

# THE LEGAL LIGHT

THE J. REUBEN CLARK LAW SOCIETY  
ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER



Deborah A. Gubernick  
2012-2013 Chair

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## ELIZABETH SHAW SMITH RECEIVES 2012 J. REUBEN CLARK AWARD

The 2012 J. Reuben Clark Award was presented to Elizabeth Shaw Smith, at the Annual Dinner, held on September 21, 2012. Fittingly, incoming Chair Deborah Gubernick presented the award and acknowledged the foundation laid by and the tremendous contributions made by Elizabeth over many years – particularly to the cause of women in the law.

In addition to being a tireless, inspirational and hard-working advocate for women in the law, Elizabeth has served two terms as a board member of the JRCLS-OC Chapter and is currently the Chair of the Women in Law Committee of the International Board of the JRCLS – a committee whose mission is “to affirm the strength and contributions that women lawyers bring to their legal practices, communities, and families, and to promote fairness and equal opportunities for these women”.

Elizabeth received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Brigham Young University in English Literature and History. After a career as a book and magazine editor/writer, she received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Utah College of Law, where she was selected as one of eight governing editors of the Utah Law Review, served as a director of the moot court programs for first and second year students, and earned academic distinction as a Leary Scholar.

We heartily congratulate Elizabeth on this award and thank her for the profound influence for good she has had in our Orange County Chapter of the JRCLS, our Orange County legal community, and now internationally.

## INSIDE: ANNUAL DINNER, BENTLEYS RETURN FROM HOLY LAND, SPONSOR CORNER

### MISSION STATEMENT

*We affirm the strength brought to the law by a lawyer's personal religious conviction. We strive through public service and professional excellence to promote fairness and virtue founded upon the rule of law.*

## JUDGE WALLACE ADDRESSES MEMBERS AT THE 2012 ANNUAL DINNER

On September 21, 2012, approximately 150 members and family of the JRCLS-OC Chapter gathered together at the Irvine Marriott to celebrate our 2012 Annual Dinner. Our members were treated to beautiful classical chamber music presented by the Tijeras Chamber Players, led by Ann Bunker, wife of member Bill Bunker and mother of member Jared Bunker.

In addition to awarding the 2012 J. Reuben Clark Award to Elizabeth Shaw Smith, incoming Chair Deborah Gubernick also presented a plaque recognizing the contributions and service of our Immediate Past Chair, Paul A. Hoffman. Paul did an outstanding job leading our organization and we are grateful to have him continue on the Executive Board for another year. Recognition was also given to retiring Board members Will Bollard, Norman Davis, Dirk Julander, Mark Klein and Philip Nelson, while Philip Nelson was welcomed to the Executive Board as our new Secretary and Joseph Bentley, Jodi Wood Jewell, Daniel Livingston, Aaron Renfro and Gregory Robinson were welcomed as new members of the Board. Thanks to all who served and to all those who will serve and who make our membership in the JRCLS-OC Chapter a great and valuable experience.



2012 J. Reuben Clark Award  
Recipient  
Elizabeth Shaw Smith



Judge J. Clifford Wallace

Members were also honored to hear from Federal Judge J. Clifford Wallace, of the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, who captivated members by his experiences promoting and helping establish the rule of law in countries throughout the world. Among other things, Judge Wallace has contributed to the establishment of courts and standards for judges and attorneys in other countries, recommended the establishment of the Conference of Chief Justices of Asia and the Pacific to provide a forum for interaction to discuss important judicial issues, provided needs analysis and ideas relating to the judiciary in many countries, established a Judicial Training Institute for judges in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam, taught mediation to judges in Thailand and helped draft legislation in Mongolia creating judicial independence. In 2009, the California Lawyer reported retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Conner as saying: “He has made more trips than any other judge in the history of the United States”. Thank you Judge Wallace for your tremendous public and world-wide service.

