal of a “balanced life”? How can this improve in retirement?
- Legacy: How would you like to be remembered? Give some prayerful thought to this, and plan some concrete action steps.

Next, you will need to consider whether you will do this planning on your own or enlist the help of a professional advisor. Ask yourself: Would you advise a potential client to consider representing themselves in a legal matter? Maybe, or maybe not. Consider Proverbs 15:22: “Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.” Is your advisor competent and experienced?

Is (s)he someone you can trust? Does (s)he have similar values or a shared worldview? Ask if (s)he is held to either a fiduciary (higher) standard or a “best interests” standard for their clients? Then ask him/her to explain the difference to you.

Lastly, prayerfully consider what you plan to do in your next “retirement” stage, which could easily be another 20-30 years if you retire in your 60’s. Many people only plan to get to the “finish line” of retirement, but haven’t given much consideration to what comes after that. Fifty-two weeks of golf per year sounds great now, but that could ironically become a “job” once you retire – and the occasional round of golf you enjoyed while working might turn out to be not so enjoyable when done full-time

(Mitch Anthony talks about this in more detail in his book). How about volunteering for a legal aid clinic?

If it turns out that you are not able to fully retire financially from your law career, don’t worry. The Bible is full of examples of people who kept working until they were called home. You can do a number of other things: work part-time for someone else

(law firm, business, church, charity), start a new career, or even start a new business. Become/stay active in a local church and small group. Enlist the prayer support of other close friends in your community. Network.

Good planning helps you prepare for life transitions like retirement. It is always important to start planning in advance, but remember to always balance this with trusting in God’s provision and time (Proverbs 3:5-6). Many people tend to procrastinate (we lawyers are no exception), but remember it is never too late to start planning. You will generally have more options if you start planning sooner. Partnering with a good advisor who understands your vision can be an excellent way to get you on your desired retirement path. May God bless you in your journey.



Michael Wang is a financial planner with Private Vista, LLC, an independent financial planning firm representing clients throughout the U.S. He holds both the CFP® and CKA® designations, with specialized knowledge in the area of biblical financial counsel. For questions or more information, e-mail him at [mwang@myprivatevista.com](mailto:mwang@myprivatevista.com)

or see [www.myprivatevista.com](http://www.myprivatevista.com).

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***“Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.”***

***Proverbs 15:22***

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# Life after Law: Serving the Poor in Retirement through Christian Legal Aid

AN INTERVIEW WITH JIM RICHARDSON

*During and after a successful and rewarding law career, attorney Jim Richardson has served the needy with his legal skills for over sixteen years. Christian Legal Society's Director of Christian Legal Aid, Ken Liu, asked Jim to share his thoughts on serving the Lord in his "life after law."*

**Ken: You had a long and successful law career before retiring a decade ago. Can you tell us a little about your career?**

**Jim:** I graduated from Valparaiso University in 1967. I enrolled in law school at Valpo but during my first year the Vietnam War was really heating up. I didn't want to get drafted into the Army, so I volunteered for the Air Force in 1968 and became a 2nd Lieutenant. I was assigned to be a Titan II missile combat crew member at Little Rock Air Force Base in Arkansas. While there, I attended the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) School of Law at night but had to stop because of my Air Force responsibilities.

After I got out of the Air Force in 1972, my wife and I moved to Columbus, Ohio, where I got a job as an insurance claims adjuster. My job required me to go to court from time to time and, while in court, I would look at the lawyers and think, "I can do a better job than that." I decided I wanted to go back to law school, so I started law school again at night at UALR in 1975.

When I graduated in 1979, I initially struggled to find a legal position, but by God's grace I got a position with an international insurance brokerage firm in Phoenix, Arizona, and then worked for one of its clients in 1985. In 1991, I was offered a job at the University Medical Center Corporation (UMCC) in Tucson and became the vice president and in-house counsel. I loved working for UMCC and worked there for almost 19 years, retiring in 2010. As part of that job, I was fortunate to be able to go to Grand Cayman 35 times. It was a tough job, but someone had to do it.



**Ken: Did you have a plan for life after law as you approached retirement age? What was the transition like for you going from a full-time legal career to retirement?**

**Jim:** I did not have a plan for life after retirement. I enjoyed my job and was usually pretty busy, so I just worked from day to day and didn't think much about when I would retire. In 2008, things started to get very stressful at the hospital. I remember coming home once and telling Meg: "I love UMCC and I love my job, but I don't want to die in my office." That was when I started thinking about a retirement date.

I set the date for January 2010. I would be sixty-five in February 2010. My wife Meg used to say I was a workaholic and that it would be hard for me to retire. I disagreed, and said it would take me about five minutes to get used to retirement. I was right! The only time it was difficult was in January 2011. Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and several others were shot in the parking lot of a Safeway Store that was only five miles from my home. All of the dead and wounded were taken to UMCC. Had I still been working I would have been one of the leaders responding to the crisis because Emergency Preparedness reported to me. I felt lost just sitting at home for about two weeks after the shooting. Other than that, though, I adjusted to retirement just fine.

My only plan for retirement was that I would continue to be involved with the CLS-Tucson Christian Legal Aid ministry. In the end, I also joined the Christian Legal Society Board of Directors in 2010 and served as Chair of the Legal Aid Ministries Committee until October 2016. That was unexpected, and it actually kept me pretty busy.

**Ken: How did you get started serving in Christian Legal Aid?**

**Jim:** I've been a member of the CLS-Tucson Attorney Chapter since about 1995. In July 2003, Roy Tulgren, the Executive Director of the Tucson Gospel Rescue Mission (GRM), came to a monthly meeting of CLS-Tucson. He told us about the GRM and asked us to consider providing legal assistance to GRM residents at its Men's and Women's Centers. We agreed to consider his request and pray about it. We also sought advice from John Robb, who was the national director of CLS' Christian Legal Aid Ministries at that time.

In December 2003, another CLS-Tucson attorney, Scott Rash, and I saw our first clients at the GRM Men's Center. It felt very good to be there. We decided to continue, and CLS-Tucson has been conducting a legal clinic there ever since. We now conduct four pro bono legal clinics a month, two each at the Men's and Women's Centers. We also take GRM residents to the Tucson Homeless Courts twice a month.

I continued being involved in the CLS-Tucson legal aid program when I retired in 2010. I'm still the coordinator of the CLS-Tucson program even now. I haven't figured out how to retire from serving God. I don't think we're supposed to do that.

