

# THE CHRISTIAN LAWYER®

Vol. 6, No 4  
Fall 2010

A PUBLICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY

## *Women in the Law*

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in a Job Like This? Page 4**

**Can a Woman Really Have  
it All? Page 14**

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in Uganda Page 22**

**She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. . .**

**She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. . .**

**Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works praise her at the city gate.**

**Proverbs 31: 20, 26, 31**

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**CLS: WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?**

*by Pete Rathbun*

The Christian Legal Society: “What’s in it for me?” If you’re reading this, you may have answered that question to your satisfaction — at least once upon a time. But like me, you may periodically re-ask it as you struggle to manage a life that seems increasingly cumbered by competing demands for your attention, time and money. And like me, even if you’re passionately committed to CLS you may struggle to give others a compelling answer when they ask, “What’s in it for me?” It’s a critical question for us to be able to answer as we strive to build up our membership so we can become more effective in doing justice with the love of God. Permit me to share my answers in the hope of stimulating a conversation.

What’s in it for me? The first thing — the heart of the matter — is the “Society.” CLS is more than a professional association — in fact, it’s qualitatively different. The Latin root of “society,” “socius,” means “companion.” Society is about “life together” with companions — companions on a common journey. What could be more natural for a Christian lawyer than to seek society with other Christian lawyers?

But by the grace of God I already have “life together” in at least two other societies — a healthy family and a healthy church. Why do I need CLS? Because to be healthy I need some form of “life together” in the law, the calling where I spend a substantial portion of my time and my emotional and intellectual energy. Life in the law can be a lonely calling, for all lawyers but perhaps even more so for the Christian. As we struggle at times to make sense of this life, to discern what Christ might say about an ethical issue, to integrate our faith into our daily practice, we often find it nearly impossible to explain these struggles to our closest friends, our spouses, our pastor, our friends at church; and they find it difficult to empathize with us, much as they may try. This is a lonely feeling. This is what prompts many to join CLS, or at least to meet with a local group of Christian lawyers, this deeply felt need to be able to talk with others who understand our struggles, and perhaps may have some answers for us.

All that said, many of us are tempted to abandon a society like CLS when things are going well, when we don’t feel the need for this companionship. At such times, let us remember that being part of a society is not only about meeting our needs but the needs of others. We are called to a life together to “spur one another on to love and good deeds.” There are law students who desperately need to be mentored and encouraged in an increasingly hostile law school environment. There are attorneys struggling to keep it together, who suffer every day with the nagging sense that their practice has little or no relation to transcendent values such as building the Kingdom. And frankly, even though you or I may be blessed at times to feel like all is well, we cannot in intellectual honesty say we have reached the pinnacle of godliness in our practice of the law. And if we have not, then we continue to need others — other lawyers who understand — to encourage us, to speak truth and grace into our lives, to be the iron sharpening our iron.

The Christian Legal Society: “What’s in it for me?” Primarily, it’s the Society; but there are other things as well, which we’ll explore in future issues. Meanwhile, I invite you to write or call me, to share your thoughts about CLS, who we are, where we should be going. Better yet, come to our annual conference in Orlando and let’s talk about it. I hope to see you there.

*Pete Rathbun is General Counsel of the American Bible Society in New York City. A CLS member since 1987, Pete and his wife Peggy believe that God has called CLS to serve and influence in the legal profession “for such a time as this.”*

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE  
CHRISTIAN LAWYER®

Fall 2010, Vol. 6, No. 4

Dear Editor,

What a great issue! A copy just arrived for (CLS Member) Dave Schlachter and I looked through it. You have collected a great group of articles -- I sure hope most recipients share their magazine with others, so the blessing is spread! :^)

Thanks -- and blessings of grace and peace to all of you,

Kristin H. Hart  
Assistant to the President and Executive Vice President  
Peacemaker Ministries

Dear Editor:

[Psalm 1] is one of my many favorite Psalms, and I really was blessed by Mr. Cole's e-Devotional message about it. God bless you and him and all of the CLS staff there in VA.

Grace Meyer  
River Vale, N.J.

Dear Editor:

Thank you for the several copies of the latest edition of your magazine. I thoroughly enjoyed my copy and have placed the others out where people can pick them up.

I especially enjoyed your article (Spring 2010, p. 28) on the sound that a hand makes.

Have a blessed and a fabulous weekend!

Don Davidson  
Senior Pastor  
First Baptist Church of Alexandria (VA)

## Member Service: E-Devotionals

[www.clsnet.org/membership/publications/e-devotionals](http://www.clsnet.org/membership/publications/e-devotionals)

CLS sends out bi-weekly devotional emails to our members. Written by various CLS members, these E-Devotionals have been well received. If you haven't been getting the devotionals and would like to receive them by email, please make sure that CLS has your most current email address by updating your member profile at [www.clsnet.org](http://www.clsnet.org) or by emailing us at [memmin@clsnet.org](mailto:memmin@clsnet.org).

*The Christian Lawyer* welcomes letters, comments and suggestions from our readers. We'd like to hear how God is moving in your life, law practice, CLS chapter or law school. Letters may be edited to suit the format of the magazine. Mail to: Editor, Christian Legal Society, 8001 Braddock Road, Suite 300, Springfield, VA 22151 or e-mail your submissions to [memmin@clsnet.org](mailto:memmin@clsnet.org).

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**CHRISTIAN  
LEGAL SOCIETY**

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Emily's story had  
a happy ending...



But for college students  
all over America, the  
ending is still in doubt.

Illegal discrimination against  
Christians on public university  
campuses is real, aggressive  
and growing.

Read and watch Emily's story at  
[TellADF.org/University](http://TellADF.org/University)



# What's a Nice Girl Like You Doing in a Job Like This?<sup>1</sup>

## ONE WOMAN'S JOURNEY WITH GOD IN A THRILLING LEGAL CAREER

**'WHEN MY CAREER COUNSELOR ADVISED ME TO REMOVE CLS AND DOWNPLAY ALL THE CHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES LISTED ON MY RESUME, I FLATLY REFUSED.'**

*By Judge Karon O. Bowdre*

*U.S. District Judge, Northern District of Alabama*

**"H**ow in the world could you decide to become a lawyer? Karon, you're too sweet of a Christian girl to get messed up with lawyers!" My grandmother literally cried when I told her that I had decided to go to law school. She argued that I must have misunderstood what I thought was God's leading, because she was convinced that no good Christians, much less a sweet girl like her granddaughter, could possibly be associated with what she viewed as the rough and tumble world of lawyers.

I tried in vain to explain to her how God had led me to this decision, and specifically how the chaplain at the juvenile court had encouraged me to consider law because, as he explained, God needs Christians committed to

Him and to doing justice in the legal profession. I tried to explain that law was the mission field to which God had led me. She just wouldn't buy that law could be that ministry.

Of course, when my husband and I graduated from law school, and she benefitted from free wills and other legal services, she began to see the value of having not one, but two, lawyers in the family!

Despite the misgivings of my family, I did go to law school because God led me there. And while there, I became involved with Christian Legal Society, participated in and later led a women's discipleship group, and before graduating, married Birch Bowdre, the president of the CLS chapter – a godly man who has blessed my life immensely and with whom I have strived to serve God through the legal profession and in other ways.

<sup>1</sup>For those who may not be old enough to remember the song the Cheshire cat sang to Alice in the 1966 Alice in Wonderland cartoon, see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eyFSHggHZME>

## No Apologies

While looking for jobs as a law clerk, I learned a valuable lesson that helped set the tone of my legal career. When my career counselor advised me to remove CLS and downplay all the Christian activities listed on my resume, I flatly refused. If a law firm wouldn't interview me because I was a Christian, I decided, then I didn't want to work for that firm anyway.

Perhaps to my adviser's surprise, I did get hired ... by several good law firms as a law clerk, by a federal judge as his clerk, and then by an excellent firm as an associate. And every one of those employers knew that I took my faith in Christ very seriously.

## Avoiding the Mommy Trap

Every employer also knew I am a woman. During several interviews, I was asked questions that would be taboo today, such as whether I planned to have children and become a stay-at-home mother. I really couldn't see myself in that role, and I said so.

After throwing myself into a very interesting and exciting litigation and appellate practice, Birch and I decided that we would indeed like to have children.

But when I shared the news of my pregnancy with my colleague at work, he broke into a big grin. "I'm so happy for you and Birch! You will be great parents...but how could you do this to me?"

When our son was born, I wish I could say that I magically became all motherly and crazy about babies. I didn't. But I did become madly in love with our baby and I wanted with all my

heart to be the best mother for him that God could mold me to be. Even though I loved every minute with our new son, after a few months, I was ready to get back to work. I helped prepare a case for trial from home, and tried it the week after returning to work – not something I would recommend.

Birch and I had decided that our son didn't need to have two parents who were working 60+-hour weeks, so I asked the firm to allow me to work "part time." As a partner, I negotiated a reduction in my expected billable hours in exchange for a commensurate reduction in percentage of pay. The firm got the best end of that financial bargain. The great benefit for me was the flexibility that arrangement gave me. My non-lawyer friends couldn't understand how working from 9:00 to 4:00 was part-time, but for an attorney doing so was a great relief.

The church we attended at the time added unnecessary guilt to our decision to continue working. Several well-intentioned people, with a sweet smile, told me that God's will for every mother could only be to stay home with her children. I searched in vain for any Bible verse to support their admonition. Later, in a more diverse congregation, we enjoyed the support of other couples who understood that, for a variety of reasons, God doesn't have a "one-size-fits-all" plan for families.

## A New Chapter

After working as a part-time partner for about three years and with another son to enjoy, the press of the practice, the children, and trying to be a good wife, started to wear me down. I found that I was constantly drained of energy, just "plain wore out," as

*Continued on page 6.*

# Mission Driven · Practice Oriented

At Liberty University School of Law, law is studied in the context of the Western legal tradition and the Christian worldview. Students learn professional skills in one of the most innovative lawyering skills programs anywhere. The culture at Liberty encourages faith and the desire to do justice, as well as career preparation and success.



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**‘SEVERAL WELL-  
INTENTIONED PEOPLE,  
WITH A SWEET SMILE,  
TOLD ME THAT GOD’S  
WILL FOR EVERY MOTHER  
COULD ONLY BE TO  
STAY HOME WITH HER  
CHILDREN.’**

NICE GIRL LIKE YOU *continued from page 5.*

my grandmother would say. I actually prayed that God would put that strong desire in my heart to stay home with the boys, but he didn't. Instead, he opened a window into one of the most amazing places of service.