*“You are individually and collectively a very bright light. ... You are among the finest and best trained we have to defend, to advocate, to plead and to appeal for the great faith, the strong families and the religious freedom for which and upon which this republic was founded. God bless you in the powerful and virtuous practice of the law.” Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, address to JRCLS Annual Conference, February 15, 2013*

2012 ANNUAL DINNER



Photos by Rick Varner

*"In the face of such waning religiosity or at the very least waning religious affiliation, Latter-day Saints and other churches must be ever more effective in making the persuasive case for why both religious belief and institutional identity are more relevant than ever and deserve continued consideration and privilege within our society." – Elder Jeffrey R. Holland*

## JOSEPH AND MARILYN BENTLEY RETURN FROM HOLY LAND

In July 2012, our members heard from Joseph Bentley who returned from the Holy Land and shared his some of his many experiences there. The following is an excerpt from an article "Serving in Israel", in the November JRCLS newsletter, shared here by permission of the author, Julie Smith.

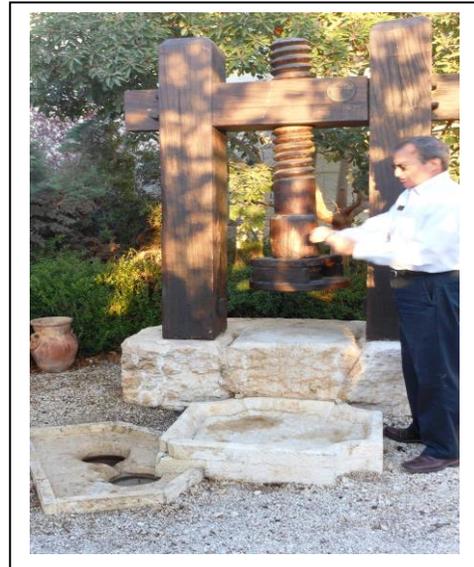
"The Bentleys served from August 2010 to March 2012. While there, they were privileged to live in the spectacular BYU Jerusalem Center, with eight terraced levels stepping down the Mount of Olives and a superb view of the Old City. The Bentleys wore many hats. All their efforts were coordinated through the permanent directors and staff of the Center, who consisted of secular and practicing Jews, Palestinian Christians, and practicing Muslims. A requirement of employment at the Center is to have respect and cooperation with people of all faiths, and the Bentleys enjoyed the loving and jovial relationships among all Center employees.

"Every four months, the Bentleys helped to welcome and orient 82 new students, who carried a substantial load of 16 credit hours. A principal responsibility of the Bentleys was hosting over 20,000 visitors a year at the Center. Over 95% of them were Jewish, who came for public concerts, art exhibits and tours. Every Sunday, the Center held a well-attended free classical concert performed by superb local musicians. One Thursday each month, jazz or ethnic concerts were held. Visitors toured a fine rotating art exhibit on the top level, featuring artwork by Arabs, Jews, Christians and Druze from Israel.

"Each Wednesday through Friday, the Bentleys oversaw eight one-hour public tours. Every tour included an orientation video, an organ recital, a dioramic explanation of the four stages of Old Jerusalem's history, and a visit to the Biblical olive gardens and ancient processing methods. The tour concluded at the oldest and newest tree of the 60 olive trees; a symbol of Israel. The tree has roots over 800 years old, but has new perimeter trunks and branches that resulted from grafting a new trunk inside of the old hollow trunk – thus perhaps enabling the tree to live forever. Eventually, the new trunks may merge together into a single tree. The Bentleys concluded with the hope that someday that would also be true for the various ethnic groups living there.