**Ken: Can you tell us more about the "Homeless Court"? What is that and how did you get it started?**

**Jim:** God got it started. When CLS-Tucson started doing the legal clinics in 2004, our original plan was to spend about 30 minutes with each GRM resident to identify their legal



problems and then give them a simple three- or four-step plan to help resolve their problems. It didn't take long for us to figure out that most of GRM residents had open cases in court that could only be resolved by going to court. Also, because the residents were often recovering from severe substance abuse problems, they often didn't have the mental wherewithal to execute any plan that we gave them. The only way to really help would be to take them to court to resolve their cases.

The problem with that plan was the residents did not want to go to court because they had had bad experiences in court. Many also had active arrest warrants and were afraid they might be arrested and taken to jail if they went to court. Us volunteer attorneys weren't eager to go to court ourselves because none of us practiced that type of law. The only experience we had with City Court was if we personally got a traffic ticket.

So, at our CLS-Tucson chapter meeting in July 2004, we prayed that God would show us a way to take the GRM residents to court without the risk of them going to jail. He did, and the answer was to contact City Court Judge Mike Pollard about possibly setting up a special court program.

After attending a conference on "homeless courts" in San Diego, Judge Pollard convened a meeting of himself, me, the city prosecutor, public defender, and someone from a veterans group called "Coming Home." We agreed to begin a homeless court program in Judge Pollard's courtroom on December 30, 2004. I took four ladies from the GRM Women's Center, and Coming Home brought some veterans. Judge Pollard quashed active arrest warrants and used community service hours to pay many fines. He was able to resolve all of the cases for each of the ladies and the veterans.

The court session went exceptionally well. We all agreed to continue the homeless court one Friday each month in Judge Pollard's courtroom. We decided there should be four rules:

- First, to be eligible to come to Homeless Court, a person must be participating in an in-residence life restoration or rehabilitation program of some type for 45 days.
- Second, no one goes to jail just because he/she comes to Homeless Court, even if the person has an active arrest warrant.
- Third, participants in the Homeless Court program need to be "clean."
- Fourth, the participant's recovery program case manager needs to come to court with the participant.

Homeless Court is a friendlier place than most regular courtrooms. People know the judge will treat them with respect and will try to help them, not punish them. The judge makes an announcement to the courtroom when a person graduates from the Homeless Court program, and everyone in the courtroom stands and applauds. It's pretty special.

We are now entering the seventeenth year of the Tucson Homeless Court Program. Thousands of individuals have benefited from the program by being able to reenter society with no open court cases and no fines or arrest warrants. As far as I know, the Tucson Homeless Court Program is unique and perhaps the only one of its kind in the whole country.



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**Ken: Can you share any memorable client stories from the clinic?**

**Jim:** One time a gentleman came in who had twenty-seven misdemeanor cases. He was quiet, had his hands folded between his legs, and was looking at the floor. He seemed very down and embarrassed. I thought to myself, “What can I say to this guy that will cheer him up a little and make him feel better about himself.” Suddenly some words came to me. I said, “If you came to this legal clinic thinking you were going to set a record for new cases, I’ve got some bad news for you. You aren’t even close to the record. The record is sixty-six cases. And, if you thought you were coming to the legal clinic to see a perfect attorney, I’ve got some more bad news for you. I’m not a perfect attorney. I’m a saved sinner just like you, but you and I are going to review all of your cases together and with God’s help we will develop a plan to take care of your cases.” He looked up at me and smiled, and we got busy working on his plan.

That describes what we do at our legal clinics. We provide people with hope and a plan, and we help them execute the plan. We don’t have to be experts in every aspect of the law. We just need to show up at the clinics and be willing to be used by God to help people who really need our help. And we pray. We pray a lot, for the people we see and the plans we have developed.

Once I also helped a GRM resident resolve a case in the Tucson City Court when the hearing was conducted in Spanish, and I don’t even speak Spanish! I didn’t know that the judge spoke Spanish, but he did and he picked up on the fact that English was the resident’s second language, so he started speaking Spanish to the resident. I had no idea what he was saying and what the resident was saying, but after a couple of minutes, tears started falling from the resident’s eyes and she said: “Hallelujah. Praise Jesus!” I turned to the judge and said, “Your honor, I have no idea what just happened, but if my client is saying ‘Halleluiah’ and ‘Praise Jesus,’ that’s good enough for me. Thank you very much!” It turned out that he had resolved all of the resident’s cases.

**Ken: How fulfilling, or challenging, has it been serving in Christian Legal Aid during your retirement?**

**Jim:** It has been very fulfilling. We frequently get to see GRM residents shortly after they first arrive, and we get to see them make progress in their recovery program. The attorneys in our program all feel we are blessed as much as the GRM residents we are trying to help. We sometimes run across them when they get jobs. Just recently a solar panel sales rep rang my doorbell at home. When I answered the door, she said excitedly, “I know

you! You helped me at the Gospel Rescue Mission.” That was a fun moment.

Christian Legal Aid can also be challenging. Many times, when I drive to the GRM clinic, I think to myself, “God, I don’t know why you are sending me to this legal clinic. You and I both know that I am not qualified to help these people.” Then, I get to the clinic and find I can help the people by just showing up and being willing to be used by God.

Sometimes things don’t turn out well. For instance, I may be waiting at the court for a resident to arrive, and he or she doesn’t. I call the GRM and find out that the person has relapsed. It hurts when that happens because I care about the people we are trying to help.

Another challenge is to make sure that I spend time with Meg and honor her in our retirement. I also want to be a good grandfather to my grandchildren.

**Ken: What advice do you have for attorneys who are approaching retirement age?**

**Jim:** Don’t stop serving the Lord. Or maybe start serving the Lord if you thought you were too busy before. Do you really want to spend all of your retirement time playing golf or cards? Wouldn’t you rather use your legal education and experience to help people who really need your help?

If the CLS-Tucson lawyers weren’t there to help the people in our Christian Legal Aid program, the people would get no help at all. Most lawyers do not perform pro bono service. The people we see never make it to the secular legal aid programs.

Put your faith into action, just like the heroes of faith that are mentioned in Hebrews. You can have a tremendous impact on the lives of others who have no legal hope other than you.

You can do this. Get involved in a Christian Legal Aid program. It’s not hard. Trade in your former paycheck for eternal rewards. If you live near a Gospel Rescue Mission, check it out. See if it has a recovery program. Maybe you can start your own Christian Legal Aid program. CLS is willing to help, and I am too.



