

THE METHODIST LAW CENTRE

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Most Honorable Rev. Dr. Kenneth Talbot
President, Whitefield Theological Seminary
1605 E. Gary Road
Lakeland, Florida 33801

RE: Award of **Doctor of Laws- LL.D. (*Legum Doctor*)**
to Rev. Roderick O. Ford, Esq.

Greetings, Dr. Talbot!

The *Legum Doctor* (LLD), which the Whitefield Seminary has resolved to bestow upon me, endorses our professional theological belief that lawyers, judges, and all civil magistrates are really and truly vicegerents of God.

I give thanks to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! In the beginning, he was with the LORD God who created the heavens and earth. And he is, inter alia, the Word of God, the Judge of the Resurrection, the divine *Logos* and essence of reason which enlivens the human soul. For this reason, the Scriptures say that we are made in the image of God. The foundation of all laws, both secular and sacred, rest upon these great truths.

English Jurists Edward Coke and William Blackstone remind us that the English Common Law, from whence came our Anglo-American constitutional heritage and traditions, was deeply-rooted in the Sacred Scriptures. And Lord Blackstone, who exercised enormous influence upon American lawyers and jurists during the late 18th and early 19th centuries, conceptualized all secular civil laws as ordinances implementing the Law of Christ.

As such, the Church of God was never designed to be anything other than the "Light of the World" – as the salt of the earth which, inter alia, serves as lawyers and judges on the bar and bench, and which advises kings, parliaments, congresses, governors, emperors, and presidents!

Yours Faithfully,

Roderick O. Ford

REV. RODERICK O FORD, Esq.
Chancellor, The Methodist Law Centre