David A. Thomas
Rex E. Lee Endowed Chair
Brigham Young University-Provo

Thursday, November 13, 2008, 5 p.m.
Moot Courtroom
William S. Richardson School of Law
Reception Immediately Following

Professor Thomas presents a brief history of mortgages, reviews the circumstances of mortgage foreclosures during the Depression, and draws some comparisons with and explanations for today's mortgage situation, including sidebars on irresponsible (sub-prime) lending and rescue scams, with an emphasis on the rise of the secondary mortgage market and securitization of mortgages.

David A. Thomas is the Rex E. Lee Endowed Chair and Professor of Law at Brigham Young University's J. Reuben Clark Law School, where he has taught since 1974 and is now the senior faculty member. He is the editor-in-chief and principal author of the 15-volume treatise Thompson on Real Property, Thomas Edition (LexisNexis, 1994–), which has been cited in hundreds of state and federal cases. He earned his B.A. and M.L.S. degrees at Brigham Young University and his J.D. at Duke University Law School. As a teacher and author in both property and civil procedure areas, he has effectively combined theory and practice in conducting real property transactions, dispute resolution, and expert witness assignments. He is a member of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of the American Bar Association, where he holds several leadership positions. He is also a founding member of the Real Estate Transactions Section of the Association of American Law Schools. Professor Thomas has published extensively on real property, civil procedure and common law legal history topics, including chapters in several treatises and articles in professional journals. He is the author (with Backman) of A Practical Guide to Disputes Between Adjoining Landowners–Easements, Utah Civil Procedure, Utah Civil Practice, and (with Backman) Utah Real Property Law.

The Gifford Foundation established a Distinguished Lectureship in Real Property in 2002 to honor David L. Callies, the Benjamin A. Kudo Professor of Law, and Jerry M. Hiatt ('77), prominent Big Island attorney, for their superior work in the field of real property.