Jim Richardson and his wife Meg have been married 51 years and live in Or Valley, Arizona, a suburb of Tucson. They have two children (Matt and Sarah) and five grandchildren. Both Jim and Meg have retired from their paying jobs, but they haven’t retired from life or serving the Lord.



# What Is Your Why?



BY TED LANDWEHR

I recently heard a piece of conventional wisdom that goes something like this: “People want to know your ‘why’ long before they want to know your ‘what.’” Earlier this month at the CLS Midwest Regional Retreat in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, I was once again reminded of my “why.”

In the routine struggles of daily life, it is all too easy for me to forget the real “why” behind my calling as a Christian attorney. It’s all too easy to just put my head down and continue to trudge on through the daily grind of client meetings, document drafting, and court hearings. Frankly, as the retreat drew closer, I wasn’t really sure if I even wanted to take the time to attend. There was so much work to be done. Could I really afford the time and expense of traveling eleven hours there and back and devoting a whole weekend away? After all, I could be catching up on the mountain of work and just maybe getting a little much needed rest. But I went and, as the weekend went on, I realized it was probably the most important and productive use of my time that I’ve experienced in a long time. I realized that I actually had an urgent and vital need to step back with other Christian attorneys and law students and reflect again on why I keep doing this often difficult

and exhausting work – why I keep pursuing excellence in legal practice to the glory of God.

God not only answered these questions through the retreat, but also went way beyond as God often does with so many more blessings. First, I was quickly reminded that many others there were struggling with the same issues. From the moment we started working our way through the first ice breaker, we began to share our lives with each other and building each other up. Right from the beginning, fellow attorneys, law students, and family members were sharing the love of Christ together, and helping each other as we all struggle with remembering and focusing on our “why.”

I was also reminded of my “why” by the inspiring speakers as they talked about why it’s important to advocate for and defend religious liberty, why serve those who cannot afford legal representation through Christian Legal Aid, why be a godly litigator and leave a godly legacy, and why to always seek and hunt for God in all that we do. I was reminded of my “why” as the speakers shared their journeys as Christian attorneys and how God used them to start legal aid clinics, as law clerks and attorneys in the

courtrooms, and as interns and police officers, all weaving lives of purpose and meaning for Him through the practice of law. And as I listened and reflected, to my great joy I began to see ever more clearly how God's hand had weaved my own career so far to His glory.

I was further reminded in the small group discussions that followed each speaker as we dug deeper into their messages and the application of their messages to our individual lives. It gave me the opportunity to hear the perspectives of my fellow lawyers and law students on how God used the messages to impact their purpose and calling as Christian legal professionals. It gave me the opportunity to pray for them and for our impact in this world together for God's kingdom.

I was reminded of my "why" as I talked with law students about their struggles and life as a law student and shared my own experiences, struggles, and joys as a law student and how God strengthened and sustained me through all the challenges of law school. We encouraged one another and talked about how to push through and glorify God through it all. So even as I was being served and blessed by the experiences and perspective of more seasoned attorneys, God also blessed me by providing the opportunity to serve and inspire less seasoned attorneys and law students. What a powerful way to rediscover my "why" while helping to spark the "why" in others.

And I was reminded of my "why" as we worshipped God together and glorified Him as His people and together sought God in prayer to fill us up again with His purpose and passion. We sang songs of praise and focused on His Word together. We cast our cares on Him as we prayed together. I left each time of worship feeling lighter and stronger, more renewed, and refilled with the "why" behind my practice of law.

Finally, I was reminded of my "why" as we all took time to rest and enjoy God's creation around us in Lake Geneva. The beautiful lake, the bald eagles flying around, the artistic talent demonstrated in the snow sculptures and ice castle, the fellowship created by eating together in the dining hall and the late-night fellowship and just having fun together as friends and family in Christ. None of that involved the practice of law, but it all involved the blessing of being loved by God and sustained by Him in His creation.

When it was time to leave that time of sweet fellowship and go back to all the client work and administrative tasks waiting for me, I left refreshed and filled again with my "why." And I remembered why I go the extra mile to show God's love to my clients, to stay up late and finish their work, and deliver on what I promised so that they have confidence in their attorney and his word. I remembered why I do my best to advocate for justice for them and treat them as I would want to be treated. I remembered why it's important to meet regularly as a CLS chapter and build one another up and pray for one another. I remembered why I faithfully serve at my local Christian Legal Aid site every month and help those who are completely lost in the legal system – not knowing even where to begin and being so distraught over their situations. I remembered why it is important to pray for law students and be available to them as a mentor and resource and do all I can to strengthen and sustain their law school chapters. I remembered why it is important to do what I can to advocate and defend religious liberty through CLS and other religious liberty organizations and be an activist and educator in my community. I left with the "why" spark burning brightly inside, just like the flames of the fireplace by our small group meeting place and the campfire that we huddled around as shared stories about our families and lives. And I left with new friends and deeper relationships with God's people in my profession. And I realized that none of that would have happened if I had chosen to stay home instead to tend to the what of piled-up tasks and work there and not to the "why" behind all of that. Scripture says, "and let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25). The fellowship of the CLS Midwest Regional Retreat did just that, as it spurred on the "why" of my law practice. By God's grace, I will be back at the retreat next year.



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Christian attorney and CLS member.



# The Department of Education's Proposed Regulations to Protect Religious Student Groups

BY KIM COLBY

Like one giant fireworks display celebrating Religious Freedom Day, on January 16, 2020,<sup>1</sup> the Trump Administration announced numerous measures to protect religious freedom. Nine departments announced rulemaking efforts, including the Department of Education, which proposed two regulations aimed at protecting religious student groups on public college campuses.<sup>2</sup> If the regulations are made final, as is expected, the hope is that public college administrators will allow religious student groups, including CLS chapters, to meet in peace on campuses nationwide.

On behalf of its student and attorney members, CLS submitted a comment letter providing factual examples illustrating the need for Proposed Regulations § 75.500(d) and § 76.500(d). The letter and its attachments documented problems on major public university campuses in California, Ohio, Texas, Georgia, Idaho, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, South Carolina, and Missouri.<sup>3</sup>

Under the two essentially-identical regulations, a public college that received a grant – either directly from the Department or indirectly through a state program administering Department grants – would agree to the following as a material condition of the grant:

(d) A public institution shall not deny to a religious student organization at the public institution any right, benefit, or privilege that is otherwise afforded to other student organizations at the public institution (including full access to the facilities of the public institution and official recognition of the organization by the public institution) because of the beliefs, practices, policies, speech, membership standards, or leadership standards of the religious student organization.<sup>4</sup>

The newly proposed regulations would ensure that religious student groups of all faiths would be allowed to continue to serve their campuses in countless positive ways. By protecting religious student groups, the proposed regulations would increase the range of religious and ideological diversity on public college campuses.

