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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Senator Orrin Hatch Presented International Center for Law and Religion Studies Distinguished Service Award

(Provo, UT – Oct. 1, 2014) The International Center for Law and Religion Studies (ICLRS) at Brigham Young University will present Utah Senator Orrin Hatch with the Distinguished Service Award at the opening session of the 21st Annual International Law and Religion Symposium on Sunday, October 5, at 7:00 p.m. MDT. Senator Hatch will also be the keynote speaker at this session, which will be streamed live online from BYU Law School (for information please visit the [Annual Symposium](#) tab at www.iclrs.org).



Senator Hatch has had an important influence upon U.S. legislation over a Senate career spanning nearly four decades. Notable among his prestigious assignments have been his long service as chair or ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee; his membership on the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee; his current services as the ranking member on the Senate Finance Committee; and as a member the Board of Directors for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Senator Hatch was the co-sponsor of the landmark Hatch-Waxman generic drug use law passed in 1984, and he was a critical force in garnering bipartisan support for the passage of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) in 1993 and was the principal author of the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA), passed by a unanimous Congress in 2000, which protected all religions' right to build church facilities on private property.

“Over his lengthy career, Senator Hatch has been a consistent and articulate defender of religious freedom,” said ICLRS Associate Director and BYU Law School Associate Dean Brett G. Scharffs. “From his work on the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which is the most important legislation in the last half century dealing with freedom of religion, to his work on the International Religious Freedom Act, to name just two, Senator Hatch has been at the forefront of issues relating to freedom of conscience, religion, and belief.”

As ICLRS Associate Director Professor Gary B. Doxey observed, “Senator Hatch has played a truly significant role – perhaps the leading role – in shaping religious freedom legislation in America.”