

"And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus." — Philippians 4:19 (NIV)

Attorney Charles LiMandri Practices Law in the Spirit

By CAZ TAYLOR

Being in the world, yet not of the world is a commanding task for most Christians. It is all the more challenging for Christian lawyers like Charles LiMandri. Charles is the West Coast regional director of the Thomas More Law Center and president of the Law Offices of Charles LiMandri in Rancho Santa Fe. A lover of God and a lover of the legal system, LiMandri spends much of his illustrious career balancing the law with the Spirit of the law.

He is one of the frontline champions winning the court battle to keep the cross on Soledad Mountain. "It has become the longest running religious freedom case in the country," said LiMandri.

The attorney is also poised to help defend the church against intensifying religious persecution. Some of this is tied to same sex marriage issues being thrust upon this county, state and nation. "We've come to a tipping point in our culture," warned LiMandri. "Gays and lesbians are engaging the issue on a more emotional, civil rights platform claiming discrimination. I think they realize that intellectually and scripturally they can't win."

LiMandri plans to partner with other Christian leaders in San Diego to offer ideas to pastors and congregations to best address the issue. "A good thing that comes out of religious persecution," he said, "is that people of faith realize how important it is to unite in defense of that faith."

For as long as LiMandri can remember, he's always seen himself as a defender of the faith. "In kindergarten, I remember dressing up in a coat and tie, with a briefcase," he said. "I loved to watch Perry Mason on television."

A native San Diegan, the Catholic-raised LiMandri learned to balance the natural with the spiritual from early on. "I never experienced the lightning bolt from the sky, but had a steady maturing in the teachings of Jesus."

Christians in business



LiMandri's faith has been an integral part of his successes. A wrestling team captain and student body vice president at Saint Augustine High School, he went on to study law at Georgetown University Law Center. While pursuing his English major and a philosophy minor, LiMandri became student body president and graduated with "Outstanding Senior Man" honors, bestowed upon him by the University of San Diego's administration.

During LiMandri's involvement in the USD Oxford program and further graduate program studies, he learned of Thomas More, Lord Chancellor of England in the 16th Century. This historic leader was second only to the king, and adjoined Godly conviction with the law profession. This posture won worldwide acclaim, along with a martyred death. In remembrance, Thomas More was identified as the lawyer of the millennium by the British Legal Society. "I saw him as a great legal mind and a saint," said Charles. "In fact, I patterned my early legal profession after him."

Charles' appreciation of Thomas More blossomed into his role as West Coast Director of the Thomas More Law Center, a not-for-profit public interest law firm dedicated to the defense and promotion of the religious freedom of Christians, time-honored family values, and the sanctity of human life. As stated in their website at www.thomasmore.org, their "ministry was inspired by the recognition that the issues of the *cultural war* being waged across America, issues such as abortion, pornography, school prayer, and the removal of the Ten Commandments from municipal and school buildings, are not being decided by elected legislatures, but by the courts."

Today, LiMandri is balancing his pro bono work with his own law practice. As a civil trial advocate, certified by the National Board of Trial Advocacy, his areas of expertise include business and insurance litigations, breach of contract, maritime law, and personal injury. The Law Offices of Charles LiMandri houses three full-time and one part-time attorneys. "I'm an insurance and tort lawyer with a heavy emphasis on business practice," he added. As a result of the recent fires, much of his time is focused on fire insurance issues, as well as water damage and mold claims.

Of the future, LiMandri sees challenging times for the church and for believers. "I believe God put us here in this time and place for a reason," he said. An optimist, Charles sees remarkable blessings in the midst of the moral battles facing the church. "Real opportunity is born out of necessity, causing true believers to unite together. Our hope must come from our faith in God and the Holy Spirit guiding us."

When asked of a favorite Scripture, without hesitation, LiMandri quoted Romans 8:28. "All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

For information about his law offices, visit www.limandrilaw.com.