

**For Further Information please see
our websites and/or Facebook
pages:**

Metro-East Interfaith Partnership

www.metroeastinterfaith.com

Facebook: [@MetroEastInterfaithPartnership](https://www.facebook.com/MetroEastInterfaithPartnership)
metroeastinterfaith@gmail.com

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THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

www.mormon.org
www.lds.org

We would like to thank you for your attendance and participation at today's events. We also would like to thank all those who helped make this event possible, including but not limited to: the LDS Church and **Pres. Jaymeson Stroud** for hosting this program, **Darlene Chapman** for providing the catering, **Judge John O'Gara** for presenting, **Judge Daniel Emge** for presenting, and all those who have provided assistance with set-up/clean-up and any other helper. Without your efforts we would not have been able to provide this program. The Metro-East Interfaith Partnership sponsors and co-sponsors various interfaith and community outreach activities throughout the year. If you are interested in notices of future events please "Like" our Facebook Page or email us and we can add you to our email list. If you have an idea for future "Community Conversations" or are interested in hosting a "Religious Freedom Conference" or have questions, please email us at metroeastinterfaith@gmail.com.

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Metro-East Interfaith Partnership

*Saturday
June 30, 2018
11:00 a.m.*

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS:
Religious Freedom Conference



Program
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS
“The First Amendment and Religious Freedom”

Presiding: Pres. Jaymeson Stroud
Conducting: Christopher B. Smith

Invocation: Jeanne Aguirre

Welcome: Rev. Lana Gilbert
President-Metro-East Interfaith
Partnership

Introductions: Christopher B. Smith

Presentations: Judge John O’Gara
Judge Daniel Emge
Jaymeson Stroud, M.D.

Benediction: John O’Neal

Please join us for light refreshments, questions and networking following the benediction.

THE CHURCH OF
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Statement of Political Neutrality

“The Church’s mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, not to elect politicians. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is neutral in matters of party politics. This applies in all of the many nations in which it is established.

The Church does not:

- Endorse, promote or oppose political parties, candidates or platforms.
- Allow its church buildings, membership lists or other resources to be used for partisan political purposes.
- Attempt to direct its members as to which candidate or party they should give their votes to. This policy applies whether or not a candidate for office is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
- Attempt to direct or dictate to a government leader.

The Church does:

- Encourage its members to play a role as responsible citizens in their communities, including becoming informed about issues and voting in elections.
- Expect its members to engage in the political process in an informed and civil manner, respecting the fact that members of the Church come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences and may have differences of opinion in partisan political matters.
- Request candidates for office not to imply that their candidacy or platforms are endorsed by the Church.
- Reserve the right as an institution to address, in a non-partisan way, issues that it believes have significant community or moral consequences or that directly affect the interests of the Church.

In the United States, where nearly half of the world’s Latter-day Saints live, it is customary for the Church at each national election to issue a letter to be read to all congregations encouraging its members to vote, but emphasizing the Church’s neutrality in partisan political matters.



Judge John O'Gara: Judge O'Gara has been married for 25 years to Anna O'Gara, and he and his wife have two adult daughters. Judge O'Gara was the first member of the O'Gara family to graduate from college, earning a B.A. with Honors from Quincy University in 1983. He received his Juris Doctor degree from St. Louis University School of Law in

