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LAW AND RELIGION SYMPOSIUM**

**Religious Freedom as a Tool for Peacemaking**

**October 6 – 8, 2024**

**INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR LAW AND RELIGION STUDIES  
J. REUBEN CLARK LAW SCHOOL – BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY PROVO, UTAH, USA**

**DIRECTORY OF DELEGATES**

**Angola**

**Angelino Kandiyelo Segunda**

*Director Geral Adjunto, Instituto Nacional Para Os Assuntos Religiosos–  
Ministério da Cultur*



Angelino Kandiyelo Segunda, born in Benguela, Angola, holds a doctorate in civil law from the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome, a master's degree in peace building management from the Pontifical University of Saint Bonaventure in Rome, and postgraduate qualifications in philosophical and forensic anthropology, criminology, and advanced investigation techniques from the same institution. He is a qualified counselor for the International Red Cross. Since 2022 he has been a faculty member at Gregório Semedo University, teaching political science and constitutional law. He also serves as the deputy director-general of the National Institute for Religious Affairs at Angola's Ministry of Culture and as the head of legal services and compliance at Gregório Semedo University. Previously, he was dean of the Faculty of Law at Universidade Independente de Angola (2018–2022), coordinator of the master's program in customs law and applied tax legislation (2021–2022), and professor of crime sociology in the master's program in criminal and forensic psychology.

## Afghanistan



### **Lutforahman Saeed**

*Assistant Professor, Islamic Law Faculty, Kabul University*

Lutforahman Saeed joined the International Center for Law and Religion Studies in 2022 as a visiting scholar. During his time at the Center, he will play a key role in upcoming projects, including Islamic perspectives on human dignity and freedom of religion in Islam. A member of the Sharia (Islamic) Law faculty at Kabul University for more than 27 years,

Professor Saeed earned his BA in Islamic studies from Kabul University in 1991 and his LLM from the University of Washington School of Law in 2010. He completed his PhD summa cum laude in the field of Islamic law and human rights at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg in December 2019, where his PhD thesis received the STAEDTLER Foundation's award for outstanding dissertation in 2020. Professor Saeed specializes in Islamic law and Islamic studies and has published in local and international journals. His book, *Islam, Custom and Human Rights: A Legal and Empirical Study of Criminal Cases in Afghanistan After the 2004 Constitution*, was published in January 2022. Professor Saeed has served as the country director of Legal Educators Support Program–Afghanistan for nearly eight years, and in 2019 he cofounded Afghanistan Legal Research and Development Organization.

## Argentina



### **Elena López Ruf**

*Researcher and Senior Consultant, Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina (UCA) and Austral University (UA)*

Elena López Ruf is a lawyer who graduated from the Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina (UCA). She teaches philosophy of law at UCA and religion and the global world at Austral University. She has worked in faith-based organizations and government entities. She has extensive experience promoting interreligious and ecumenical relationships at the local, regional, and international levels. She is also a member of several organizations, including the International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies and the Latin American Consortium for Religious Freedom.



**Rubén Revello**

*Director del Instituto de Bioética de la UCA, Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina*

Father Rubén Revello is a diocesan priest of the Lomas de Zamora clergy; he was ordained on 4 August 1989. He serves as the pastor of the Basilica and Sanctuary of the Holy Family of Nazareth in Banfield. He holds a licentiate in moral theology from the Universidad Católica Argentina (UCA) and a doctorate in medical sciences from the same institution. He is also a specialist in bioethics, which he studied at the Università del Sacro Cuore in Rome. Father Revello is the director of the bioethics institute at the Faculty of Medical Sciences of UCA, and he teaches both undergraduate and postgraduate courses there. He also teaches postgraduate courses at the Faculty of Law at the University of Buenos Aires. He is a member of the Pontifical Academy for Life, the ethics committee of the National Academy of Medicine, and the international council of the Faculty of Bioethics at Anáhuac University, Mexico. He is vice president of the International Federation of Personalist Bioethics and director of the journal *Vida y Ética* at UCA. He has authored numerous articles and books on bioethics and is a guest lecturer at universities across Latin America, Italy, and the United Kingdom.

## **Australia**



**Nicholas Aroney**

*Professor of Constitutional Law, The University of Queensland*

Nicholas Aroney is a professor of constitutional law at the University of Queensland, a senior fellow of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory University, and a fellow of both the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and the Australian Academy of Law. He has held visiting positions at Oxford, Cambridge, Paris II, Edinburgh, Durham, Sydney, Emory, Padua, and Tilburg universities. He has published more than 150 journal articles, book chapters, and books in the fields of constitutional law, comparative constitutional law, and law and religion. He has led several international research projects in comparative federalism, bicameralism, legal pluralism, and religious freedom. In 2017 he was appointed by the Australian prime minister to an expert panel to advise on whether Australian law adequately protects the human right to freedom of religion.

## Azerbaijan



### **Ramin Mammadov**

*Chairman, State Committee on Affairs with Religious Associations of the Republic of Azerbaijan*

Ramin Mammadov has a bachelor's degree in international law and international relations as well as a master's degree in international relations from Baku State University. He has served in multiple government positions, including working as a specialist at the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan and deputy head of the staff of the State Committee for Work with the Diaspora of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He was later appointed as deputy chairman of the State Committee for Work with Diaspora. In 2020, Mr. Mammadov was nominated as the single candidate of the New Azerbaijan Party for the parliamentary seat from the 64th Sabirabad constituency. He was elected as a member of the party's board at the Seventh Congress of the New Azerbaijan Party held on 5 March 2021. He is a member of several international organizations, including the European Union-Azerbaijan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee and the Non-Aligned Movement Parliamentary Network.

### **Anar Rahimov**

*Head of International Cooperation Department, State Committee on Affairs with Religious Associations*

Anar Rahimov has an extensive background in advisory roles, having previously served as an advisor at the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Parliament of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, and the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-Speaking Countries. He currently serves as the head of the International Cooperation Department at the State Committee on Religious Affairs of Azerbaijan. In this role, he is responsible for overseeing and managing international partnerships and cooperation related to religious affairs and contributing to the development and implementation of the country's policies in this field.

## Bahrain



### **Alsadig Khalafalla**

*Member of the Board of Trustees, King Hamad Global Center for Peaceful Coexistence; Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Dr. Alsadig Omer Khalafalla was appointed by His Majesty on October 2023 as a Member of the Board of Trustees of King Hamad Global Center for Peaceful Coexistence, he currently serves as an Advisor for Strategic Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Kingdom of Bahrain. He was the President of the Board of Trustees of the Humpty Dumpty Institute (HDI) for six years. The institute coordinates visits of U.S. Congress delegations to countries worldwide and the United Nations. Dr. Khalafalla previously held the position of Chairman of the Bahraini-American Council for four years and chaired the Board of Directors of the Ibn Rushd Arab-American Centre. He also chaired the Board of Trustees of the "Iqra" Islamic schools in Richmond, Virginia, in addition to the Interfaith Dialogue Council at the University of Richmond in the United States. Currently, he is a member of the Board of Trustees of BetaTech College and Virginia Medical Institute in the United States. He also serves as the Chairman of the School Board at the Swiss School of Management in Zurich. Dr. Khalafalla worked as an analyst for Arab and African affairs at Alhurra TV, an Arabic-language American television channel. Dr. Khalafalla is the president and co- founder of the Bahrain International Forum since 2013. Dr. Khalafalla holds a Ph.D. in Public Administration and Policy from Virginia Commonwealth University in the United States, a master's degree in management from Frostburg State University in the United States, and a bachelor's degree in computer science from University of Louisiana in the United States.

## Bangladesh



### **Ismat Jahan**

*Ambassador, Organization of Islamic Cooperation*

Ismat Jahan is a career diplomat from Bangladesh. She retired as the first-ever senior secretary in her country's foreign ministry. In the course of her 40 years in active diplomatic service, she held major positions abroad in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mission, including head of mission in four successive stations. Ambassador Jahan served as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's Permanent Observer to the EU (2016–2024). She was Bangladesh's ambassador to Belgium and the EU with concurrent accreditation to Luxembourg (2009–2016). She was also the permanent representative of Bangladesh to the UN in New York City (2007–

2009) and nonresident ambassador to Chile and Peru as well as ambassador to the Netherlands (2005–2007), concurrently accredited to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and Poland. Ambassador Jahan specialized in multilateral diplomacy with a focus on human rights. Her service also included positions at the UN in Geneva and in New Delhi. Ambassador Jahan holds two master's degrees: one in economics from the University of Dhaka and another from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. She was a fellow in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.

## Belgium



**Johannes den Heijer**

*Professor Emeritus, Université Catholique de Louvain*

Johannes den Heijer is an emeritus professor of Arabic language and literature at the Université Catholique de Louvain, from which he retired in 2020, and former president of the Institut Orientaliste de Louvain. Since 1979 he has taught Arabic language and culture in various institutions, notably in Cairo as director of the Netherlands-Flemish Institute in Cairo from 1995 to 2003. He has published research on Arabic historiography in general; Copto-Arabic literature; translations from Greek, Coptic, and Syriac into Arabic; and Arabic epigraphy, dialectology, and sociolinguistics.

## Bolivia



**Clemente Aruquipa Carlo**

*Presidente, Consejo Nacional Cristiano por el derecho a la Vida, la Familia y la Libertad*

Clemente Aruquipa Carlo is an Evangelical pastor. He earned a diploma in humanities with experience in foreign trade, marketing, and Aymara. He has extensive work experience in business and government. In 2012 he became the principal pastor of Congregación Cristiana Paz en la Casa De Dios. Over the next 10 years, he held various positions with Evangelical churches and organizations in which he sought to strengthen life, family, and country. His roles and affiliations include national president of Congregación Cristiana Paz en La Casa de Dios; board member for Iglesias Evangélicas Unidas de Bolivia; board member for Iglesias Evangélicas Unidas de Bolivia; spokesperson and Evangelical representative to Plataforma Por La Vida y La Familia; president and spokesperson for Consejo Nacional Cristiano por El Derecho a La Vida, La Familia y La Libertad; and principal pastor of Ekklesia Internacional Usa El Alto.



## Brazil



### **Aloisio Cristovam Dos Santos Jr.**

*Juiz Titular de Vara do Trabalho (TRT da 5ª Região) e Pesquisador*

Aloisio Cristovam Dos Santos Jr. holds a doctor of law degree from Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul and a master's degree in political and economic law from Mackenzie University. He has taught employment law and labor litigation and is now a judge in the Fifth Region Labor Court. He was formerly a district attorney and prosecutor for the state of Bahia. He has authored several Portuguese and Spanish legal texts that deal with employee freedom of religion and expression, including the books *Liberdade religiosa e contrato de trabalho: a dogmática dos direitos fundamentais e a construção de respostas constitucionalmente adequadas aos conflitos religiosos no ambiente de trabalho* (Rio de Janeiro: Editora Impetus, 2013), *La Libertad Religiosa de Los Trabajadores: El deber empresarial de acomodación razonable como mecanismo de promoción de los Derechos Humanos* (Madrid: Iustel, 2021, coauthored with Spanish professor David Garciandia Igal), *A Liberdade Religiosa do Empregado* (3rd ed. Rio de Janeiro: Lumen Juris, 2023) and *A liberdade de expressão do empregado: Um olhar sob a perspectiva do Estado Social e Democrático brasileiro* (Rio de Janeiro: Lumen Juris, 2023).



### **Fábio Nascimento**

*Attorney*

Fábio Nascimento is a Brazilian lawyer with a master's degree (LLM) in comparative law from Brigham Young University; postgraduate degrees in international law, civil law, and theology; and an MBA. He is a member of the International Service and Outreach Committee of the J. Reuben Clark Law Society. He formerly served as a member of the National Committee of Respect to Religious Diversity in the Human Rights Secretariat of the President of Brazil. Mr. Nascimento is a member of the Law and Religious Freedom Commission of the Brazilian National Bar Association (OAB Federal). He works with international transactions at Kirton McConkie in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. He is married and has four children.