The dean of the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University, where Birch and I had graduated, called and asked me to teach the insurance course that semester as an adjunct. The pay wasn't much, but I had already been praying about the possibility of a teaching position. Although the Dean only promised me a one-semester adjunct position, I knew that God was opening a window for me to see if I was willing to walk out in faith.

I resigned from the partnership at the law firm and became of counsel to the firm. That way I could have time to teach, but would be paid an hourly rate for my law work without having to meet specific hourly goals at the law firm. Although he thought I was crazy to throw away a partnership, he understood that I was following God's leadership and he gave me his blessing. In fact, he expressed his envy that I would be doing something he had always wanted to do.

That first semester of teaching confirmed to me almost immediately that I was doing what God wanted me to do. I loved the classroom, but even more loved the opportunity to establish relationships with law students and to have a potential impact in their lives. That December, I was offered the position of Director of Legal Writing, to begin full time that summer. The academic schedule fit well with being the kind of mother I wanted to be. I spent the mornings and early afternoons at the school, and then was home by the time the boys awoke from their afternoon naps. For special occasions at their pre-school and then school, I could usually arrange to be present. While they practiced ball, I prepared for class or review papers at the ball field. When they were in the middle school and high school bands, I volunteered as a chaperone and traveled with them.

For eleven years, I had the best job in the world. I often looked back over my life to that point and saw how God had prepared me for the role of teacher, especially a research and

writing director. Over those years, the relationships with the students allowed me to minister to them in so many ways.

In the tenth year, I began to sense a bit of restlessness in my soul that I couldn't explain. To create a more challenging environment, I took over a section of torts, a course I had always wanted to teach, and felt a new exhilaration in the classroom. But I still had a feeling that it might be time to think about moving on, though I couldn't understand why.

### **Another New Venue**

Then God opened another window: My name was being considered for an appointment to the federal district court. Would I apply? After seeking God's leadership and discussing the possibility with Birch and the boys, explaining that such an appointment would mean a significant change in the pattern of our home, we decided to take that step and see what happened. To an even greater extent than my law school resume, my CV now screamed "radical Christian." After all, I was on the national board of CLS! If any senator wanted to shoot me down, he or she would have plenty of reasons. While moving ahead with the process, I was fully prepared for rejection at many junctures. When I sailed through the confirmation process with not even a single question about my faith or involvement with CLS, I knew that God's hand must be at work.

What an amazing ride I've been on! Serving God and my country as a federal district judge is indeed an honor and a great responsibility. Every day, as I drive to work, I remind God that he got me this position and that he will have to give me guidance and wisdom to make it through the day. And He has been faithful. Though I have made reversible mistakes, I seek to follow the law as best I can and render justice for each person who comes before me. As a trial judge, my job does not involve changing laws, but applying them in accordance with the Constitution. The greatest impact I can have is in the way I treat each person who comes into court – attorneys, litigants, criminal defendants, jurors, and officers of the court.

So what's a nice girl like me doing in a job like this? Striving to honor and glorify God who led me to such a place as this. What advice do I have for other women and men who want to serve God in the legal profession? Remember His promise, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV). Seek each day to glorify God and ask Him to show you ways each day that you can make a difference for His kingdom. Ask Him to use you. Then hang on for the magnificent ride on which He will take you.



*Judge Karon O. Bowdre has served as a district court judge in the Northern District of Alabama since November 2001. Previously she was professor at Cumberland School of Law Samford University after having spent ten years in private practice.*





# A PROVERBS 31 ATTORNEY

*By Delia Bouwers Bianchin*

“**B**ye-bye, Simon. Mommy has to go to work. I love you, my sweet baby boy.” And with that, my one-year old son let’s out a brief cry but then settles in with his caregivers for the day. To be sure, this morning ritual breaks my heart a little each day as I turn to face my day as General Counsel of an exceptional manufacturer company in rural western Pennsylvania.

I am blessed with a husband who is supportive and has flexibility in his work schedule. He and our four-year-old daughter Julia are typically just waking up as my son and I leave for the day at 7:00 a.m. He gets her ready and, after making her special “pink cappuccinos” over breakfast, he takes her to pre-school, picks her up after three hours, shuttles her to daycare for the remainder of the day when he picks her and Simon up at the end of the day to bring them home. If I am running late, he is able to step in. The time our children have with their father is incredibly valuable – though, truth be told, I wish I could be there to do all of these things for my children.



Before I give the wrong impression, I should tell you right away that I love my job, my career, my vocation. It is extremely fulfilling and energizing to see that I am able to effectuate progress in certain areas and to guide decisions that have wide-ranging impact for the company I work for, helping to protect its overtly Christian worldview. What a privilege! I love that it is constantly challenging in its breadth and complexity.

So what, you may ask, do I make of my experience as a Christian woman in the law?

Before this relatively recent in-house opportunity four years ago, I practiced complex commercial litigation in a large law firm setting for about ten years. Those early years were intensely demanding and exhausting yet they provided fruitful training for the challenges which have since followed. The hours were long, and a healthy balance in my life was elusive to say the least. I am not proud of the fact that at one point, I had not seen my parents in six months and they live only an hour away!

Quite assuredly, tedious moments abounded in those early years. One of my first assignments was to review 300 boxes of discovery documents in connection with an environmental

insurance coverage case against the United States government. But even in those earliest days, I was able to garner meaningful court experience by volunteering for pro bono work to protect those seeking restraining orders from abuse. And each project was an opportunity to learn and build experience on which I am now able to lean and draw from. Although I got discouraged and exhausted, I have always enjoyed the work of being a lawyer.

And why do I love the practice of law so much? Above all, I love the practice of law because I know I am right where God wants me to be.

I have always been quite fascinated with the Proverbs 31 woman. What an amazing character! She has strength and energy, diligence and drive. Cheerfully and energetically she tackles the challenges that each new day brings. She has a wide range of skills and talents and garners respect from others. She meets with the elders and trades with the merchant ships. She operates with dignity and integrity. She is both wise and caring. She demonstrates the business skills to buy and sell in the market, along with a heartfelt sensitivity and compassion to care for and fulfill the needs of people who are less fortunate. The passage makes it clear that her husband and children love and respect her for her kind, generous and caring nature.

But with all of her responsibilities, first and foremost, she looks to God. Her primary concern is God’s will in her life. She is a woman after God’s own heart.

*Continued on page 8.*

**‘THE HOURS WERE LONG  
AND A HEALTHY BALANCE IN  
MY LIFE WAS ELUSIVE TO SAY  
THE LEAST.’**





**‘IN MY OWN WAY, JUST AS THE PROTAGONIST IN PROVERBS 31, I CAN ONLY HOPE TO SERVE AS A WORTHY ROLE MODEL FOR MY DAUGHTER AND SHOW HER THAT SHE CAN ACHIEVE MUCH IN GOD’S WILL.’**



It occurs to me an argument could be made that this woman is a Christian lawyer. Without a doubt, she has served as an inspiration and role model to me. In my own way, just as the protagonist in Proverbs 31, I can only hope to serve as a worthy role model for my daughter and show her that she can achieve much in God’s will.

The practice of law is well suited for women. Truly, you can make it what you want in so many ways. Whether you are in litigation, a large or small law firm, solo practice, in-house, full time or part time, there are opportunities to utilize your skills and talents.

All that said, the harsh reality is that pay disparities between men and women in equivalent positions are still daunting in 2010. But for my little piece of this elaborate mosaic, I do not envy anyone. God is gracious and generous and abundantly overwhelmingly so. He has blessed me beyond my wildest dreams and I want for nothing.

May God’s name be praised in my life and in this grand profession!



*Delia Bouwers Bianchin is General Counsel for Penn United Technologies in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She is a member of the CLS Board of Directors and has served as the Conference Planning Sub-Committee Chairperson for the past two years. She received her J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in 1997 and her B.A. from Calvin College in 1990. Delia and her husband, Rob, have two lovely children, Julia (4) and Simon (1).*

