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Articles

Asking the Right Questions: Harnessing the Insights of Bernard Lonergan for the Rule of Law	s Patrick McKinley Brennan
Legal Theology: The Turn to Conceptualism in Nineteenth-Century Jewish Law	Chaim Saiman
Christian Scripture and American Scripture: An Instructive Analogy?	Gregory A. Kalscheur, S.J.
The Use of Natural Law in Early Calvinist Resistance Theory	David VanDrunen
Review Essays	
Religion in the World	Carolyn Evans
Religion and Politics in the United States	Marci A. Hamilton
Book Reviews	
Taking Faith Seriously, edited by Mary Jo Bane, Brent Coffin and Richard H	liggins Kenneth R. Himes
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Roger Williams (Lives and Legacies), by Edwin S. Gaustad	Timothy L. Hall
How Can a Christian be in Politics? A Guide Toward Faithful Politics,	d
by Roy Herron	Robert F. Drinan
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STATEMENT OF PERSPECTIVE

The Journal of Law and Religion was initiated in 1982 as a collaborative effort of the Council on Religion and Law and the Hamline University School of Law. It was born of a sense of historical malaise. The modern age with its strong propensity toward the secularization of all areas of life, while not without merit in its liberating effects, nonetheless has its dark side.

We live, some say, in a time of profound historical crisis. Domestically and globally, we confront massive issues which force us to reconsider, in fundamental ways, the shape and quality of our common life. Yet many of the disciplines of thought and practice that should be a rich resource in such a time are found wanting—among them, law and religion. Law, a discipline presumably devoted to the ways of justice, has all too often become a set of complex, technical tools without concern for higher purpose. Religion, presumably given to the all-embracing promises and prescriptions implied in the sense of the sacred, has all too often become privatized and neglectful of our public life.

The Journal of Law and Religion is dedicated to a fundamental reappraisal of the disciplines of law and religion as they impinge on each other, might instruct each other, and taken in their conjunction, might offer a constructive response to the major issues of our times. As such its concerns are sixfold.

- *Historical* The *Journal* intends to encourage the examination of historical developments, movements, thinkers, and issues to enrich our understanding of how law and religion have, in various ways, been mutually influential.
- *Theoretical* The *Journal* intends to promote constructive work in religious and legal thought about fundamental theological and jurisprudential questions pertaining to professional practice and the structures of our public life.
 - *Ethical* The *Journal* intends to support explorations into the foundations of ethical judgment and normative critiques of our social life, particularly as they draw upon resources from the life of law and religion.
 - **Global** The Journal intends to be encompassing in its reach, seeking out voices from all the religious and legal traditions throughout the world and bringing them into conversations with each other.
- **Professional** The Journal intends to stimulate collaboration between jurists and religious leaders given their respective commitments, as professionals, to the common good of all peoples.
 - *Spiritual* The *Journal* recognizes that human existence is grounded in the spiritual, which is represented in many forms and expressions.

The *Journal* is thus a forum within which the disciplines of law and religion might together consider with utmost seriousness their joint responsibility for the creation of a civilization of genuine peace and justice. Within the compass of that purpose, the *Journal* intends to be open-minded and non-prejudicial; it is receptive to submissions from all persuasions and perspectives.

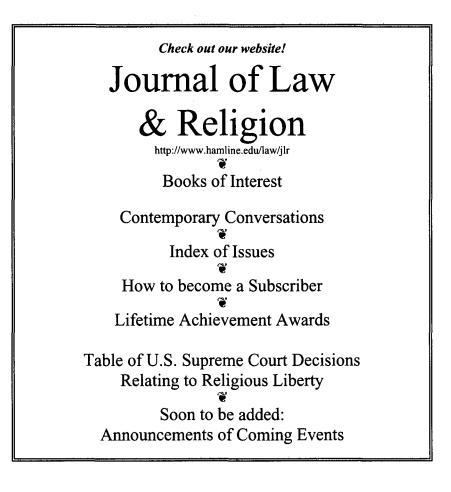
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THE JOURNAL OF LAW AND RELIGION

2005-2006

NUMBER 1

VOLUME XXI

	TABLE OF CONTENTS
Editor's Preface	xiii
	ARTICLES
Patrick McKinley	
Brennan	Asking the Right Questions: Harnessing the Insights of Bernard Lonergan for the Rule of Law
Chaim Saiman	Legal Theology: The Turn to Conceptualism in Nineteenth-Century Jewish Law
Gregory A. Kalscheur, S.J.	Christian Scripture and American Scripture: An Instructive Analogy?
David VanDrunen	The Use of Natural Law in Early Calvinist Resistance Theory143
	REVIEW ESSAYS
Carolyn Evans	Religion in the World169

Religion and Politics in the United States 173

Marci A. Hamilton

JOURNAL OF LAW & RELIGION

BOOK REVIEWS

Kenneth R. Himes	<i>Taking Faith Seriously</i> , edited by Mary Jo Bane, Brent Coffin and Richard Higgins181
Beth Berkowitz	<i>Homicide in the Biblical World,</i> by Pamela Barmash185
Timothy L. Hall	Roger Williams (Lives and Legacies), by Edwin S. Gaustad189
Robert F. Drinan	How Can a Christian be in Politics? A Guide Toward Faithful Politics, by Roy Herron193
Darrell Cole	Gandhi's Way: A Handbook of Conflict Resolution, by Mark Juergensmeyer
Peter Clark	Contemporary Catholic Health Care Ethics, by David F. Kelly201
Stacey A. Tovino	Introduction to Jewish and Catholic Bioethics: A Comparative Analysis, by Aaron L. Mackler
Mark P. Strasser	The Philosophy of Positive Law: Foundations of Jurisprudence, by James Bernard Murphy
David R. Dow	Religion and the Death Penalty: A Call for Reckoning, edited by Erik C. Owens, John D. Carlson and Eric P. Elshtain
Stephen Parker	In Good Faith: Schools, Religion and Public Funding, by Marie Parker-Jenkins, Dimitra Hartas and Barrie A. Irving217

JOURNAL OF LAW & RELIGION

Betty Mensch	Jonathan Edwards, <i>Gilead</i> , and the Problem of "Tradition":
	Gilead,
	by Marilynne Robinson;
	Jonathan Edwards: A Life,
	by George M. Marsden
James A.R. Nafziger	Religion & Security:
	The New Nexus in International Relations,
	edited by Robert A. Seiple and
	Dennis R. Hoover
Stacey A. Tovino	Jewish Biomedical Law:
	Legal and Extra-legal Dimensions,
	by Daniel B. Sinclair247
Dian Murray	Tibetan Buddhists in the Making of
,	Modern China,
	by Gary Tuttle
Stacey A. Tovino	The Birth of Surrogacy in Israel,
	by D. Kelly Weisberg
Anver M. Emon	Islamic Law and the Challenges of Modernity,
	edited by Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad and Barbara
	Freyer Stowasser
	-