September 2007

Dedication: Professor Steven G. Gey

Mary Claire Johnson  
*West Virginia University College of Law*

John E. Taylor  
*West Virginia University College of Law, john.taylor@mail.wvu.edu*

Vivian E. Hamilton  
*College of William and Mary School of Law*

William P. Marshall  
*University of North Carolina School of Law*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/wvlr](https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/wvlr)  
Part of the [Law Commons](https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/wvlr)

Recommended Citation  
Available at: [https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/wvlr/vol110/iss1/6](https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/wvlr/vol110/iss1/6)
DEDICATION: PROFESSOR STEVEN G. GEY

The editors and staff of Volume 110 of the WEST VIRGINIA LAW REVIEW dedicate this special symposium issue, The Religion Clauses in the 21st Century, to Professor Steven G. Gey. Few scholars have done so much to enrich discussion of the law of church and state, and it is a privilege to honor Professor Gey’s contributions to the law and to legal scholarship.

Steven Gey is the David and Deborah Fonvielle and Donald and Janet Hinkle Professor of Law at Florida State University, where he has taught since 1985. In this issue, Douglas Laycock calls Professor Gey “academia’s most able and most prominent defender” of a strict separationist approach to the Religion Clauses. Professor Gey’s contribution to the symposium, Life After the Establishment Clause, amply justifies that characterization. His article charts the rise of a new “integrationist” approach to the Establishment Clause, which Professor Gey predicts will only gain further ground as the Roberts Court crafts its approach to the law of church and state. Professor Gey offers powerful criticisms of the integrationist approach and boldly argues that it contains the seeds of its own demise. As he told the symposium audience during his featured address, “Separationists are in for a tough decade, but after that decade we’re going to be back.” Whether one agrees or disagrees with Professor Gey’s point of view, his ideas and his writing are provocative, instructive, and impossible to ignore.

Over the course of his career, Professor Gey has influenced—and continues to influence—the law and lawyers through exemplary scholarship, inspirational teaching, and tireless advocacy. He is the author of over thirty scholarly articles on the Religion Clauses, freedom of speech, and constitutional theory. He is also sole author of CASES AND MATERIALS ON RELIGION AND THE STATE (LexisNexis, 2d ed. 2006) and a co-author of the forthcoming casebook, FIRST AMENDMENT: CASES AND THEORY (Aspen 2007). Professor Gey has received a University Teaching Award from Florida State University and has been honored several times as its College of Law Professor of the Year. During the controversial aftermath of the 2000 presidential election, the nation became Professor Gey’s classroom when he served as a regular legal commentator for ABC News. In 2007, the National Center for Science Education awarded him its “Friend of Darwin” Award in recognition of his advocacy of the teaching of evolutionary theory in the public schools. He also has been recognized with the Association of the Bar of the City of New York’s Thurgood Marshall Award for his pro bono representation of death row inmates. Before joining the Florida State faculty in 1985, Professor Gey practiced with Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison in New York City for three years. He received his J.D. in 1982 from Columbia University School of Law, where he was Articles Editor of the COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW.
Steven Gey represents the best of what lawyers and the legal academy have to offer. We are delighted to dedicate this issue of the West Virginia Law Review to him.

Mary Claire Johnson
Editor-in-Chief
A TRIBUTE TO STEVEN G. GEY

We applaud the WEST VIRGINIA LAW REVIEW for its decision to dedicate this symposium issue to Steve Gey. It is a fitting tribute to one of the most accomplished scholars—and one of the nicest people—in the legal academy. Steve is an especially appropriate honoree for a symposium co-sponsored by the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy, for he has been active in ACS from its beginnings and embodies its ideals as well as anyone ever could.

When we began the work of organizing this symposium on The Religion Clauses in the 21st Century, it took us about 30 seconds to decide to invite Steve to participate. We knew Steve to be an extraordinary speaker, and his featured address, Life After the Establishment Clause, did not disappoint. It is no easy task to hold an audience spellbound with a discussion of a coming paradigm shift in First Amendment law, but Steve was able to do exactly that. His combination of acute analysis, personal charisma, and winning humor made his talk unforgettable. We would encourage you to view Steve’s talk (and the other symposium presentations) by visiting the websites of the WVU College of Law or the American Constitution Society. You’ll find it time well spent.

Everyone who studies the First Amendment knows Steve’s scholarly work. His vision of the First Amendment as characterized by a strongly separationist Establishment Clause and an uncompromising commitment to free speech must be addressed and accounted for by both admirers and detractors. It is an inescapable feature of the intellectual landscape. But Steve’s work, excellent though it is, only captures a part of who he is.

When you think of Steve Gey, you think of courage and of grace. Steve’s courage is evident in a lifetime of fighting for positions that do not always play well with the American public: strict opposition to government funding or endorsement of religion, strict opposition to the censorship of pornography and hate speech. He has argued for these positions without pulling punches and without apology, but also without rancor. It is, perhaps, not so difficult to take the public stances Steve has taken in places like New York or Chicago. To take the same stances in the Bible belt requires courage.

Steve’s grace is evident in his commitment to his students and his colleagues. Every summer, Steve arrives at the ACS annual conference with a dozen Florida State law students in tow, and anyone can see how much they love and admire him. He is the classic mentor and the classic teacher. He can never spend enough time working with students. He can never spend enough listening and responding to the views of his colleagues—no matter how sharp their disagreements with him might be. In his courage and his grace, Steve Gey is the kind of professor that we all should be. He deserves to be honored for these qualities as much as for his writing. He is proof that a life in the law can be a life well lived.

John Taylor
Vivian Hamilton
Bill Marshall