### **Women in the Legal Profession in 2010<sup>1</sup>**

**Total U.S. Lawyers 1,180,386**  
31.0% Women

**Women in Private Practice**  
19.2 % of Partners  
45.7% of Associates  
46.6% of Summer Associates

**Women in Corporations**  
15% of Fortune 500 General Counsel  
15.2% of Fortune 501-1000 General Counsel

**Women in Law Schools**  
47.4% 1st Year Enrollment  
46.9% Total J.D. Enrollment  
47.1% J.D.’s Awarded

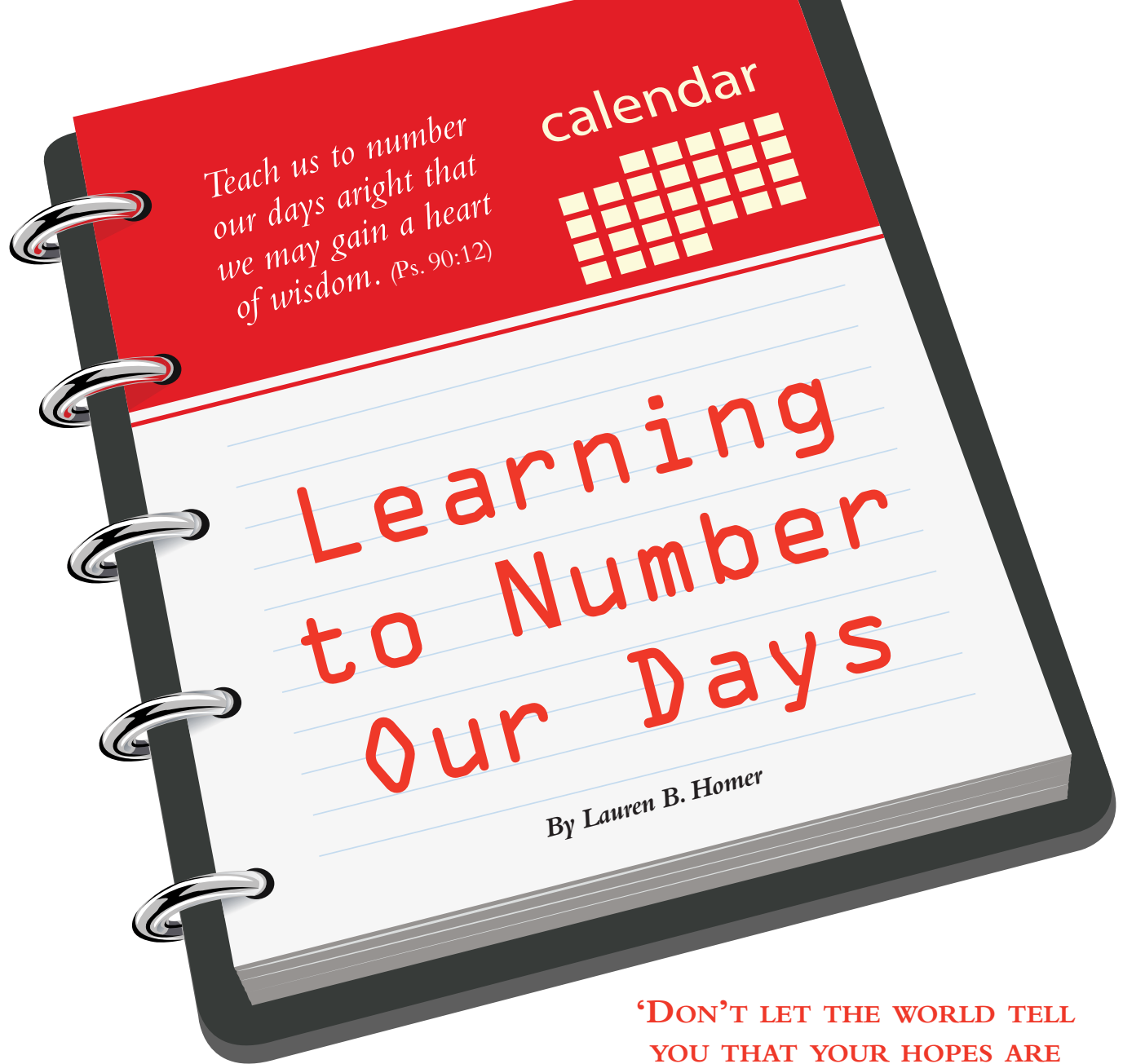
**Law School Administration**  
20.6% Deans  
45.7% Associate/Vice/Deputy Deans  
66.2% Assistant Deans

**Women in Judiciary**  
24.7% U.S. District Court Judges  
26.9% Total U.S. Circuit Courts  
33.3% U.S. Supreme Court  
32.4% State Courts of Last Resort  
34.0% State Court Chief Justices

**Women in CLS<sup>2</sup>**  
17.9% Attorney Members  
48.9% Law Student Members  
12.8% Judge Members  
20% Professors/Law School Administration

<sup>1</sup> A Current Glance at Women in the Law 2009 (November 13, 2009), ABA Commission on Women in the Profession.

<sup>2</sup> Based upon current CLS membership on 9/15/2010; Associate/Non-Lawyer members not included.



**‘DON’T LET THE WORLD TELL YOU THAT YOUR HOPES ARE ILLUSORY AND IMPOSSIBLE.’**

**I**t is a daunting exercise to reduce a 33-year legal career to a few key principles that might help other women who are also Christians and lawyers. There have been dramatic changes in the practice of law, the treatment of women attorneys, communications technology, and world affairs over the course of my career, but I hope these reflections may be helpful to both women and men seeking to balance faith and legal practice today.

***Women are important to God and are called to make important contributions to the field of law:*** Even in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Christian women can find it confusing to enter a legal career because scripture can be interpreted to suggest that women can fill only limited, submissive roles in church and in society. Rest assured, women are called equally with men to help establish justice and righteousness on this planet.

***God is the Source of Our Call and He Gives us the Desires of Our Hearts:*** An expression that has fallen out of use is the notion of being “called to the Bar.” We should not become lawyers unless we feel a heavenly call to this type of work. But how can we know, and what are the specific details?

I believe that we can only find our God-given destiny through prayer and fasting. He created each of us and placed desires in our hearts for a very special and specific purpose, and we will be most fulfilled when we figure out what this purpose is. At an early age, I wondered whether American and Soviet children could meet and find a way to make our nations friends, rather than learning to hate each other while crouched under tiny school desks for shelter in the event of a nuclear attack.

*Continued on page 10.*

Just before the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the Lord called me into a season of fasting and prayer and reawakened that long-forgotten dream. Then He opened doors in amazing ways to enable me to connect with others to work on these issues. No one could possibly have written the strategic plan for these events, but God set the stage and made the way.

Before this time, I was confused and sometimes defeated by twists and turns in my career. Don't let disappointments or failed dreams cripple your ability to move forward. The call is still there. It just might not be the one you had fixed your eyes on. And don't let the world tell you that your hopes are illusory and impossible.

You are a unique child of God, created with special abilities and dreams, for a purpose. You may be the only person called

Moses tended sheep for 40 years in the desert before he ever saw that burning bush.

***Working in a Male Dominated Profession Requires Realism and Caution.*** It is unfortunately still the case that women lawyers continue to face attitudes of condescension and subtle hostility in some work places. We often encounter problems being respected for our legal minds and not our physical attributes. We are still not promoted on the same basis as men or as easily admitted to male circles of influence. We may have to work harder to earn respect or achieve promotion or may be subject to unstated quotas or "glass ceilings."

Women should carefully consider what barriers exist when considering professional opportunities and should choose ones

**'WE OFTEN ENCOUNTER PROBLEMS BEING RESPECTED FOR OUR LEGAL MINDS AND NOT OUR PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES.'**

to do a particular task, so do it with all of your strength. When you do, you will find that all of your life experiences and innate desires have made you ready for that moment.

***Women Have Inherent Gifts That Can Enable Them to Excel as Lawyers and Make Unique Contributions:*** The law was almost exclusively male until around the time I graduated from law school in the late 1970's. Women were even encouraged to dress and behave like men in order to succeed. However, living in opposition to your created nature is a recipe for failure.

As you consider career opportunities, ask yourself what your core values and personality attributes are (these can change over time) and try to find a niche that gives the greatest opportunities to excel because of who God made you to be, not in spite of it.

***Women Will Likely Need to Take Career Breaks to Raise Children:*** Like it or not, women are the part of the human species charged with child bearing and, often, taking a primary role in raising them. Modern life and the pressures of our culture have for decades taught that women can "have it all" and achieve, simultaneously, a powerful legal career and a meaningful, involved family life.

As a late-in-life adoptive mother, it is very clear to me that this is false—although I once was sure it was true! Children are a treasure, and they cannot be raised during episodic "quality time." We all have an innate desire to nurture, and whether male or female, whether we marry and have children, adopt, care for an aging relative, or find another way to express this need, it will take time. Women lawyers and their employers need to think in terms of seasons in their careers and accept that there must be provision for reduced hours, leaves of absence, or career changes to accommodate the child-rearing season and need to nurture (this is also true for men).

CNN reporter Candy Crowley said it well in a recent *Washington Post* article,<sup>1</sup> "I look back and say to everybody, 'Take it off -- your career will find you. Trust me, when you go back, it'll find you.'" Even in the lives of the saints, we see long periods of apparent inactivity and moments of key impact. Remember,

that offer the greatest chances for success regardless of gender. If you don't see a reasonable number of successful happy women partners in a law firm or leaders in other workplaces, you might want to consider whether things will be different for you.

***The Days We Are Given Are Precious; Guard Your Time or It Will Vanish From Sight:*** From the day we enter the practice of law, we become fixated on time: keeping track of billable hours and keeping track of deadlines. We soon realize that there is never enough time to do all our work and still have time for family. Working in big firms in the 1970's and 1980's, I saw billable-hour expectations balloon and respect for people's personal time vanish. The amazing influx of electronic communications is a blessing and a curse. We are bombarded with meaningful information but we don't have time to read, much less absorb, it.

I have been slow to learn how to structure my days so as to achieve a balance between work and the rest of life, and more recently, how to keep this constant barrage of electronic communications at bay so that I can dwell on what is truly important. Remember, no one but you can control your time.

Let's try, both men and women, to be good stewards of our time and treasure and focus on what really matters, whether our careers last 30 or 60 years. Our end is heaven and eternity, and we are unlikely to find that we truly regret not having spent more time at the office when we are called to account for how we used our time here on earth.

**REFERENCE**

1 Candy Crowley, Veteran CNN Reporter, Takes on Competitive Sunday Morning Slot, *The Washington Post* (Aug. 24, 2010), <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/23/AR2010082304653.html>.



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# Executive Director Musings

By Fred L. Potter



“Professional Cynic?!” – from time to time over my career as a mergers & acquisitions attorney, particularly in the due diligence phases, and then as a complex commercial litigation coordinator, particularly in cross examination preparation, I might have accepted that moniker with some degree of pride. Indeed, three years in graduate education at the University of Michigan Law School and the preceding two years at Harvard Business School had put an edge on many skills appropriate for that role. But there is a danger when cynicism more thoroughly infects my world, affects my relationship with others, and contributes to the “dark night of the soul.” That can be debilitating both personally and professionally. I’ve been there.

So has Paul Miller, who writes in his helpful and well-written book *A Praying Life* (which I highly recommend):

“THE OPPOSITE OF A childlike spirit is a cynical spirit. Cynicism is, increasingly, the dominant spirit of our age. Personally, it is my greatest struggle in prayer.”

The pop music group BLUR put it this way in “Country House”:

“I’m caught in a rat race terminally  
I’m a professional cynic  
But my heart’s not in it  
I’m paying the price of living  
life at the limit  
Caught up in the century’s  
anxiety”

For BLUR’s country house occupant, the end of the matter is tragic (“I am so sad I don’t know why”). For the Christian attorney, it need not be so. Our source of being, present experience, and confident conclusion, all based upon the finished

**‘THEREFORE, SINCE WE HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED BY FAITH, WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.’  
– ROMANS 5:1**

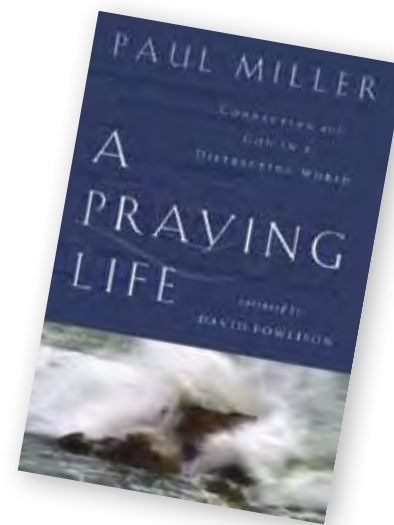
work of the Lord Jesus Christ, is grounds for great hope:

“... we ... have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor for the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf...”  
Hebrews 6:18-20

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ... More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings knowing that... character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”  
Romans 5:1,3-5.