"When the Bentleys were not overseeing tours, they administered humanitarian aid through qualified local charities. Aid was given without regard to the ethnicity or religious beliefs of the recipients. Most of their efforts were in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, and were done on behalf of LDS Charities and BYU. The Bentleys originated all projects at the Center, and then partnered with existing Muslim, Jewish and Christian charities. ... The Bentleys were able to assist several charities committed to helping women find employment by providing sewing machines and kitchen appliances. They

(Continued on next page)



*"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable. ... And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education or minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience, both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle." – George Washington*

2012-2013

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## BENTLEYS RETURN FROM HOLY LAND (CON'T)

provided computers to Arab schools and hygiene and school kits to refugee camps in the north and Bedouin villages in the south. With a 90% rate of illiteracy among Bedouin women, the Bentleys also sponsored a literacy group that taught women to read and write in Arabic and Hebrew.

“These charities were very gracious and grateful that someone cared and recognized their needs. The Bentleys hoped that their service added one little positive stone on a heap of impressions that people in the Holy Land have about members of the LDS faith, thereby helping to safeguard BYU students. But certainly their endless hours of mentoring students, hosting tours, and compassionate service resulted in so much more. Lives have changed, both spiritually and temporally, and the fruits of their work in the Holy Land will manifest themselves in the years to come.”

## MEMBERS INSTRUCTED ON “WHAT’S GOING DOWN IN THE HIGH SCHOOL HALLS?” AND THE “WHY” OF ADDICTION

On January 17, 2013, E. Michael Valenzuela, III, the Recovery Program Coordinator, Primary Counselor, ICF Certified Life Coach and Professional Interventionist at Benchmark Transitions in Redlands, California, presented an absolutely outstanding MCLE Substance Abuse Program to our members.

Among other things, Mr. Valenzuela discussed who is prone to addiction, why addiction takes such a hold of people, what are signs to watch for, what are the current drugs of choice, what we can do to help our own colleagues and loved ones avoid or overcome drug/alcohol addiction, what the statistical trends are showing, the process and stages of addiction, when we should intervene, and what is and is not working in addiction treatment. While Mr. Valenzuela noted that overall alcohol and cigarette use are down, illicit drug use is up in recent years, and the perceived risk of drug use has decreased – especially in our youth. Notwithstanding, the harmful and life changing effects of substance abuse are unchanged.

*“So rather than redefining marriage and family as we see increasing numbers around us trying to do, our age ought to be reinforcing and exalting that which has been the backbone of civilization since the dawn of it.” Elder Jeffrey R. Holland*

# THE LEGAL LIGHT

## SPONSOR CORNER – SMITH DICKSON, AN ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

For the past year, Deborah Dickson of SMITH DICKSON, has been acting, pro bono, as our Chief Financial Advisor, assisted by Elaine Kazzi. Founded in 1982, Smith Dickson is a full-service CPA firm specializing in providing high-quality services designed to create long-term value for its clients. Smith Dickson's clients appreciate the personal connection that is established with the firm, as each client is handled by a partner-level CPA who leads a team of highly-trained professionals dedicated to superior service. Smith Dickson encourages a holistic approach to the services provided to its clients, with involvement in all of its clients' financial decisions, not just in the preparation of financial statements and tax returns. In addition to the foregoing, Smith Dickson provides auditing services, bank financing negotiations, tax planning and compliance, trust and estate compliance, and litigation support, including working with attorneys to analyze financial information, evaluate claims and calculate damages, as well as provide expert testimony. We are grateful for Smith Dickson's professional assistance.



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Editor  
 Rick A. Varner

## UPCOMING EVENTS

March 14, 2013	Luncheon 9 <sup>th</sup> Annual Religion & The Law Symposium The Religious Freedom Battle Moves To The States: Non-Partisan Legislative Caucuses	12:00 pm Chapman University Law School
April 18, 2013	Luncheon Speaker: Hon. Brett G. London	12:00 pm Knobbe Martens Olson & Bear, LLP, 2040 Main St., 2nd Floor, Irvine
May 16, 2013	Luncheon Speaker: Barbara Mencer Topic: Networking and Business Development	12:00 pm Knobbe Martens Olson & Bear, LLP, 2040 Main St., 2nd Floor, Irvine