



James R. Rasband Named New J. Reuben Clark Law School Dean

James R. Rasband's appointment as dean of the J. Reuben Clark Law School was announced by Academic Vice President John S. Tanner on April 17, 2009, and became effective June 15, 2009. Dean Rasband replaces Interim Dean James D. Gordon III, who served during the 2008-2009 school year, following the appointment of former Law School dean Kevin J. Worthen as advancement vice president at Brigham Young University.

"Jim Rasband will be a superb dean," said Tanner. "I have worked closely with Jim for two years. He has tremendous gifts of mind and heart along with high standards, people skills, administrative experience, and a love for the Law School. I expect the Law School to flourish under his leadership."

A BYU alumnus, Rasband received his juris doctorate from Harvard Law School in 1989. He was a law clerk for Judge J. Clifford Wallace on the u.s. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He practiced law at Perkins Coie in Seattle, and in 1995 he joined the faculty at the Law School, where he is Hugh W. Colton Professor of Law. He served as associate dean for research and academic affairs at

the Law School from 2004 to 2008. Since 2008 he has served as associate academic vice president for faculty at Brigham Young University.

"I am thrilled to return from university administration to the Law School," says Dean Rasband. "It is a remarkable place with a legacy of outstanding students as well as committed faculty, administration, and staff. I am convinced that, as our faculty continue to strive collectively and individually to have an enduring influence in the lives of the students and in the development of law, policy, and theory in their particular legal fields, our students will, in turn, build upon their predecessors' legacy and be an increasing influence for good in the nation, in their communities, in the Church, and in their homes."

Dean Rasband's primary areas of expertise are public lands (including public lands legal history), water law, wilderness and grazing law, regulations covering the national parks and national monuments, and international environmental law. He is a co-author, along with James Salzman at Duke University and Mark Squillace at the University of Colorado, of *Natural Resources Law and Policy*, a casebook used in law schools around the country.

BYU Law Professor Heads u.s. Bureau of Indian Affairs

On June 26, 2009, Brigham Young University law professor Larry EchoHawk was sworn in to head the u.s. Bureau of Indian Affairs. EchoHawk vowed to do all in his power to combat the poverty, poor schools, and crime that are too common in Indian country. "It's the opportunity to affect the lives of nearly 2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives. Many of these people live in poverty. There are communities of American Indians that have nearly 80 percent unemployment. I'm going to do whatever I can to improve their quality of life."

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar extolled EchoHawk: "He is a dedicated public servant with excellent leadership abilities, legal expertise, and legislative experience to help us carry out President Obama's commitment to build strong Indian economies and safer Indian communities. Together we will work cooperatively with the federally recognized tribes to empower



American Indian and Alaska Native people, restore the integrity of the government-to-government relationship, and fulfill the United States' trust responsibilities."

A member of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, EchoHawk made history when he was elected attorney general of Idaho in 1990. He was the first American Indian in u.s. history elected to a statewide office. He had served as the Bannock County prosecuting attorney since 1986. Before that, EchoHawk served two consecutive terms in the Idaho House of Representatives, from 1982 to 1986.

Curt Conklin Receives National Law Librarian Award

On July 26, 2009, Curt E. Conklin, associate director for technical services at BYU Howard W. Hunter Law Library, received the Renee D. Chapman Memorial Award for Outstanding Contributions in Technical Services Law Librarianship in Washington, D.C. This award is presented each year to an individual or group in recognition of extended service to technical services law librarianship and to the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL).

"This award is the highest honor a law cataloger can receive in this country and it is the equivalent of a lifetime achievement award in technical services law librarianship," said Kory Staheli, director of



the Howard W. Hunter Law Library. "Curt is well deserving of such an honor and I am very pleased that the American Association of Law Libraries has chosen to recognize his many contributions to the field of law librarianship with this very prestigious award."

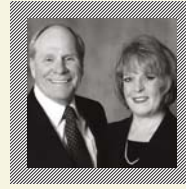
Curt has worked with the BYU Howard W. Hunter Law Library for 37 years in a variety of positions, all within technical services, retiring from the library in May 2009. He has also been a member of AALL for 35 years.

Six New Mission Presidents

The following J. Reuben Clark Law School alumni and JRC Law Society members have been called to preside over missions: G. Mark Albright, '81, with his wife, Karyn Jean Wasden, to the Washington D.C. South Mission; Armand D. Johansen, '78, with his wife, Juliet Warner, to the Norway Oslo Mission; Larry R. Laycock, '86, and his wife, Lisa Dawn Gleave, to the Chile Santiago East Mission; Jay D. Pimentel, '79, and his wife, Colleen Reed, to the Germany Berlin Mission; Vladimir A. Nechiporov and his wife, Elena E. Nechiporova, to the Russia Rostov Mission; and Gregory Mark Saylin and his wife, Jennifer Ashleigh, to the Texas Houston South Mission.