In just a few short weeks hundreds of CLS members will gather in Orlando, FL, in community, to celebrate this great hope. It is, of course, good for our personal well-being that we do so.

It is also important, for our legal profession and, indeed, the communities from which we come that we do so – that we give witness to the great Hope that we have in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ. I do not know any other industry where



both the cutting edge of cynicism and its pervasive, subversive, infectious, impact on individual lives has greater force than in the legal “industry.” This cynicism is amplified by the current economic downturn which limits access to the judicial system due to the practical impacts of layoffs, leave days, and systematic court closings to respond to state budget crises.

It is exciting to see how workshop and plenary speakers already are sharpening their tools they will be presenting to better equip us as we continue to serve others. We are praying that our Heavenly Father will draw together those who can best benefit from this terrific opportunity.

See you there!

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# IN THE TRENCHES

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**Editor's Note:** Several months ago, a CLS member suggested that *The Christian Lawyer* have a regular feature of articles from member attorneys practicing "In the Trenches." If you have your own story that you would like to share as an encouragement to other members, please let us know.

## Light of the World Visible Witness in the Trenches

*By Wendy L. Patrick, J.D., M.Div.*

Rachel began her day as she usually did - up at 5am to do her devotions, at the gym by 6am, finally at her desk at 7:30- because traffic on the bridge was particularly heavy due to a terrible accident caused by the rainstorm. As a lawyer in a mid-sized law firm, Rachel spent her day meeting with clients. Due to the enormous mix of personalities, some of these meetings went well; others ended in disaster with one client even hurling a degrading remark following her polite refusal to take his case.

Over the noon hour Rachel attends a major case roundtable where some controversial ideas are discussed; some are falsely, and she suspects, maliciously attributed to her. This causes her great distress because she and her colleagues are competing for promotions, which are to be announced at the end of the month. After the contentious meeting, Rachel prays for the strength to stay calm and focused through her afternoon court appearances, as she tries to articulate her client's legal positions clearly to the judge as her mind races through a hundred different ideas as to how to respond to the false allegations made over the noon hour in order to avoid adverse consequences.

Obviously, at least on the day in question, Rachel has other things on her mind besides being a good Christian witness. In fact, she is experiencing some seriously *un-Christian* thoughts towards some of her clients and her backstabbing colleagues. And herein lies our challenge as busy Christians in the secular world:

to fulfill our responsibilities legally, professionally, personally, and spiritually. Can this be done?

Absolutely! We can accomplish this in two parts. First, we must be able to maintain the mind of Christ amidst conflict, chaos, projects, deadlines, and family obligations, and trust that He is in control of all things. Second, we must intentionally share the

**‘AS A CHRISTIAN  
LAWYER, YOU HAVE A  
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love of Christ with others in our world *despite* our hectic schedule. Both of these things require the help of the Lord, achieved through a diligent prayer life. When you can accomplish both of these things, however, the sky is the limit on the amount of positive influence you can have on others during your work day. If this sounds difficult, please remember that Jesus promises us that anything we ask in His name he will do (John 14:14),<sup>1</sup> and that He can do immeasurably more for you than you could ever imagine (Eph. 3:20-21).

### Workplace Ministry

As a Christian lawyer, you have a considerable ministry at your fingertips. Think about it - regardless of what type of law you practice, your interaction with secular society is a unique opportunity

to share the Lord with a large number of people in a wide variety of contexts. Fortified through worship and prayer, you will be encouraged to view your busy legal practice not as a burden but as a *blessing* due to the significant amount of people you can reach during your eventful day - people who might otherwise never be exposed to Christianity. Do not worry about violating office rules prohibiting the practice of religion in the workplace; you can be a visible witness for Jesus Christ without even mentioning his name - merely by exuding kindness, understanding, and love for everyone around you. I hope to inspire you to take advantage of your demanding schedule and intentionally share the love of Christ everywhere you go.

### Legal Practice in the Trenches

I know what it is like to be a busy lawyer in the modern workforce. As a deputy district attorney in a county of over three million people, I am never at a loss for cases. I prosecute sexually violent predators, rapists, and child molesters for a living—literally the worst of the worst in society. I work closely with the victims of these offenses, whose lives have been forever changed by what they have endured. While my job description may sound depressing, to the contrary - this experience has revealed in spectacular fashion how God is present and working in every situation, no matter how bad. I have spent most of my career prosecuting criminals, from domestic abusers to murderers, and it is my

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daily exposure to the lost people of society and my strong interest in outreach to non believers that fuels my perspective of my job as a ministry and an opportunity to share Jesus on many levels with a variety of different people.

I encourage you to take a fresh look at your own circumstances and see how God may have you working exactly where you are in order to use you as a blessing to the people you are in contact with, especially people who are lost.

### **The Battlefield of Modern Legal Practice**

Practicing law in the contemporary work force sometimes feels like fighting a war as well as earning an income. If you can relate to this feeling, you are in good company. The adversarial and often downright hostile atmosphere many of us work in every day in our professions is an example of why it is necessary for all of us to arm ourselves with God’s Word for constant application in our busy lives (Eph. 6:10-17). Living in the world means living on a battlefield. In order to effectively use our professional life as a ministry, we need to be rock solid in the Word in order to withstand the stress and pressures of a demanding work day.

When time is of the essence and deadlines are looming, you begin to cut

corners in your spiritual life. You don’t need to do this! Having a close relationship with Jesus *will save you time* by replacing anxiety with peace, doubt with confidence, depression with hope, and confusion with clarity of mind. This enhanced spiritual fitness will result in your being able to complete your obligations quickly and more efficiently.

### **Staying Grounded: Rock Solid Foundation**

The most important thing to remember as a busy Christian lawyer is the absolute necessity of maintaining a rock solid foundation in Christ. The unique issues involved in living an active professional life require us to stay grounded in our faith and close to Jesus in order to survive in the world. Without a concrete regimen of prayer, devotion, and Christian fellowship, you cannot be an effective Christian witness and indeed may fall prey to the dark side of busyness, which can lead to your becoming overwhelmed and ineffective.

A close relationship with Jesus will energize you and streamline every aspect of your life. Everything is easier and faster when you have the peace and contentment that only comes from God Himself. Spending time with Jesus will allow you to write a motion or complete an assignment in often half the time it would otherwise

require, and God’s gift of wisdom will make the final product immeasurably better than you could ever accomplish on your own.

Making time for prayer will also lessen the anxiety of your week. While it won’t alter your workload, it will certainly help you *react differently* to the workload. A jam packed calendar can be incredibly anxiety provoking to an atheist, but doesn’t have to cause you as a Christian to raise an eyebrow because you know you will be tackling the tasks of the week with the creator of the universe by your side! In fact this reality may be one of the best truths you can share with your frazzled co-workers when they ask you how in the world you manage to remain calm during a hectic day *and* complete everything on time. Even staunch non believers will consider listening to you talk about a religion that can make their life so much easier! Someone with a load of obligations similar to yours who spends their day scattered and stressed out is likely to notice that you do not. And they will want to know why. Hope and pray that they ask you!

So be inspired to continue to be the bright light in your workplace, despite your busy schedule and the adversarial nature of your work. Keep and share the faith with Christians and non-Christians alike. May the Lord bless your efforts to effectively practice law, and also to practice what you preach.

### **REFERENCES**

<sup>1</sup> All Bible references are to the Today’s New International Version Bible (TNIV), unless otherwise noted.



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# LAW STUDENT MINISTRIES



## Can A Woman Really Have it All?

By Kristine S. Cummings



I entered law school in 1989 convinced I could have it all.

From my conversations with other women attorneys and female law students throughout the years, I believe many other women also struggle with defining what it means to “have it all,” and often whether, as Christian women, we should even strive for such a thing. Even after 14 years practicing law as a wife and mother, I am often still confronted with this dilemma. I have no real answers, just a profound gratefulness that my God is patient and merciful enough to allow me to stumble through life trying to figure out my womanly calling in life and law.

### How did I get here?

I was in my third year of undergraduate studies at the University of California, Riverside before I ever even met an attorney. Having grown up in a blue-collar family, I was only the third person on either side of the family to obtain a college degree.

Our little church (and thus my life) was filled with dedicated, hard-working, faith-filled “traditional” families where the fathers went off to work every day and the mothers mostly stayed home to care for their children, although some (including my own) occasionally worked to help put food on the table. While I cherished my simple upbringing, I went off to college with a burning desire to do something “important” with my life -- more than just bringing home a paycheck to try and make ends meet.

I wanted a family and children, and especially wanted to imitate my wonderful

**G**rowing up, I always seemed to want more from life than other people. Some people called it “overachievement,” a common trait among first-born children. By the time I entered college in 1984, I had come to believe I could, indeed, “have it all” – whatever that

was supposed to mean. In one sense, I was idealistic enough to believe that I could become “supermom,” yet determined and ambitious enough to dream of simultaneously having a professional career. Although I wasn’t sure exactly how that would (or should) take shape in my life,



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## ‘MANY WOMEN ALSO STRUGGLE WITH DEFINING WHAT IT MEANS TO “HAVE IT ALL.”’

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mother in creating a nurturing home environment for our family. But I also wanted to see how far I could go in life by pursuing an education and a professional career. I believed I could achieve both those goals if I just worked hard enough and kept things in what I viewed as the “proper” order: finish college, establish a career, find the right husband, and 5 years later have *one* child.

### God’s Plans, not Mine

God first ignored my carefully conceived plans during my second year in college, when I met and married the love of my life within four months. Then, we decided we didn’t want to wait 5 years to have a child. So, I got pregnant and gave birth to our daughter Laurin during the winter break of the 4th year in my undergraduate studies. With one foot firmly planted in my new role as mother and the other still hiking determinedly toward law school, I opted to take an easier load and thus a 5th year to graduate.

Later, while attending law school at UC Davis, I became pretty comfortable with the womanly roles I had embraced – wife, mother, full-time law student. I worked hard at all of them, still pursuing those images floating through my mind of the professional woman who is also the ideal wife and mother.

