

**A Symposium:**

**The Theology of the  
Practice of Law**

**Biographical Information of  
Participants**

**Presenter**

**JAMES BOYD WHITE...** Professor White is the L. Hart Wright Professor of Law and English at the University of Michigan where he is also Adjunct Professor of Classical Studies. He previously taught at the University of Colorado Law School and at the University of Chicago. He has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and was a Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar from 1997 to 1998. A member of the American Law Institute and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Professor White has also served as a Sheldon Fellow, a governor of the Chicago Council of Lawyers, and as chair of the Michigan Society of Fellows. In 2001, Professor White published his most personal book, *The Edge of Meaning*, in which the chapters retrace through an examination of literature, translation, reading, and writing, steps in a quest for meaning. His many other books include: *Heracles Bow: Essays in the Rhetoric and Poetics of the Law*; *When Words Lose Their Meaning*;

*Justice as Translation; "This Book of Starres": Learning to Read George Herbert; Acts of Hope: The Creation of an Authority in Literature, Law, and Politics; and From Expectation to Experience: Essays on Law and Legal Education.* Professor White is a graduate of Amherst College, Harvard Law School, and Harvard Graduate School.

### Presenter

**WALTER BRUEGGEMANN...** Professor Brueggemann is the William Marcellus McPheeters Professor of Old Testament at the Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. An ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, he is the author of more than twenty books on theology including, most recently, *The Covenanted Self: Explorations in Law and Covenant; Texts that Linger, Words that Explode: Listening to Prophetic Voices;* and *Deep Memory, Exuberant Hope: Contested Truth in a Post-Christian World.* His *Theology of the Old Testament: Testimony, Dispute, Advocacy*, a culmination of his many years of study, received the Academy of Parish Clergy Award "Book of the Year" and second place "Book of the Year" from the Catholic Press Association. In this text, Professor Brueggemann focuses on the courtroom trial as a metaphor for understanding the competing theological claims of the Old Testament and through this approach, points to the centrality of rhetoric and the "constitutive power of speech." Professor Brueggemann has been President of the Society of Biblical Literature and was named an Honorary Member of the British Society for Old Testament Study. He was honored recently with the publication of *Festschrift: God in the Fray: A Tribute to Walter Brueggemann.* A recipient of honorary degrees from a large number of institutions including the Jesuit School of Theology, Colgate, Virginia Theological Seminary, and many others, Professor Brueggemann also serves in an editorial capacity for numerous publications including *Theology Today, Christian Century, and Sojourners.* He is a graduate of Elmhurst College, Eden Theological Seminary, Union Theological Seminary, and St. Louis University.

### Respondent

**MARIE A. FAILINGER...** Professor Failinger teaches at the Hamline University School of Law located in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she is also editor of the international and interfaith *Journal of Law and Religion.* Professor Failinger has written in the areas of constitutional law and civil rights, ethics and professional responsibility, law and religion, and poverty law. Most recently, however, she has explored the connection between the theological conception of covenant and the

practice of law. In addition to her teaching, writing, and editorial work, Professor Failing has been a founder of and served with many nonprofit organizations on issues of poverty law, legal services for the disadvantaged, children and the law, church mission and growth, American Indian policy, and adoption. For these many accomplishments, Professor Failing was named corecipient of the Minnesota Women Lawyers' first annual service award and now serves that organization as a committee chair. She is also a founding member and the current Secretary of the National Equal Justice Library. Prior to becoming a teacher, Professor Failing practiced civil law for low income clients at the Legal Services Organization of Indiana where she specialized in health and welfare law issues and directed projects on community development, lay education, and advocacy. A graduate of Valparaiso University and Yale University, she was Visiting Scholar at the University of Chicago Divinity School in 1990.

### Presenter

**JOSEPH VINING...** Professor Vining is the Harry Burns Hutchins Professor of Law at the University of Michigan. He has written and lectured extensively in the fields of legal philosophy, administrative law, corporate law, comparative law, and criminal law. The author of *Legal Identity* and *The Authoritative and the Authoritarian*, his most recent book, *From Newton's Sleep*, published in 1995, focuses on the legal form of thought and its general implications. *From Newton's Sleep* has been described by H. Jefferson Powell as "one of the most important books ever written about law as a practice that involves whole persons and engages the emotions, imagination, and spirit as well as the mind." Prior to his becoming a professor, Professor Vining practiced with Covington and Burling in Washington, D.C., served with the Department of Justice, and served on the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice. A former Senior Fellow of the National Endowment for the Humanities and a Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Fellow, Professor Vining is currently a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Law Institute, and serves as an associate at the Erasmus Institute. He is a graduate of Yale University, Harvard Law School, and has a degree in history from Cambridge University.

