

American University Washington College of Law
4801 Massachusetts Ave, Washington DC, 20016
Presents the *Sixth North American Baha'i Conference on Law**
October 9-11, 2008

Exploring the Intersections of Religion and Governance: Past, Present, and Future

AGENDA

DAY 1: Thursday, October 9

International Student Lounge – Washington College of Law

6:00-7:00 pm Pre-registration (Optional)

An opportunity for conference participants to meet each other and light refreshments will be served.

DAY 2: Friday, October 10

Room 603 – Washington College of Law

8:00-9:00 am Breakfast and Registration

9:00-9:15 am Welcome and Introduction

Speakers: **Dean Claudio Grossman**, *American University, Washington College of Law*, **Professor Padideh Ala'i**, *American University, Washington College of Law*

Morning Sessions: State and Religion

The complex relationship between the state and religious institutions and beliefs has long been among the most vexing issues of governance – in the West, at least since the conversion of Constantine. With our opening panels, we hope to engage this critical dynamic, beginning with an array of historical and comparative perspectives – from China, the Middle East, and the United States – and then considering distinct theoretical approaches to secularism, disestablishment, and theocracy.

9:15-10:45 am Panel I: State and Religion: Comparative and Historical Perspectives

Moderator: **Robert B. Ahdieh**, *Professor of Law & Director, Center on Federalism and Intersystemic Governance, Emory Law School*

Speakers: **Roshan Danesh**, *Adjunct Professor, University of British Columbia Faculty of Law, Visiting Professor, European Peace University*; **Jeremy Gunn**, *Director, Program on Freedom of Religion & Belief, American Civil Liberties Union*; **Neysun Mahboubi**, *Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Connecticut School of Law*; **Ileana Porras**, *Visiting Professor, Watson Institute of International Studies, Brown University*; **Ayse Kadayifci-Orellana**, *Assistant Professor, American University School of International Service*

** The North American Baha'i Conferences on Law seek to promote new ideas for addressing global problems, with the hope of promoting unity and global justice, while maintaining and respecting a diversity of views, cultures, and beliefs. This goal is inspired by the view that all humankind is one, and all religions and faith traditions are ultimately united, as diverse reflections of one truth. Prior conferences have been held at Columbia Law School, the University of California - Berkeley Law School, and the University of Toronto School of Law.*

10:45-11:00 am Coffee/Tea Break

11:00-12:30 pm Panel II: State and Religion: Secularism, Disestablishment & Theocracy

Moderator: **Robert B. Ahdieh**, Professor of Law & Director, Center on Federalism and Intersystemic Governance, *Emory Law School*

Speakers: **Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im**, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law, *Emory Law School*; **Ian Bartrum**, Irving S. Ribicoff Fellow, *Yale Law School*; **Tajan Tober**, LL.M. Candidate, *Harvard Law School*

12:30-2:00 pm *Keynote Speaker: Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im*, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law, *Emory University School of Law*

Introduction: **Daniel Bradlow**, Professor of Law & Director, International Legal Studies Program

Keynote Address: *The Religious Foundations of Secularism: Paradox of Separation and Connection*
Sponsored by the International Legal Studies Program, Washington College of Law

Afternoon Sessions: Religion and Development

Commonly, the literature on “good governance” has not addressed the underlying ethical and moral principles and beliefs that are likely to impact views on social and economic development. Yet even the evolution of intellectual property rules is influenced by religious perspectives. In a pair of panels, we consider the need to address the “spiritual” dimensions of development, and the connection between religion and sustainable development.

2:00-3:30 pm Panel III: New Approaches to Effective Governance: Addressing the Spiritual Dimensions of Development

Moderator: **Padideh Ala'i**, Professor of Law, *American University, Washington College of Law*

Speakers: **William Davis**, President, *DPK Consulting*; **Michael Karlberg**, Associate Professor, *Western Washington University*; Research Affiliate, *Institute for Studies in Global Prosperity*; **Patrick Meagher**, Senior Fellow, *IRIS Center, University of Maryland*; **Josh Sarnoff**, Practitioner-in-Residence, *American University, Washington College of Law*

3:30-3:45 pm Coffee/Tea Break

3:45-5:15 pm Panel IV: New Approaches to Effective Governance: Religion and Sustainable Development

Moderator: **Padideh Ala'i**, Professor of Law, *American University, Washington College of Law*

Speakers: **Sherita Ala'i**, Researcher, *EMMES Corp. (NIH Contractor)* and former Director, Monetary Grants Program, *National Tree Trust*; **David Hunter**, Professor, *American University, Washington*

College of Law; Sovaida Ma'ani Ewing, Director, Global Action for Collective Security; Negin Mohtadi (WCL 1994), former Staff Attorney, Office of Administrative Law Judges, Environmental Protection Agency; Ezra Rosser, Assistant Professor, American University, Washington College of Law

5:15-6:00 pm **Address – Inspired to Fight: An Examination of the Tahirih Justice Center, a Religiously Inspired Organization.**

Speaker: **Layli Miller-Muro (WCL 1996), Executive Director, Tahirih Justice Center**

6:00-7:30 pm **Reception**

DAY 3: Saturday, October 11
Room 603 – Washington College of Law

9:00-9:30 am **Breakfast**

9:30-10:45 am **Panel V: Religion and the Democratic State**

Framework: *Religious belief and its institutionalization have often been framed in contradistinction to the values of democracy. This panel will explore points of agreement and conflict in religion and democratic processes. Further, it will consider the religious foundations of certain modalities of democratic governance.*