**Jayme Weingartner Neto**

*Justice, Desembargador junto ao Tribunal de Justiça do Estado do Rio Grande do Sul; Professor, Pontifícia Universidade Católica RS*

Since 2012, Jayme Weingartner Neto has served as a justice on the Court of Appeals for Rio Grande do Sul (RS). He was the director of the RS Judicature Higher School from 2018 to 2021 and is an instructor for the National School of Magistrates training program. Additionally, he teaches both graduate and postgraduate courses at Pontifícia Universidade Católica of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS). Dr. Neto holds a doctorate in juridical science from PUCRS and a master of laws from Coimbra. He is also a researcher at the Brazilian Center for Law and Religion Studies and was a state prosecutor from 1991 to 2012.

## Canada



**Patrick Fletcher**

*Senior Advisor for Theology and Social Doctrine, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops*

Patrick Fletcher lives in Ottawa with his wife and six children, where he works as a theological advisor for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC). Having received his PhD in systematic theology from the Catholic University of America, he supports the work of the CCCC in areas of doctrine, justice and peace, and ecumenism. He is presently one of three vice presidents of the Canadian Council of Churches. His work on ethical and moral issues of importance to the Catholic Church has included frequent collaboration with broad coalitions of religious groups in Canada on matters of public concern.



**Deina Warren**

*Director of Legal Affairs, Canadian Centre for Christian Charities*

Deina Warren, LLB, LLM, is the director of legal affairs at the Canadian Centre for Christian Charities (CCCC), where she advises on a broad range of charity, tax, and regulatory matters as well as religious freedom and human rights laws. She also engages in government consultation and advocacy. Prior to joining CCCC, her practice focused largely on constitutional and human rights law, with a focus on religious freedom. She has served as counsel in trial and appeal courts, including interventions before the Supreme Court of Canada.



Her spare time is spent reading biographies, baking, and exploring local trails with her husband and three daughters.

## Chile



### **Víctor Pino Fuentes**

*Deputy, Cámara de Diputados y Diputadas de Chile*

Victor Pino Fuentes is a member of the Chilean congress. He is married and has four children and is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He holds a degree in commercial engineering and has been dedicated to public service for many years serving as president of the Water Resources and Decertification Commission. He is president of the Economy Commission in the Chamber of Deputies. In addition, he has given voluntary service in various leadership roles within his church, including bishop, stake presidency counselor, and high council member. He worked in the private sector until 2021, after which he transitioned into politics, continuing his commitment to public service.

## China



### **Songfeng Li**

*LLM Candidate, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University;  
Associate Professor, China University of Political Science and Law*

Songfeng Li, an LLM candidate at J. Reuben Clark Law School, is an associate professor at China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL) in Beijing. He teaches and researches constitutional law and religious freedom in China. He has previously held visiting scholar positions at Emory University School of Law (2012–2013, 2023–2024), Notre Dame Law School (2016–2017), and BYU Law School (2014). He earned a PhD from CUPL, a master's degree from Tsinghua University Law School, and a bachelor's degree from Zhengzhou University Law School. He has published articles in a number of academic journals, including the *Journal of Law and Religion*, and has translated several books on church–state relations and constitutional law.

## Colombia

### **Eduardo Augusto Gómez González**

*Doctor, Alianza Evangélica Latina*

Eduardo Augusto Gómez González began his life of service to the community in 1971 when he was 18 years old. He is vice president of Confederación Evangélica de Colombia (CEDECOL); chancellor of the Latin Evangelical Alliance, the representative body of Evangelicals in Latin America; and director of Latinoamérica Nueva, Asociación Evangelística Alberto Mottes. He studied theology, foreign trade, psychotherapy, and German and completed several diplomas in state structure and economy.

## Democratic Republic of the Congo



### **Gisele Ndaya Luseba**

*National Solidarity and Humanitarian Disaster Management Fund Program; Former Minister of Gender, Family, and Children*

Gisele Ndaya Luseba is head of the political party Convention of Unified Labor Democrats (CDTU) and vice president of Dynafec. Ms. Ndaya was appointed minister for gender, family, and children in April 2021. In July 2021, following the Generation Equality Forum convened by UN Women in Paris, she and Julienne Lusenge led a delegation of African women in announcing the outcome of the Kinshasa conference: the Kinshasa Declaration, a proposed 10-year goal for African women. Ms. Ndaya graduated in marketing from ISC Kinshasa and has an additional degree in theology. She has a master's degree in marketing economics and is a specialist in political party management at UN Academia. In 2020 her PhD thesis, "The Role of Women in Political Institutions in the Democratic Republic of Congo: Utopia or Reality?" was announced.

## Dominican Republic



**Saskia Ochoa Perez Contreras**

*Coordinadora, Oficina de Enlace del Poder Ejecutivo con la comunidad Cristiana*

Saskia Ochoa Perez Contreras is a wife and mother who, together with her husband, has pastored a congregation of the Assemblies of God in Santo Domingo East for more than 12 years. She is a lawyer who holds a degree in theology, and she specializes in international relations and foreign service. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in public administration and management. She has served the Lord Jesus Christ since the age of 11, holding different leadership positions in her council. She has been a public servant for almost 20 years, working in different agencies of the Dominican state. She recently directed the executive branch's liaison office with the evangelical community. She is also a community leader, leading the Community Development Council of the Prados de San Luis community, where she works hand in hand with the neighborhood councils. Through the neighborhood councils she works for equity, justice, and the community's common good.

## Eswatini



**Fortune Sibanda**

*Professor of Religious Studies, University of Eswatini*

Fortune Sibanda is a professor of religious studies in the Department of Philosophy and Theology at the University of Eswatini. He is also an academic associate and research fellow at the Research Institute for Theology and Religious Studies of the College of Human Sciences at the University of South Africa. Professor Sibanda received his doctorate of philosophy in arts (religious studies) from the University of Zimbabwe. His research interests include new religious movements, law and religion, religious freedom, human rights and human dignity, religion, and the environment. He is a member of several academic associations, including the African Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ACLARS), American Academy of Religion, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, African Association for the Study of Religion, Association for the Study of Religion in Southern Africa, and African Theological Institutions in Southern and Central Africa. Professor Sibanda is a regular speaker at ACLARS conferences. At ACLARS, he is a member of the board of directors, and the regional representative for the Southern Africa region in the membership committee. He also served as the local

organizing committee chairperson for the 2024 ACLARS conference held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

## Ethiopia



**Hazel Maureen Danetta Dixon**

*Regional Desk Officer, African Union Commission*

Hazel Dixon is the regional desk officer of the Civil Division for the Citizens and Diaspora Organizations Directive (CIDO). In this role, she coordinates engagement of civil society organizations with the African Union (AU) Commission, African Union organs, and African Union member states. She provides expert advice and guidance on the planning and formulation of strategic options for inclusion of civil society organizations and non-state actors in the affairs of the African Union. Ms. Dixon is deeply convinced of the need to implement the AU vision and the Constitutive Act to have a people-centered, people-driven union. To this end, she has supported development of platforms to ease the interaction between AU and non-state actors including trade unions, youth, women, and faith-based organizations. She has facilitated the Civil Society Organization Division's engagement in various Africa partnerships, and her work with interfaith mechanisms focuses on exploring and utilizing the rich and diverse faiths on the continent as a tool for building resilience and supporting the AU's vision of integration and development.



**Ibrahim Mulushewa Eshete**

*Executive Director, Center for National and Regional Integration Studies (CeNRIS)*

Ibrahim Mulushewa Eshete is the cofounder and current executive director of the Center for National and Regional Integration Studies (CeNRIS), a nonprofit organization that promotes greater peace and integration among the peoples of Ethiopia and the countries in the Horn of Africa by raising understanding levels and creating and disseminating knowledge and information based on research. CeNRIS is working on different projects that focus on peacebuilding and violence prevention by conducting research, giving training to pertinent bodies, and facilitating dialogue among politicians and activities. As one of the intellectuals involved in Ethiopian studies, Dr. Eshete focuses on the political history of Ethiopia and the Horn. He is renowned—both in his work and in his remarks on radio and television broadcasts—for making insightful critiques of Ethiopian historiography, with a particular emphasis on the history of disadvantaged groups' disproportionate representation in Ethiopian studies.

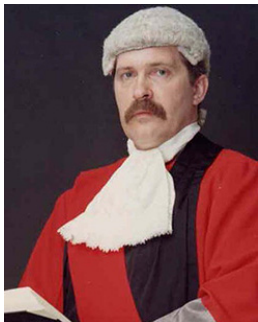


**Getachew Woldemariam**

*Dean and Associate Professor, College of Law and Governance Studies,  
Addis Ababa University*

Getachew Woldemariam has extensive experience in academia, research, and consultancy. He is the author of many articles that have appeared in various national and international journals, including the *American Journal of Comparative Law* and the *International Journal on Minority and Group Rights*. He has also authored and edited many books, including *Legal Pluralism in Ethiopia: Actors, Challenges and Solutions* (2020, with Susanne Epple) and *Grass-roots Justice in Ethiopia: The Contribution of Customary Dispute Resolution* (2008, with Alula Pankhurst). From July 2018 to December 2021, he served in the reform initiatives of the Ethiopian government as the chairperson of the working group on legal and institutional reform of democratic institutions, including the National Election Board of Ethiopia and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission. His research interests include Ethiopian and comparative constitutional law, human rights law, traditional justice systems, and law and religion. Currently, he is the dean of the College of Law and Governance Studies of Addis Ababa University. He holds LLB, LLM, and PhD degrees.

**Fiji**



**David Edward Ashton-Lewis**

*Supreme Court Judge of the Republic of Fiji*

David Edward Ashton-Lewis is a visiting justice of the Supreme Court of Fiji. For the past 40 years, he has served the people of Papua New Guinea and Fiji in the Justice Department and the judiciary. He was previously a high court justice in the Republic of Fiji and senior counsel in the Public Prosecutors Office of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea. Justice Ashton-Lewis is also an adjunct professor of law at Southern Cross University Law School on the Gold Coast in Southern Queensland, Australia.



## Finland



**Atik Ali**

*Vice Chairman, Advisory Board for International Human Rights*

An LLM who trained on the bench, Atik Ali is presently vice chair of the Advisory Board for International Human Rights at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. He is also a member of the human rights delegation at the Human Rights Centre and has served as president of the National Forum for Cooperation of Religions in Finland. Mr. Ali was a board member, chairman, and president of the Finnish Islamic Congregation (established in 1925) from 1988 to 2018 and was invited to become its honorary president in 2020. In 2023 he was Finland's nominee for the annual Global Human Rights Defender Award, which is presented by the US Department of State. At present, Mr. Ali's principal occupation is running his law practice while chairing the association of Real Estate Board Professionals of Finland.

## Germany



**Michael Gwosdz**

*Spokesman for Religious Policy, Green Parliamentary Group in the Hamburg Parliament, Germany*

Michael Gwosdz studied political science at University of Hamburg and Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg, graduating in 2002. From 1994 to 1996, he worked in civilian service and as a nursing assistant in outpatient care. From 2000 to 2010, he was a network administrator and full-time consultant in civic education. Since 2010, he has been the head of an advice center for the recognition of foreign qualifications. Mr. Gwosdz has twice been a member of the Deputation of a Ministry: He served in Interior and Sport from 2011 to 2015 and Labor, Social Affairs, Family and Integration from 2015 to 2020. His experience also includes being on the regional committee for Stellingen/Eidelstedt from 2017 to 2020. In the Green Party, his positions have included district committee member for Erlangen and Hamburg-Altona and member of the Hamburg State Executive Committee. He was a member of the Hamburg Parliament from May 2008 to March 2011, and he began another term of service in March 2020. Since June 2020 he has been parliamentary secretary of the Green Parliamentary Group and the spokesperson for refugee and religious policy.