The proposed regulations would not require any college to adopt any specific policy. The regulations simply direct that *whatever* policy a university has chosen to adopt, it may not be applied so as to exclude religious student groups from campus because of their religious “beliefs, practices, policies, speech, membership standards, and leadership standards.”



The proposed regulations are a common sense solution to the discrimination that religious student groups too often face on public college campuses. For nearly four decades, religious student groups have been threatened with exclusion from college campuses. Often, they are threatened with exclusion because they require their leaders to agree with the core religious beliefs that define the group.

Yet it is only common sense that a religious group should be able to require its leaders to agree with its religious message and mission and to communicate those beliefs effectively by word and conduct.

The leadership of any organization determines whether it is able to carry out its mission. This is particularly true for religious groups whose leaders conduct their Bible studies, lead their prayers, and facilitate their worship observances. For a student group to expect the student who teaches its Bible studies to believe that the Bible reflects truth is eminently reasonable. To expect the student leading prayer to believe in the God to whom she is praying is completely logical. Yet too many university administrators woodenly characterize these common sense expectations and basic religious freedom principles as “religious discrimination.”

The proposed regulations follow the well-marked path of federal protections for religious students’ right to be religious in their public educational institutions.<sup>5</sup> Basically, the federal government should not want taxpayer funding channeled to public educational institutions that discriminate against students on the basis of their religious beliefs. The regulations also mirror other federal protections for religious organizations’ decisions about who will express their messages and carry out their missions.<sup>6</sup>

In the past eight years, fourteen states have acted to protect religious students on public college campuses: Arizona (2011), Ohio (2011), Idaho (2013), Tennessee (2013), Oklahoma (2014), North Carolina (2014), Virginia (2016), Kansas

(2016), Kentucky (2017), Louisiana (2018), Arkansas (2019), Iowa (2019), South Dakota (2019), and Alabama (2020).<sup>7</sup>

The proposed regulations codify two Supreme Court decisions protecting religious student groups’ First Amendment rights on public university campuses. In 1981, in the landmark case of *Widmar v. Vincent*,<sup>8</sup> the Supreme Court held that a public university violated a religious student group’s speech and association rights when it derecognized the group because its meetings included prayer and worship. The Court further held that the Establishment Clause was not violated by allowing religious student associations access to public college campuses, nor could the state constitution trump the students’ free speech rights.

The proposed regulations also codify the Court’s 1995 decision in *Rosenberger v. University of Virginia*.<sup>9</sup> There the Court ruled that a university violated a religious student organization’s freedom of speech when it denied a religious student publication the same funding available to sixteen other student publications. The Court held that the Establishment Clause was not violated by a religious student publication receiving significant funding from the student activity fees system.

After the Court removed the Establishment Clause as a justification for excluding religious groups, some college administrators began to use college nondiscrimination policies as their new rationale. Beginning in the mid-1990s, religious student groups began to encounter this misuse of nondiscrimination policies to exclude religious student groups from campus simply because they required their leaders to agree with their religious beliefs.<sup>10</sup> Religious student groups were told they must remove from their governing documents any requirement that their leaders agree with the groups’ basic religious beliefs if they wanted to remain on campus as a recognized student group.

Religious student groups that had been recognized on a campus for decades with religious leadership requirements were

abruptly told they must choose between recognition and their religious requirements. Basic religious freedom, however, requires that religious groups be free to choose leaders who agree with their religious beliefs and teachings. Indeed, it should be common ground – particularly for those who advocate a strict separation of church and state – that government officials, including public university administrators, should not interfere with religious groups’ choice of leaders.

When university administrators conflate “religious discrimination” with religious organizations’ right to self-govern, they misuse nondiscrimination policies to punish the very religious students that those same policies are supposed to protect. The problem is not with the policies but with their misuse. In the name of “tolerance,” college administrators institutionalize religious intolerance. In the name of “inclusion,” college administrators exclude religious student groups from campus.

Many leading universities have demonstrated that nondiscrimination policies and students’ religious freedom are completely compatible. These universities have embedded robust protection for religious freedom within their nondiscrimination policies, promoting a campus environment in which both religious freedom and nondiscrimination policies harmoniously thrive.<sup>11</sup>

But other universities have abruptly threatened religious student groups with exclusion after decades of being officially recognized student groups on campus. The religious student groups’ leadership requirements have not changed, but the universities’ policies have changed. For example, Campus Crusade for Christ had been a recognized student group with a religious leadership requirement on most Cal State campuses since the 1950s. Then in 2014, Cal State changed its policy. InterVarsity Christian Fellowship had been a recognized student group with religious leadership requirements at Wayne State University since the 1940s. Then in 2017, Wayne State officials said it must forfeit its recognition because of its leadership requirements. (Eventually, Cal State modified its position, and InterVarsity sued Wayne State and regained recognition during the pendency of the ongoing litigation.)

CLS had been a recognized student group with leadership standards at the University of Iowa since the 1980s. Then in 2018, along with thirty-one other religious groups, it was told that it faced derecognition because it required its leaders to agree with its religious beliefs. In 2019, the university filed a court document in federal district court listing the hundreds of student groups it officially recognized. The university’s list highlighted all of the student groups that would be derecognized should the court rule in its favor. The list is remarkable: thirty-two religious groups would be excluded; no nonreligious groups would be excluded; and the thirty-two religious groups included Jewish, Muslim, Catholic, Evangelical Christian, Orthodox Christian, Sikh, and other faith groups.<sup>12</sup> Their transgression

was that they required their leaders to agree with the religious beliefs of the group they led. The district judge ruled against the university, but the case is on appeal.

Religious groups on campuses are an essential and positive component of a campus that aspires to be authentically diverse. Religious student groups typically are among the most diverse groups on campus in terms of the racial, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds of their students. For many first-generation students, religious groups are crucial to finding a welcoming, nurturing space in an unfamiliar environment. Religious student groups also inspire service to others, whether they distribute water at graduation or dig wells in rural villages abroad over spring break. Encouraging spiritual growth and service to others are defining attributes of most student groups regardless of their specific faith. CLS joins other campus ministries in celebrating the proposed regulations and their promise of protecting religious students’ ability to continue to live out their faith and serve their campus communities.