Moderator: **Sheila Snyder, Attorney, Law Offices of Becki L. Young**

Speakers: **Arash Abizadeh, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, McGill University; William Davis, President, DPK Consulting; Neysun Mahboubi, Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Connecticut School of Law; Martha Schweitz, Director, Office of Review, Baha'i National Center; former Professor of International Law, Seinan Gakuin University (Japan) & University of Oregon School of Law**

10:45-11:00 am **Coffee/Tea Break**

11:00-12:00 pm **Panel VI: Lessons from Baha'i Governance**

Framework: *This panel will identify and evaluate various conceptions of governance that can be derived from the distinct theories and practices of governance in the Baha'i Faith.*

Moderator: **Robert B. Ahdieh, Professor of Law & Director, Center on Federalism, and Intersystemic Governance, Emory Law School**

Speakers: **Franklin Amanat, Supervisory Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of New York; Justin Desautels-Stein, Associate, Latham & Watkins; Frederick Landry, Independent Scholar**

- 12:00-1:45 pm** **Lunch and Address: *Spiritual Foundations of Human Rights***
- Speaker:** **Suheil Bushrui**, Director, *Khalil Gibran Chair of Values and Peace Project, University of Maryland*
- 2:00-2:30 pm** **Remarks – Discourse vs Dialogue: Revisiting The Relationship between Law, Religion and Governance**
- Speaker:** **John Grayzel**, Baha’i Chair for World Peace, *Center for International Development and Conflict Management ,University of Maryland and former Senior Official USAID*
- 2:30-3:45 pm** **Roundtable Discussion: A Conceptual Framework for Advancing Research and Knowledge Regarding Effective Governance**
- Framework** *This roundtable is designed to invite open discussion of some of the dimensions of effective governance highlighted over the course of the conference, with particular attention to the Institute for Studies in Global Prosperity’s recent white paper: “A Conceptual Framework for Advancing Research and Knowledge Regarding Effective Governance”.*
- Moderator:** **Padideh Ala’i**, Professor of Law, *American University, Washington College of Law*
- Participants:** **John Grayzel**, Baha’i Chair for World Peace, *Center for International Development and Conflict Management, University of Maryland*; **Michael Karlberg**, Associate Professor, *Western Washington University*; Research Affiliate, *Institute for Studies in Global Prosperity*; **Martha Schweitz**, Director, Office of Review, *Baha’i National Center*; former Professor of International Law, *Seinan Gakuin University (Japan) & University of Oregon School of Law*
- 3:45-4:00 pm** **Coffee/Tea Break**
- 4:00-5:30 pm** **Interest Group Breakout Sessions:**
- The Reconciliation of Faith and Practice, **Martha Absher & Parisa Naraghi***
- Women in International Law, **Padideh Ala’i & Sovaida Ma’ani***
- Developing a Practice in Law: The Early Years, **Aref Amanat***
- 5:30-6:00 pm** **Closing Remarks**
- Speakers:** **Robert Ahdieh, Padideh Ala’i, Neysun Mahboubi**
- 6:00-8:00 pm** **Interest Group Dinners**

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Registration:

To Register for the conference, click on the following link:

http://www.wcl.american.edu/secl/cle_form.cfm

From *Event Information*, choose "10/10/08: Baha'i Conference on Law Series: Exploring Intersection of Religion and Governance", and submit your personal information in the relevant fields. There is no charge for the conference, if you are not seeking CLE credit. However, you will still need to submit the requested information, because the Law School's Special Events Department uses this general form for all event registrations.

Hotels:

Hotel Palomar (two blocks from the Dupont Circle metro station)

2121 P Street, NW

3.7 mi./14 min. from WCL

To reserve online, please go to www.hotelpalomar-dc.com and enter rate code "AMU".

You can also call 1-877-866-3070 and ask for the American University corporate rate (10% less expensive than the regular rate).

Embassy Suites Hotel (two blocks from the Friendship Heights metro station)

4300 Military Road, NW

2.5 mi./9 min. from WCL

www.embassy-suites.com

Call 202-362-9300 and ask for the WCL/American University Rate (10% less expensive than the regular rate).

Days Inn (one block from the Van-Ness/UDC metro station)

4400 Connecticut Avenue, NW

2 mi./7 min. from WCL

www.daysinn.com

More Hotels: <http://www.wcl.american.edu/admiss/lodging.cfm>

How to get to the WCL:

The American University, Washington College of Law is located at 4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW. The closest metro station to the law school is Tenleytown/AU. There is an AU shuttle bus running every 15 minutes between the Washington College of Law and the Tenleytown metro station. As you walk out of the metro station, you will see the AU shuttle bus on the street corner (marked by a large AU sign). Make sure to take the shuttle bus that goes to the Law School, and not to the main AU campus.

At the following link, you can also find driving directions and other maps of the area:

<http://www.wcl.american.edu/direction/audc.cfm>

For conference participants who are staying in the Friendship Heights area or close to Dupont Circle, you can also take Bus N4 to get to the Washington College of Law.

The N4 bus schedule can be found here: <http://www.wmata.com/timetables/dc/N246.pdf>

Parking:

Visitor parking is available at the WCL parking garage.