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From 1975 to 1984 McLennan practiced church-sponsored poverty law in the Dorchester area of Boston. He represented low-income people in the general practice of law, including consumer, landlord-tenant, government benefits, immigration, family and criminal law.

At Stanford, McLennan has taught undergraduate courses through the Ethics in Society Program ("Ethics and the Professions" and “The Meaning of Life”), Urban Studies ("Spirituality and Nonviolent Social Transformation"), the Masters of Liberal Arts Program ("The Meaning of Life"), Continuing Studies ("Exploring Liberal Christianity"), and the GSB ("The Business World: Moral and Spiritual Inquiry Through Literature" and "Finding Spiritual Meaning at Work: Business Exemplars" and "Global Business, Religion and National Culture”).

He is co-author with Laura Nash of *Church on Sunday, Work on Monday: The Challenge of Fusing Christian Values With Business Life*  (Jossey-Bass, 2001) and the author of *Finding Your Religion: When the Faith You Grew Up With Has Lost Its Meaning* (HarperSanFrancisco, 1999) and *Jesus Was a Liberal: Reclaiming Christianity for All* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009).