Then, in my final year of law school, as I agonized with my husband in prayer over the many choices and decisions facing us (big firm/small firm, move away/stay local, practice focus, etc.) the only answer I received from my Father was, “Don’t take the bar exam.” It was so preposterous, so outlandish -- and yet unmistakably the voice of my Father. As my now-adult daughter would say, “Who *does* that?” That is, who goes to all the trouble and expense of attending three years of law school, only to *not* take the bar exam? As crazy as it sounded, I knew I had to obey.

God was changing my notions of what

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IMAGINATION.’

.....

it meant to “have it all” and He began creating a life I never could have conceived in my wildest imagination.

### Now That I’m Here

Today, with five children and a family law practice of my own, I am ambivalent about whether it is possible to truly “have it all,” if that is defined for a woman as successfully balancing a full-time law practice with the challenges of raising a family.

Because of the Lord’s creative direction in my life, I have experienced the pleasures and challenges of homeschooling, being the proverbial “soccer mom” (and baseball/basketball/swim team parent), raising a

teenager while nursing a baby, all while using my gifts and talents by practicing in an area of law where many Christians refuse to tread. And yet, if I am totally honest, I have to admit there have been many sacrifices along the way – both for my family and my law practice. I have made many mistakes, and sometimes hurt the ones I love most. I have been torn at times in my desire to pursue a professional goal, when I know deep down it will conflict with my most important obligations to serve my family.

So, in answer to the question, “Can a woman really have it all?,” I have begun to embrace the wisdom I recently heard espoused on Christian radio by a female author who said she thinks women can have it all -- just not all at once.

If we as women can rid ourselves of the world’s way of evaluating what it means to have it all and eliminate the fear that we will somehow miss out if we don’t follow a predestined path; and if we can allow our heavenly Father to manifest His creativity in our lives, I believe He will not let go to waste any of those gifts and talents He gave us that brought us to law school in the first place.

In His own perfect time, I am learning to trust that He will patiently and lovingly fashion a unique life journey for me, and each of my dear sisters in Christ, in which we experience the many different and wonderful blessings of being a woman.



*Kristine is a Certified Family Law Specialist in solo practice in Sacramento, CA. She has been involved with CLS since her first year of law school in 1989, and currently serves as Sacramento chapter Secretary/Treasurer. Besides living an adventurous life with her husband and 5 children, her other passion is sharing with others the joys and challenges of being a Christ-honoring professional woman in the 21st century.*



## Women in the Law A Definite Call – A Circuitous Route

By Mary Libby Payne



**I**t was the summer of 1951 in the prayer garden at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly that I felt God's call to be a lawyer. When I graduated from law school in 1955, I thought I was prepared for a career in a male dominated profession. The problem was that the profession was not prepared to accept me.

All any interviewing lawyer wanted me to tell him was how many words a minute I could type. I was really discouraged to be unemployable after graduating first in my class. A lawyer in the college town where my husband was a student took pity on me, throwing my way his "trash" cases: collections and low-paying title examinations. Finally, he convinced his brother-in-law in Jackson, Mississippi to hire me as a secretary in his title insurance agency. I did my best but I was ill equipped for the job. However, it did pay \$200 a month, and that was the first regular salary I had ever had.

One Friday, feeling miserable, I threw

a major pity party after work while I was waiting for my husband to come get me in the only car we had. I began to whine in prayer to God about my sad state of affairs. Finally I said, "Lord it I had known that things were going to turn out like this, I would not have blabbed so much about Your having called me to the 'Ministry of Jurisprudence.' I feel like an eagle in a chicken yard. There's nothing wrong with being a chicken, but I don't even know how to peck. Do you have any idea what this is going to do to Your reputation?"

Of course, the Lord's reputation could not be jeopardized by the likes of me, but God used that question to speak to my heart over the weekend. My heart's desire was to do His will, but I seemed to be stymied. That weekend as I studied my Sunday School lesson, an unrelated truth dawned on me. The Apostle Paul was one of God's choicest messengers, but he spent most of his career in jail. God had

limited his opportunities so that he had to write down his messages in letters of encouragement to the early churches not just for their time but so that more than half the New Testament could be preserved to bless us even in the middle of the Twentieth Century.

I thanked God and asked His forgiveness for doubting that He was at work in my circumstances even though they did not fit my preconceived notions. I could just be obedient and do my job as unto God and not as unto men, as Paul admonished us in Colossians 3:23.

After that moment of truth on Sunday, Monday I began to have a much more Christ-like attitude, grateful for employment. Then a wonderful thing happened. I got fired for incompetency! Much as I hated to be job hunting again, I found a law firm that did hire me as an associate and for \$100 a month more than I had been making.

Now, I can be so glad that I was not a success as a secretary or I might never have reached my potential. However, I am also glad the Lord allowed that career detour to remind me that God is always at work in my life even though I do not see nor understand.



*Mary Libby Payne is the recipient of Christian Legal Society's Lifetime Achievement Award and the "Skeeter" Ellis Award for outstanding service to law students. She was a Judge of Court of Appeals of Mississippi from 1995-2001 and was professor of law and the founding dean of Mississippi College School of Law.*



## Giving Our Best in Obedience to Christ *CLS v. Martinez* from a Paralegal's Perspective

By Gretchen Nutz

### Looking back...

I'd like to record this happy moment. I just reduced my Outlook inbox by about 400 emails. Only 1040 messages to go. It was relatively easy – scan through subject lines obviously related to Hastings and simply skip those about some outlying matter.

Nearly everything else is an outlying matter when you're at a small non-profit law firm with the term's biggest Supreme Court case. I've given some thought to what I've learned from this experience, this *odeal*. One takeaway may be that litigation at this level is a beast of a different order. Perhaps most pertinent to a paralegal are the high court's unique (and sometimes baffling) rules and procedures. But beyond the technicalities, the entire effort takes on a timbre unlike what I had experienced in other litigation. I had seen seasoned constitutional attorneys shake their heads and say, "There's nothing like a case in the Supreme Court. Make allowances." But now I want to say it too, perhaps because I experienced so much that I didn't have time to actually *learn*. Certain moments however are firmly logged in my memory.

### The Joint Appendix...

It was late January, just before the Petitioner's Brief was due, when UPS delivered the package to the CLS office. I tore through the bubble wrap to see it, to hold my single largest contribution to the effort. Finally, there in my hands lay the product of numerous late nights pouring over proofs and conferring with counsel and printer. It was ugly. I mean, imagine the least appealing hue of beige you can and you can picture our two-volume "JA." It was a bit of a let down. The Petitioner's Brief at least sported a "legal brief"

blue cover. But my baby was dressed for janitorial duty at a federal prison.

I took the volumes to show my boss. She was happy to see the finished product and found my disappointment amusing. Later that day she had an email conversation that remains one of the more humorous anecdotes from those months prior to oral argument. An attorney involved in the case had apparently seen the Joint Appendix and emailed a one-line "congratulations." She thanked him and noted that "My paralegal thinks it is 'ugly.'" His reply? "LOL." Their dialogue about brief color preferences lasted late into the night and resembled an instant messaging conversation – not exactly what you would expect from seasoned attorneys in a Supreme Court case. If this lighthearted moment fails to strike anyone else as funny, be assured that in the midst of so many long hours working on a high stakes case, we found it priceless.

### The moots...

The moots were awe inspiring, definitely a highlight of the experience. The two that I attended pitted our champion – First Amendment authority Michael McConnell – against friends playing the part of incredulous justices. An impressive group, these included a former SG, religious freedom practitioners, and accomplished litigators. They did their best to simulate the pace and pressure of a Supreme Court argument. The Court allots each side 30 minutes, but in these moots the grilling stretched on for hours longer than others I've observed. Like any moot, the goal was to work through every conceivable question and capture the best response. Some new questions were easily handled. Others prompted intense brain

work.. Given the brains involved, it was quite a show.

As a young paralegal, I counted it a privilege to witness. The attorneys were each giving 120 percent. For many it seemed the final stretch of a race for which they had spent a career training. I could not help realizing that regardless of the case's outcome, to stake one's sense of personal or professional fulfillment on a moment like this would be sure disappointment. No one will get the full credit they deserve. For someone at the early stages of life and career cherishing dreams of distinction, this was a sobering picture. As Christian paralegals or attorneys, we must acknowledge a higher claim on our talents and energies than simply "the case."

### In Reflection...

Now our day before the high court has come and gone and we've all read the opinion. I had expected the decision to come out very differently. The outcome was disappointing and hit me like the loss of a friend. The pragmatic voice might ask like the disciples did in Mark 14:4, "Why this waste [of perfume, money, time]?" But it was our best offered in obedience to the claims of Christ. "[We] did what [we] could" (v. 14). From a Biblical perspective then, every hour spent pouring over the joint appendix, cite checking the briefs, or mooting for oral argument qualifies for Christ's retort to the voice of discouragement: "She has done a beautiful thing to me" (Mark 14:6).



Gretchen Nutz, a Certified Paralegal, works for CLS's Center for Law & Religious Freedom. She joined the CLS staff in 2006.



## One Woman in Legal Aid: A Journey Towards Understanding God's Grace

*By Sarah Olney*

**E**xcited about the chance of helping the poor and sharing the gospel, I joined the newly formed Christian Legal Aid of Los Angeles as its new (part time) Executive Director four years ago. At about the same time, my husband and I began to add little ones to our household. I had a plan of how I was going to be both a career woman and a stay-at-home mom. I thought I knew what I was getting myself into; and, of course, I was totally wrong.

Although I do not want to admit it, my self-confidence and self-worth was tied to my accomplishments. So, as my clearly laid plan failed to materialize, my confidence diminished. I had planned to work between my child's nap times and before and after he wakes. Unfortunately, my first born, Bennett, refused to take naps during the day. I had also planned to lay the foundation of CLA-LA's program in the first few months then build upon that foundation for the next year and a half at which time I would leave CLA-LA. I felt I was strong in building systems, procedures, organization, and logistical planning, so I had intended to create the infrastructure of CLA-LA and move on. However, my plans were seriously hindered when CLA-LA did not get an office space for almost a year and a half. As one impediment and delay after another thwarted CLA-LA's progress, my confidence and self-worth diminished.

CLA-LA headquarters was (and still is) my lap top. Jumping from one borrowed desk space to another, the only way I could get any work done was by keeping my insomniac child in a baby bjorn carrier all day. Finally, as the organization took off and the baby grew heavier and mobile, I had to find a childcare provider. I felt like I failed as a mom. It was not because I was



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## ‘I HAD PLANNED TO WORK BETWEEN MY SON’S NAP TIMES AND BEFORE AND AFTER HE WAKES. UNFORTUNATELY, HE REFUSED TO TAKE NAPS DURING THE DAY.’

