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Annual Symposium Addresses Varieties of Secularism, Religion, and the Law
Experts and Government Officials from around the World to Attend

The International Center for Law and Religion Studies at Brigham Young University will hold its twenty-first annual International Law and Religion Symposium, "Varieties of Secularism, Religion, and the Law," October 5-7, 2014 on BYU campus. The opening session on Sunday evening, October 5, will feature a keynote address by United States Senator from Utah Orrin Hatch, who will also receive the Center's Distinguished Service Award.

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, and 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 a critical force in garnering bi-partisan 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.

The opening session, beginning at 7:00 p.m. MDT in the Moot Court Room, 303, of the Law School, will be available through live Internet streaming.

The 2014 Symposium will bring together scholars, government officials, and religious and civic leaders from 40 countries to discuss topics such as Secularism, Religion, and Social Tension; Religious Responses to Secularism; Varieties of Secularism; The Future of Secularisms; and Religious and Theoretical Understandings of Secularism, from national, regional, and international perspectives.

This year's delegates come from Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, France, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Korea, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, and Vietnam.

Formally established in January 2000, the Center has emerged as a recognized leader in the field of religious rights both nationally and internationally. The Center's directors have lectured and published widely about law and religion, have testified before legislatures and courts, and have sponsored conferences, seminars, and training sessions in all parts of the world.

The Center is dedicated to securing freedom of religion and belief for all people by expanding, deepening, and disseminating knowledge and expertise regarding the interrelationship of law and religion. It facilitates the growth of networks of scholars, experts, and policy makers involved in the field

of religion and law and makes significant contributions to law reform processes and broader implementation of principles of religious freedom worldwide.

For additional information, including information about accessing the live stream of the Sunday evening session, please visit the Center's website at <http://www.iclrs.org>.