## Ghana

### **Ibrahim Alhassan**

*Director, Youth and Gender Advocacy, Office of the National Chief Imam*



Ibrahim Alhassan is the youth and gender advocacy director at the Office of the National Chief Imam, Ghana. He is also a committee member of the Ghana Country Coordinating Mechanism of the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. He serves as a committee member of the National Child Protection Committee at the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection and is dedicated to the promotion of girl-child education, human rights advocacy, interfaith dialogue, global peace, and moral scholarship. Mr. Alhassan earned his MBA in 2019 at the Beijing Technology and Business University. He is currently an MA candidate in human rights law and practice at the University of Ghana School of Law. Mr. Alhassan presented a research paper “The Beauty of Islam and Democracy in a Secular Society” at the 4th Bali-International Conference on Social Science and Humanities. He also made a presentation “The Islamic perspective of Child’s Rights/Protection Principles at the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection,” at a conference organized by the Department of Children and the United Nations Children’s Fund.

## Guatemala

### **Otilia Inés Lux García de Cotí**

*Asesora del Programa Emblemático de la Mujer Indígena del Fondo Indígena de América Latina y el Caribe. FILAC., Guatemala*

Otilia Inés Lux García de Cotí, a Maya K’iche’ woman from Guatemala, is an advisor for the Indigenous Women Emblematic Program at the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America (FILAC). With a degree in educational administration, she has held various important roles, including congresswoman and minister of culture and sports in Guatemala, representative to UNESCO’s executive council, and Indigenous peoples expert at the United Nations. She has also taught at several universities, including Carlos III University, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, and FILAC’s Indigenous Intercultural University. She serves as an advisor to MADRE for Indigenous women in New York.



**Héctor Oswaldo Samayoa Sosa**

*Abogado; Director Ejecutivo, Comisión Presidencial por la Paz y los Derechos Humanos Copadeh*

Héctor Oswaldo Samayoa Sosa has served as a university professor teaching international humanitarian law and as a consultant for the International Labour Organization, the Canadian Educational Association of Justice, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Guatemala. He specializes in international humanitarian law with expertise in conventionality control, jurisprudential dialogues, dignity protection, neo-constitutionalism, and constitutional mutation in human rights. He has a notable research background in international human rights law, including expertise in creating training manuals for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. He has also provided training on prevention topics for the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman and the Public Ministry. As a legal advisor in international humanitarian law and use of force, he has worked with the International Committee of the Red Cross in Mexico, Central America, and Cuba. He has been involved in political advocacy for criminal justice reform, including efforts at the judicial, legislative, and executive levels, to improve the penitentiary, forensic, and police systems.

## **Honduras**



**Silvia Consuelo Godoy Rubio**

*Assistant to the Attorney General, Procuraduría General de la República de Honduras*

Silvia Consuelo Godoy Rubio was born in the city of Tegucigalpa, Honduras. She graduated with a law degree from the National Autonomous University of Honduras and earned a license in juridical and social sciences from the same institution. She has studied national and international arbitration and currently works in the Attorney General's Office of the Republic of Honduras, serving as assistant to the attorney general. Previously, she was an external consultant at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and an attorney of the Courts of the Republic in the private practice of law.

## India



### **Peter Machado**

*Archbishop of Bangalore, Karanataka, India, Roman Catholic, Archdiocese Karanataka*

Most Reverend Dr. Peter Machado, the distinguished Metropolitan Archbishop of Bangalore, stands as the venerable seventh shepherd of the revered Archdiocese of Bangalore. Ordained as a Priest on 8 December 1978 for the diocese of Karwar, Archbishop Machado's commitment to his calling was fortified by academic excellence. His pursuit of knowledge led him to attain a doctorate in canon law from the prestigious Pontifical Urban University in Rome. He was appointed as the Bishop of Belagavi by the venerable Pope Benedict XVI on 2 February 2006. Over the course of twelve years in this role, Archbishop Machado orchestrated transformative pastoral, educational, and social initiatives that left an indelible mark on the diocese. Numerous churches and educational institutions were erected under his guidance, fostering overall upliftment and welfare for the underprivileged. Renowned for his simplicity and unwavering work ethic, he possesses a profound love for the marginalized and impoverished. Currently serving as the chairman for the Karnataka Region Catholic Bishops' Council and presiding as the president of the All-Karnataka United Christian Forum for Human Rights, he continues to exemplify a profound commitment to the spiritual, social, and educational welfare of the community.

## Indonesia



### **Syamsul Arifin**

*Professor, Universitas Muhammadiyah Malang*

Syamsul Arifin is a professor in the field of sociology of religion at the University of Muhammadiyah Malang (UMM). Before being appointed as a vice rector I for academic affairs in 2023—a position he will hold for the next eight years—and becoming a rector “in term” at UMM (30 November 2023—31 January 2024), he was assigned to several positions, including deputy director for academic affairs at the postgraduate program of UMM and director of the Center for the Study of Religion and Multiculturalism. As director of the study center, he managed several programs, including one in association with the International Center for Law and Religion Studies at BYU. He also managed the master-level course on Sharia and human rights, a program intended to disseminate a more constructive understanding of human rights and the intersectional relationship between Islam and human rights. This program has produced many

scientific outputs, including the book *Shari'a and Human Rights: A Coursebook* (2022). Professor Arifin's studies related to human rights have been published in various international journals. He has been invited by several universities overseas to conduct collaborative research and seminars.



**Sikumbang Harniati**

*Director of Human Rights Cooperation, Ministry of Law and Human Rights*

Sikumbang Harniati has worked for the Ministry of Law and Human Rights for the Republic of Indonesia since 1998. In October 2023 she was appointed director of human rights cooperation. Previously, she was head of the Division on Law and Human Rights public service division at the regional office of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights in North Moluccas Province, West Nusa Tenggara Province, and West Borneo Province (2019–2023). Dr. Harniati's doctoral studies dealt with human rights, and she joined the Directorate of Human Rights soon after her graduation in 2013. She feels that promoting human rights is a daily duty—particularly protecting the right to religion—so the directorate has collaborated with several domestic and international colleges and also the Leimena Institute to educate people around Indonesia about the need to respect human rights.



**Matius Ho**

*Executive Director, Leimena Institute*

Matius Ho is the executive director of Leimena Institute in Jakarta. Since 2021 he has led the development of the cross-cultural religious literacy program that has trained thousands of teachers in Indonesia on competencies to strengthen peaceful multifaith and multicultural society. Under his leadership, Leimena Institute has developed a partnership with the Indonesian Ministry of Law and Human Rights and many leading religious and educational institutions in Indonesia. Mr. Ho has been invited to speak about the program in more than a dozen countries. He wrote the chapter on Indonesia in *The Routledge Handbook of Religious Literacy, Pluralism, and Global Engagement* (2021). Before cofounding the institute in 2005, he was a technology and management consultant at Accenture in Indonesia and Singapore. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from University of Wisconsin, Madison in the United States.





**Henriette Hutabarat Lebang**

*President, World Council of Churches*

Rev. Dr. Henriette Hutabarat Lebang, a pastor of Toraja Church in Indonesia, is presently chair of the advisory board of the Communion of Churches in Indonesia, general chairperson of Indonesian Bible Society, one of the presidents of the World Council of Churches (WCC) representing Asian churches, and a resource person for the Leimena

Institute program on cross-cultural religious literacy. She was general chairperson of the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (2014–2019), a member of the WCC executive committee (2013–2018), a member of the WCC central committee (2013–2021), general secretary of Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) (2010–2015), and director of the Institute Theology of Toraja Church (2006–2010). Additionally, she served as a member of the joint working group of WCC and the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity (2007–2013), chair of education and mission of the Synod of Toraja Church (2001–2006), vice president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (2004–2010), associate general secretary of CCA (1991–2001), and the head of the Women's Desk of the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (1984–1986). Rev. Hutabarat Lebang graduated from Jakarta Theological Seminary (MDiv 1977) and Presbyterian School of Christian Education/Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, USA (MA 1987; EdD 1991). She is the widow of the late Ralph Donald M. Hutabarat and has two children and four grandchildren.



**Alwi A. Shihab**

*Senior Fellow, Leimena Institute; Special Envoy of the Indonesian President to the Middle East and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation*

Alwi A. Shihab is one of the leading authorities and scholars on the interaction of Christian and Muslim communities. He is the Indonesian president's special envoy to the Middle East and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. He was the Indonesian coordinating minister for people's welfare from 2004 to 2005 and the foreign minister of Indonesia from 1999 to 2001. Alwi studied at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, completing his MA in 1992. He possesses a strong entrepreneurial spirit, and after finishing his undergraduate education in Cairo, Egypt, he started several businesses. He was CEO of Glass Priangan Factory in Cianjur, Indonesia, from 1975 to 1979 and then became the acting president director for Alfa Contracting Company in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where he worked from 1979 to 1982. For the next four years, he was the president director of the PT. Prima Advera company in Jakarta, Indonesia. In 1982 he founded Yayasan Daarul Qur'an.

## Iraq



### **Florin Seudin**

*Head of Department of Ethnic and Religious Components Affairs, The Presidency of Kurdistan Region*

Florin Seudin is a human rights activist. Since 1999, she has worked with different UN agencies as well as in the private and public sectors. She is the head of the Ethnic and Religious Components Department for the Presidency of Kurdistan Region. Ms. Seudin worked in an advisory role during the United Nations country assessment of Iraq's status on gender, justice, and law. She also advised on the role of women in the Kurdistan Regional Government's Economic Plan. She was awarded the Certificate of Parliament of Kurdistan as a women's rights protector in 2018. She also received the Human Rights Defender Award from Heartland Alliance International in 2018 for her contribution to the protection and promotion of human rights in Iraq. She was awarded the Minorities Rights Defender award by the International Council for Religion and Humanitarian Dialogue for her efforts in spreading the values of love and peaceful coexistence and for promoting peaceful dialogue between different religions and civilizations of the world.

## Korea, Republic of



### **Choonghyun Baek**

*Director General, Religious Affairs Office, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Republic of Korea*

Choonghyun Baek is in a religious studies master's degree program at Sogang University. He was previously director of the Religious Affairs Office in the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism in Korea. Mr. Baek has authored the books *The President and Religion* (2014) and *Are There Churches in North Korea?* (1999).



### **Chae Young Kim**

*Professor, Sogang University*

Chae Young Kim is a professor of religious studies at Sogang University in Seoul. He served as president of the Korean Association for Religious Studies from 2014 to 2016. Currently, he participates in a network that builds associations of young scholars of religious studies in East Asia. He also serves as an editorial board member for the international journals

*Religion and British Journal of Religious Education*. He translated William James's *The Varieties of Religious Experience: A Study of Human Nature* and Ernest Becker's *The Denial of Death* into Korean. Professor Chae has also published Korean books and articles dealing with interreligious and intercultural dialogue, psychology of religion, religious education, and contemporary religious experience and human dignity issues in Korea and beyond.

## Mexico



**Cristian Badillo Gutiérrez**

*Director General, Conciencia Nacional por la Libertad Religiosa, Mexico*

Cristian Badillo Gutiérrez holds a bachelor's degree in law and in business administration with an emphasis in entrepreneurial and business development. He has a master's degree in religious freedom and human rights and a doctorate in education. His studies are in human dignity, bioethics, public policy, and new citizenship. Gutiérrez is an entrepreneur in the publishing, automotive, construction, education, and food sectors. He has collaborated with national and international nongovernmental organizations. He is currently director of the National Awareness for Religious Freedom Foundation, an organization dedicated to promoting and defending religious freedom as a fundamental human right in Latin America. Gutiérrez is director of the International Center for Freedom and Religion Studies (CIELRE) and director of the International Observatory on Religious Freedom (OILR). He has given more than 200 seminars, lectures, and scholarly presentations in Latin America, the United States, and Europe. His teachings and scholarly interests include religious freedom, conscientious objection, freedom of speech, human rights, and legislation and public policies.



**Paulina Corominas Etchegaray**

*Section Chief for Civil Society Relations, Organization of American States*

Paulina Corominas Etchegaray is a Mexican lawyer with 25 years of experience in the field of human rights. She graduated from the School of Law at Universidad Panamericana in Mexico City and holds a master's degree in fundamental rights from Universidad Carlos III in Madrid. Additionally, she has received various course certificates and diplomas in human rights and mediation. Prior to her current role, she dedicated 14 years to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and served with the National Commission on Human Rights in Mexico. Since January 2021, Ms. Corominas has led the Civil Society Relations Section of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity of the Organization of American States, where she plays a pivotal role as the liaison between the organization and diverse civil society groups and social actors.