Kim Colby is Director of CLS’ Center for Law & Religious Freedom. She is a graduate of Harvard Law School. Kim has represented religious groups in numerous appellate cases, including two cases heard by the United States Supreme Court. She has also filed dozens of amicus briefs in both federal and state courts. In 1984, Kim was heavily involved in congressional passage of the Equal Access Act.

## END NOTES

- 1 In 1993, Congress designated January 16 as National Religious Freedom Day, commemorating the date in 1786 when the Virginia General Assembly adopted the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. H.J. Res. 457, 102<sup>nd</sup> Cong. (1992).
- 2 “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, Direct Grant Programs, State-Administered Formula Grant Programs, Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program, and Strengthening Institutions Program,” 85 Fed. Reg. 3190 (proposed Jan. 17, 2020) (to be codified at 34 CFR Parts 75, 76, 106, 606, 607, 608, and 609).
- 3 Letter from Kimberlee Wood Colby, Director, Center for Law and Religious Freedom of the Christian Legal Society to Lynn Mahaffie, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, and Innovation, Dept. of Education (Feb. 18, 2020), is at <https://tinyurl.com/rzenyqh>. The attachments to the letter are at <https://tinyurl.com/t79nypw>. Addendum A, the Christian Legal Society Amicus Brief in *Business Leaders for Christ v. University of Iowa*, is at <https://tinyurl.com/usq4f3k>. Addendum B, Dept. of Justice Statement of Interest in *Business Leaders for Christ v. University of Iowa*, is at <https://tinyurl.com/su9bbs9>. The specific public university problems are discussed

in the companion article in the current *Journal of Christian Legal Thought*, Vol. 10, No. 1 (2020).

4 85 Fed. Reg. at 3223, 3225.

5 See, e.g., Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 4071-4074; U.S. Dept. of Education, Office of the General Counsel, *Updated Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer and Religious Expression in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools*, 85 Fed. Reg. 3257 (Jan. 21, 2020); U.S. Dept. of Education, *Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools*, 68 Fed. Reg. 9645 (Feb. 28, 2003); Richard W. Riley, U.S. Secretary of Education, *Religious Expression in Public Schools: A Statement of Principles* (June 1998); William J. Clinton, *Presidential Memorandum on Religious Expression in Public Schools*, 2 Pub. Papers 1083 (July 12, 1995).

6 See, e.g., 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-1(a) (protecting right of religious associations to employ only “individuals of a particular religion”); 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-2(e)(2) (same for religious educational institutions); 20 U.S.C. § 6801(a)(3) (protecting religious institutions of higher education); 42 U.S.C. 5172(a)(C)(3) (“No house of worship, educational facility, or any other private nonprofit facility may be excluded from receiving

contributions [i.e., federal disaster aid] . . . because leadership or membership in the organization operating the house of worship is limited to persons who share a religious faith or practice.”).

7 Ala. Code 1975 § 1-68-3(a)(8); Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-1863; Ark. Code Ann. § 6-60-1006; Idaho Code § 33-107D; Iowa Code § 261H.3(3); Kan. Stat. Ann. §§ 60-5311-5313; Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 164.348(2)(h); La. Stat. Ann.-Rev. Stat. § 17.:3399.33; N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 116-40.12; Ohio Rev. Code § 3345.023; Okla. St. Ann. § 70-2119.1; S.D. Ch. § 13-53-52; Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-7-156; Va. Code Ann. § 23.1-400.

8 454 U.S. 263 (1981).

9 515 U.S. 819 (1995).

10 See, e.g., Michael Stokes Paulsen, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Limited Public Forum: Unconstitutional Conditions on “Equal Access” for Religious Speakers and Groups*, 29 U.C. Davis L. Rev. 653, 668-72 (1996).

11 Many universities have policies that protect religious groups’ religious leadership criteria and are found as Attachment B to the CLS comment letter, at <https://tinyurl.com/su9bbs9>.

12 The document is Attachment C to the CLS comment letter at <https://tinyurl.com/t79nypw>.



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# A Reading Assignment

BY MIKE SCHUTT

Law students should read stuff outside of the law school curriculum.

They should read fiction, long-form essays, book reviews, and news – and anything else they enjoy. Law students, like other human beings, are better when they read and read broadly. This is not controversial. Unless, of course, you’re a law student.

But I want to take it even further: Christian law students should also read law-related resources as a matter of stewardship of their calling before God.

Christian students need help navigating the sometimes choppy seas of the American legal academy as disciples of Jesus. There are books, essays, and law review articles that can give just that sort of assistance; however, law students are generally less than enthusiastic (to put it mildly) about the idea of more reading in the throes of such a heavy load of it.

I’ll try to briefly make my case. As I do so, I’ll proceed on the assumption that everyone knows that we should read fiction, literature, history, biography, comedy, essays, philosophy,

theology, and memoirs as a matter of course, and I’ll instead focus on why law students need to read extra law stuff even in the midst of law school.

## Why Law Students Should Read Law Stuff Outside the Law School Curriculum

On the most basic level, those called to be law students are duty-bound to seek to know God’s purpose for lawyers and for law itself.

It may have been easier in the “old days,” when the curriculum contained the case laws of the Old Testament, foundations in moral philosophy, and readings on the relationship between God’s law and man’s law. But those old days are long gone, if they ever existed at all. These days, to become acquainted, for example, with ideas on the Law of Nature, natural law, biblical law, Christian jurisprudence, or vocational stewardship, a student has to “double study.” That is, faithful law students must study as required for law school, but additional supplemental



study is required to chase after the full story and import of the materials already studied.

It seems unfair, but there you have it.

### Objection!

I anticipate at least two objections. First, if all truth is God's truth, as we often rightly say,<sup>1</sup> isn't faithful study of the course materials really all I need to know as a Christian law student?

It is a good start, of course, particularly for law students who have a thoroughgoing biblical understanding of the world and the philosophical and theological background to discern the assumptions inherent in the course materials. But many of us do not have that sort of intellectual foundation.

The main issue is that the underlying presumptions of most American law professors regarding the nature and purpose of law are at odds with Christian views of law. For example, those who believe that law is simply a tool for social engineering will come to different conclusions about a host of systemic choices than those who believe that law is rooted in the moral order of the universe. Likewise, those who see law as transcendent, reflecting the character of a loving and just God, will have very different views of what tort law and contract law and human rights law ought to be than those who believe that pragmatism is the philosophy that drives our jurisprudential choices. Moreover, legal positivists come to different conclusions than natural law advocates on every conceivable issue. If these distinctions matter, even sometimes, then understanding the distinctions matters, too.

