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Foreword

TOM LININGER*

Symposium: Disentangling Church

and State: Have the Courts Done

Enough?

n March 24, 2006, in Portland, Oregon, *Oregon Law Review* and the Kenneth J. O'Connell Program at the University of Oregon School of Law cohosted a symposium entitled *Disentangling Church and State: Have the Courts Done Enough?* The conference drew academics, practitioners, and federal and state judges for a lively discussion of recent developments in this dynamic area of the law.

The symposium honored the legacy of former Oregon Supreme Court Justice Kenneth O'Connell. Chief Justice O'Connell served on the Oregon Supreme Court for nineteen years and was a law professor at the University of Oregon during the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. He left a bequest to support programs that bring together judges, lawyers, and law professors for colloquia on a wide range of issues, particularly issues of concern to appellate judges. The 2005 O'Connell Conference addressed civil and criminal litigation, and the 2007 O'Connell Conference will address ethical issues that arise in the representation of government and business clients.

This issue of the *Oregon Law Review* continues the discussion that took place in Portland. It includes a number of important pieces relating to the interaction of church and state. Professor Erwin Chemerinsky's insightful Essay recounts his experience representing Thomas Van Orden in a petition to the U.S. Supreme Court protesting a monument to the Ten Commandments on state property in Texas.¹ The Article by Kelly Clark, Kristian Spencer Roggendorf, and Peter Janci addresses the complex questions that recently arose in tort litigation of sexual abuse of

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¹ Infra p. 351.

children allegations against Catholic priests.² Charles Hinkle's Article analyzes the evolution of Oregon's own constitutional law in the context of church–state relations—a body of law that has diverged significantly from its federal counterpart.³

Several of this issue's Articles focus on U.S. constitutional history. Professor Clark Lombardi's Article proposes a new interpretation of *Reynolds v. United States*, ⁴ a landmark Free Exercise case, against the backdrop of nineteenth-century case law and political debates. ⁵ Professor Steven Green's Article offers a fresh perspective on the Founders' intent when they fashioned the Establishment Clause: it suggests that they regarded church–state separation as a "spacious conception" that would develop over time. ⁶ Finally, Professor Mark David Hall's Article examines how the Supreme Court relies on history as a guide to the interpretation of the Free Exercise and Establishment Clauses. ⁷

Whether the present salience of church–state issues in the United States deserves classification as a "Fourth Great Awakening," or whether it simply continues a long tradition of controversy surrounding the proper relationship between the government and religion, one thing is certain: the topic will continue to challenge legal scholars and judges long into the future. The Articles in this issue illuminate the debate.

On behalf of *Oregon Law Review* and the Kenneth J. O'Connell Program, I extend my sincere thanks to all the participants in the symposium, including the contributors to this issue. In addition, special thanks are due to Caleb Langston, who served as Editor-in-Chief, and Ed Wilson, who served as Symposium Editor of the *Oregon Law Review* during the 2005-2006 school year. Both worked tirelessly to organize the conference and to solicit submissions by the conference participants. Sarah Burgundy, Editor-in-Chief for the 2006-2007 school year, has done an excellent job coordinating the editing and publication of the symposium issue. All the other members of the *Oregon Law Review* staff who played a role in the symposium deserve commendation for their hard work.

² Infra p. 481.

³ Infra p. 541.

^{4 98} U.S. 145 (1878).

⁵ Infra p. 351.

⁶ Infra p. 443.

⁷ Infra p. 563.

 $^{^8}$ Robert William Fogel, The Fourth Great Awakening and the Future of Egalitarianism (2000).