

Michael Hatfield

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Born in Haskell, Texas Michael is a Professor of Law at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, a Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Washington in Seattle, and Of Counsel to the law firm of Schoenbaum, Curphy & Scanlan, P.C. in San Antonio. He teaches in the areas of taxation, trusts and estates, and professional ethics. He worked as a venture capital fund tax lawyer in New York and as an estate and business planning lawyer in San Antonio before moving into academia in 2005. His research is focused on the professional ethics of tax lawyers, privacy and taxation, and law and religion. His research has been published in the Florida Tax Review, Northwestern Law Review Colloquy, the NYU Annual Survey of American Law, the Baylor Law Review, the Notre Dame Journal of Ethics and Public Policy, and the Lewis & Clark Law Review. He co-authored the Q&A: Wills, Trusts, and Estates (Lexis-Nexis). He contributed an essay to On Torture, an anti-torture anthology published by Johns Hopkins University Press, and was a panelist in a related symposium in Washington, D.C. sponsored by the German Green Party's Heinrich Boll Foundation. Michael has also taught law at Seattle University and philosophy at Texas A&M University. He holds a J.D. from New York University; a M.A. (Philosophy), Texas A&M University; and a B.A. (Philosophy and History), Texas A&M University. He was a fellow at the National Center on Philanthropy and the Law in New York, and remains keenly interested in the legal issues of nonprofits such as Ogallala Commons.

Michael became involved with Ogallala Commons while living in Lubbock and Halfway, Texas, where the Ogallala aquifer blessed his family with desert king melons, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, butternut squash, acorn squash, spaghetti squash, black eyed peas, onions, cantaloupes, and at least a dozen varieties of tomatoes. They now live on Bainbridge Island, across the Puget Sound from Seattle.