

The Legal Light

The J. Reuben Clark Law Society, Orange County Chapter
January 2007

Theme For 2007: Make A Difference

By Jeffrey A. Robinson

Chair, Orange County Chapter of the JRCLS

Sometimes the best legal arguments are those expressed the most simply. A remark made by someone at last year's J. Reuben Clark Law Society training seminar has stuck with me. He referenced Jesus' parable of talents (See Matt. 25:14-30.) Many people have tried to explain why the steward who buried his gold was stripped of his talents, even though he did not lose his employer's money.



On the other hand, the steward who doubled his master's money was handsomely rewarded. Put simply, this parable implies that "the Lord expects us to make a difference." The Lord has given us life, brainpower, brawn, time, and a modicum of energy. The Lord expects us to use our resources to make a difference—a positive impact—in our world.

The theme "Make a Difference" should guide us in 2007. As Michael Josephson has said: "Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident. It's not a matter of circumstance but of choice. Choose to live a life that matters."

"Make a Difference" can mean big things: helping on a Chapter committee; doing pro bono work; being an "Atticus Finch" lawyer for ordinary people who need some legal help. "Make a Difference" more often means little things: taking time out of a busy schedule to attend a chapter luncheon; extending yourself to meet new people; taking the time to thank the people in your office who daily contribute to your success; connecting good people who are looking for opportunities (a job, a new client) with those who have needs to be met (employers, clients needing specialized assistance), going out of your way to be pleasant to opposing counsel, or taking time to network with law students.

The list of good things to do is endless; opportunities are all around. Let's all "Make A Difference" in 2007.

HOWARD W. HUNTER:

BALANCING LAW AND CHURCH SERVICE

By Paul A. Hoffman

Editor of The Legal Light

As fourteenth President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Howard William Hunter was the first and only attorney and the only Californian to become President of the Church. Not as well known is the fact that, in addition to being an exemplary Southern California lawyer, he carefully balanced his legal life in order to maximize his service to family and the Church. In short, President Hunter is a pre-eminent role model for the ideals of the J. Reuben Clark Law Society.

On October 24, 2006, partly to honor the legacy left by President Hunter, the Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, California, approved creation of the Howard W. Hunter Chair in Mormon Studies—the first permanent graduate-level academic study of the Church anywhere in the world. The chair will be occupied by a pre-eminent scholar and Claremont will begin the search immediately. According to Joseph Bentley, chair of the LDS Council for Mormon Studies at Claremont, substantial financial commitments have already been made, based upon a strong endowment agreement signed earlier this year between the Howard W. Hunter Foundation and the University. The goal is to raise a total of \$6 million to fund not only the Chair but an entire operating Center for Mormon Studies. (See end of article to learn how you can contribute to this groundbreaking endeavor.)



President Howard W. Hunter

Howard W. Hunter was born on November 14, 1907, in Boise, Idaho, to John William Hunter and Nellie Rasmussen. Howard's father was not a member of the Church, but his mother was very active and her teachings and encouragement were the primary reason

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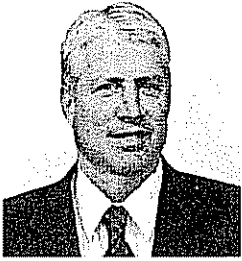
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COMPETING MORALITIES IMPACT FAMILY POLICY WORLDWIDE

By Robert Briggs



Professor A. Scott Loveless

Addressing the Orange County chapter luncheon meeting on November 16 was Professor Scott Loveless of the World Family Policy Center, an affiliate of the J. Reuben Clark Law School at BYU. Professor Loveless contrasted two moralities and their implications for setting family policy. The prevailing culture wars directly affect policy on such hot-button issues as abortion, euthanasia, same-sex marriage, adoption and no-fault divorce. These culture wars, Professor Loveless maintained, reflect the struggle between two competing conceptions of morality, natural morality and constructed morality.

The contrasting features of these competing moralities can be seen in their differing perceptions of gender. While natural morality argues that gender is biological and natural, with a special role in the perpetuation of humankind, the contrasting approach posits that gender is merely socially constructed, having no biological roots. These competing moralities reach starkly contrasting conclusions on subjects as diverse as marriage, sexuality, motherhood, monogamy, abortion, euthanasia, human rights and capital punishment.

“The contrasting features of these competing moralities can be seen in their differing perceptions of gender. While natural morality argues that gender is biological and natural, with a “special role” in the perpetuation of humankind, the contrasting approach posits that gender is merely socially constructed, having no biological roots.”