### Presenter

**PETER ACKROYD...** Mr. Ackroyd is the author of *The Life of Thomas More*, a retelling of More's life in which the role of his practice as a

lawyer and judge is central to understanding his theology. Mr. Ackroyd graduated from Cambridge University and from Yale University, where he was a Mellon Fellow. At the end of his study at Yale, he announced his presence as a literary scholar in the very influential *Notes for a New Culture: An Essay on Modernism*. Mr. Ackroyd has served as literary and managing editor of the weekly magazine, *The Spectator*, and as chief book reviewer for *The Times* in London. He has authored other biographies, including those of Blake and Dickens. His biography of T.S. Eliot received the Whitbread Biography of the Year Award and was joint winner of the Royal Society of Literature's William Heinemann Award. Mr. Ackroyd is also a celebrated novelist who, in his words, subscribes to the English tradition of "melancholy, lyricism, and camp" cultivating, according to one reviewer, a "postmodernist delight in parody and linguistic self-consciousness." His fictional works include *First Light*, *English Music*, *The Trial of Elizabeth Cree*, and most recently, *The Plato Papers*. His novel, *Hawksmoor*, received the Whitbread, Guardian Fiction, and Goncourt awards, and his novel, *Chatterton*, was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. An earlier work, *The Last Testament of Oscar Wilde*, won the Somerset Maugham Award for its reproduction of Wilde's voice and linguistic mannerisms. Selections from Mr. Ackroyd's journalism, reviews, essays, short stories, and lectures have been gathered recently in *The Collection*, edited by Thomas Wright, and his most recent historical work, *London: The Biography*, has received favorable reviews in *The Times Literary Supplement*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *The London Review of Books*, and *The New York Review of Books*. Mr. Ackroyd lives in London – "the landscape for [his] imagination."

### Respondent

**JOSEPH ALLEGRETTI...** Professor Allegretti holds the first endowed professorship at Siena College as the Douglas T. Hickey Professor of Business. Previously he served as the A.A. and Ethel Yossem Professor of Legal Ethics at the Creighton University School of Law in Omaha, Nebraska. At Creighton he also taught in the graduate theology program and was a Faculty Associate at the School's Center for Health Policy and Ethics. Professor Allegretti has written and researched extensively in the areas of professional ethics; the intersection of law and religion; and the relationship between faith and work, especially the spiritual significance of work. These interests are best reflected in his two books: *The Lawyer's Calling: Christian Faith and Legal Practice* and *Loving Your Job, Finding Your Passion: Work and the Spiritual Life*. Professor Allegretti's work has been published widely in both law

reviews and religious journals, and he is a frequently featured speaker and retreat and workshop leader on issues of legal practice and religion. He has earned degrees from Colgate University, Harvard Law School, and Yale Divinity School. Professor Allegretti lives near Albany, New York.

### **Moderator**

**ROBERT AUDI...** Professor Audi is the Charles J. Mach Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and the Distinguished Professor of the College of Arts and Sciences at Santa Clara University. His primary philosophical interests are ethics and value theory including medical and legal ethics, epistemology, philosophy of the mind and action, philosophy of religion – especially religious epistemology, and philosophy of the social sciences. The former President of the American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Professor Audi received both the Wilde Lectureship at Oxford University and the Reid Lectureship at Wake Forest University in 2001. He is the author of many books including *The Structure of Justification*, *Moral Knowledge and Ethical Character*, and most recently, *The Architecture of Reason: The Structure and Substance of Rationality* in which he offers a unified account of reason. Professor Audi's work on issues of law, politics, and religion include *Religious Commitment and Secular Reasoning* and *Religion in the Public Square: The Place of Religious Convictions in Political Debate* written jointly with Nicholas Wolterstorff. He received a Pew Foundation Fellowship for this work. Professor Audi is Editor-in-Chief of *The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy* and a former editor of the *Journal of Philosophical Research*. A recipient of six National Endowment for the Humanities Grants, he has also served on numerous editorial boards, including those for the *Journal of Ethics*, the *American Philosophy Quarterly*, and *Faith and Philosophy*. In 1995 he was awarded a Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa*, by the University of Helsinki. Professor Audi is a graduate of Colgate University and the University of Michigan. He lives in Lincoln, Nebraska.

### **Dinner Speaker**

**MILLARD FULLER...** Mr. Fuller, an attorney, is the president of Habitat for Humanity International, which he and his wife, Linda Fuller, founded in 1976. Since its inception, Habitat for Humanity has provided more than 500,000 people with safe and affordable shelter in seventy-nine countries and is, in the words of President Bill Clinton, “the most successful continuous community service project in the history of

the United States.” In 1996 Mr. Fuller received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. He has also received the Frank Annunzio Award from the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation, a Jefferson Award for Greatest Public Service Benefitting the Disadvantaged from the American Institute of Public Service, the John W. Gardener Leadership Award, the Harry S. Truman Public Service Award, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award. Mr. Fuller has also been named one of the most influential people in homebuilding by *Builder* magazine, one of the 20 Georgians who most influenced the 20<sup>th</sup> Century by the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, and Builder of the Year by *Professional Builder*. He is the author of numerous books including *The Theology of the Hammer; A Simple, Decent Place to Live*; and his most recent, *More Than Houses*. Mr. Fuller is a graduate of Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama and the University of Alabama Law School in Tuscaloosa.