

EDITOR'S PREFACE

When the Editorial Board of the Journal of Law and Religion first discussed the symposium on suicide in this volume, the American popular press was focused on what the United States Supreme Court would do in *Washington v Glucksberg*, a case challenging the State of Washington's criminal prohibition against "causing" or "aiding" a suicide under the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Yet, once again, the popular discussion barely acknowledged the lengthy and rich discussion of these most critical human concerns within the religious traditions. So we sought persons from a number of traditions to write on the subject, representing the diversity within their own traditions as well. Damien Keown, Peter Harvey and R. E. Florida give us a helpful history of Buddhist ethical thought on taking one's life. Rabbis Steven H. Resnicoff and Daniel Sinclair provide a comprehensive look at Jewish law and Jewish medical ethics, both historical and modern, on these issues; and we also include a brief outline of work that Ze'ev Falk was doing on these matters when he died. The conservative rabbinical association in the United States has recently adopted an opinion on these matters, authored by Rabbi Elliot Dorff, which will be both an authoritative and valuable resource for this discussion.

We are also very fortunate to be publishing a symposium on religion and state issues as they have developed in New Zealand, a nation-state which, like many in our world, includes vastly different traditions within its borders. Because any legal resolution of these issues is so highly dependent on context, this symposium introduces readers to the social, religious and legal history of New Zealand which has given rise to the law of religion and state. The symposium probes in some depth public policy issues regarding primary/secondary schools as well as religious social welfare institutions that have been the mainstay of religion and state discussions in other countries. We are grateful to Rex J. Ahdar, who brought the symposium to our attention, along with authors John Stenhouse, Reid Mortensen and John Evans, who will contribute much to our understanding of how culture and context shapes the legal resolution of these matters. Our next issue will look at Irish church-state law, and we hope to publish more on religion and the state in other countries.

Kif Augustine-Adams takes us into the thicket of competing loyalties that face any religious person who finds him or herself with allegiances both to faith and to nation. Taking the Church of the Latter-Day Saints, a religious community which has suffered both persecution and ostracism in a democratic state committed to religious tolerance, Augustine-Adams asks how any religious person can understand herself in a web of allegiances. We also present book reviews by Samuel J. Levine, Bernard V. Brady, and Robert G. Goldenberg from three new books: Frederick Mark Gedicks' *The Rhetoric of Church and State*, R. Bruce Douglass and David Hollenbach's *Catholicism and Liberalism*, and Christine Hayes' *Between the Babylonian and Palestinian Talmuds*.

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