Yet natural morality has surprisingly broad support in the moral precepts of the world’s great religions. Citing the example of the Christian ethic to “love thy neighbor as thyself,” Professor Loveless showed corresponding ethical teachings in Islam, Buddhism, Confucianism, Sikhism and Zoroastrianism.

In concluding, Professor Loveless referred to the Ottawa Indians of eastern Canada who strive to reach the next “seven generations” by holding to these seven virtues: “wisdom, love, respect, bravery, honesty, humility and truth.” Following these virtues, the Ottawa “move the tribe forward.” This is true, concluded Professor Loveless, in all successful cultures. “The successful cultures of the world have been built on religions that taught their adherents principles consistent with . . . the morality of natural law.”

Robert H. Briggs is a partner with Booth, Mitchel and Strange LLP. The firm handles insurance defense and general civil matters throughout southern California.

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Website: As a new feature for our chapter members, our chapter website (www.jrcls-oc.com) now contains an employment section listing positions available and attorneys, students, and staff looking for employment. Please check out the link below. Postings will remain posted on the website for one month. Please refer back to the website often. If you have a position open or would like to post your resume on the website, please email your posting in a single Word or PDF file to Treg Julander at tjulander@rutan.com. If you would like to be notified by email when new postings are added to the website, notify Treg Julander by email. Visit <http://www.jrcls-oc.com/employment.php> for more information.



Joseph I. Bentley, Esq.

Congratulations to Joseph Bentley: The Orange County Bar Association recently announced the names of the 2006 Orange County Constitutional Rights Foundation Silver Jubilee Honorees, including our own Joseph I. Bentley, Esq., Chair of the International J. Reuben Clark Law Society. Bentley is one of six Silver Jubilee Honorees featured in the November 2006 edition of the OC Lawyer magazine. The November issue summarizes the outstanding contributions made by Bentley in working with the Constitutional Rights Foundation for more than 20 years, helping at-risk high school students in the Peer Court program.

Submissions to the Legal Light: As the Chapter newsletter, we welcome submissions from our membership regarding legal practice tips, religion and law, ethics/morals, personal announcements, and short biographical sketches of persons who reflect the ideals of the J. Reuben Clark Law Society. Articles are typically 300 to 1000 words. Published articles from past editions are now available in our website archives at www.jrcls-oc.com. Please send submissions in Word or PDF format to Paul Hoffman at pahoffman@ghlaw.us

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for his activity in the Church. Howard contracted polio at age 4. Although he escaped the paralysis associated with that disease, he suffered back pain his entire life. He was also color blind.

Notwithstanding his physical challenges, Howard had been taught a strong work ethic. As a youth, he held jobs as produce picker, caddy, soda jerk, copy writer for a newspaper, and bellboy/porter at a local hotel. At the age of fifteen, he earned the Eagle Scout award, becoming only the second boy in Boise to attain that award.

As a young man, Howard also developed his musical talents. He learned to play the piano, violin, marimba, drums, saxophone, clarinet, and trumpet. He started his own band, called Hunter's Croonaders, which was hired to perform on a cruise ship on a two-month international tour of the Far East during the 1920's.

Howard moved to Los Angeles in 1928, where he worked for a bank. He met Clara Jeffers at a Church social event, and they were eventually married in the Salt Lake Temple in June, 1931. Soon after their marriage, the bank failed as a result of the Great Depression. Howard took any odd jobs that would pay the bills. He eventually secured stable employment with the Los Angeles Flood Control District.

“At the passing of their little son, Howard and Claire were devastated but did not lose their faith in God or in his eternal plan. . . . Through this and other hard life experiences, Howard learned the bitterness and pain associated with human loss, but acquired important traits of compassion and charity that would serve him well as a church leader later in his life.”

Howard and Claire's first child, Howard, Jr., became seriously ill as an infant. The couple prayed and fasted and Howard spent long nights at the hospital at the side of his infant son. At the passing of their little son, Howard and Claire were devastated but did not lose their faith in God or in his eternal plan. They persevered patiently through it all and were eventually blessed with two more children, who grew to adulthood. Through this and other hard life experiences, Howard learned the bitterness and pain associated with human loss, but acquired important traits of compassion and charity that would serve him well as a church leader later in his life.



Howard Hunter, age 14, was the second boy in the state of Idaho to earn the Eagle Scout Award

As a result of his Flood Control District job, Howard developed an interest in the law and began part-time law studies at Southwestern University School of Law in Los Angeles, while working full time. He was known to study on the bus to work, study at lunchtime, and he would often study until well past midnight, only to rise early in the morning and start the whole process over again. He eventually earned his law degree in 1939, graduating cum laude and third in his law class, and was admitted to the California bar later that year.

