



**J. REUBEN CLARK LAW SOCIETY
RELIGIOUS LIBERTY FELLOWSHIP**

June 1 - 5, 2026 | Freedoms Foundation | Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

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**IMPACT
REPORT**



Executive Summary

Through the generous support of donors and the Religious Freedom and Human Dignity (RFHD) Initiative at Brigham Young University–Hawaii, three student fellows participated in the 2026 J. Reuben Clark Law Society Religious Liberty Fellowship held in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

The fellowship provided students with an immersive learning experience focused on constitutional law, religious liberty, public service, and leadership. More importantly, it fulfilled the mission of the Religious Freedom and Human Dignity Initiative by preparing students to become future leaders who promote religious freedom, defend human dignity, and contribute to peaceful societies throughout the world.

Rather than serving simply as conference attendees, the fellows represented BYU–Hawaii and the RFHD Initiative while engaging with constitutional scholars, attorneys, judges, law professors, graduate students, and legal professionals from across the United States. Through these interactions, students developed meaningful professional relationships, clarified career goals, strengthened academic aspirations, and gained greater confidence in their ability to contribute to the global conversation surrounding religious freedom.

The experiences documented throughout this report demonstrate that RFHD’s investment extends far beyond conference participation. The fellowship strengthened students academically, professionally, personally, and spiritually while creating opportunities that will continue influencing their education, leadership, and future careers.

Collectively, students established meaningful professional relationships, developed lasting mentorship relationships, clarified graduate school and career aspirations, strengthened their leadership capacity, and returned prepared to advance the mission of the Religious Freedom and Human Dignity Initiative through future scholarship, service, and advocacy.

RFHD Impact at a Glance

- **3** BYU–Hawaii RFHD Student Fellows participated in the 2026 J. Reuben Clark Law Society Religious Liberty Fellowship.
 - **100%** of participating students reported increased confidence in pursuing careers in law, religious freedom, public service, or peacebuilding.
 - **100%** of participating students described the fellowship as strengthening or clarifying their plans for graduate education.
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- Students established meaningful mentorship relationships with nationally recognized constitutional scholars, attorneys, judges, law professors, and graduate students.
 - Students developed professional relationships with leaders from the **J. Reuben Clark Law Society, Becket, the International Center for Law and Religion Studies (ICLRS), BYU Law,** and the **University of Texas School of Law.**
 - Students represented Brigham Young University–Hawaii and the Religious Freedom and Human Dignity Initiative while contributing perspectives rooted in Oceania and the Asian Rim.
 - Student reflections consistently demonstrated growth in academic preparation, professional confidence, leadership development, and personal commitment to advancing religious freedom and human dignity.
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RFHD’s Impact on Student Development

The Religious Freedom and Human Dignity Initiative invests in experiential learning opportunities that extend classroom education into real-world leadership development. Through participation in the J. Reuben Clark Law Society Religious Liberty Fellowship, students gained knowledge, mentorship, professional relationships, and practical experiences that strengthened both their personal development and future career preparation. Student reflections consistently demonstrated growth across four interconnected areas: academic preparation, professional development, leadership, and personal discipleship.

This fellowship directly advanced RFHD’s mission by allowing students to apply classroom learning in a professional environment while engaging with national leaders in constitutional law, public policy, and religious liberty.

Across their reflections, students consistently described growth in four major areas:

- Academic development
- Professional preparation
- Leadership development
- Personal and spiritual growth

These outcomes demonstrate the long-term value of RFHD’s experiential learning model.

Academic Growth

The fellowship significantly strengthened students' academic interests and clarified future educational goals.

Students reported developing a deeper understanding of constitutional law, the First Amendment, religious liberty jurisprudence, and comparative approaches to protecting human dignity.

For several fellows, the experience also strengthened their desire to pursue graduate education.

As **John Andrew Quizana** reflected,

“This immersion has deeply refined my personal professional focus, shifting my perspective from viewing the law purely through the lens of adversarial litigation to recognizing it as a vehicle for structural peacebuilding, community accommodation, and the defense of human dignity.”

Similarly, **William Luke Vatikani** described how the fellowship strengthened his educational aspirations:

“This experience has solidified my plans for academic growth that someday I plan to attend law school and specifically BYU Law, so I can promote an impactful legal profession and become a true advocate for faith and religious freedom.”

Students also recognized their responsibility to bring this knowledge back to the BYU–Hawaii community through future research, classroom discussions, mentoring fellow students, and continued involvement with the Religious Freedom and Human Dignity Initiative.

Professional Growth and Career Preparation

One of the most significant outcomes of the fellowship was helping students clarify their future career paths.

Rather than simply learning about constitutional law, students interacted directly with practicing attorneys, judges, professors, graduate students, and public policy professionals who shared their experiences and offered practical career guidance.

For **Wade Utai**, these conversations transformed uncertainty into direction:

“This conference helped solidify my decision on law school, and I understand the path that I need to take in order to reach the destination.”

He further reflected,

“Your donation has connected my somewhat lost self, to a future full of purpose, service, and love for others.”

Likewise, **William Luke Vatikani** explained,

“I was initially hesitant about what I would do after graduation, but I now believe that attending law school is the right path for me.”

Collectively, the fellowship strengthened each student’s confidence in pursuing graduate education while providing direct access to professionals who offered guidance on law school preparation, career pathways, and future opportunities in constitutional law, religious liberty, and public service.

Leadership Development

The fellowship also strengthened students’ confidence as future leaders and advocates for religious freedom.