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using a childcare provider. I want to make that absolutely clear. It was because I did not feel comfortable placing Bennett at that daycare; however, I felt I had no other choice. My gut instinct was correct. About a year later I was called by the daycare to pick up my son because the Department of Public Social Services and the police were shutting them down.

I also felt like a failure as a wife and partner in my marriage. My decision to leave private practice to join CLA-LA reduced our household income significantly and the cost of childcare put on our family additional financial pressures. I had not even factored in childcare costs into my “plan” since my position at CLA-LA was supposed to be part time. I had clearly underestimated my new position and overestimated my child and my mothering skills. When my husband offered to work overtime or pick up an

were not going too well, I wallowed in self-pity and felt like a failure. What an awful roller coaster ride I had been on and what an awful taskmaster I was to myself. As Jesus said to the original Martha in Luke 10:41-42, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed[.]” Jesus spoke those words to me. There is something to be said about being at the end of your rope. You are forced to finally be still and that is the point where “Mary” begins.

Working at CLA-LA has helped me to deepen my relationship with Jesus. If it were not for CLA-LA, I would not have taken the type of risks that put me outside “my plan” and within God’s grace. CLA-LA has existed only by God’s grace. Organizationally, we have been in need and I frequently wonder what the future will hold. Yet, almost four years later, we are still here. We have survived some of the biggest

Although it is still a struggle to let go of control and cease worrying, after four years of living by His grace, it is becoming a little easier. Especially now when we (the CLA-LA board of directors and I) are trying to take CLA-LA to the next level, this unnerving period is more manageable because I am reminded that it is not about CLA-LA but Him...”...but only one thing is needed.”

Without question helping the poor is rewarding and being able to share my faith at work is exciting. However, a cool part of legal aid (and especially Christian legal aid) is the opportunity to be vulnerable and no longer in control. This is a privilege because it presents an opportunity to see God moving in our midst. Honestly, this article will most likely be read by well-educated, intelligent, type-A personalities who, if they could, plan for all contingencies in life. Retirement... 401K – CHECK! Kid’s Education... 529 Account – CHECK! Unexpected medical problems... Health insurance, short/long term disability insurance, life insurance – CHECK! When do we take that step off the cliff, with faith that God will support us. It can occur when we do legal aid...when we choose to invite our client’s crisis into our lives to help them shoulder their burdens.

Finally, the **BEST** part of working at CLA-LA is that it is His ministry and He is in control. I am comforted that the results are not up to me and all He asks me to do is live faithfully to Him as I am living by His grace.

### ‘NOW, WHEN A CLIENT PRESENTS AN INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEM AND I FEEL A HEAVY BURDEN, I REMIND MYSELF OF JESUS’ WORDS, “...BUT ONLY ONE THING IS NEEDED.”’

extra shift, I felt awful. It was not supposed to be like this. Especially after a long day of talking to clients whose problems felt insurmountable, I felt depressed and impotent. Indeed, in 2007, I came to my breaking point. Resentful, exhausted, and heartbroken I attended the national CLS conference in San Destin, Florida, hoping to find some clarity and peace. **GOD WAS FAITHFUL.**

I am the proverbial Martha. I thought I understood grace but in fact I was trying to please God by my works. Swinging from one accomplishment to another, like a child, I would say, “you see this” and “watch me.” (Words my dear Bennett, now 4 years old, says all the time as he shows off.) As long as things were going well, I was content *but prideful*. Then, when things

and well-funded private companies (the Goliaths in the business world). Personally, my family had been in need. Yet, God has been faithful and has met all of my families’ needs. Most importantly, God has replaced a taskmaster of a boss (myself) with the gentle Shepherd whose yoke is light.

Now, when a client presents an insurmountable problem and I feel a heavy burden, I remind myself of Jesus’ words, “...but only one thing is needed”. When it seems that the funding will run out and we may have to close our doors, I hear in my mind, “...but only one thing is needed”. It is not about solving a problem. It is not about creating an organization. Jesus reminds me it is about Him. With this revelation I have now begun to understand what it means to live by His grace.



*Sarah Olney is President and Executive Director for CLA-LA. She received her BA from UCLA and her JD from Loyola Law School in LA. Prior to joining CLA-LA in 2006, she worked for an insurance defense firm, litigating toxic torts and other civil matters. Sarah is married to Michael Olney, a physical therapist, and they have two sons, Bennett (4) and Bryson (1).*



## CLS Celebrates 10th Anniversary of RLUIPA



**President Clinton thanks CLS' Center for Law & Religious Freedom Director, Carl Esbeck, for CLS' efforts.**

**R**LUIPA (pronounced “ri-loop-ah”) is hardly a household name, yet that did not keep religious liberty advocates from celebrating the tenth anniversary of its passage on September 22, 2010. Christian Legal Society members had particular reason to observe the tenth anniversary: CLS’s Center for Law and Religious Freedom played an instrumental role in passage of this important federal law that helps level the playing field for churches and religious schools in the too often discriminatory zoning process. Simultaneously, RLUIPA protects the ability of prisoners to practice their faith.

RLUIPA, the acronym for “Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000,” 42 U.S.C. 2000cc, was the last act of a disintegrating coalition of religious organizations. For that reason, a nostalgia marked the observance—a reminiscence of the 1990s as a time when a broad spec-

trum of religious and civil liberties groups worked to secure religious liberty for all Americans after the devastating blow dealt by the Supreme Court’s 1990 decision in *Employment Division v. Smith*.

After *Smith*, over 70 religious and civil liberty groups worked together to pass the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (RFRA), a federal law that restored strict scrutiny to government action when religious liberty was burdened. In 1997, however, the Supreme Court in *City of Boerne v. Flores* held that RFRA could not be applied to protect religious liberty at the state and local level. While federal action that burdened religious liberty remained subject to strict scrutiny, local and state governments only had to show a rational basis for any neutral, generally applicable laws that impinged religious freedom.

In response to the *Boerne* decision, the coalition that had passed RFRA began

to push for federal legislation that would broadly protect religious liberty from local and state restrictions. In the meantime, however, a divisive issue began to drive a wedge in the coalition: traditional religious groups needed exemptions for their religious practices from application of sexual orientation nondiscrimination laws. The coalition splintered as many liberal groups chose to protect sexual orientation nondiscrimination policies at the expense of religious liberty.

In this environment, then-Center director Carl Esbeck proposed that “targeted” religious liberty legislation was better than no legislative protection. A consensus developed that houses of worship and religious schools needed leverage in the highly discretionary, often discriminatory, zoning process. Prison Fellowship added its considerable expertise to push for strong protection for inmates who were seeking to practice their faith, often as new believers.

Professor Doug Laycock and American Jewish Congress, among many other religious liberty advocates, agreed to support the fledgling RLUIPA. Carl Esbeck and then-CLS executive director Sam Casey labored to bring the Clinton White House on board. Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Senator Ted Kennedy (D-Massachusetts) agreed to shepherd RLUIPA through the Senate. On the last legislative day before the August recess, RLUIPA passed the Senate on a “unanimous consent” calendar. Immediately, Sam Casey alerted Representative Charles Canady (R-Florida), a member of the House Judiciary Committee who had held hearings on the bill. RLUIPA was passed by voice vote just before the House recessed. On September 22, 2000, President Clinton signed RLUIPA into law.

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## ‘RLUIPA—NOT BAD FOR A PIECE OF LEGISLATION THAT AROSE OUT OF THE ASHES OF A SPLINTERED COALITION.’

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In 2005, the Supreme Court held in *Cutter v. Wilkinson* that RLUIPA did not violate the Establishment Clause. On November 2, 2010, the Court will hear oral argument in *Sossamon v. Texas*, a case regarding whether RLUIPA provides money damages against states that violate prisoners’ religious freedom. CLS and Prison Fellowship filed an *amici* brief by CLS members Jim Lehman and Jay Thompson of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP, in Columbia, South Carolina.

In its report marking RLUIPA’s tenth anniversary, the Department of Justice confirmed: “In the ten years since its passage, RLUIPA has helped secure the ability of thousands of individuals and institutions to practice their faiths freely and without discrimination.” Not bad for a piece of legislation that arose out of the ashes of a splintered coalition.



On November 3, 2010, the Supreme Court will hear oral argument in another religious liberty case, *Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization v. Winn* (combined with *Garriott v. Winn*). State taxpayers challenged, as a federal Establishment Clause violation, an Arizona program that gives state taxpayers a tax credit for contributions to private organizations. In turn, those private groups disburse tuition scholarships to students attending private schools, including secular and religious schools. Professors Tom Berg and Doug Laycock teamed up to write CLS’s *amici* brief in support of the Arizona program. CLS was honored to be joined by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities, the Center for Arizona Policy, and the Association For Biblical Higher Education.

The briefs are available on the CLS website: <http://www.clsnet.org/center/amicus>

### Excerpts from CLS’ *amici* brief for *Sossamon v. Texas*

#### Summary of Argument

As Spending Clause legislation, the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (“RLUIPA”) unambiguously allows an individual to assert a claim for appropriate relief against a State or State official in his official capacity. A plain reading of RLUIPA indicates that a State knowingly waives its sovereign immunity to suits for monetary damages by accepting federal funds under the statute. Case law and statutes in effect at the time Congress enacted RLUIPA put the States on notice that prisoners and others affected by a violation of their fundamental right to religious exercise as protected by RLUIPA could bring suit under the statute for monetary damages, among other appropriate remedies. A State’s interest in sovereign immunity does not authorize the State to violate a statutorily-protected fundamental right without being subject to monetary damages. The practical effect of holding that individuals may not recover damages under RLUIPA would be crippling to the intent of the statute and legitimate efforts to remedy violations of RLUIPA. Allowing the phrase “appropriate relief” to include only prospective relief would, for many individuals, create a right without a remedy, as injunctions and declaratory relief would not adequately deter future RLUIPA violations and would come too late for individual rights to be sufficiently vindicated. Nor does the Prison Litigation Reform Act (“PLRA”) serve as an independent bar to the Petitioner’s RLUIPA claim for damages. A plain reading of the PLRA shows that it does not limit damages exclusively to suits for physical injury and does not bar either damages claims for State violations of fundamental rights or claims for nominal damages.