**Amanda Marchena**

*Coordinadora de Asuntos Religiosos, Gobierno del Estado de Sonora*

Amanda Marchena is the daughter of pastors who have had an evangelization career spanning more than 60 years. She is a civic leader who, since 2009, has promoted government guidance and assistance to religious associations in their rights and obligations as well as in their needs. She is currently studying to obtain a law degree as part of her personal development. Presently, she is the coordinator of religious affairs in the state administration.

## **Mongolia**



**Battengel Asralt**

*Head of International, Social, and Public Relations, Gandantegchenling Monastery, The Centre of Mongolian Buddhists*

Battengel Asralt holds the title of Geshe in Buddhist philosophy. Born in Ulaanbaatar in 1978, he was ordained as a monk at Gandantegchenling Monastery in 1990 following Mongolia's transition to democracy. From 1992 to 2002, he engaged in rigorous study of Buddhist philosophy at Drepung Gomang Monastery in South India, where he was conferred the title of Parchin Rabjampa.

**Bat-Erdene Baatar**

*Lecturer, Union Bible Theological College*

For the past five years, Bat-Erdene Baatar has served as a professor and lecturer at the Union Bible Theological College, where he teaches courses in hermeneutics, Christian ethics, preaching, mentoring, and leadership. He has dedicated the last seven years to preparing and equipping young Christian leaders; mentoring and advising these future leaders has been a central part of his ministry, and he is passionate about guiding them on their spiritual journeys. Professor Baatar's pastoral experience includes seven years as a full-time pastor and 10 years as an assistant pastor and elder at Pray House Church in Ulaanbaatar. Throughout his career, he has strived to nurture and develop the faith and leadership skills of those in his congregation and beyond. He is married and has three children.

**Purevsuren Byambakhishig**

*Director, Institute of Philosophy, Mongolian Academy of Sciences*

Purevsuren Byambakhishig works in the science and higher education sector of Mongolia. A philosophy teacher, his academic research has been mainly in the fields of ontology and policy of language and culture, particularly in cultural rights and freedom, cultural identity, human dignity, and social inequality. Professor Byambakhishig is director of the Institute of Philosophy of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, the only state-owned institute in Mongolia that conducts basic research in philosophy, sociology, religion study, political science, and law. As a manager, he focuses on policy studies and policy think tanks. He is a member of the Association of Young Scientists of Mongolian Social Sciences, vice president of the Association of Mongolian Philosophers, a member of the Social Sciences and Humanities Subassembly of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, and vice chairman of the PhD Defense Committee for Philosophy and Religion Studies in Mongolia.

**Davaanyam Dovdon**

*Head of the Administration Department, State Registration Office*

Davaanyam Dovdon was born in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, and currently serves as head of the administration department in the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs of Mongolia. Previously, he was the chief of staff of the Mongolian Immigration Agency. Under the same agency, he worked at the various border ports of entrance for ten years.

**Munkhtsetseg Gan-Ochir**

*Board Member, Civil Rights and Development NGO*

Munkhtsetseg Gan-Ochir is a human rights lawyer from Mongolia. She has seven years of experience in advocating for vulnerable populations. Her work focuses on the rights of artisanal miners and religious minorities, especially Christians, and she strives to raise public awareness and fight for their rights. Her commitment to social justice is further exemplified by her brief but impactful tenure in the Parliament of Mongolia, where she worked to influence policy changes for the betterment of marginalized communities. Currently, she serves as a board member for a civil rights and development NGO established by Christian lawyers in Mongolia; the organization provides training for religious leaders in human rights and legal knowledge and has conducted surveys and compilations on religious freedom and rights. Additionally, Mrs. Gan-Ochir is a part-time lecturer at Union Bible Theological College.





**Bataa Mishig-Ish**

*Chair of Department of Religious Studies, Institute of Philosophy,  
Mongolian Academy of Sciences*

Bataa Mishig-Ish earned a PhD in Asian studies from Ritsumeikan University in 2013 and holds two master's degrees from the University of Hawaii—one in Asian religions and the other in political science. He also completed monastic education at Gandantegchenling and Dashichoiling monasteries in Ulaanbaatar. Dr. Bataa served as an associate professor at the National Academy of Governance and was a senior analyst on religious and cultural affairs at the National Security Council of Mongolia. From 2011 to 2018, he was an advisor on religious and cultural affairs to the president of Mongolia. He leads the Tritiya Dharmachakra Foundation, which promotes Buddhist studies and organizes symposia in collaboration with Mongolian universities. Additionally, he is the director of Orgil Secondary School's board of trustees and has authored books on contemporary Buddhism in Mongolia.



**Demberel Sukhbaatar**

*Lecturer, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, National  
University of Mongolia*

Demberel Sukhbaatar teaches various subjects in religious studies, including introduction to religious studies, ethics of religion, rituals of religion, Sanskrit language of Buddhist texts, mythology, and religion. Mr. Sukhbaatar's research primarily focuses on the history of Buddhism in Mongolia, Buddhist social work activities in Mongolia, and new religious movements in Mongolia. He has coauthored several significant works, including *The Encyclopedia of Mongolian Culture and Arts* (2016), *The Growth of Buddhist Social Work Activities in Mongolia* (2018), and *The Handbook of World Civilizations* (2020). Additionally, he has served as editor for 10 books on Mongolian religion and culture and has authored 18 articles on Buddhist studies and new religious movements in Mongolia.

## Nigeria



### **Hauwa Siddeeq Abubakar**

*Deputy Secretary General, Supreme Council for Sharia*

Hauwa Siddeeq Abubakar earned his BA in English from the University of Abuja and pursued law studies at Bayero University, Kano. His interest in Islamic sciences led him to study under renowned scholars such as Sheikh Abubakar Gumi and Ahmed Deedat in Nigeria and South Africa. He furthered his education at Al-Azhar University in Cairo. Proficient in Arabic and English, he is a prominent commentator, writer, and columnist for *Leadership*, a Nigerian daily newspaper. He has been interpreting Khutbah (sermons) at the National Mosque in Abuja for more than 35 years and is recognized for his work in interfaith dialogue and Muslim-Christian relations. He has presented at numerous conferences, including the Muslim World League Conference. He has shared his experiences extensively, including during the International Leadership Program at Brigham Young University. He remains an influential figure in Nigerian media and enjoys a fulfilling personal life with his family.

### **Abubakr Muhammad**

*Deputy Secretary General, Supreme Council for Sharia*

Abubakr Muhammad earned his BA in English from the University of Abuja and pursued law studies at Bayero University, Kano. He delved into Islamic sciences under scholars such as the late Sheikh Abubakar Gumi and Ahmed Deedat in Nigeria and Durban, South Africa. His quest for learning led him to Al-Azhar University in Cairo. Proficient in Arabic and English, Mr. Muhammad is a prominent figure in public discourse, serving as a commentator, writer, and columnist for *Leadership Newspapers*. For more than 35 years, he has interpreted Khutbah (sermons) at the National Mosque in Abuja, reflecting his deep understanding of religious matters. His expertise extends to interfaith dialogue and Muslim-Christian relations, topics on which he has presented papers at various national and international conferences, including the Muslim World League Conference. Notably, he was at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, together with a group of participants of the International Leadership Program of the US Government; he wrote extensively about his experience in his column. This is his second time attending the Annual International Law and Religion Symposium.



**Adesina Olufemi Olukanni**

*President, Aba Nigeria Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

Upon his retirement in late 2016, Adesina Olufemi Olukanni joined the Center as a senior fellow for Africa after nearly a decade of service in public affairs for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Africa. He was also the country director in Nigeria for the Church Educational System for three years. Mr. Olukanni helped establish public affairs work in more than 30 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Because of his efforts to build relationships, there is now a widespread awareness of the need to protect religious freedom. His efforts led to annual academic conferences and the formation of the Law and Religion Center and Association in West Africa and Nigeria. Prior to his roles with the Church of Jesus Christ, Mr. Olukanni was the head of the Information Technology Department for West African Portland Cement Plc. Lagos for 11 years, and he worked in management positions in other blue-chip companies, including the A. G. Leventis Group. He holds a bachelor's degree in computer science and economics (University of Ife) and a master's degree in computer science (University of Lagos).



**Abiola Olaitan Sanni**

*Professor, University of Lagos*

Abiola Sanni, SAN, is the dean of law at the University of Lagos and a renowned expert in taxation and fiscal law. He started his academic career at Obafemi Awolowo University in 1991 before transferring to the University of Lagos in 1999. He was a Fulbright Scholar and research fellow at Temple University from 2002 to 2003. In 2016, he was appointed both a professor of commercial law and the Lagos State Professorial Chair for the Advancement of Taxation and Fiscal Matters. He has served on several national tax committees and is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria. He is the editor of *Introduction to Nigerian Legal Methods*, a leading introductory legal text in Nigerian universities and the West African subregion.



**Ahmad Jibrin Suleiman**

*Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, Yusuf Maitama Sule University*

Ahmad Jibrin Suleiman is an associate professor and head of the department of Islamic Law at Yusuf Maitama Sule University, Kano. He also serves as the deputy dean of the Faculty of Law. Dr. Suleiman specializes in international humanitarian law, human rights, peace, and comparative jurisprudence. He is a member of the Faculty of Law at

Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, and has been a visiting lecturer at various universities. Additionally, he heads the Department of Islamic Law at Gombe State University. Dr. Suleiman holds an honors LLB in English common law and Islamic law, an LLM in public law with a focus on international law, and a PhD in comparative jurisprudence. He is an activist dedicated to interreligious collaboration, peace, and security, and he has published extensively on these topics. He also serves on the boards of several NGOs and religious organizations, including the Tazkiyyah Educational Resource Centre, the West African Rabies Research Forum, and the Society of International Humanitarian Teachers.

## **Oman, Sultanate of**

### **Ahmed Khamis Mosoud Al Bahri**

*Director of Religious Care, Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs*

Ahmed Khamis Mosoud Al Bahri is the director of religious care with the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs for the Sultanate of Oman. He is a graduate of Sultanate Qabas University in mechanical engineering. Dr. Al Bahri has attended several foreign affairs leadership trainings in Europe and the Far East.

## **Papua New Guinea**



### **Susan Purdon-Sully**

*Judge, Supreme and National Court of Papua New Guinea*

Susan Purdon-Sully is an Australian lawyer with 25 years of experience in private practice. She served as a judge of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia from 2007 to 2023. Since 2023, she has been a justice of the Supreme and National Court of Papua New Guinea. She is married and has three children and three grandchildren.

## Philippines



### **Reuben Abante**

*Bishop/Senior Pastor, Lighthouse Bible Baptist Church and Ministries*

Reuben Abante is senior pastor of the Lighthouse Bible Baptist Church and Ministries. He earned a bachelor's degree in electronics and communications engineering at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, then worked at AVESCO, where he pioneered technological advancement. He is frequently invited to be an expert speaker on various issues at House of Representatives' hearings. He served as a member of the Presidential Council for Values Formation and made presentations at both local and foreign forums, including the Interfaith High-Level Dialogues of the UN. He has also been involved in the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, University of the Philippines National College for Public Administration, and the Department of Education. Bishop Abante heads the boards of The Great Lighthouse Foundation, Mapa Blue Falcon Honor Society, Great Commission Television, and Friendship Builders Foundation. He was elected president of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila Alumni Association, is vice chair of the Far Eastern Broadcasting Corporation, and serves as board secretary of the Global Filipino Movement Foundation. He hosts the *Lighthouse Café Show* and *The Pulpit* on GCTV.