Students represented both BYU–Hawaii and the Religious Freedom and Human Dignity Initiative while participating in discussions on constitutional law, religious liberty, and human dignity alongside legal professionals and graduate students from across the United States.

John Andrew Quizana reflected,

“Being part of the discussions held by lawyers of a high rank, I felt a huge degree of responsibility to be the ambassador of BYUH.”

He further recognized that the experience created opportunities extending well beyond the conference itself:

“The benefit of this fellowship was that it helped me create structural openings for myself toward some of the top legal and public policy schools in the United States.”

Students also reported increased confidence engaging with professionals, asking questions, and participating in discussions that initially felt intimidating.

William Luke Vatikani summarized this transformation by writing,

“I realized that staying inside my comfort zone would never allow me to grow, so I chose to take a leap of faith.”

Networking, Mentorship, and Professional Relationships

One of RFHD’s greatest strengths is creating opportunities for students to develop lasting professional relationships.

Throughout the fellowship, students connected with constitutional scholars, attorneys, judges, graduate students, professors, and leaders within the J. Reuben Clark Law Society. These professional relationships included individuals affiliated with the **J. Reuben Clark Law Society, Becket, the International Center for Law and Religion Studies (ICLRS), BYU Law, and the University of Texas School of Law**, providing students with mentorship, graduate school guidance, and long-term professional connections.

These professional relationships provided opportunities for:

- Law school preparation
- Graduate education
- Career planning
- Religious liberty research
- International legal work
- Public service opportunities
- Mentorship

John Andrew Quizana reflected,

“I was able to form an advisory board that will help me invite top-notch guest speakers and consultants to BYUH.”

William Luke Vatikani similarly emphasized the importance of stepping outside his comfort zone:

“Because I stepped out of my comfort zone, I had the opportunity to connect with Professor Steve Collis... That incredible connection didn’t happen because I sat in my comfort zone—it happened because I stood up, walked over, and spoke.”

These experiences illustrate RFHD’s role in helping students develop professional confidence while establishing relationships that may continue throughout their academic and professional careers.

Personal and Spiritual Growth

Beyond academic and professional development, students consistently described meaningful personal growth.

Many reflected that the fellowship strengthened not only their understanding of religious liberty but also their commitment to serving others through their future professions.

William Luke Vatikani wrote,

“I want to be a beacon of hope and a lifelong disciple of Jesus Christ that will continue to advocate for the greater good and the ways of the Savior.”

Similarly, **Wade Utai** reflected,

“I want to help other people understand their purpose and dignity in life.”

These reflections demonstrate that the fellowship supported RFHD’s mission of developing leaders whose professional goals remain grounded in service, faith, and respect for the inherent dignity of every individual.

Lasting Outcomes of RFHD’s Investment

RFHD’s investment in experiential learning continues long after the fellowship concludes. Rather than ending with conference participation, students returned with strengthened academic goals, expanded professional networks, increased leadership confidence, and a deeper commitment to advancing religious freedom and human dignity. These lasting outcomes illustrate how RFHD prepares future leaders through intentional investment in student development.

Through RFHD’s investment in this fellowship, all three student fellows:

- Strengthened their commitment to careers centered on religious freedom, public service, law, and human dignity.
 - Expanded their professional networks by building relationships with constitutional scholars, attorneys, judges, graduate students, and leaders of the J. Reuben Clark Law Society.
 - Received mentorship regarding law school preparation, graduate education, and career development.
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- Deepened their understanding of constitutional law, religious liberty, and the role of legal professionals in protecting fundamental rights.
- Represented Brigham Young University–Hawaii and the Religious Freedom and Human Dignity Initiative while contributing perspectives from the Pacific and participating in discussions on global religious freedom.
- Returned prepared to share their experiences with future RFHD fellows and the BYU–Hawaii community through mentorship, research, and continued involvement with the Initiative.

These outcomes demonstrate how RFHD provides students with opportunities that foster academic growth, leadership development, professional preparation, and long-term service.

Looking Ahead

The relationships, mentorships, and professional experiences developed through the Religious Liberty Fellowship will continue influencing these students throughout graduate education, legal careers, public service, and future leadership opportunities. As they continue serving within their professions and communities, they will carry forward the mission of the Religious Freedom and Human Dignity Initiative by promoting appreciation, tolerance, esteem, religious freedom, and human dignity throughout Oceania, the Asian Rim, and beyond.

As these students continue their academic and professional journeys, they will also serve as mentors and ambassadors for future RFHD fellows, extending the Initiative’s impact to future generations of student leaders.

Conclusion

The 2026 J. Reuben Clark Law Society Religious Liberty Fellowship demonstrates the long-term impact of the Religious Freedom and Human Dignity Initiative’s commitment to experiential learning, student leadership, and professional development. Through this opportunity, RFHD prepared students to become principled leaders committed to defending religious freedom, promoting human dignity, and serving their communities through law, public service, education, and peacebuilding.

Through RFHD's support, students strengthened their academic interests, clarified career goals, developed meaningful professional relationships, and increased their confidence as future leaders. They returned to BYU-Hawaii not only with greater knowledge but with a renewed commitment to serve others through law, public policy, peacebuilding, education, and advocacy.

As the Initiative continues creating opportunities like this fellowship, its influence extends well beyond individual students. Each participant returns prepared to mentor others, contribute to the university community, and carry forward the mission of building peaceful societies founded upon religious freedom, mutual respect, and the inherent dignity of every person.

In this way, RFHD's investment extends beyond the three fellows who attended the fellowship, strengthening future student leaders and expanding the Initiative's long-term impact on the BYU-Hawaii community and beyond.