### Excerpts from CLS’ *amici* brief for *Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization v. Winn*

#### Interest of *Amici Curiae*

**Christian Legal Society** (“CLS”) is a nonprofit, interdenominational association of Christian attorneys, law students, judges, and law professors with chapters in nearly every state and at numerous accredited law schools. The Society’s legal advocacy and information division, the Center for Law & Religious Freedom, works for the protection of religious belief and practice, as well as for the autonomy from the government of religion and religious organizations, in state and federal courts throughout this nation. The Center strives to preserve religious freedom in order that men and women might be free to do God’s will and because the founding instrument of this nation acknowledges as a “self-evident truth” that all persons are divinely endowed with rights that no government may abridge nor any citizen waive. Among such inalienable rights is the right of religious liberty.

While representing diverse views on issues of doctrine and policy, and indeed at times disagreeing on such issues, *amici curiae* come together because the Arizona program at issue in this case is not only entirely constitutionally permissible, but also a sound attempt to provide Arizona families with a variety of educational options from which to choose a school that best suits the needs of the individual child.



## Peace & Reconciliation in Uganda: A First Hand Account

*By Adèle H. Auxier and Amanda H. Nicely*



Amanda Neely (l) and Adèle Auxier (3rd from r) together with part of the Peace and Reconciliation Team, from left to right, Janerius Anena (driver), Jennifer Ogwang, Dickson Ogwang and David Sondheimer.

“Oh Uganda! May God uphold thee / We lay our future in thy hand.” So go the first lines of the Ugandan national anthem, a hymn celebrating the ideals of Ugandan freedom, unity, and prosperity under God’s protection and grace. We sang this anthem more than once during our ten day adventure in Uganda, but never more movingly than when we sang it with sixty community leaders who had just finished three intense days of learning how to bring peaceful resolution to the

land conflicts that plague post-civil war northern Uganda.

This summer, we—two litigation associates at large law firms in Washington, D.C. (Adèle at Winston & Strawn and Amanda at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher)—decided to take off on a spiritual and professional adventure. We went to Uganda to assist the General Counsel of Advocates International, Sam Casey, with his work promoting peace through faith and the rule of law in northern Uganda. Sam works in conjunction with Dickson Ogwang, a

Ugandan attorney and head of Peace & Reconciliation Ministries of Africa. Sam and Dickson presented the Peacemaker principles of Christian mediation and taught the basics of Ugandan land law to these sixty men, who represented a cultural group of over two million people. It was deeply moving to see these older men, many impoverished after years of civil war, step forward and answer the call to lead their communities on a path of peace.

The conference itself, held in the war-torn town of Lira, was a remarkable event.



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## ‘THROUGH LOCAL LEADERS LIKE DICKSON, MAUREEN, AND JUDY, GOD IS WORKING TO ESTABLISH A LASTING PEACE UNDER THE RULE OF LAW IN UGANDA.’

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The national Minister of Lands made the five-hour journey from the capital city Kampala. He, along with two local judges, the regional police chief, and two national human rights attorneys, exhorted the clan leaders to take on the role of community land conciliators and take steps to make sure that families record and register their land boundaries to prevent disputes and prepare the way for development. The presenters, some of whom had helped write the Ugandan land laws, provided cutting edge information about the land registry system as it exists and is being administered right now—invaluable information in a country where the laws on the books are not always the same as the rules on the ground.

On the last night of the conference, Sam and U.S. attorney David Sondheimer met with a dozen men involved in a land conflict that had already led to several violent clashes. While the dispute was too complex to resolve that night, the men recognized the need for repentance, confession, and forgiveness and ended with their arms intertwined, praying together. Their dedication to pursuing peace—demonstrated by their willingness to sit through a three-day conference in the same room with men they considered enemies—was deeply moving.

One of the most inspiring things about the trip was the opportunity to see Ugandan women rebuilding their country. Though the local women leaders did not join the conference (which we later learned was because many of them do not speak English), women are playing a key role in Uganda’s developing legal system and in bringing hope to those afflicted by poverty, AIDS, and the recently-ended civil war. Chief among them was Dickson’s courageous wife Jennifer—a mother of three—who just a week before our arrival had traveled the dangerous road to the Democratic Republic of Congo to support her husband as he and Sam met with Christian lawyers there. Back home in Uganda, Jennifer showed us beautiful hospitality and brought lighthearted



Adèle and Amanda give a talk on marriage law.

encouragement whenever she appeared, and showed us what an important role women play in rebuilding the network of relationships that sustain a vibrant civil society.

When we traveled to the post-conflict region of Gulu, we met Maureen, a university-trained social worker who left her own people group in eastern Uganda and the chance of a safe NGO job to work at Koro, a farm for women suffering from AIDS and children who lost their families in the war. Sam credits her faith and encouragement with getting him through the challenges he encountered on his first visit to Uganda over five years ago.

Professionally, we were encouraged by the strong leadership of Judy Adoko, a Ugandan human rights lawyer who addressed the conference on the last day. Her powerful presentation on the clan leaders’ responsibility under traditional law to protect women and children, particularly widows and orphans, from being abused by male family members moved us all and elicited concern and nods of agreement from the local leaders. At one point, she said that a male head of family becomes a “monster” when he is not bound by the laws of the state (because in the rural areas there’s no one to enforce them) or the laws of the tribe (because tribal structures have broken down or fallen into disuse).

In response, an elderly man stood up and raised his arm and said, “It is true! They do!” These men were deeply troubled by the abuses they have seen in their communities and eager to learn ways to resolve these conflicts peacefully.

Through local leaders like Dickson, Maureen, and Judy, God is working to establish a lasting peace under the rule of law in Uganda. We were humbled to see their commitment to living out God’s will in their land and are grateful to have shared, even for a short time, in that experience.

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*Adèle Auxier is a graduate of Princeton University and Notre Dame Law School. After clerking for Fifth Circuit Judge Edith Brown Clement, she joined the Appellate and Critical Motions practice at Winston and Strawn in DC where she concentrates her practice in complex civil litigation and federal appeals. Adèle is a CLS DC Metro Chapter board member and worships at The Falls Church (Anglican).*

*Amanda H. Neely graduated with honors from Princeton University and Duke University School of Law. She currently practices in the Washington, D.C. office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, LLP, where her work focuses on litigation and public policy. Prior to attending law school, she served on Senator Elizabeth’s Dole’s staff. She worships at The Falls Church (Anglican) in Falls Church, VA.*

# BORGER'S BOOK BIN

by Byron Borger  
Hearts & Minds  
Bookstore



**Pathways to Purpose for Women: Connecting Your To-Do List, Your Passions, and God's Purposes for Your Life** by Katie Brazelton (*Zondervan*): What an encouraging book for women, regardless of their walk in life. Here we have an inspiring vision of purpose, helpful steps towards discernment, and lots of practical stories and illustrations of whole-life Christian living.

**Liberating Tradition: Women's Identity and Vocation in Christian Perspective** by Kristina LaCelle-Peterson (*Baker*): Most of the most serious books on calling and serving God in one's vocation--such as *The Call* by Os Guinness or *A Journey Worth Taking* by Charles Drew--are fabulously written and important for any Christian eager to seek God's ways in the work-world. *Liberating Tradition*, shows how a uniquely female view hasn't been explored in recent literature. Professional women, especially, will be eager to know of this profound study, and glad for her refreshing effort integrating several vital themes.

**Notes to a Working Woman: Finding Balance, Passion, and Fulfillment in Your Life** by Lucy Swindoll: Again, there are tremendous books for all about God's call to the work-world (*Your Work Matters to God* by Hendricks & Sherman comes to mind) but few have been written specifically for women by a woman who has served well in the corporate culture. Very insightful, and (if you know anything about Ms Swindoll) it is a lot of fun.

**Working Families: Navigating the Demands and Delights of Marriage, Parenting, and Career** by Joy Jordan-Lake (*Waterbrook*): Jordan-Lake is a great writer and draws on deep experience to offer a helpful way to be faithful to the various callings God has given us. Important for men or women, this is crafted especially with a women's view and voice.

**Sword Between the Sexes? C.S. Lewis and the Gender Debates** by Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen (*IVP*): What thoughtful Christian isn't curious about new contributions to the field of Lewis studies? Agree fully or not, this is one of the most important--and truly interesting--recent studies of the Oxford don. Van Leeuwen is renowned for her work on gender (*Gender & Grace*) and here she argues that Lewis changed his mind about women's capacities and roles as he matured in faith (as a married man.)

**Bittersweet: Thoughts on Change, Grace, and Learning the Hard Way** by Shauna Niequist (*Zondervan*): Her beautifully-written, sweet, and quite thoughtful *Cold Tangerines* reminded us of God's presence in ordinary life, celebrating a spirituality of the mundane. Here, Niequist offers a new batch of reflective essays which are almost devotional in character. These are stories--at times funny, sometimes raw with intensity-- that help us cope with the disappointments, complexities and ways in which God works in often hidden ways. A book of great comfort and of great joy.

**About You: Fully Human, Fully Alive** by Dick Staub (*Jossey-Bass*): What a glorious, vibrant, clear and alive vision of Christ's work in helping us discover the why and how of being more fully human, being and doing what God intended for us. This is a fun read--who else quotes actress Meg Ryan and critic T.S. Elliot, poet Luci Shaw and apologist Blaise Pascal? The author is a contemporary evangelical but knows the deepest truths of the church fathers about being truly human. What a wise and important book this is. Pleasant, inviting, at times provocative and profound. Don't miss it.



Byron and his wife own *Hearts & Minds*, an independent bookstore in Dallastown, PA. A friend of CLS, he ruminates about books, faith, and public life at [www.heartsandmindsbooks.com/booknotes](http://www.heartsandmindsbooks.com/booknotes).

# MEET THE NEW CLS STAFF



Sonia Maida



Brady Tarr

This year has brought many changes at CLS, but none have been as much of a blessing as the addition of two new team members here at the Springfield offices. For those of you joining us in Orlando, please take the time to introduce yourself to them.

First, our new **Executive Assistant, Sonia Maida**, joined the team in May 2010. As any who have called CLS to set up a meeting with Fred Potter could tell you, Sonia is a delightful person and a tremendous addition to our staff and she is an incredibly hard worker. Before joining the CLS staff, Sonia

worked in the Office of General Counsel for the Pan American Health Organization. She is originally from Cochabamba, Bolivia and moved to America with her husband, Percy, and their oldest daughter, Pamela, in 1988. Sonia's younger daughter, Diana, was born here in the U.S. Sonia and Percy, a building engineer, attend Way of Faith church in Fairfax, Virginia.

