

## **BYU Religious Freedom Annual Review**

### **Religion and Religious Freedom in the COVID-19 Era: Finding Community and Hope**

#### **June 19, 2020 Welcome and introduction of Michael Leavitt by Gary Doxey**

I am delighted to introduce our keynote speaker for this session, Gov. Michael O. Leavitt, former United States Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Mike Leavitt served as governor of Utah for three terms from 1993 to 2003. He subsequently held two positions in the Cabinet of President George W. Bush: first as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (2003 to 2005) and then as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (2005 to 2009). In the latter role, Governor Leavitt brought to bear not only his many years of leadership in government but also his decades of experience as an insurance executive and business leader.

He is the founder and general partner of Leavitt Partners, which is a family of businesses providing clients with investment support, data and analytics, member-based alliances, and other services to help them adopt successful strategies in the complex field of healthcare and other sectors of the economy.

I had the personal honor of working with Mike Leavitt as his general counsel during his service as governor of Utah. During that time, I came to cherish his friendship and appreciate his

personal integrity and goodness. He is that rare public servant who is interested in results and doesn't really care who gets the credit. I don't know that I've ever met anyone quite so forward thinking and dynamic. He has an uncanny ability to see a problem and quickly identify the key points on which the solution turns. Like a chess master, he seems to be able to think several moves ahead to identify probable future outcomes of present-day policy decisions. He leans intelligently into the future to leverage emerging developments like few others.

Mike Leavitt is a noted author, and routinely appears as an opinion leader in TV and print media. He grew up in Cedar City, Utah, the oldest of six sons. He and his wife Jackie have a beautiful family of five children and fifteen grandchildren.

It will now be our privilege to hear from Gov. Mike Leavitt