### **Elizabeth Aguilino-Pangalangan**

*Professor, University of the Philippines*

Elizabeth Aguilino-Pangalangan is a professor at the University of the Philippines College of Law and serves as director of its Institute of Human Rights. She is the Philippine representative for children's rights for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Women and Children. She earned her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of the Philippines and her LLM from Harvard Law School, where she was appointed as visiting scholar and, later, as a research fellow. She attended The Hague Academy of International Law and subsequently lectured in its extension program. Professor Aguilino-Pangalangan drafted the Philippine State Periodic Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child as well as the Senate and House Bills on Domestic Adoption Act. In addition, she was a consultant to the Department of Social Welfare and Development to assess all alternative childcare programs in the Philippines. Her work contributed to the passage of a new law on domestic administrative adoption and the Alternative Child Care Act of 2022. Professor Aguilino-Pangalangan is a member of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) working group on parentage and has been a Philippine expert to various other HCCH fora. She has authored several books and contributed chapters on family law, private international law, and children's rights to various publications.





**Pablito Baybado**

*Lecturer, University of Santo Tomas*

Pablito Baybado is a theology professor, the theology program lead of the graduate school, and a senior researcher at the University of Santo Tomas, Manila. He serves as the executive secretary of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences–Office of Education and Faith Formation, associate secretary general of Religions for Peace Asia, coordinator of UniHarmony Partners Manila, and the secretary general of Religions for Peace Philippines. His research interests are interreligious dialogue, peace building, Asian theologies, and churches in Asia.



**Maria Filomena Singh**

*Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the Philippines*

Maria Filomena Singh earned her juris doctor from Ateneo de Manila University and a master of laws from American University in Washington, DC. She practiced law for ten years before joining the judiciary, serving in the Metropolitan Trial Court, Regional Trial Court, and Court of Appeals before she was appointed to the Supreme Court. Justice Singh has a strong leadership background in judicial reform, legal education, and gender responsiveness. As a lecturer and published author, she has received numerous accolades, including serving as a director for the Asia Pacific region of the International Association of Women Judges.



**Persida Rueda-Acosta**

*Chief Public Attorney, Public Attorney's Office*

Persida Rueda-Acosta completed several prestigious programs at Harvard Kennedy School, including the senior executive fellows program, the senior executive program on national and international security, and the public financial management program. She also holds a professional certificate in international management and leadership from the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies and fellowships from the Salzburg Global Seminar (2023, 2009). A consistent top student throughout her academic career, she graduated cum laude with a BS general degree and received numerous accolades, including being a Presidential Civil Service Commission Scholar and University Scholar. Dr. Rueda-Acosta earned her doctor of social development degree from the University of the Philippines. Recognized for her expertise in legal aid and human rights advocacy, she has served as a law professor, intergovernmental expert, and resource person for international institutions such as IJJ, UNICEF, UNODC, UNDP, and USAID.

## Singapore



**Jaclyn Neo**

*Associate Professor, National University of Singapore*

Jaclyn Neo is an associate professor of law and the director of the Centre for Asian Legal Studies at the National University of Singapore. A scholar of comparative constitutional law as well as law and religion, she has won multiple research awards, including the *International Journal of Constitutional Law*'s Best Article Prize in 2023. She has published in leading journals and is the editor or coeditor for more than 10 books and special journal issues. She has held several visiting positions, including at the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, the University of Münster, Melbourne Law School, the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, and the University of Texas at Austin School of Law. Professor Neo serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Law and Religion*, the *Asian Journal of Comparative Law*, *Suprema (Revista de Estudos Constitucionais)*, and the ICONnect blog. She is also on multiple advisory boards of overseas academic institutions, including the North-Rhein Westphalia (Germany) Academy of International Affairs, the Chinese University of Hong Kong's Centre for Comparative and Transnational Law, and the University of Otago's Centre for Law and Society.

## Spain



**Alberto Herrera Rodriguez**

*Subsecretario de la Presidencia, Justicia y Relaciones con las Cortes – Gobierno de España*

Alberto Herrera Rodriguez is the undersecretary of the Ministry for Presidency, Justice, and Parliamentary Relations for the government of Spain. He holds degrees in law and business administration from Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM), and he earned a master's degree in society administration intervention from UNED. He has participated in training programs at IESE-Universidad de Navarra, the London School of Economics and Political Science, Middlesex University (London), and the High Centre for Defense Studies. Mr. Herrera Rodriguez has done doctoral program research at UAM on law and public policy, with a thesis on the constitutional dimension of access to public information. His professional roles include Spanish public administration official (2010); deputy general directorate of the general state administration in the territory; and general directorate of civil protection and emergencies. Mr.

Herrera Rodriguez has been the undersecretary in various ministries: Health; Territorial Policy and Public Function; and Presidency, Parliamentary Relations and Democratic Memory.



**José Luis Llaquet de Entrambasaguas**

*Professor of Law and Religion in Seville*

José Luis Llaquet de Entrambasaguas has been a deputy magistrate in the Provincial Court of Barcelona for one year and a judge in the Ecclesiastical Court of Barcelona for 10 years. He is also a lawyer in the Ecclesiastical Court, an attorney-at-law, and an associate professor at Loyola Andalucía University. He specializes in law (historical, law and religions, and canon law); ethics; intercultural and indigenous rights; and religious and spiritual issues. He has been a member of research groups funded by the Spanish Ministry of Education as well as groups at various foreign universities and has published numerous articles and books. His work has taken him to many countries in America, Europe, and Africa. In 2016 he was the finalist for the Prince of Asturias Chair at Georgetown University. Mr. Llaquet holds a PhD in law and in canon law and a PhD Honoris Causa. He earned additional degrees in law, ecclesiastical studies, canon law, spiritual theology, and ecclesiastical philosophy.

## Ukraine



**Dmytro Vovk**

*Visiting Associate Professor, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law*

Dmytro Vovk has been a rule of law and religious freedom expert for a variety of international and national organizations, including UN bodies and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). He also testified before the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom. Among his recent publications are *Human Dignity, Judicial Reasoning, and the Law* (Routledge 2024); “Freedom of Religion and Gender Equality Across the OSCE Region” for the *Review of Faith and International Affairs* (2022); “The Soviet and Post-Soviet Law: Failed Transition from Socialist Legality to the Rule of Law” for the *Ideology and Politics Journal* (2021); and *Religion During the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict* (Routledge 2019). Vovk is a coeditor of the blog *Talk About: Law and Religion*.

## United Arab Emirates



**Abdulla Al Shehhi**

*Acting Operations Executive Director, Abrahamic Family House Centre*

Abdulla Al Shehhi has overseen the development of the Abrahamic Family House from ideation to operation. Under his leadership, the Abrahamic Family House is envisioned to become the epicenter of peaceful theological dialogue and academic research in the UAE. Mr. Al Shehhi is an advocate of interweaving cultural diversity and social cohesion. Because of his upbringing in a diplomatic household, he strives to have the values of peaceful coexistence echo throughout his work. Mr. Al Shehhi started his career at Abu Dhabi City Municipality, where he led several projects that aided in the creation of spaces in the public realm where the diverse communities of Abu Dhabi could interact and prosper. After a short academic detour to earn a master's degree in urban planning at Columbia University in New York City, he joined Miral Asset Management LLC, spearheading their new portfolio of cultural projects. Following his successes with Wahat Al Karama and Qasr Al Watan, Mr. Al Shehhi was asked to oversee the Abrahamic Family House.



**Mohamed Elamin**

*Programs Director, Muslim Council of Elders*

Mohamed Elamin is the programs director at the Muslim Council of Elders, a prominent organization based in the United Arab Emirates. As part of his role, he focuses on empowering youth by providing them with the knowledge, tools, and techniques needed to promote peace in their communities. He is particularly involved in initiatives like the Emerging Peacemakers Forum, which brings together young leaders from different religious and cultural backgrounds to foster coexistence, tolerance, and harmony. Through his leadership, the Muslim Council of Elders seeks to foster interfaith dialogue and tackle extremism, always aiming for sustainable peace across diverse communities.



**Seppe Wiet H. Verheyen**

*Advisor, Abrahamic Family House*

Seppe Wiet H. Verheyen serves as an advisor at the Abrahamic Family House (AFH) in Abu Dhabi, supporting the executive director with strategic decision-making and policy development in interfaith and diplomatic initiatives. Before his time at AFH, Dr. Verheyen held various roles at the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy, including innovation and special initiatives manager, senior research fellow, and chief of staff. He significantly contributed to the academy's local and global influence. He also directed the master of arts in diplomacy program and the international office at the American University in the Emirates, enhancing students' diplomatic skills and establishing key partnerships. A Fulbright scholar, Dr. Verheyen earned his PhD from Trinity College Dublin with a thesis on undecided voters' decision-making processes. He has worked as an advisor at the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Belgian Permanent Representation to the EU, where he drafted EU foreign policies and represented Belgium at the EU forum. He has also consulted for political parties in Belgium and Ireland, and he frequently speaks at conferences on diplomacy, smart cities, leadership, and skills training.

## United States



**Jonathan Ammons**

*Director of Interfaith Relations, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

Jonathan Ammons serves as director of interfaith relations for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In addition to his work for the Church, he currently serves as president of the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB), an association of civil society leaders engaged in promoting FoRB within the United Nations. He also serves on the national board of governors of the Religion Communicators Council and is a Stephen M. Kellen Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He is the recipient of a number of fellowships and awards,



including the Oxford Young Scholars Fellowship in Religion and the Rule of Law, the Handa Fellowship in Interreligious Communication, the Interfaith Center of New York's Interfaith Civic Leadership Fellowship, and the DeRose-Hinkhouse Award for Excellence in Religious Communications and Public Relations. Mr. Ammons holds a bachelor's degree in humanities from Brigham Young University and a master's degree in government and democracy studies from Johns Hopkins University. He and his wife, Brianne, have four wonderful children and enjoy hiking, camping, and other outdoor activities with their family.



**Amy Lynn Andrus**

*Associate Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies,  
J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University*

Amy Lynn Andrus is an associate director at the International Center for Law and Religion Studies (ICLRS), J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University. She earned a JD, an MA in international development, and a BA (summa cum laude) in English from BYU. Ms. Andrus served as an attorney advisor in the US Attorney General's Honors Program, working for the US Department of Justice's Executive Office for Immigration Review. She co-administers the ICLRS Young Scholars Fellowship on Religion and the Rule of Law, held annually at Christ Church, Oxford. Ms. Andrus is coauthor of the volume *Religion and Law in the USA*, published as part of the *International Encyclopaedia of Laws: Religion* (Wolters Kluwer 2024).



**Samy Ayoub**

*Associate Professor of Law, University of Texas*

Samy Ayoub specializes in Islamic law, modern Middle East law, and law and religion in contemporary Muslim societies. He focuses on issues concerning the interaction between religion and law and on the role of religion in contemporary legal and sociopolitical systems within a global comparative perspective. He has pursued training in both law and Islamic Studies in Egypt, Scotland, and the United States. Dr. Ayoub was selected as a fellow in the Program on Law and Society in the Muslim World at Harvard Law School (fall 2021). He was also chosen as a fellow at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study (2018–19). He served as president of the Islamic law section of the American Association of Law Schools for 2018–19, and he is a member of the editorial boards of the *Journal of Law in the Middle East* by LexisNexis and *Arab*

*Law Quarterly*. Before joining the University of Texas at Austin, Dr. Ayoub was a postdoctoral faculty fellow (2014–15) at the University of California Santa Barbara, where he was nominated by the student body to receive the Margaret T. Getman Service to Students Award.



**Tony Brown**

*Professor, Department of German and Russian, Brigham Young University*

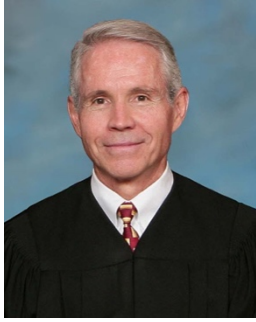
Tony Brown is a professor in Brigham Young University's Department of German and Russian. He specializes in Russian language and cultural history, second-language acquisition, and international academic internships, which he oversees in Russia, the Baltic States, Central Europe, and Germany. Dr. Brown earned his BA in Russian from Southern Methodist University, followed by advanced degrees in Russian and Second-Language Acquisition from Bryn Mawr College. Since joining BYU in 2004, he has contributed significantly to the university's global engagement by developing study abroad programs and internship opportunities. He is passionate about connecting academic and professional communities through language education and cultural exchange. He is also a devoted family man, married to Emily, with four children.