A second objection is that "I have too much to read already. How am I supposed to double study and be faithful to get good grades?"

In short, if faithful study is the right thing to do, then grades are a secondary concern. Yet if this burden is laid on us by the Lord, then He will be faithful to multiply our time and give us all we need to succeed. At the same time, we should remember that "faithfulness" to God does not always neatly match up with our notions of "success."

Besides, if we have to time to binge watch "Stranger Things," eat dinner, and play intramural softball,<sup>2</sup> we have time for a little extra reading.

When I was a law student, I was convinced that I was busier than I would ever be in my entire life. I was wrong. I was more at leisure than I could have ever imagined. Law school is a crucial and formative time, of course, but not only for the development of our analytical and analogical reasoning skills and knowledge of the law. It is also the time of life where our habits are actually practiced in order to take hold, a season where our worldview is shaped, and the years when we learn to prioritize the demands of life in light of the demands of the law. It is not easy to be faithful in the grip of the competition and buzz of law school. What better time to develop lifelong reading practices that help shape us toward Christ?

### What Sort of Law-Related Reading Might Law Students Consider in Law School?

My suggestion is that law students gear their "supplemental" reading toward gaps in their theological foundations and with an eye toward examples of Christian thinking in the legal field. I offer suggestions only, and only in a few categories. The best source for recommendations come from Christian professors and leaders in a student's personal sphere.

## Suggested Resources for Double Study<sup>3</sup>

### Faith and Study: Being a Student to the Glory of God (General Resources)

- Donald Opitz and Derek Melleby, *The Outrageous Idea of Academic Faithfulness: A Guide for Students* (2007)
- Steven Garber, *The Fabric of Faithfulness: Weaving Together Faith and Behavior* (2d rev. ed. 2007)

### Vocation and Calling: What Might it Mean to be a Christian Professional?

- Gerard V. Bradley and Cory Andrews, *A Student's Guide to the Study of Law* (2006)
- Gene Edward Veith, *God at Work* (2004)
- Joseph G. Allegretti, *The Lawyer's Calling: Christian Faith and Legal Practice* (1996)
- Steven Garber, *Visions of Vocation: Common Grace for the Common Good* (2014)
- Michael P. Schutt, *Redeeming Law: Christian Calling and the Legal Profession* (2007)

### Foundations of Law

- William Blackstone, "Of the Nature of Laws in General," from 1 Commentaries Introduction, §2 (1753)
- Patrick Brennan and William Brewbaker, primary drafters, "Evangelicals and Catholics Together on Law," *Journal of Christian Legal Thought*, vol. 3, no. 2 (2013)
- Craig A. Stern, "God's Caesar: A Biblical Understanding of the Limits of Civil Government" (2013)<sup>4</sup>
- Jacques Ellul, *The Theological Foundation of Law* (1960)
- McConnell, Cochran, and Carmella, eds, *Christian Perspectives on Legal Thought* (2001)
- Jeffrey A. Brauch, *A Higher Law: Readings on the Influence of Christian Thought in Anglo-American Law* (3d ed. 2019)
- Michael A. Scaperlanda and Teresa Collett, eds, *Recovering Self-Evident Truths: Catholic Perspectives on American Law* (2007)

### Legal History from a Christian Perspective

- Stephen C. Perks, *Christianity and Law: An Enquiry into the Influence of Christianity on the Development of English Common Law* (1993)
- Harold J. Berman, *The Interaction of Law and Religion* (1974)

- John Witte, Jr., *God's Joust, God's Justice: Law and Religion in the Western Tradition* (2006)
- Harold J. Berman, *Law and Revolution: The Formation of the Western Legal Tradition* (1985)
- John Witte, Jr., and Frank Alexander, eds, *The Teachings of Modern Christianity on Law, Politics, and Human Nature* (3 Vols) (2006)

### Legal Topics

- Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"
- Jeffrey Tuomala, "Christ's Atonement as the Model for Civil Justice" (1993)<sup>5</sup>
- C. Scott Pryor, "Looking for Bedrock: Accounting for Human Rights in Classical Liberalism, Modern Secularism, and the Christian Tradition," 33 *Campbell Law Review*, 609 (2010-11)<sup>6</sup>
- Edward S. Corwin, *The Higher Law Background of American Constitutional Law* (1955)
- J. Budziszewski, *Natural Law for Lawyers* (2006)
- Gary T. Amos, *Defending the Declaration* (1996)
- J. Budziszewski, *Written on the Heart: The Case for Natural Law* (1997)
- P.C. Kemeny, ed., *Church, State, and Public Justice: Five Views* (2007)

May the Lord direct you as you seek to be faithful to walk—and read—out your calling to the law.



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### END NOTES

- 1 Following Augustine, Aquinas, and John Calvin, among many, many others.
- 2 And law students SHOULD take time for these things, but that's another column.
- 3 Arranged by length—shortest to longest—to help students decide what to tackle!
- 4 Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3222966>.
- 5 [http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/lusol\\_fac\\_pubs/19](http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/lusol_fac_pubs/19).
- 6 Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=1943651>.



## Christian Legal Society is a community.

The events described on these pages are just a few examples of the fellowship, learning, and fun going on at CLS events. We are reserving this space in every magazine issue to share what is going on around the country and, hopefully, to inspire you to plan a CLS event in your area. The goal is always to bring individuals and chapters in your communities together.

*Want to be our next inspiration in Chapter & Event Highlights? Tell us about a successful event or meeting you organized yesterday, last week, or last month, and we will share it with our members nationwide (and remember, it must be accompanied by a picture). We look forward to hearing about your stories and events and celebrating with you!*



