work, and supported government-funded religious aid to the Indians without fail.

Ross and Smith conclude their outstanding treatise by contrasting what Washington, like most Founders, believed about the godly republic with how their ideas and ideals have been caricatured or twisted by many since the mid-twentieth century:

Washington's approach to church-state relations differs from Jefferson's "well-of-separation" and the line of modern-day legal decisions it has spawned. Washington's perspective on the First Amendment would permit a much more religion-friendly government, even as it emphasized the importance of religious freedom.

If I have a criticism, it is that Ross and Smith at times whine the record to make Washington come off like an angelic staff lawyer for the contemporary Christian Right or one of its favorite legal beagle think tanks or advocacy groups. They do that rarely. The book, on the whole, is outstanding and well worth reading and heeding.

Still, let me conclude by reminding, should we need reminding, that Washington, like Jefferson, held slaves. Washington was less moved by Christian convictions than many among his contemporaries (both North and South) were to recognize and witness to slavery's immorality. He was better toward the Indians, but far from just to them. And his religious pluralism often had a distinctly or denominationally southern Protestant accent. It took successive religious movements, including the one led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to begin to right racial historic wrongs that had long had public law, and otherwise great leaders like Washington, behind them.

Secular liberals played a role in those curative religion-led movements too. The sad irony, however, is that today, aided and abetted by their opposite numbers—namely, some politically conservative Christians who would rather wage culture wars than serve the poor or solve social ills—it is they who distort history and deny to sacred places the public support with which they could freely, fairly, and constitutionally serve civic purposes. Neither Washington nor Jefferson, were they with us today, would join or bless either extreme church-state faction in this one nation under God.

Mass Torts in a World of Settlement
BY RICHARD A. NAGAREDA
Reviewed by Mark A. Behrens*

Vanderbilt Law Professor Richard Nagareda's recent book, Mass Torts in a World of Settlement, explores the evolution of tort law from individual cases involving idiosyncratic events to the modern era of "mass torts" affecting large numbers of broadly dispersed persons. The book thoroughly analyzes the role of lawyers in many important mass torts including asbestos, Agent Orange, silicone gel-filled breast implants, the fen-phen diet drug combination, the state attorneys general tobacco litigation, lawyer-manufactured silicosis claims, and Vioxx.

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