**Victor Brown**

*Senior Pastor, Mt. Sinai United Christian Church, Inc., United States*

Bishop Victor Brown is senior pastor of Mt. Sinai United Christian Church and a former adjunct professor of preaching at New York Theological Seminary. He is also a suffragan bishop and a founding board member of the Worldwide Fellowship of Independent Christian Churches, serving as second-in-command to Archbishop Everett Caldwell. Bishop Brown graduated magna cum laude from St. John's University with a bachelor's degree in finance, then earned a master of divinity degree from New York Theological Seminary, where he was a three-time recipient of the Dr. Benjamin E. Mays Scholarship. He earned a doctor of ministry degree in community transformation from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Bishop Brown holds the rank of inspector with the New York City Police Department and made history as the first Staten Island minister appointed to the Chaplains Unit. He serves as senior administrative manager of Community Health for Staten Island University Hospital. Bishop Brown has been celebrated for his efforts in speaking out against social injustice. He is married to Rev. Nicole Whitmore-Brown and they have a blended family of four children and six grandchildren.



**David Campbell**

*Senior Judge, United States District Court, District of Arizona, United States*

David Campbell is a senior United States district judge for the District of Arizona, having served on the Court since 2003. He currently chairs the US Courts' Committee on International Judicial Relations. He previously chaired the US Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, which oversees the work of five advisory committees on the federal rules of civil, criminal, bankruptcy, and appellate procedure and the federal rules of evidence. Earlier, he chaired the advisory committee on the federal rules of civil procedure. Judge Campbell is a member of the American Law Institute and a fellow of the American Bar Foundation. He has worked with courts in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Turkey, and the Gambia on judicial case management and related topics, and he has taught civil procedure and constitutional law at the Arizona State and Brigham Young University law schools. Following his graduation from the University of Utah Law School, he served as a law clerk for Justice William H. Rehnquist of the United States Supreme Court and Judge J. Clifford Wallace of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Judge Campbell worked as a commercial litigator with the Phoenix, Arizona, law firm of Osborn Maledon before becoming a judge.



**Elizabeth A. Clark**

*Associate Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University; Program Chair, Annual International Law and Religion Symposium*

Elizabeth A. Clark, an associate director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies at Brigham Young University, is the US member of the OSCE/ODIHR advisory panel for freedom of religion or belief. Professor Clark has written extensively on freedom of religion or belief, particularly in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Working in behalf of the US State Department, USAID, national governments, and international NGOs, she has analyzed legislation and drafted legislation on religion for more than a dozen countries. She has spoken at UN and OSCE forums and at more than 100 academic conferences throughout the world. She has also testified before the US Congress and the US Commission on International Religious Freedom.



**Gary B. Doxey**

*Associate Director and Regional Advisor for Latin America, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University*

Gary B. Doxey is an associate director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies at the J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University. He joined the Center in 2005 and serves as regional advisor for Latin America. He also heads the Center's development effort. He has authored several commentaries on draft legislation and a number of amicus briefs in Latin America. He also teaches in the History Department at BYU. Professor Doxey's career has been divided between academia and public service. Prior to joining the BYU Law School, he was chief of staff and general counsel to Utah governors Mike Leavitt and Olene Walker and served as deputy commissioner of financial institutions and as associate general counsel to the Utah Legislature. He has a PhD in history from Cambridge University and a JD from Brigham Young University.



**W. Cole Durham, Jr.**

*Founding Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University; President, G20 Interfaith Forum Association*

W. Cole Durham, Jr. is the founding director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies. He graduated from Harvard College and Harvard Law School, where he was the note editor of the *Harvard Law Review* and managing editor of the *Harvard International Law Journal*. Professor Durham has focused on comparative law scholarship with an emphasis on comparative constitutional law. He is the immediate past president of the International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS) in Milan, Italy, and a co-editor-in-chief of the *Oxford Journal of Law and Religion*. He served as the secretary of the American Society of Comparative Law from 1989 to 1994 and is an associate member of the International Academy of Comparative Law in Paris. In earlier years, he served as chair of both the comparative law section and the law and religion section of the American Association of Law Schools. He is the author (with Brett G. Scharffs) of *Law and Religion: National, International, and Comparative Perspectives*; a co-editor (with Gerhard Robbers) of the *Encyclopedia of Law and Religion*; and a co-author of a four-volume treatise, *Religious Organizations and the Law*.



**Alexander Dushku**

*General Authority Seventy; General Counsel, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

Elder Alexander Dushku serves as a general authority seventy and as general counsel for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Elder Dushku received a bachelor of arts degree in economics from Brigham Young University in 1990 and a juris doctor degree from Brigham Young University Law School in 1993. He worked as an attorney for the Salt Lake City law firm Kirton McConkie from 1996 to 2023, where for many years he was head of the firm's constitutional and appellate law section. He has authored numerous briefs in important religious liberty cases before appellate courts across the United States, including the United States Supreme Court, and has consulted with legislators and advocates across the country on religious liberty issues. Elder Dushku was born in Fairfield, California, USA. He married Jennifer Burnham in 1988, and they have eight children and 12 grandchildren.



**Que English**

*Director of the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, US Department of Health and Human Services, United States*

Rev. Dr. Que English serves as the director of the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships at the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and works closely with the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. As a coalition builder and network strategist, Rev. Dr. English joined HHS from the State of New York, where she served as the deputy director of faith-based initiatives for the Governor's Office of Faith-Based Community Development Services. She also conceptualized and was instrumental in forming the faith-based office in the Office of the Mayor of New York City. She has brought together several roundtables and interfaith coalitions to create and implement strategic plans to tackle New York's most problematic issues and has received awards for her advocacy work. English is the founder and past president of Not On My Watch, Inc., an organization formed to combat human trafficking and domestic violence. She received her master's and doctorate degrees from New York Theological Seminary, where she was the recipient of the Excellence in Ministry Award.



**Dallin Everton**

*JD Candidate, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University*



Dallin Everton is a law student at BYU who is interested in religious freedom and litigation. He completed his bachelor's degree in American studies at BYU. Prior to that, he served a two-year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Santiago, Chile, where he became fluent in Spanish. Mr. Everton's faith in Jesus Christ is important to him; it inspires him to be actively engaged in religious freedom work. During his spare time, he likes to hike, surf, and ski.



**Tanner Guisinger**

*Student, Brigham Young University, United States*

Tanner Guisinger is a senior studying Philosophy at Brigham Young University and is applying to law school, to start in the 2025 cycle. During his time living overseas in Saudi Arabia, Japan, and Guam he saw first-hand the irreplaceable role of religious pluralism. He is a strong advocate for religious freedom and has a specific interest in the philosophy of law as it pertains to religious rights. He was born in Seattle, WA, and spent two years as a missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in San Diego, CA. During his free time, he and his wife are often traveling, camping, or snowboarding.



**Shon Hopkin**

*Department Chair for Religious Education; Professor of Ancient Scripture, Brigham Young University*

Shon Hopkin received a PhD in Hebrew studies from the University of Texas at Austin with an emphasis on medieval literature. His coursework focused on Hebrew, Arabic, and Spanish literature from medieval Spain. Dr. Hopkin has published and presented papers on the Jewish concept of a premortal life and the Jewish longing for Zion, the Dead Sea Scrolls and Psalm 22, ordinance and ritual in the law of Moses and in the book of Isaiah, and the connections between Jewish and Latter-day Saint beliefs and viewpoints. He is currently engaged in research on attitudes toward women in the law of Moses, on discovering Christ in the book of Leviticus, on Psalm 22, and on the multiple voices of the Book of Mormon. Dr. Hopkin also has a strong interest in interfaith outreach, understanding, and cooperation. While at the University of Texas, he served as president of the university's interfaith council. His interfaith experiences include an interfaith trip to Turkey and a summerlong visit to Damascus, Syria. Before coming to BYU, Dr. Hopkin worked for fourteen years as a seminary and institute instructor in the Church Educational System. He lives in Orem, Utah, USA, with his wife, Jennifer, and their four children.



**Scott E. Isaacson**

*Senior Fellow and Regional Advisor for Latin America, International Center for Law and Religion Studies*

A shaping force behind the formation of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Scott E. Isaacson currently serves the Center as regional advisor for Latin America. He is a member of the Latin American Consortium for Religious Liberty and a shareholder in the law firm Kirton McConkie. From 1998 through 2004, he served as international legal counsel in the Office of General Counsel, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, where he supervised all Church legal work in South America. Previous to this appointment, Mr. Isaacson was with the firms of King & Isaacson, P.C., and Davis Graham & Stubbs. The author of numerous scholarly publications, Mr. Isaacson is a graduate of BYU in English (*magna cum laude*). A Hinckley Scholar during his undergraduate years, he was one of those extremely rare persons who achieved a perfect score on the Law School Admissions Test, after which he entered the BYU Law School, where he was a J. Reuben Clark Scholar, *BYU Law Review* note and comment editor, and research and writing assistant to Dean Rex E. Lee.



**Safi Kaskas**

*President, International Qur'an Research Association*

Safi Kaskas is a scholar, entrepreneur, and advocate for peace and reconciliation. He has more than 40 years of experience in strategic planning, leadership, and business ethics, having founded Strategic Edge Management Consultants. Dr. Kaskas cofounded East-West University in Chicago and served as president of its board of directors. He is passionate about the Abrahamic religions and has lectured throughout the US and the Middle East on topics related to the interconnectivity of Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. Dr. Kaskas is a guest lecturer at the Jim Forest Institute for Religion, Peace, and Justice at St. Stephen's University and at the Earlham School of Religion. He is a senior researcher in Islam and multifaith reconciliation at George Mason University. As founder and president of the International Qur'an Research Association, Dr. Kaskas is known for his English Qur'an translation, *The Qur'an: A Contemporary Understanding* (2015). His other publications include *The Qur'an with References to the Bible* (2016) and *The Kindest of Manners: Learning from Prophet Muhammad*. Two other works, *The Qur'an with References to the Tanakh* and *The Thematic Qur'an* are forthcoming.



**Paul Kerry**

*Associate Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, J. Reuben Clark Law School; Associate Professor, History Department, Brigham Young University*

Paul Kerry is an associate director of BYU Law School's International Center for Law and Religion Studies and an associate professor of history at BYU. He works in the fields of religion, law, and intellectual history; First Amendment; and international humanitarian projects. He is a contributor to the multiyear project *Documentary History of Jewish-Christian Relations: From Ancient Times to the Present Day*, which will be published by Cambridge University Press in 2024. He served as the senior academic advisor to the UK's All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom of Religion or Belief (2022–23) and co-organized the 2023 International Sermon Studies Association conference at Christ Church, Oxford. Professor Kerry is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society and an honorary fellow of the Woolf Institute, Cambridge. He has held fellowships at Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Princeton, and the London School of Economics and Political Science.



**David M. Kirkham**

*Executive Director, The Geneva Office for Human Rights Education; Senior Fellow, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University*

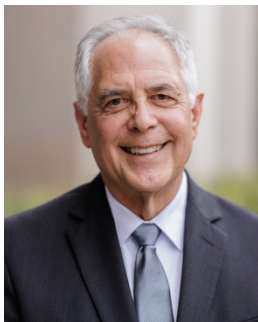
David M. Kirkham serves as executive director of the Geneva Office for Human Rights Education, senior fellow at the International Center for Law and Religion Studies, and president of the International Society. He previously held academic and senior leadership positions at the BYU London Centre, the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, and the US Air Force Academy. He has also served as senior humanitarian affairs officer at the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Geneva and as a special representative of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. David holds a PhD from George Washington University and a juris doctor from BYU Law School. His research and teaching focus on human rights and international humanitarian law.



