

## INTRODUCTION TO THE “PUBLIC AND CHURCH AFFAIRS” SECTION FOR VOLUME IX

By Stephen M. Krason

This section features three interesting contributions that are by or have involved SCSS members. All of these contributions deserve to be considered documents of record. The first is an excellent example of what might be called true ecumenism in the contemporary world. Austin Ruse, President of the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute, which monitors the UN, delivered this as a talk to a group primarily made up of Muslim diplomats. He speaks, openly as a Catholic who makes clear that Catholicism is the true Church of God, about the inter-religious cooperation that has increasingly taken place in recent years defending innocent human life and the family against the corrosive forces of secularism. The second contribution is an *amicus curiae* brief written and filed on behalf of the SCSS by Gerard V. Bradley of Notre Dame Law School, the SCSS’s Board of Advisors Chairman and Public and Church Affairs Committee Chairman, The case in question, *Morrison v. Sadler*, in the Indiana Court of Appeals, supported the State of Indiana’s decision to refuse to recognize same-sex “marriage.” Funding for the brief came from the Alliance Defense Fund, which supports such efforts on family issues, religious liberty, and other questions. The third contribution is an *amicus curiae* brief filed in the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Locke v. Davey*, concerning the constitutionality of Washington State’s refusing to give a state-funded scholarship to a student engaged in theological studies, on the basis of a Blaine Amendment-type prohibition in its state constitution (an action which the Supreme Court upheld). The brief, filed on behalf of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, and a group of scholars, was co-authored by SCSS member Richard W. Garnett of Notre

Dame Law School. Among the scholars being represented were Gerard V. Bradley, SCSS Board of Advisors member and Harvard Law School professor Mary Ann Glendon, and SCSS Board of Directors member and Northern Illinois University political science professor Dr. Gary D. Glenn. The Catholic League, of course, is headed by SCSS Board of Advisors member Dr. William A. Donohue. The brief, in arguing against Washington State's position, provides historical evidence that Blaine Amendment provisions were shaped by anti-Catholic nativism. It is reprinted here with the kind permission of the Becket Fund.