Second, the newest addition to our staff is the new **Attorney Ministries Coordinator, Brady Tarr**, who began working with us in July 2010. Brady hails from Jefferson City, Tennessee and is currently finishing up his last semester of his Masters of Divinity at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He completed his undergraduate work at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City and attends Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. Brady is easy-going and adds a tremendous spiritual depth to our team and most of you who have already spoken or communicated with Brady will readily agree that he is a great addition. He is hard-working and funny, and like our Development Coordinator, Kyle Cotner, is quite tall.

For those of you joining us in Orlando, please take the time to introduce yourself to both Sonia and Brady.

*When there are no precedents...  
persuasive analysis and argument  
are critical.*

Embryo Adoption Awareness Campaign  
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# ECCLESIASTES 1:9

“WHAT HAS BEEN WILL BE AGAIN, WHAT HAS BEEN DONE WILL BE DONE AGAIN; THERE IS NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN.”

Editor’s note: This article was originally published in the *QUARTERLY* in Fall 1987. The author is now serving as a judge in Superior Court of California, County of Alameda in Hayward, California.

## Heresy or Heritage Christian Women in Law

By Julia Spain

Once in awhile, when I’m introduced to someone new at a church potluck or barbeque, I see a familiar question in their eyes or feel it in their handshake: “A lawyer? How nice,” they say as they ask themselves, “Is that scriptural? What is she like?” I understand their query, for I have frequently asked myself the same thing. What should a Christian woman lawyer be like? For me, this is not a three-part question. I will not suppress my femininity and ponder how to be a Christian lawyer who happens to be a woman. I will not pretend I am only passing through the legal profession and content myself with Bible studies on being a godly woman in isolation of my vocational calling. It would be equally pointless to belabor the issues encountered in being a female lawyer without centering that discussion around Christ, who is by choice, my Savior, Master and Lord. By God’s grace and sovereign election I am, at once, inextricably and undeniably all three.

Of course, I have not always been all three: first, God made me female. As a young child in the pre-Wonder Woman era, my heroes and role models were predominantly male. I wanted to grow up to be like Buck Rogers and the Lone Ranger. I did not want to be like Cinderella, Pollyanna or any of those “Little Women” who seemed to me like helpless sissies. At the same time, the prospect of one day being a wife and mother enthralled me. I definitely enjoyed being a girl as I sang, “anything you can do, I can do better,” to my brother.

As a teenager, I accepted Christ as my Savior, and He became my hero, my ultimate role model. My mind filled with images of godly men whom I wanted to be like: my grandfather, my youth pastor, St. Peter, King David, Abraham, the Apostle Paul. The godly women I saw in the Bible were a little harder to emulate: the Virgin Mary, Elizabeth and Sarah were primarily known for having babies. Mary, Martha and Mary Magdalene were acclaimed for

than anything else, I wanted to obey and please Him.

By the time I learned that God has a specific plan and purpose for every person’s life, I was sure all God had available for a woman who wanted full-time Christian work was the role of a minister’s wife or missionary. So after a youth group meeting on this theme, I prayed that God would show me His purpose for my life, which I assumed meant sending me a husband and

### ‘I PLACED GOD’S WILL FOR MY LIFE IN A LITTLE BOX THAT HE SHATTERED WITH SUCH FORCE THAT I NEVER LOOKED BACK IN DOUBT.’

loving Christ, but I didn’t see any sermons, epistles or psalms that they had written, nor did I read of their great acts of faith or victories in battle.

I couldn’t find a female role model in the New Testament who matched my personality and desires. Consequently, I was perplexed when I encountered scriptural passages like I Corinthians 14:34-35, “Women should remain silent in the churches ... for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church,” or I Timothy 2:12, “I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over the man, she must be silent.” To be quite frank, these scriptures and some well-meaning Bible studies and sermons that focused on them discouraged me and thwarted my dreams. I wanted to be a woman warrior, a Joan of Arc in the heat of the battle for God. More

telling me which country He had in mind for us. I had placed God’s will for my life in a little box. Imagine my amazement when the Lord conveyed that my new role model was to be “Zenas, the lawyer” from Titus 3:13. My self-imposed discouragement and restrictions were broken. God shattered my little box with such force that I never looked back in doubt.

Over the years, I have grown to understand more of the contextual and cultural background of the scriptures that once confused me. Primarily, I have realized that attaining “the meek and quiet spirit” that I Peter 3:4 says God values in a woman does not mean laying aside one’s natural strengths, talents and abilities. On the contrary, a godly woman is one who knows she is in the center of God’s will for her life and who has fully surrendered all

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## ‘TO ATTAIN A “MEEK AND QUIET SPIRIT;” A WOMAN DOES NOT HAVE TO LAY ASIDE HER NATURAL STRENGTHS, TALENTS AND ABILITIES.’

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her skills and strengths to Him for His use and glory. The beauty of such unshakeable inner conviction is especially evident under pressure. God’s plan for my life lead me into law school, and I found that there had been a biblical role model for female lawyers all along. She was the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and one of, only two Judges in the history of Israel to also hold the coveted office of Prophet. She was also Lapidoth’s wife and called herself a “mother in Israel.” Deborah, of Judges 4-5, was a godly woman lawyer.

Deborah was wise and educated in the laws of the land. She held court under a palm tree, and all Israel came to her for judgment. She was powerful and authoritative. When she summoned Barak, the General of the Army, he appeared immediately. She was

also outspoken, strong and to the point. She didn’t mince words when she told Barak that God said, “Go! This is the day the Lord has given Sisera into your hands.” She was not afraid of rejection by religious leaders, by her family or by the men of her day.

When Barak challenged her to go into war with him, she went without hesitation because she wanted to obey God regardless of personal consequences. Through knowing God’s word and faithfulness, she displayed a meek and quiet spirit. In the midst of conflict, she was in the center of God’s will for her life, and she allowed Him to maximize her potential for His glory. Deborah’s example of personal faith led her people into victory and her land into a generation of peace. What should a Christian woman lawyer be like? “I do

not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting [what others may think about God’s call of a woman to law], I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus,” and I am thankful for the increasing number of Deborahs I meet as I go (Philippians 3:13-14).

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*When this article was first written, Julia Spain, a graduate of Hastings College of Law, was a trial lawyer, and a partner in the firm of McCarthy, Leonard & Spain. She served on the CLS Membership Committee for California and was the Northern California Membership Director for three years. Judge Julia Spain is now serving as a State Judge in California.*



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# A Fond Farewell

By Brent McBurney

‘THANK YOU ALL FOR OPENING YOUR HOMES AND SHARING YOUR LIVES WITH ME.’

league Dennis Abrams from Philadelphia, taught our typical training seminar in the morning. What happened after lunch during the “clinical” session was anything but typical. The Mission had one client scheduled and we had only three volunteers: an attorney, a paralegal and a law student. It turned out that the client’s issues were providentially addressed by the experience of the attorney who happened to be his law firm’s *pro bono* coordinator, the law student’s prior experience as a Delaware State Patrolman, and the paralegal’s experience as law librarian. It was truly a God-ordained client interview, and I was simply blessed to be a small part of it.

## CLS Staff

Finally, being a part of the staff of CLS—from my first day in the old Annandale office on Evergreen Lane to the current office in Springfield—has been a blessing in too many ways to count. Whether it was daily prayer meetings at 10 am, or birthday and holiday parties, or the countless hours working behind the scenes together every year at the National Conference, or the day-to-day grind in the office, the staff at CLS has been exemplary and fun.

I had three great supervisors—Executive Directors Sam Casey and Fred Potter and Legal Aid Director John Robb. I am glad to count them not only as supervisors, but as brothers in Christ with great wisdom, tender hearts and tremendous vision. I was blessed to work along-side my fellow Directors—David Nammo (Membership and Law Students), Greg Baylor (Center for Law & Religious Freedom), and Mike Schutt (Law Students). They are three very genuine and funny brothers who love the Lord wholeheartedly and who care deeply for Christian lawyers, law students and their families.

Although I will no longer be on the staff of CLS, my involvement with this terrific ministry doesn’t end. So, as Jane Austen wrote: “let us not say goodbye, but as the French have it—‘Au revoir!’”



Brent McBurney is pleased to complete his final issue as publisher and editor-in-chief of *The Christian Lawyer*.

What is the proper way to take one’s leave? There are many alternatives from a simple “bye” or “ciao!” to the much longer “auf wiedersehen” or “до свидания” (dasvidaniya).

Pop culture provides us with memorable goodbyes—from Casablanca’s “Louis, I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship” to Ferris Buehler’s “You’re still here? It’s over! Go home. Go!” One of my favorites is sung by the Von Trapp children in the *Sound of Music*—“So long, farewell.”

As I take my leave as a staff member, here are three things I will remember best about the past six + years with CLS. Getting to know our members, watching the Lord orchestrate Christian legal aid volunteers to help transform lives, and working with our staff.

## CLS Members and their Families

First, one of the most amazing things about the Body of Christ, particularly CLS members, is their gracious hospitality. Whether it was simply a one-day speaking engagement and someone picking up the lunch tab, or a days long trip when I was blessed to stay in their homes, our members made me feel welcomed and loved.

From my numerous visits to

Albuquerque and the hospitality of John and Peggy Robb, to Chicago land and the warmth and friendship of Bruce and Helen Strom and their twins, I was blessed to be a part of family while away from my own. From the home of John and Olivia Stemberger in Orlando to the home of John and Heather Yphantides in San Diego, staying with CLS members gave me a chance to better understand what makes a Christian lawyer really tick, in every area of life. Over the past six years, there are many others from coast-to-coast, as well as Hawaii, whom I could mention. Thank you all for opening your homes and sharing your lives with me. Please know that you will always be welcome in my home.

## Christian Legal Aid Clinics

Second, helping CLS member attorneys set up Christian Legal Aid clinics was a truly joyful and rewarding experience. Once a clinic was ready for a training session, I was blessed to travel, along with one or two other CLA clinic directors, to train the volunteers. One particular such training stands out.

The Sunday Breakfast Mission in Wilmington, Delaware is the host ministry for the CLA clinic there. That day at the inaugural training session, I and my col-



Dr. Jay A. Sekulow  
Regent University School of Law,  
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