**Cynthia Juárez Lange**

*Senior Fellow, International Center for Law and Religion Studies,  
J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University*

Cynthia Juárez Lange is an attorney. She received her JD from Southwestern University School of Law and her BA in political science from Brigham Young University. She was a managing partner of the Worldwide Executive Committee for Fragomen Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy from 1986 to 2020. She was an adjunct professor of law for Southwestern University School of Law and served as a trial attorney for the US Department of Justice Immigration and Naturalization Service. She is currently on the board of directors for the National Immigration Law Center & IJG as well as on the board of directors for Days for Girls. From 2010 to 2021, she was the program chair for the Practicing Law Institute Immigration Symposium. In 2021 she and her husband, Dennis Lange, accepted an assignment as codirectors of an ICLRS initiative to the Organization of American States in Washington, DC.



**Dennis Lange Beltrán**

*Senior Fellow, International Center for Law and Religion Studies,  
J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University*

Dennis Lange is a nephrologist. In 2021 he and his wife, Cynthia Juárez Lange, accepted an assignment as codirectors of an ICLRS initiative to the Organization of American States in Washington, DC. Dr. Lange received an MD from the University of California, Los Angeles and a BS in biology from the University of California, Los Angeles. He is currently pursuing a master of public health degree from the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Lange worked with Kidney Specialists Medical Corporation from 1997 to 2016. He also served as medical director of Lifeline Dialysis Service during that time. He was medical director for Montebello Dialysis Clinic and DaVita Kenneth Hahn Plaza Dialysis Clinic for many years. Prior to that he was a physician with Kidney Specialists Medical Group.



**Daniel Langford**

*Director, Multi-Faith Neighbors Network*

Daniel Langford is responsible for ensuring that the Multi-Faith Neighbors Network (MFNN) is executing at a high level and in an efficient way. He loves talking about religion and politics and loves the work MFNN is doing for religious freedom for all faiths around the world. Mr. Langford holds a business marketing degree from Texas A&M University and a

master's degree in Christian education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He and his wife, Paige, have two young daughters.



**Peter Leman**

*Associate Professor, English Department, Brigham Young University*

Peter Leman is an associate professor of English and an affiliate in Africana studies at Brigham Young University. His academic expertise lies in global anglophone and postcolonial literatures, with a particular focus on African literature and the intersections of law and literature. Dr. Leman received his PhD in English from the University of California, Irvine, in 2011. He is the author of *Singing the Law: Oral Jurisprudence and the Crisis of Colonial Modernity in East Africa* (2020), which examines the role of oral traditions and legal systems in East African literature during colonial rule. He has also contributed to various academic journals, including *Research in African Literatures*, *Law and Literature*, and the *Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies*, on topics such as postcolonial legal history, dictatorship in literature, and emergency narratives.



**Cory Leonard**

*Assistant Director, David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies, Brigham Young University*

Cory Leonard is the associate director of the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies at BYU. He has more than 20 years of experience teaching, consulting, and collaborating with business, media, education, nonprofits, and international organizations. In addition to teaching, writing, and directing study abroad programs on diplomacy, international affairs, and cross-cultural issues, Mr. Leonard is coproducer of the *Beyond the Border* series and cofounder of the *Journal of International Organizations*. He holds degrees in English and public administration from BYU and plays a key role in promoting experiential global learning. In addition to his work at the Kennedy Center, Mr. Leonard serves on the executive committee of the Latter-day Saint International Society, which focuses on international relations and diplomacy among professionals with global interests.





**Holly Hinckley Lesan**

*Coordinating Editor, Law and Religion: National, International, and Comparative Perspectives; Coordinator, ICLRS Young Scholars Fellowship, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University*

Holly Hinckley Lesan is the coordinating editor for the casebook *Law and Religion: National, International, and Comparative Perspectives* by W. Cole Durham, Jr. and Brett G. Scharffs. She also coordinates the ICLRS Young Scholars Fellowship on Religion and the Rule of Law, held annually at Christ Church College, Oxford, UK. Ms. Lesan graduated from BYU Law School in 2005. She is a member of the Ohio State Bar and spent time in private practice in business litigation and estate planning prior to her work with the casebook and associated Young Scholars Fellowship. She also holds a bachelor's degree in history from BYU and a master's degree in medieval studies from Columbia University. She lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, with her husband and four children.



**Denise Posse Lindberg**

*Senior Fellow, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University*

Cuban-born senior district judge Denise Posse Lindberg earned a bachelor of arts degree from Brigham Young University and completed master's and PhD degrees at the University of Utah. Thereafter, she earned a juris doctor degree magna cum laude from BYU Law School. She clerked for Judge Monroe G. McKay on the United States 10th Circuit Court of Appeals and for Justice Sandra Day O'Connor of the US Supreme Court. Judge Lindberg practiced law in Washington, DC, and in Salt Lake City, Utah, prior to her appointment to the district court bench in 1998; she became a senior judge in 2015. She is a member of the executive committee of the Latin American Consortium for Religious Liberty and is a frequent lecturer on the rule of law, judicial independence, religious freedom, and human dignity. Her academic writing includes several articles and a book chapter on Cuban law.



**Mohamed Hag Magid**

*Executive Imam, All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) Center*

In addition to his role with the ADAMS Center, Imam Mohamed Magid is chairman of International Interfaith Peace Corps and former president of the Islamic Society of North America. He serves on the advisory board of the Peaceful Families Project and as copresident of Religions for Peace. He is also the cofounder of the Multi-Faith Neighbors Network, which focuses

on building bridges between Muslim, Evangelical Christian, and Jewish communities. Imam Magid has coauthored two books: *Before You Tie the Knot: A Guide for Couples* and *Reflections on the Qur'an*. His areas of interest and focus are religious freedom, violence against women, and preventing violence and hate in our societies. He has written for the *Washington Post* and the *Huffington Post* and has been featured in *Time Magazine* and the *Wall Street Journal*. Imam Magid has received several awards, including the El-Hibri Foundation's Peace Education Prize in 2017.



**Quinn Mecham**

*Associate Professor of Political Science; Coordinator for Middle East Studies, Brigham Young University*

Quinn Mecham is an associate professor of political science at Brigham Young University, where he also serves as the coordinator for Middle East studies. He joined BYU in 2013 after teaching at Middlebury College and George Washington University. He holds a PhD in political science from Stanford University. Dr. Mecham's research focuses on political mobilization in the Islamic world, exploring themes such as elections, protests, and political violence, particularly in the Arab world and Turkey. He has also worked on political participation in authoritarian regimes and the behavior of Islamist political parties. Additionally, he was an Academy Scholar at Harvard University and served as a Franklin Fellow in Policy Planning at the US Department of State.



**Graciana Messier**

*JD Candidate, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University*

Graciana Messier is a 1L at BYU Law and a recent graduate of BYU–Hawaii with a BA in intercultural peacebuilding and political science. She worked as the student lead for BYU–Hawaii's Women's Services and Resources, for the US State Department, and for several nonprofits. She is passionate about ending child marriage, a cause she has championed through advocacy, a TEDx Talk, and various projects. Ms. Messier is from northern Idaho and enjoys graphic design, reading, and traveling. After law school she plans to pursue public-interest law focusing on women's rights, gender-based violence, or disability law.



**R. McKay Moon**

*JD Candidate, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University*

R. McKay Moon is a budding 1L at BYU Law School. After serving a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Buenos Aires, Argentina, he began working as a religious educator at high schools in Gilbert, Arizona. Through his experiences in Argentina and in the classroom, he grew to value the proclivity of religion to improve society by helping individuals become the best versions of themselves. Mr. Moon enjoys being outdoors, collecting antique books, and watching college football. He met his wife, Jamie, while studying at Arizona State University, and they live in Provo, Utah, USA, with their son, Oaks.



**David Moore**

*Dean, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University*

David Moore is a scholar of international law, development, human rights, and US foreign relations law. His work has appeared in leading journals, including the Harvard, Columbia, Virginia, and Northwestern law reviews. Dean Moore serves on the roster of experts of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Moscow Mechanism. In 2020 he was elected to a brief term on the UN Human Rights Committee. From 2019 to 2023, Dean Moore was an associate director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies. He worked at various US government agencies, taught at three different law schools, and clerked for US Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. Dean Moore is a summa cum laude graduate of BYU Law School, where he served as editor in chief of the *BYU Law Review* and graduated first in his class. He also received his BA from BYU. He and his wife, Natalie, are the parents of seven wonderful children.



**Brendan Murphy**

*Philosophy and English Student, Brigham Young University*

Brendan Murphy is a junior at BYU studying philosophy and English with a minor in Scandinavian studies. He interned at the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Freedom of Religion or Belief, which is housed in the UK Houses of Parliament. He is passionate about philosophy, literature, language learning, and international policy issues. He is from Springville, Utah, USA, and spent two years in Ohio and Finland as a missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He enjoys writing, reading, playing and watching sports, skiing, hiking, and spending time with his family.



**Jerry Pankhurst**

*Professor Emeritus of Sociology and of Russian and Central Eurasian Studies, Wittenberg University*

Jerry Pankhurst earned his PhD at the University of Michigan in 1978 and specializes in sociology of religion, politics, and family. His doctoral dissertation addressed Christian Orthodox and Baptist life and dissent in the Soviet Union, and he has maintained related interests throughout his career. He was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Tartu in 2012 and a visiting professor there in 2015. It was at that university that he met his frequent coauthor, Alar Kilp. Dr. Pankhurst's current research and writing focus primarily on questions of religion and politics and sociology of family in Russia and Eurasian societies; his most recent publications assess the implications of the leadership and ecclesiology of the Russian Orthodox Church for Russia and Ukraine.



**C. Shane Reese**

*President, Brigham Young University*

C. Shane Reese began his tenure as the 14th president of Brigham Young University on 1 May 2023. Prior to his appointment, he served as BYU academic vice president from 2019 to 2023 and dean of the BYU College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences from 2017 to 2019. He also serves as a member of the Department of Statistics faculty and is an elected fellow of the American Statistical Association. President Reese's research has centered on Bayesian hierarchical models and Bayesian optimal experimental designs. He has created statistical models addressing a range of issues, from predicting the power of solar storms to determining the safest method for destroying chemical weapons to assessing climate impact on glaciers in high mountain Asia and Antarctica. His work has also been used by the US Olympic volleyball team as well as the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles. President Reese earned a doctoral degree in statistics from Texas A&M University and master's and bachelor's degrees in statistics from BYU.



**Bob Roberts Jr.**

*Cofounder, Multi-Faith Neighbors Network; President, Institute for Global Engagement*

Bob Roberts Jr. is a pastor who has dedicated his life to promoting and advancing religious freedom, peacemaking, and civil engagement. He is the founder of GlocalNet, a ministry dedicated to mobilizing the church to bring about transformation in the public square; cofounder of the Multi-



Faith Neighbors Network, an organization committed to promoting religious freedom through intentional cross-cultural relationships; and newly appointed president of the Institute of Global Engagement. With decades of experience in peacemaking and international religious freedom, Dr. Roberts's groundbreaking work has earned him respect and recognition from the UN, the US Department of State, and the World Economic Forum as well as ambassadors, international royal families, and policy leaders worldwide. His contributions were honored by the White House in 2022. For more than 30 years, Dr. Roberts led Northwood Church near Dallas, Texas. He is an author and podcast host. He holds a doctorate of ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary, a master of divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a bachelor of arts from Baylor University.



**David Nathan Saperstein**

*Senior Advisor for Policy and Strategy, Union for Reform Judaism*

For 40 years, Rabbi David Nathan Saperstein directed the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC), which represents the Reform Jewish Movement—the largest segment of American Jewry—to the US Congress and administration. He continues doing social justice and policy work with the RAC. During the second term of the Obama administration, Rabbi Saperstein served as the US ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom. Among other government roles, he served as the inaugural chair of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom, and he currently chairs a federal advisory committee on human trafficking. Also an attorney, Rabbi Saperstein taught seminars on church-state law and on Jewish law for 35 years at Georgetown University Law Center. Over his decades of service, he has chaired half a dozen national and international interfaith coalitions; he currently serves as the chair of the World Faith Development Dialogue and cochair of the Multi-Faith Neighbors Network.