NYC Chapter Christmas Gathering

Law Student  
Late Night  
at the CLS  
National Conference  
in Chicago





2020 CLS Midwest Regional Retreat in Lake Geneva, WI



First CLS Student Regional Retreat in Columbus, OH

2020 CLS Cruise



2020 CLS Southwest Retreat in Dana Point, CA



## Connect with other CLS members in your area

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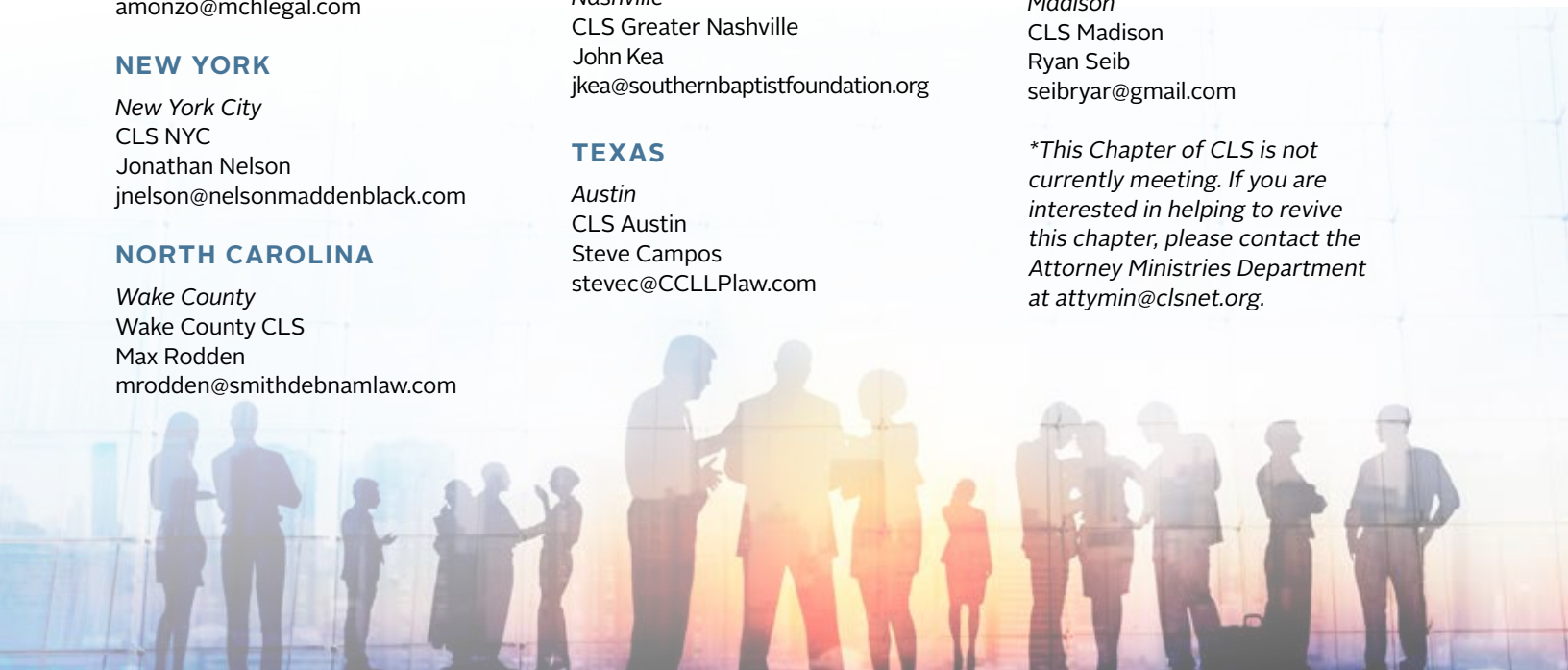
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*\*This Chapter of CLS is not currently meeting. If you are interested in helping to revive this chapter, please contact the Attorney Ministries Department at attymin@clsnet.org.*





# Connect with the Christian Legal Aid Clinic in your community

## ARIZONA

*Phoenix Metro Area*  
Christian Legal Aid of Arizona

*Tucson*  
Christian Legal Society of Tucson  
Christian Legal Aid Program

## CALIFORNIA

*Los Angeles*  
Pepperdine University Legal Aid Clinic

*Los Angeles Metro Area*  
Christian Legal Aid of Los Angeles

*Oakland*  
Pope Francis Legal Clinic

*Sacramento*  
Law & Wisdom Legal Aid Clinic

*San Bernardino Metro Area*  
Crosswalk Legal Clinic

*San Diego Metro Area*  
San Diego Christian Legal Aid (SDCLA)

*San Jose*  
Silicon Valley Christian Legal Aid

*Santa Ana*  
Trinity Law Clinic at the Orange County Rescue Mission

*Santa Ana*  
Trinity Mobile Legal Clinic

## COLORADO

*Colorado Springs*  
Ecumenical Christian Legal Services

*Denver*  
Justice and Mercy Legal Aid Clinic

*Denver Metro*  
Christian Legal Clinic of Metro Denver  
Triage Legal Clinics

- Denver Rescue Mission Clinic
- Broomfield FISH Clinic

Christian Legal Clinic of Metro Denver  
(continued)

- Samaritan House Clinic
- Salvation Army Clinic
- Providence Network Clinic
- More Life Center Clinic
- Life Center Clinic
- SECOR Clinic Clinic

*Fort Collins*  
Serve 6.8 Legal Clinic

## DELAWARE

*Wilmington*  
Mission Legal Aid Clinic

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

*Washington, DC*  
Christian Legal Aid of the District of Columbia (CLADC)

- Central Union Mission
- DC Dream Center

## FLORIDA

*Jacksonville*  
CLS Pro Bono Project

*Jacksonville Metro Area*  
Jericho Road Legal Service Ministry

## ILLINOIS

*Chicago*  
Cabrini Green Legal Aid

*Chicago Metro Area*  
Administer Justice

- Wheaton Bible Church
- Christ Community Church
- Fox Valley Church
- Wayside Cross Ministries
- Christ Church of Oak Brook
- Willow Creek Care Center

## INDIANA

*Indianapolis Metro Area*  
Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic

## KANSAS

*Wichita*  
Wichita Christian Legal Aid

## KENTUCKY

*Lexington*  
Merciful Justice Legal Clinic

*Louisville*  
Metro Christian Legal Aid

## MARYLAND

*Gaithersburg*  
Good Samaritan Advocates

- Covenant Life Church
- Montgomery Village
- Montgomery County Correctional Facility

## MICHIGAN

*Detroit Metro Area*  
Christian Legal Aid of Southeast Michigan

*Grand Rapids Metro Area*  
West Michigan Christian Legal Aid

*Kalamazoo*  
Christian Legal Aid of Southwest Michigan

*Lansing*  
Christian Legal Aid of Lansing

## MINNESOTA

*Minneapolis*  
Park Avenue Walk-in Legal Clinic

*Twin Cities*  
Twin Cities Christian Legal Aid (TCCLA)

## MISSISSIPPI

*Jackson*  
Mission First Legal Aid Office



## MISSOURI

*St. Louis Metro Area*  
New Covenant Legal Services

## NEW JERSEY

*Newark Metro Area*  
Immigrant Hope

## NEW MEXICO

*Albuquerque*  
New Mexico Christian Legal Aid

*Las Cruces*  
Catholic Charities of Southern New Mexico

## NEW YORK

*New York City*  
Open Hands Legal Services, Inc.

