Acknowledgments

I have been litigating religious land use cases for over a decade and am grateful to the clients, friends, peers, and colleagues who have encouraged me throughout this process. This book was written with the help of everyone I have encountered on this journey.

To my wife, Peggy, and daughters Abby and Amy, thank you for patiently listening to the stories of the cases that I have litigated. Thank you for your encouragement and for your patience when I have been away for weeks at a time in trial. You have provided much-needed comment, criticism, and encouragement along the way. I love and appreciate you very much.

To my colleagues at Dalton & Tomich PLC, thank you. I especially thank my partner, Zana Tomich, who for the past 14 years has embraced this area of the law and has encouraged me to develop this practice area.

In addition, thank you to my colleagues Katharine Brink and Lawrence Opalewski, Jr., who work with me every day in pursuing religious liberty for religious entities throughout the United States. I also wish to thank Andrew Rabe, who has carefully worked with me to update to this book. Thank you to my former colleagues and law clerks who previously worked with me on these cases, including Erin Cobain, Jessica Bond, Brett Miller, Eric Kociba, Tom Fabbri, Dan Cortez, Kristina Joseph, and Shannon Sacca. Your hard work has given me the ability to succeed in these cases.

I would be remiss if I did not properly thank Noel Sterett and Evan Seeman, the other “RLUIPA nerds,” who reviewed this book and made it better than I could have imagined. Thank you for fighting the good fight, on both sides of the religious land use battles. Your work in this area is outstanding and appreciated. Thank you also to my mentors, Randall Pentiuk, William Liebold, Miles Hart, Alison Adema, Robert Thomas, Dwight Merriam, Marci Hamilton, and Patricia Salkin. Your scholarship and leadership in this area of the law is appreciated.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To the clients who retained the firm to assist you in your land use matters, thank you for allowing me to represent you. Please know that all of you have played a role in writing this book as your story has become this book. I especially want to thank Pastor Phil Chorlian, North Jersey Vineyard Church; Pastor Demetrius Booker of Lighthouse Community Church of God; Pastor Greg Stamm, Celebration Church; Pastor Tim Rhodus, Cross Church, f/k/a Carlinville Southern Baptist Church; John Kerr and Pastor Ronnie Holmes, Church of the Open Door; Richard N. Lipow, of A.C.M.E.C. Temple; to my friends at the Academy of Our Lady of Peace, including Sr. Dolores Anchondo, Dasan Mahadevan, Alison Adema, Alexandra Kelly, Jeannette Handelsman, Mary Sloper, Rosalie Martinez, Teri Heard, Mike Guerrero, John “Mike” Coughlin, John Galvan, Msgr. Richard Duncanson; Bishop Mitch Corder, Overseer for the State of Tennessee, Church of God of Cleveland, Tennessee; Kent Steen, Rev. David Ball and Charles Stambaugh of Church of Our Savior, Jacksonville, Florida; Pastor Kenneth Thronson of Lighthouse Rescue Mission, Hattiesburg, Mississippi; Rev. Robert Seals of Mother Nature’s Temple, Chico, California; Pastor Chris Cramer of Orchard Grove Community Church, Walled Lake, Michigan; Pastor Thomas Ouweleen of the Scruffy Church, Warren, Michigan; Pastor Solomon Kinloch, Jr., and Dora Brown of Triumph Church, Detroit, Michigan; Rev. William Pacey of Grace Church, Lennox Township, Michigan; Pastor Terry Maner of Grace Church of the Roaring Valley, Aspen, Colorado; Pastor Jeremy Schossau Metro City Church, Taylor, Michigan; James King and E. Christopher Johnson of NorthRidge Church, Plymouth Township, Michigan; Rev. Dr. Stanley Scott of Salvation Temple Church, Hazel Park, Michigan; and Aaron Johnson, Beth Jones, and Jeff Jones of Valley Family Church, Kalamazoo, Michigan; and Brad Lamm, New York, New York.

To the friends and colleagues who reviewed, critiqued, and commented on the book, thank you. I truly appreciate the patience of the editor, Kimberly Rosenfeld of the American Bar Association.

To the friends who offered a review of the book, I thank you. My appreciation goes out to Dr. John Grenfell III, Plymouth First United Methodist Church; Hon. Christopher Murray, Michigan Court of Appeals; Hon. Michael Riordan, Michigan Court of Appeals; Brett Harvey, Joe Infranco,
and Doug Napier of the Alliance Defending Freedom; Andy Gowder of Pratt-Thomas, Walker; Julie Isola Ruecke, Michigan Court of Appeals; Steven Elrod, Holland & Knight; Miles Hart of Saretsky, Hart, Michaels & Gould PC; Eric Rassbach, the Beckett Fund; Ronnie Holmes, Open Door Church; Dora Brown, Triumph Church; Dasan Mahadevan, the Academy of Our Lady of Peace; Bishop Mitchell Corder, State Overseer for the Church of God, Tennessee; and Dwight Merriam, Robinson & Cole.

I truly hope that you will find this book helpful. Please send me your comments to ddalton@daltonomich.com to help make the next version of this book better than this one.

Dan