SUNDAY, 14 MAY 2017

15:00 – 17:15
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
Hotel Farah Reception, Rabat

17:15
DEPARTURE (BY FOOT) FOR RESTAURANT LE ZIRYAB
Hotel Farah Reception, Rabat

18:00 – 18:30
OPENING AND WELCOME
Le Ziryab Restaurant

PRESIDENT’S WELCOME:
Pieter Coertzen, President, African Consortium for Law and Religion Studies. Faculty of Theology (Retd.), Stellenbosch University, South Africa

WELCOMING ADDRESSES:
Mark Hill QC, Chair, Conference Organizing Committee, Extraordinary Professor, University of Pretoria. South Africa. Visiting Professor, Cardiff University, United Kingdom
Abdelaziz Benjouad, Vice-President for Research and Development, Université Internationale de Rabat, Morocco
T. Jeremy Gunn, Professor of Law and Political Science, Université Internationale de Rabat, Morocco

18:30 – 19:30
FIRST PLENARY SESSION
Le Ziryab Restaurant

CHAIR:

SPEAKERS:
Ján Figel’, Special Envoy for the Promotion of Freedom of Religion or Belief outside the European Union, European Commission. Slovakia
Sir Malcolm D. Evans, Chair, UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture. Professor of Public International Law. University of Bristol. United Kingdom

19:30 – 21:30
DINNER
Le Ziryab Restaurant
MONDAY, 15 MAY 2017

8:30 – 9:00  REGISTRATION
Atrium of Building 3, Université Internationale de Rabat

9:00 – 9:45  OPENING SESSION
Amphitheater 6 of Building 3

WELCOME
M. Noureddine Mouaddib, President, Université Internationale de Rabat, Morocco

INAUGURAL ADDRESS
Driss El Yazami, Chair, National Human Rights Council, Morocco

SECOND PLENARY SESSION
LAW, RELIGION, AND SECURITY: WEST AFRICAN PERSPECTIVES
CHAIR:
Is-haq Oloyede, Professor of Islamic Studies, University of Ilorin, Nigeria

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Festus K. Aubyn, Research Fellow, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, Ghana

GROUP PHOTO
Atrium of Building 3

10:30 – 10:45  BREAK

10:45 – 11:00  PARALLEL SESSIONS 1
COUNTERING RELIGIOUS RADICALIZATION
Amphitheater 6 of Building 3

CHAIR:
Marcus B. Nash, Africa West Area Presidency, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Ghana

SPEAKERS:
Dritas Maghraoui, Associate Professor, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Al Akhawayn University, Morocco
On the Relevance and Irrelevance of Religious Reforms to Combat Radicalism: Lessons from Morocco

John Tito Kunyuk, Magistrate, Kakuma Law Courts, Turkana County, Kenya
‘I’m Right, You Are Dead’: The Need for a Substantive Fatwa Institution in Countering Violent Extremism in Kenya

Mahfoud Ali Zoui, Associate Professor, Université de Guelma, Algeria
Religion, Politics, and Radicalization: Tracing the Roots of Violent Extremism in the Sahel and Maghreb Regions with Special Reference to the Algerian Experience

Seyni Moumouni, Professor, I’Institut de Recherches en Sciences Humaines, Université de Niamey, Niger
Le radicalisme religieux et les menaces sécuritaires au Sahel

REVOLUTION, TRADITION, AND DIALOGUE
Room 409 of Building 3

CHAIR:
Asonzeh Ukah, Department of Religious Studies, University of Cape Town, South Africa

SPEAKERS:
Abamfo O. Atiemo, Professor, Department for the Study of Religions, University of Ghana, Ghana

Elias Bongmba, Harry and Hazel Chair in Christian Theology, Professor of Religion, Rice University, United States

Tanto Richard Talla, Associate Professor, Faculty of Arts, Department of History, University of Bamenda, Cameroon
Law vs. Customary Law and Beliefs in Cameroon

Driss Bouyahya, Professor, Moulay Ismail University, Morocco
“Is Interfaith Dialogue a Myth?”

9:45 – 10:30

11:00 – 12:30  THE RISE OF BOKO HARAM IN NIGERIA
Room 410 of Building 3

CHAIR:
Akinola Ibidapo-Obe, Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Lagos, Nigeria

SPEAKERS:
Wahab Egbewole, Professor, Faculty of Law, Department of Jurisprudence and International Law, University of Ilorin, Nigeria

Hammed A. Hanafi, Senior Lecturer, Ag HOD, Public and International Law, Al-Hikmah University, Nigeria

Afro A. Oladosu, Professor of Middle Eastern, North African, and Cultural Studies, Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria
If These Attacks Continue, Hijab Has to Be Banned: National Security and Religious Identities in Contemporary Nigeria