## NORTH CAROLINA

*Durham*  
Justice Matters

*Raleigh*  
Campbell Community Law Clinic

## OHIO

*Cleveland*  
Scranton Road Legal Clinic

*Westerville (Columbus Metro Area)*  
Vineyard Immigration Counseling Service

*Toledo*  
Christian Legal Collaborative

## OKLAHOMA

*Oklahoma City Metro Area*  
Trinity Legal

- Crossings Community Center
- Cross and Crown Mission
- City Rescue Mission
- Living Faith Ministry
- Salvation Army – Norman

*Tulsa*  
Tulsa Dream Center

*Tulsa*  
Tulsa University College of Law CLS  
Christian Legal Aid Clinic

## OREGON

*Portland*  
Union Gospel Mission of Portland  
Christian Legal Aid Clinic

## PENNSYLVANIA

*Philadelphia*  
Christian Legal Clinics of Philadelphia

- West Philadelphia Legal Clinic
- Hunting Park Legal Clinic
- South Philadelphia Legal Clinic
- Chester Legal Clinic
- Germantown Legal Clinic
- Kensington Legal Clinic
- Chosen 300 Legal Clinic
- North Philadelphia Legal Clinic

*Pittsburgh*  
Christian Legal Aid of Pittsburgh

## TENNESSEE

*Murfreesboro*  
Murfreesboro Christian Legal Clinic

*Nashville Metro Area*  
Compassionate Counsel

## TEXAS

*Houston*  
Houston Legal Aid Center

*Houston*  
Community Christian Legal Aid

## VIRGINIA

*Arlington*  
Restoration Immigration Legal Aid

*Northern Virginia*  
Good Samaritan Advocates

- Columbia Baptist Church
- Cornerstone Chapel
- Reston Bible Church
- The Lamb Center

*Roanoke*  
Roanoke Rescue Mission

## WASHINGTON

*Seattle*  
Open Door Legal Services

## WISCONSIN

*Milwaukee*  
JC Legal Resources Center INC

**For contact information and other details for the  
Christian Legal Aid clinics, view the full clinic  
directory at [ChristianLegalAid.org/clinics](http://ChristianLegalAid.org/clinics).**



27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# Bioethics & the Body

Preconference Institutes  
June 22–25, 2020

**CONFERENCE**  
**JUNE 25–27, 2020**

Postconference Seminar  
June 29–July 1, 2020

**NICANOR P. G. AUSTRIACO, PHD, STD**  
Providence College

**JEFFREY P. BISHOP, MD, PHD**  
Saint Louis University

**JONI EARECKSON TADA**  
Joni and Friends

**BETH FELKER JONES, PHD**  
Wheaton College

**DONNA J. HARRISON, MD**  
AAPLOG

**KIMBELL KORNU, MD, PHD**  
Saint Louis University

**KARLA A. POLASCHEK, MD**  
Medical Arts Associates, Ltd.

**D. CHRISTOPHER RALSTON, PHD**  
Joni and Friends Intl. Disability Center

**PETER J. SMITH, MD, MA**  
The University of Chicago

Join us for our 27<sup>th</sup> annual conference, *Bioethics & the Body*. Distinguished speakers will examine foundational concepts and bioethical considerations related to the myriad ways in which we view, interact with, manipulate, and analyze our physical bodies. Plenary sessions will focus on understanding the human body through a theological lens, disability and issues of identity in a bioethical context, the goals of medicine with respect to disease, pregnancy and prenatal testing, and the biological and technological merging of the human and nonhuman.



LEARN MORE | [CBHD.ORG/CONF2020](https://www.cbhd.org/conf2020)

**In Partnership with:**  
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Christian Medical & Dental Associations  
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Joni and Friends  
Pellegrino Center for Clinical Bioethics  
The Ohio State University Center for Bioethics



Sally Wagenmaker,  
President and  
Chairman of the Board

Life is fleeting, isn't it? Maybe not on dreary winter days, or when waiting in a slowly moving check-out lane. But as the billable hours get clocked, as we wonder how the kids have grown, and as we notice the new wrinkles on others' faces (not our own, of course . . .), the questions can arise – is there more? More what? Something different?

The articles contained in this edition of *The Christian Lawyer* address these questions, with some answers – and some further questions. Well, why not more questions? We are lawyers after all! Here's one answer from lawyer-turned-pastor Stephen Hsu: "God has called us to an exciting adventure." Wow, that is so promising! God is good, faithful, and loving, and He has a unique plan and purpose for each one of us. As retired attorney (and former CLS President) Tim Klenk reminds us, life is full of adventures in ways we cannot presently imagine. Indeed, how could a stroke of all things be part of God's providence and "a perfect pitch," as Tim calls it? As our beloved CLS staffer (and also retired attorney/former CLS President) Brent Amato queries, "What is your exit strategy?" Financial planner/non-practicing lawyer Mike Wang probes "how does my occupation – or retiring from it – help me to fulfill God's purpose for my life?" And retired corporate/active legal aid attorney Jim Richardson challenges us, "Don't stop serving the Lord. You can do this!"

These questions and answers make me think of PLUS. This word can mean many things, such

as "at least" (e.g., "X" hours worked annually), an advantage or bonus, furthermore, also, better than (e.g., A+), and of course additionally (as in math). These authors' insights collectively provide a resounding PLUS, albeit with plot twists throughout each life's journey.

What is your life's PLUS? That is, what is there more than the law, or perhaps different? Treasured relationships, hobbies, church involvement, legal aid ministry, other caring outreach – in addition to (or perhaps instead of) regular legal work? Everyone has their opportunities for PLUS, with life outside the law, beyond the law, and above the law. Whether viewed as bonus, additional, or "better than," these PLUS opportunities keep us human and focused on God's ultimate purpose for us – to journey through life as His precious child, created in His image, beloved, and made to serve others for the sake of the gospel.

As the Apostle Paul declared, "I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace" (Acts 20:24). That is the ultimate PLUS – to testify to the Gospel of Jesus Christ through our lives. Better than, more than, also, furthermore – as practicing lawyers, law students, parents, sisters, brothers, volunteers, friends, and even strangers. And, of course, through the huge PLUS of our fellowship and witness as members of Christian Legal Society!

REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1



2020 CLS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON, DC

OCTOBER 15-18, 2020

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