

TURKEY: AT THE CROSSROADS OF SECULAR WEST AND TRADITIONAL EAST

Wednesday, January 9, 2008

9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**American University Washington College of Law
6th Floor Student Lounges**

Turkey has always been at the crossroads between the East and the West both in terms of geography and national identity. Today, as we face growing tensions between secular ideals and an assertion of Islamic identity, Turkey is more important than ever. This one day conference explores the topic of “secularism” in Turkey by looking at the legacy of Mustafa Kamal Atatürk, the founder of modern Turkey and comparing the “Kamalist experiment” with other secularist movements of the region. The Conference also addresses European and American relations with Turkey, the question of the Turkish accession to the European Union (EU), and the tension between secularism and an assertion of an Islamic identity in Turkey.



**Sponsored by
International Legal Studies Program (ILSP)
LLM Board of the ILSP
International Trade Law Society (ITLS)
Islamic Legal Forum**

For more information on the program please Contact:
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9:00 - 9:30am	<i>Registration</i>
9:30 - 9:40am	<i>Welcome: Professor Padideh Ala’i, American University, Washington College of Law, Acknowledgement of sponsoring organizations: the LLM Board of the ILSP, International Trade Law Society and Islamic Legal Forum</i>
9:40 - 10:00am	<i>Opening Remarks: Dean Claudio Grossman, American University, Washington College of Law Dean Haluk Kabaalioglu, Yeditepe University Faculty of Law</i>
10:00 - 12:00pm	<p>Panel I: <u>Secularism in the Middle East and the legacy of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk</u></p> <p>This panel explores the unique legacy of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of Modern Turkey from both a historical and modern day perspective and comparing that legacy with other nationalist/secular movements in the Middle East, such as: Abdul Nasr (Egypt), Reza Shah Pahlavai (Iran/Persia), the Ba’thist movements in Syria and Iraq. The goal is to shed light on among other things, Ataturk’s legacy of secularism. What does it mean today? How have attempts at secularism and nationalism evolved? What makes the Turkish experiment with secularism so important?</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Professor Feroz Ahmad, Yeditepe University Professor Abdul Aziz Said, Mohammed Said Farsi Chair of Islamic Peace, School of International Service, American University Professor Mustafa Aksakal, Assistant Professor, History Department, American University Professor Clovis Maksoud, Director, Center for the Global South, American University</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Professor Padideh Ala’i, Washington College of Law</p>
12:00 - 1:30pm (Luncheon)	<p>Luncheon Discussion: <u>U.S.-Turkey Relations: Past, Present and Future?</u></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Dr. Bulent Aliriza, Director, Turkey Project, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Dean Haluk Kabaalioglu, Yeditepe University Law Faculty Ms. Tulin Daloglu, Columnist, The Washington Times Ms. Duden Yeğenoğlu, Washington Representative, The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB).</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Professor Daniel Bradlow, Washington College of Law</p>
1:45 - 3:15pm	<p>Panel II: <u>European and Turkish Relations: The Turkish Accession to the EU</u></p> <p>This panel will discuss the long and torturous road of Turkish accession to the EU as well as EU-Turkish relations more generally. Panelists will also address the advantages and disadvantages of a possible future EU accession and what it means for Turkey, Europe and the world.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Professor Dr. Haluk Kabaalioglu, Dean, Yeditepe University Law Faculty Dr. Soner Çagaptay, Director, Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Turkish Research Program. Professor Gianmaria Ajani, Turin University Ms. Claudia Pinto, Political Counselor, EU Commission Delegation, Trade Section</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Professor Fernanda Nicola, Washington College of Law</p>
3:15 - 3:30pm	Break
3:30 - 5:00pm	<p>Panel III: <u>Secularism and the Islamic Identity</u></p> <p>This panel explores further the themes raised by Panels I and II by addressing both the issue of “secularism” in Turkey today and in the middle east more generally. What is meant by the term ‘secular Islam’? Is an Islamic identity consistent with secularism as understood in the Western liberal democracies? How does the Islamic identity affect relationship with the EU?</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Professor Feroz Ahmad, Yeditepe University Professor Catherine J. Ross, George Washington University Professor Ayse Kadayifci-Orellana, American University, School of International Service Professor Rachel Rebouche, Adjunct Professor, Washington College of Law Ms. Tulin Daloglu, Columnist, The Washington Times</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Professor Susan Carle, Washington College of Law</p>
5:00 - 6:00pm	Reception