PRESIDENT AND SISTER
G. MARK ALBRIGHT



PRESIDENT AND SISTER
ARMAND D. JOHANSEN



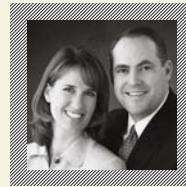
PRESIDENT AND SISTER
LARRY R. LAYCOCK



PRESIDENT AND SISTER
JAY D. PIMENTEL



PRESIDENT AND SISTER
VLADIMIR A. NECHIPOROV



PRESIDENT AND SISTER
GREGORY MARK SAYLIN

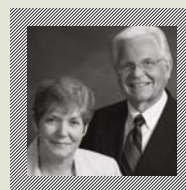
Called to Preside

J. Reuben Clark Law Society member Ruth Lybbert, partner at the Salt Lake City law firm of Dewsup King & Olsen, along with her husband, Dale G. Renlund, cardiologist, will respectively wrap up their two successful careers before moving to Johannesburg, South Africa, in July 2009. Called to the First Quorum of Seventy, Elder Renlund will serve as the second counselor in the Africa Southeast Area Presidency.

Ruth Lybbert graduated from the University of Maryland Law School. She is a past president of the Utah Association for Justice (UAJ), a professional organization dedicated to holding wrongdoers accountable for their actions and to preserving



PRESIDENT AND SISTER
DALE G. RENLUND



PRESIDENT AND SISTER
STANLEY D. NEELEMAN

trial by jury. She chairs the Judicial Conduct Commission, the body charged with investigating complaints against Utah judges. She formerly served on the Utah Supreme Court Advisory Committee for Professionalism and is a director of the Deseret News Publishing Company and of the Workers Compensation Fund of Utah.

New Temple President

BYU law professor Stanley D. Neeleman and his wife, Sheryl Hunt, have been called to serve as the Sao Paul Brazil Temple president and matron. Previously, he served as the president of the Brazil Sao Paulo South Mission.



BRENT H. NIELSON

Two Called to Quorums of Seventy

Brent H. Nielson, J. Reuben Clark Law Society member, has been called to the First Quorum of the Seventy. He had been serving as a member of the Fifth Quorum of the Seventy in the Idaho Area when called. Elder Nielson received a bachelor of arts degree in English from Brigham Young University and a law degree from the University of Utah and has been an attorney/partner at a law firm since 1985. He is married to Marcia Ann Bradford.

Wilford W. Andersen, '76, has been called to the Second Quorum of the Seventy. Elder Andersen was serving as a member of the Sixth Quorum of the Seventy in the North America Southwest Area when he was called. He received both a bachelor's degree in business management and a juris doctor degree from Brigham Young University. He has been a managing partner of an investment firm since 1969 in Mesa, Arizona. Elder Andersen is married to Kathleen Bennion.



WILFORD W. ANDERSEN

Reaching Full Harmony: Hearing Women in the Law

by Wendy Archibald

I AWOKE WITH A START WHEN MY ALARM WENT OFF AT 5 A.M. THE MORNING OF THE HIKE to Stewart Falls in Provo Canyon. We gathered in the predawn darkness, and I hiked alone, listening to the bits and pieces of conversation going on all around me. We arrived at the falls greeted by the first morning light. By then I could see the faces of my fellow hikers. I noted, as I often do, the ratio of men to women was about 3:1.

We sang the traditional hymns sung at Stewart Falls. There was a particularly moving moment when the sun broke brilliantly through the gathering storm clouds just as we started to sing “The Day Dawn Is Breaking.” I was especially pleased to have a baritone singing just behind me. I hardly heard my own singing as I listened to his deep, rich, resonate voice. Standing there at the falls singing hymns with all those men flooded me with warm memories of singing as one of a few sister missionaries in much larger groups of elders. There is something unparalleled in the power and tone of men’s singing groups. To be sure, there were women in both groups, but our voices were swallowed up in the sheer numbers of men singing in full voice.

I mused on both experiences as I hiked back to the conference, and a small ray of sunshine broke through the clouds of my thoughts. The music sung by men alone is inspiring; however, most great composers write music for the breadth of human voices: bass, tenor, alto, and soprano. In Spain, at Stewart Falls, and all too often in the legal profession, I see the faces of women but often find it difficult to hear their voices despite understanding that all four principle parts create a far more compelling chorus.

I have witnessed the positive differences an alto or soprano can make in a chorus otherwise dominated by basses and tenors. The recommendation of a sister missionary regarding the training of new missionaries and their senior companions resulted in a markedly more effective method for both. In my work as a guardian ad litem, I saw better outcomes for my clients with the perspective given from a four-part chorus. For example, a 17-year-old suffered years of abuse at the hands of her father. With very little evidence to mitigate the father’s behavior, all were prepared for the maximum sentence. However, the young victim had a very different point of view. She wanted her father to get much needed help but did not want him summarily removed from her life. The prosecutor set aside her own ambition and honored the wishes of the victim, explaining that the victim deserved to be heard after so many years of silence. The judge grudgingly issued a sentence near the minimum mandatory.

In music and in the practice of law, we are all diminished if one or more choral sections is muted. There are experiences inherent in the lives of women in the law that regularly inform different perspectives. There are occasions when notes are left out of a chord or a voice is left out of a legal proceeding. At first, it can be hardly noticeable, but over time the chord and ultimately legal decisions will sound hollow because neither resonates properly. In joining together, the varied strengths of each choral voice are magnified and weaknesses minimized. I’m sure we can’t imagine the music we can make by engaging a full range of voices in our legal associations.

The *Clark Memorandum* welcomes the submission of short essays and anecdotes from its readers. Send your short article (750 words or less) for “Life in the Law” to wisej@lawgate.byu.edu.