**Brett G. Scharffs**

*Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies; Rex E. Lee Chair and Professor of Law, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University*

Brett G. Scharffs is the Rex E. Lee Chair and a professor of law at Brigham Young University's J. Reuben Clark Law School, where he serves as director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies. He earned a BSBA in international business and an MA in philosophy from Georgetown University; a BPhil in philosophy from Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar; and a JD from Yale Law School, where he was senior editor of the *Yale Law Journal*. Professor Scharffs has helped organize certificate training programs on religion and the rule of law in Beijing, Vietnam, and



Myanmar. He is co-author (with W. Cole Durham, Jr.) of the casebook *Law and Religion: National, International, and Comparative Perspectives*. Professor Scharffs has written more than 100 articles and book chapters and has made more than 300 scholarly presentations in 30 countries.



**Hannah Clayson Smith**

*Associate Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies,  
J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University*

Hannah Clayson Smith worked for United States Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito and as Becket Law's senior counsel, where she secured four landmark Supreme Court victories. She has appeared before the US Congress and on national media and is a sought-after speaker. She received her BA from Princeton University and her JD from BYU Law School, where she served as the executive editor for *BYU Law Review*. Ms. Smith received BYU's Alumni Achievement Award, the Women-in-Law Leadership Award, and the James Madison Award. She worked in private practice at national law firms in Washington, DC. She is a director for the Religious Freedom Institute and a chair of the J. Reuben Clark Law School's Religious Freedom Committee. She and her husband, John, are members of the ICLRS International Advisory Council. Ms. Smith also served as a missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in France.

**David Stanford**

*Area Legal Counsel, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*



**Katrina Lantos Swett**

*President, Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice; Former  
Chair, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom*

Katrina Lantos Swett serves as president of the Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice, which was established in 2008 to continue the legacy of her father, Congressman Tom Lantos. Under her leadership, the Lantos Foundation has become a respected voice in the human rights movement on issues such as advancing the rule of law and freedom of religion and belief globally. Ms. Lantos Swett earned a political science degree from Yale University, a juris doctor degree from the University of California, and a PhD in history from the University of Southern Denmark. She is a former chair and vice chair of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom and teaches human rights and American foreign policy at Tufts University. She serves as cochair of the board of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea and the Budapest-based Tom Lantos Institute. She serves as cochair of the International Religious Freedom

Summit, an annual gathering of religious freedom advocates and activists. She also serves on the advisory board of UN Watch and at the Warren B. Rudman Center for Justice, Leadership, and Public Policy.



### **Hamilton Knox Thames**

*Senior Fellow, Pepperdine University; Director, Program on Global Faith and Inclusive Societies, Pepperdine University; Senior Visiting Expert, U.S. Institute of Peace*

Hamilton Knox Thames is an international human rights lawyer, advocate, and author who has dedicated his career to promoting human rights, defending religious minorities, and combatting persecution. During his 20 years of service in the US government, Mr. Thames held several key positions advocating for freedom of religion or belief, including at the State Department and two different US government foreign policy commissions. He has significant experience regarding South and Central Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and US foreign policy relating to human rights. Known for his nonpartisan approach to advocacy, he was appointed to the State Department as a special advisor for religious minorities during both the Obama and Trump administrations. In April 2023, Mr. Thames joined Pepperdine University as a senior fellow, directing the new program on global faith and inclusive societies from the Washington, DC, campus. Since 2020 he has worked as a nonresident senior visiting expert at the United States Institute of Peace. His latest book, *Ending Persecution: Charting the Path to Global Religious Freedom*, was released by Notre Dame Press on 1 September 2024.

## **United Kingdom**



### **Fareed Ahmad**

*National Secretary External Affairs, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK*

Since 2007, Fareed Ahmad has been serving on the National Executive of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK as the national secretary for external affairs. He has a particular focus on international human rights and freedom of religion issues. He is a regular speaker in parliamentary meetings and hearings in the UK, EU, and UN, and he works closely with a range of parliamentary groups and NGOs on freedom of religion and human rights. In 2023 he was part of a parliamentary FoRB delegation that visited Pakistan to assess the state of FoRB for minorities in Pakistan. He has also served on the editorial board of *Review of Religions* magazine.



**Anba Angaelos**

*Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London; Founder and Director, REFCEMI  
Coptic Orthodox Office for Advocacy and Public Policy*

His Eminence Archbishop Anba Angaelos is the first Coptic Orthodox archbishop of London, having served as general bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church in the UK since 1999 and as a monk priest from 1995 to 1999. He was conferred the honor of Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire by Her Majesty The Queen for Services to International Religious Freedom. Archbishop Angaelos has also been conferred the Lambeth Cross for Ecumenism by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Coventry Cross of Nails for Reconciliation by the Bishop and Dean of Coventry. Archbishop Angaelos is the founder and director of REFCEMI, the Coptic Orthodox Church's first office for advocacy and public policy. He is the founder and convener of the Asylum Advocacy Group and often issues statements relating to current religious and minority issues; his comments are frequently sought on matters of human rights, civil liberties, and international religious freedom. He has visited refugee camps in several countries and works tirelessly to assist those in greatest need.



**Emma Tanya Harris**

*Director of Grants Management and Alumni Relations, Woolf Institute*

Emma Tanya Harris is director of grants management and alumni relations at the Woolf Institute in Cambridge, UK, which she joined in 2011. Previously, she was the director of studies, leading the strategic and operational plans for teaching and public engagement. She managed the Diversity in End-of-Life Care training program and led the publication of its accompanying handbook. Dr. Harris has been involved in interfaith teaching for Cambridge Theological Federation's students training for Christian ministry. Since 2020 she has engaged with BYU students in her online course Representations of Jewish-Christian Relations in Literature. For the past two summers, she and the Woolf Institute's executive director, Dr. Esther-Miriam Wagner, have welcomed BYU students to Cambridge for the summer program Religion and Society from the Medieval to the Modern. Dr. Harris holds a PhD from University College London on Anglo-Jewry's experience of secondary education from the 1830s until 1920.

## Uzbekistan

### **Mukhammadolim Mukhammadsidikov**

*Rector, Al-Bukhari Tashkent Islamic Institute*



Mukhammadolim Mukhammadsidikov graduated from Tashkent Islamic Institute (TII) in 1994. Nearly 30 years later he became the rector of TII and deputy chairman of the Office of Muslims of Uzbekistan for Youth Affairs. He is a member of the supreme governing bodies of the Office of Muslims of Uzbekistan—the Council of Scholars and the Supreme Committee. From 2002 to 2017, he held various senior-level positions in his department. From 2017 to 2018, he was the head of the Religious Education Department of the Committee on Religious Affairs in Uzbekistan. From 2018 to 2023, he was vice rector of the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan for Youth Affairs and professor of the International Relations and Social Sciences department. Professor Muhammadsidikov attended Cairo State University and Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies, receiving degrees in political science, economics, and international relations. In 2020 he received the title of professor. He has published more than 150 scientific works, 5 textbooks, 10 training manuals, and 5 monographs.

### **Shovosil Ziyodov**

*Director, Imam Bukhari International Scientific Research Center*



Shovosil Ziyodov, doctor of historical sciences, specializes in the study of history and sources of Islam. He focuses on the history of librarianship in Central Asia from the 15th to the early 20th century, particularly through the analysis of manuscripts and seals. He graduated in 1995 from the Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies with a degree in Arabic language and literature. Dr. Ziyodov conducted research on general history, historiography, and methods of historical research at the Oriental Manuscripts Fund of the Abu Rayhon Beruni Institute of Oriental Studies at the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan. He defended his dissertation, “The Written Legacy of Abu Mansur Maturidi and His Work, Kitab at-Twilat,” in 2003. Currently, Dr. Ziyodov serves as director of the Imam Bukhari International Scientific Research Center under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan. His research areas include the Maturidiya Theological School, Arabic manuscript paleography, the history of Central Asian libraries, and Oriental seals.

## **Vietnam**

### **Duy Tan Nguyen**

*Deputy Director of Ho Chi Minh Home Affairs, People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City*

Duy Tan Nguyen oversees all religious activities in Ho Chi Minh City and manages administrative affairs for the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City. As a key city in southern Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City plays a crucial role in the country's economic growth and development. Mr. Tan's position, which encompasses religious laws, regulations, policies, and overall administrative responsibilities, provides him with a unique perspective on how the government is navigating the intersection of religion and the rapidly evolving environment in southern Vietnam.



### **Năng Khiếu Nguyen**

*Deputy General Director, America Department, The Viet Nam Union of Friendship Organizations*

Năng Khiếu Nguyen joined the Viet Nam Union of Friendship Organizations as deputy director general of the Americas Department in 2021. He is also a member of the executive board of the Vietnam-USA Society, vice chairman of the Vietnam-US Entrepreneur Club, and secretary general of the Vietnam-Canada Friendship Association. He worked for the Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons from 2002 to 2020. He holds a bachelor's degree in language teaching from Vietnam National University, Hanoi (2002). He has two children and is divorced.

### **Pham Khac Nguyen**

*Deputy Manager, Religious Security Department, Home Security Bureau—Ministry of Public Security*

Pham Khac Nguyen is deputy manager of the Department of Homeland Security, Ministry of Public Security of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. He is responsible for the interpretation, implementation, and enforcement of religious laws and policies in Vietnam. Colonel Nguyen has a master of law degree. He is married and has two daughters.





**Phan Anh Son**

*President, The Viet Nam Union of Friendship Organizations*

Phan Anh Son is president of the Viet Nam Union of Friendship Organizations (VUFO). He also served as vice president-secretary general of VUFO, vice chairman of the Committee for Foreign Nongovernmental Organizations Affairs, and director general of the People's Aid Coordinating Committee. Before joining VUFO, Mr. Phan was with the Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations as director general of the Department for International Cooperation, secretary general of the Vietnam ASEAN Engineering Register Council, and coordinator for Cooperation Programs with National Assembly agencies. In addition, his international work included working at the US embassy in Hanoi. Mr. Phan holds a PhD in international relations from the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, a master's degree in economics and public management from Université Libre de Bruxelles, a master's degree in applied linguistics from La Trobe University, and a bachelor's degree in English from Hanoi Open University. He has hosted and attended many international and domestic academic conferences. He is strongly committed to contributing to Vietnam's socioeconomic development and strengthening friendship and cooperation between the people of Vietnam and other countries.



**Phan Thi Thanh Luyen**

*International Relations Official, Department of Foreign Relations,  
Ministry of Public Security*

After graduating from the University for Teachers of Foreign Languages, Hanoi National University (VNU) in 1996, Phan Thi Thanh Luyen worked for the Centre of Information and Library of VNU until 2004. Since September 2004 she has worked for the Department of Foreign Relations, Ministry of Public Security in the field of international relations, specializing in research on Vietnam's law on belief and religion. She is a member of the Vietnam-USA Society and is married with one daughter.



**Yen Tran Thi**

*Principal Official, The Viet Nam Union of Friendship Organizations*

Yen Tran Thi is principal official of the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations and permanent secretary of VUS, gateway partners of the Institute for Global Engagement (IGE) in Vietnam. She is in charge of following and supporting the IGE's religious freedom programs in the country. She has 15 years of experience promoting people-to-people relations between Vietnam and the United States. Ms. Yen earned her master of arts and bachelor of arts degrees in international politics and Vietnamese diplomacy from the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam. Her goal is to become a specialist on people-to-people diplomacy to strengthen and enhance the friendly relations between the people of Vietnam and other countries in the world.

**Zimbabwe**



**Wilfred Dimingu**

*General Secretary, Zimbabwe Council of Churches, Zimbabwe*

Rev. Wilfred Dimingu is an ordained minister of religion in the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe. He is the current general secretary of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches and secretary general of the Zimbabwe Interreligious Council. Prior to his current appointment, he held the following positions in the Methodist Church: education secretary, district bishop, and synod secretary. He holds a master's degree in theology, leadership, and administration; a master's in business leadership; and a bachelor of arts with honors in theology and religious studies. His research interests are religion and social transformation, religion leadership, and religion and social justice.