1987. He tried numerous cases in the 20th Judicial Circuit in his 30 years as a trial lawyer and a judge. O'Gara tried close to 100 jury trials throughout the State of Illinois and in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois. He was admitted to the United States Supreme Court Bar and he argued appeals before the Illinois Supreme Court and the United States Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit. Judge O'Gara was the Criminal Justice Act Panel Attorney Representative for the United States District Court, Southern District of Illinois from 2014 until 2016. John O'Gara was appointed by Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Karmeier as Chairman of the 1st and 20th Circuit Illinois Capital Litigation Trial Bar Admission Committee from 2005-2011. O'Gara was in private practice for over 21 years, concentrated in criminal defense with some civil plaintiff and defense work. He previously served as the Public Defender in Knox County, and he was Public Defender of St. Clair County before becoming an Associate Judge. In 2009-2016 he received an AV Rating and was named to the Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers by Martindale-Hubbell, listed in Chicago Magazine's Top Attorneys in Illinois, 2009, 2013-2016, Leading Illinois Lawyer Advisory Board from 2003-2016, and named an Illinois Super Lawyer from 2008-09, 2012-2016. O'Gara was President of the Illinois Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers from 2012-2013. Judge John O'Gara was President of the St. Clair County Bar Association from 2006-2007. He is Second Vice President of the East St. Louis Bar Association, previously on the St. Clair County Bar Foundation. Judge O'Gara frequently lectures at continuing education events for lawyers regarding trial and substantive legal issues with the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, the Illinois State Bar Association, the Illinois Appellate Defender, the Illinois State's Attorney Association, and he was the first defense lawyer to address the Illinois Homicide Investigators Association. He will participate as a panelist at the Illinois Judicial Education Conference. Judge O'Gara received the Chief Judge Richard A. Hudlin, IV Award from the St. Clair County Bar Association in 2015. The award is given by the Bar Association to an attorney "who most reflects the commitment to service and charity to the people of St. Clair County and epitomizes the best aspects of the legal community in its relationship to the society at large". John O'Gara received the Faith in the Marketplace Award from the Messenger-the newspaper of the Diocese of Belleville in 2016, which is awarded "to individuals who could be recognized by their faith and by their ethical behavior in their chosen profession." Judge O'Gara was named as a Distinguished Alumnus of Althoff Catholic High School in 2016. O'Gara is on the Board of Directors, Catholic Urban Programs. O'Gara is a member of the

Criminal Justice Council and the Bench and Bar Council of the Illinois State Bar Association. Judge O'Gara volunteers in the Illinois State Bar Association High School Mock Trial Invitational at the University of Illinois College of Law.



Judge Daniel Emge: The Hon. Daniel J. Emge is the Resident Circuit Judge in Washington County, Illinois, in the 20th Judicial Circuit, which encompasses St. Clair, Monroe, Randolph, Perry, and Washington Counties. Judge Emge was elected Circuit Judge in November of 2012. As Resident Circuit Judge in Washington County, Judge Emge hears all types of cases. He also presides over, and was instrumental in creating, the Pathway to Recovery Program, a drug court type program in Washington and Perry Counties. Judge Emge also serves by appointment on the Illinois Supreme Court

Legislative Committee and on the 20th Judicial Circuit Exploratory Committee on Judicial Drug Testing. Prior to being elected Circuit Judge, he was engaged in the private practice of law in Nashville, Illinois, with Barkau & Unverfehrt, P.C., focusing primarily on estate planning and real estate transactions. Judge Emge and his wife Sara live on a farm near Oakdale, Illinois with their three daughters, ages 10, 5, and 3.

Jaymeson Scott Stroud, M.D.:



Jaymeson Scott Stroud was born and raised in Plano, Texas. He finished up high school in Gilbert, Arizona and attended Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. He served a full-time 2-year voluntary mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Tahiti Papeete mission where he preached the gospel of Jesus Christ in French and Tahitian. He returned home and finished up his Bachelor of Sciences degree at BYU and was married to Shelby Price. Post-graduate education included medical school at the Medical College of Wisconsin in

Milwaukee and radiation oncology residency training at Washington University in St. Louis. He is currently working at the Warren Bilhartz Cancer Center with Anderson Mercy Radiation Oncology in Maryville, Illinois. He is currently serving as the President of the O'Fallon Illinois Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He has held various positions in the church, including Sunday school teacher, local ward young men's president, Bishopric counselor, and stake high counselor. He considers his most important role to be that of husband and father. He and Shelby have 5 children ranging in age from 19 to 7 years old. His oldest (a daughter) is preparing to serve an 18-month mission in Salvador Brazil next month.