



THE FEDERALIST SOCIETY
FOR LAW & PUBLIC POLICY STUDIES
JUDGE GERALD TJOFLAT CHAPTER
AT DUKE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

February 26, 2015

Nikolas T. Nikas, Esq.
President & General Counsel
Bioethics Defense Fund
6811 E. Voltaire Avenue
Scottsdale, AZ 85254
(602) 751-7234

Dear Mr. Nikas:

On behalf of the Duke Law Student Chapter of the Federalist Society, I want to convey our sincere thanks for your outstanding presentation. Numerous students have approached me and expressed their deep appreciation for the questions you raised, as well as the cordial, intelligent manner with which you made your case.

I write specifically to explain why I believe your ministry is critical. In my anecdotal experience, law students often have only enough information to jeer at those who diverge from the “accepted” positions on controversial issues. A colleague confided to me earlier this year that he eagerly anticipates the time when science will eliminate the need for ethics. Though many would not go *that* far, hardly anyone is comfortable discussing bioethical issues because it has been instilled in us that morality is personal while science is universal. In suggesting that the shibboleths of scientific progress should be philosophically confronted, your talks raised the level of debate at our law school. To paraphrase Asimov’s Dr. Lanning, your presentation explained that science is limited, so we must ask the right questions. “Can we?” must ultimately be qualified by “should we?” That Professor Miller and three other students stayed afterwards for an hour to argue, question, and discuss these concepts, is a testament to the environment you created and the curiosity you aroused.

Lastly, I want to commend your manner of persuasion. Your gracious and humble demeanor created a safe space for students to learn, push back, and ask deep questions. As for myself, thank you for embodying salt and light, for speaking the truth with love, and for demonstrating that Christian convictions could be carried by reason.

God bless,

Chase Harrington
1L Board Member, Duke Law School Chapter