In 1940, Howard Hunter established his own law practice. On September 1, 1940, at the age of 32, he was surprised to be called as Bishop of the El Sereno Ward, where he served for 6 years. Because of the shortage of ward leadership created by the World War II draft, Bishop Hunter also had to serve simultaneously as the ward Scoutmaster in addition to raising funds to build a new ward chapel. In 1950, he was called as Stake President of the Pasadena, California Stake, where he was instrumental in raising funds for building a new Stake Center, and, beginning in 1951, doing the same for the Los Angeles Temple. He also served as chairman of the Southern California regional council of stake presidents, encouraged families to hold family home evenings before the Church made it official policy, and pioneered the seminary program in Southern California.



Howard Hunter (center) with his band, Hunter's Croonaders, in 1927

During this same time period, Howard's law practice was flourishing. He was nominated to a state judgeship, but he turned down the honor because he feared it would interfere with his ability to set his own schedule and would adversely impact the time he spent in church service.

In 1959, not long after he was released as stake president, and as Howard was looking forward to retirement, he attended General Conference in Salt Lake City. During a routine interview with President David O. McKay, he was told: "The Lord has spoken. You are called to be one of his special witnesses, and tomorrow you will be sustained as a member of the Council of the Twelve." Howard felt numb and overwhelmed and could hardly speak when he called his wife to tell her the news. He was ordained an Apostle on October 15, 1959, by President McKay.

His many years of hard work in balancing profession and church service prepared him well for the rigors

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of traveling the world as part of his new calling. He would diligently study the history and culture of every region he was assigned to visit and counsel. He traveled so often that one of his grandsons referred to him as the "Grandpa who lives at the airport."

“He was nominated to a state judgeship, but he turned down the honor because he feared it would interfere with his ability to set his own schedule and would adversely impact the time he spent in church service.”

Howard Hunter's apostolic years were not easy ones. Both he and Claire suffered many physical challenges. Claire was confined to a nursing home after several cerebral hemorrhages and Howard visited her there regularly until she passed away in 1983. Howard himself suffered a heart attack, coronary bypass surgery, back surgery, gall bladder surgery, and surgeries related to a bleeding ulcer and kidney failure. He even broke three ribs when he fell over during a General Conference talk, which he finished without missing a beat—notwithstanding the pain.

He became President of the Council of the Twelve Apostles in 1989 and, a year later, married a longtime friend, Inis Stanton. On May 30, 1994, after the death of President Ezra Taft Benson, Howard W. Hunter became President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

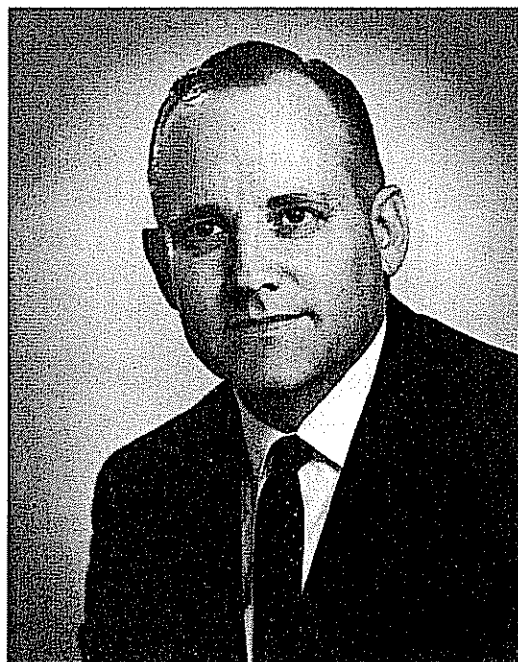
During his brief ministry of 9 months as President, President Hunter emphasized the importance of becoming more Christ-like and of every member being temple worthy, holding a temple recommend, and attending the temple regularly. He was also instrumental in the creation of the Church's now-famous Family Proclamation. A few weeks after becoming President, he visited Southern California and said: "Truly the faithful Latter-day Saints represent the leaven in the loaf of the state of California. Your influence, through righteous living, appropriate community involvement, and effective missionary work, will bless the people who reside within . . . the whole state of California. . . . I see the future of the Church in California as bright."

On March 3, 1995, President Howard W. Hunter passed away, to be succeeded by our current President Gordon B. Hinckley. His widow Inis still lives in Orange County, along with her two daughters Barbara Stanton and Elayne Allevest—whose husband Ed is a member of our JRCLS Chapter. For more information about President Hunter's life, see Eleanor Knowles, *Howard W. Hunter* (Deseret Book, 1994).

“In honor of his legacy, the BYU Law School named its law library after Howard W. Hunter. The only other naming of any kind to be done in honor of our last prophet is the Howard W. Hunter Chair in Mormon Studies at Claremont Graduate School.”

In honor of his legacy, the BYU Law School named its law library after Howard W. Hunter. The only other naming of any kind to be done in honor of our last prophet is the Howard W. Hunter Chair in Mormon Studies at Claremont Graduate School. If successfully endowed, that position could be filled as early as Fall, 2007.

To contribute to the memory of President Hunter's legacy and to further the endowment of the first and only Chair of Mormon Studies at any university outside of Utah, please make checks payable to The Howard W. Hunter Foundation, c/o Joseph I. Bentley, 61 Montecito Drive, Corona Del Mar, California 92625. For more information regarding donations and how they will be used, please contact Joe Bentley or Diane Valdivia at 949-348-1015 or contact www.HowardHunterFoundation.org



Elder Howard W. Hunter in 1967.

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: AGGIE DOLINSKA

By Robert D. Falck

A member of the J Reuben Clark Law Society since coming to Orange County in 2004, Aggie Dolinska likes the fondue at "The Melting Pot" in Newport Beach. That's fitting considering the path Aggie has taken since leaving Poland for Boise, Idaho as a high school exchange student. Now an immigration attorney with the law offices of John Alcorn in Irvine, Aggie knows something about the promise and pitfalls of the melting pot.



Aggie Dolinska, Esq.

The way Aggie explains it, immigration is a bit like fondue: an opportunity to get messy. Sometimes clients face deportation, "a dreadful experience" that Aggie hopes to avoid by getting each case off to a good start. Clients who have waited decades for a green card put their hopes in Aggie's capacity to navigate a highly technical area of law and a byzantine administrative system. "I make it a point to avoid problems up front . . . whenever possible I accompany clients to their initial interview. I like to get results right away."

Aggie knows something about a good start. A native Polish speaker and conversant in Russian, Aggie says she really began to learn English, and to speak in public, in high school speech courses. She began studying law as an undergraduate at Boise State University, where she graduated magna cum laude in Criminal Justice Administration. Her efforts to master the written and spoken word paid off at BYU Law School, where she was the Senior Editor of the Journal of Law and Education and active in several moot court competitions.

Aggie says her association with the alumni network helps her keep perspective while working on the front line in the melting pot. "It's important to me to merge religious faith and the practice of law . . . the Law Society association helps me do that."

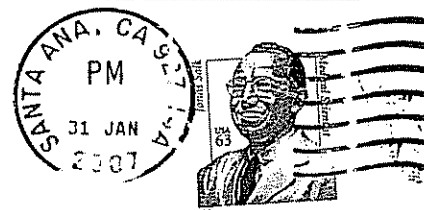
Robert D. Falck is a corporate lawyer at Electronic Cash Systems, Inc. in Rancho Santa Margarita.

J. REUBEN CLARK LAW SOCIETY ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

2007 Events Calendar

January 18, 2007 (Thurs)	Luncheon 12:00-1:30 p m Location: Knobbe, Martens, 2nd Floor Speaker: Todd Huisken/LDS Social Services "Substance Abuse Issues for Attorneys"	March 14, 2007 (Wed)	Luncheon (Speaker and Topic TBA)
January 26, 2007 (Fri)	Satellite Broadcast and Dinner, 6:30-8:30 free for each member and one guest Location: Newport Beach Stake Center General Authority Panel discussion on "Balancing Life's Priorities" (Elders Stephen E Snow, Keith K Hilbig, Marcus B Nash)	March 29, 2007 (Thurs)	3rd Annual Law & Religion Seminar, 6-9 Location: Chapman University School of Law Speakers: J Clifford Wallace, Sr Judge, 9th Circuit Prof. Charles H. Whitebread, USC Law School Register: www.jrcls-oc.com/religionandthelawsymposium.php
February 2, 2007 (Fri)	Women Lawyers Breakfast 8:30-10:00 am Location: Mimi's Café, 22651 Lake Forest Drive, Lake Forest, Topic TBA	May 17, 2007 (Thurs)	Luncheon (Speaker and Topic TBA)
February 16-17, 2007 (F-S)	J. Reuben Clark Law Society National Conference Location: Pepperdine University To register: www.jrclsconference.org	June 1, 2007 (Fri)	Women Lawyers Breakfast
		July 19, 2007 (Thurs)	Luncheon (Speaker and Topic TBA)
		September 21, 2007 (Fri)	Orange County Chapter Annual Dinner
		November 15, 2007 (Thurs)	Luncheon (Panel: "Balancing Life & Law")

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