Simeon O. Itsangiri, Washington M. Wingate Professor of Religion, Department for the Study of Religions, Wake Forest University, United States
"Counter-Terrorism and Religious Violence in Nigeria: A Human Rights Perspective on the Doctrine of Necessity"

LUNCH
Atrium of Building 3

13:45 – 15:15
THIRD PLENARY SESSION
THE FUTURE OF THE RABAT PLAN OF ACTION AND THE MARRAKESH DECLARATION
Amphitheater 6 of Building 3

CHAIR:
Enyinna S. Nwauche, Professor, Rhodes University, South Africa

SPEAKERS:
Mark Hill QC, Extraordinary Professor, University of Pretoria, South Africa; Visiting Professor, Cardiff University, United Kingdom
"Hate Speech, Blasphemy and Defamation of Religion: Assesing the Impact in Africa and Globally of the Rabat Plan of Action (2013)"

Muhammed Haron, Professor, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Botswana, Botswana
"Muslim Authorities and Africa’s Ahmadis: Issuing Legal Opinions, Circumscribing Religious Actions"

Abdulkader Tayob, Professor of Religious Studies, Department of Religious Studies, University of Cape Town, South Africa
"Reflections on the Marrakesh Declaration: Communal and Individual Sensibilities of Religious Belief and Unbelief"

Najib Mokhtari, Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Université Internationale de Rabat, Morocco
"The Conditions of Faith and Patterns of Secularism in Religious Reform Agendas"

BREAK
Atrium of Building 3

15:15 – 15:30
PARALLEL SESSIONS 2:
PERSPECTIVES ON RABAT AND MARRAKESH
Amphitheater 6 of Building 3

CHAIR:
Brett G. Scharffs, Francis R. Kirkham Professor of Law and Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School, United States

Cristiana Cianitto, Lecturer in Canon Law, University of Milan; General Coordinator, Secretariat, International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies, Italy
"Reading Rabat in Light of Marrakesh: Drawing the Lines between Blasphemy and Defamation of Religion"

Burkhard J. Berkmann, Professor, University of Munich, Germany
"Blasphemy and Defamation of Religion: A Comparison between the European Court of Human Rights and the Rabat Plan of Action"

Antonio Fuccillo, Professor of Law and Religion, Università degli Studi della Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, Italy (coauthored with Francesco Sorvillo, Postdoctoral Fellow, Università degli Studi della Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, Italy; and Ludovica Decimo, PhD Candidate, University of Padua, Italy)
"Looking beyond the Marrakesh Declaration: Bridging Religious Freedom in Muslim Countries"

16:45 – 17:00
BREAK
Atrium of Building 3

17:00 – 18:15
PARALLEL SESSIONS 3:
RELIGION, SPEECH, AND MEDIA
Amphitheater 6 of Building 3

CHAIR:
Jean-Baptiste Sourou, Professor of Religion and Law, Saint Augustine University Mwanza, Tanzania; Founder and President, Center for Documentation and Research on Art and Social Sciences (CeDiReS), Benin

Mohamed Abdelaal, Assistant Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, Alexandria University, Egypt
"Blasphemy Law in a Muslim Majority Country, Egypt: A Case Study"

Musa Usman Abubakar, Associate Professor, Department of Islamic Law, Bayero University, Nigeria
"Nigeria Blasphemy Laws and the Competing Rights: Taming the Self-Appointed God Avenger through Judicial Process"

Ahmed S. Garba, Faculty of Law, Bauschi State University, Nigeria
"The Prospects and Problems of the Marrakesh Declaration on the Rights of Religious Minorities in Predominantly Muslim Majority Communities"
SPEAKERS:

Lee-Shae Scharnick-Udemans, Research Associate, Department of Religious Studies, University of Cape Town, South Africa

Asonzeh Ukah, Senior Lecturer, Department of Religious Studies, University of Cape Town, South Africa
“The Afflatus of Freedom of Religious Expression? Hate Speech and the Protestant Discourses on Same Sex Relations in Nigeria”

Hassan Ndzovu, Senior Lecturer, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Moi University, Kenya
“Emerging Distinct Muslim Christian Public Discourses on Religious-Based Violence in Kenya: Religious Indoctrination and Marginalization Theories”

Célestin Gnonzion, Professor of Media Ethics and Journalism, Faculty of Information, Communication, and Arts, Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Côte d’Ivoire
“Exercise of Religious Liberty in Public Media in Côte d’Ivoire”

WITCHCRAFT IN ZIMBABWE
Room 409 of Building 3

CHAIR:
Elias Bongmba, Harry and Hazel Chair in Christian Theology, Professor of Religion, Rice University, United States

SPEAKERS:

Sophia Chirongoma, Lecturer, Theology and Religious Studies, Midlands State University, Zimbabwe
“Exploring the Religio-cultural Beliefs and Practices of Witchcraft in Contemporary Zimbabwe”

Bernard Humbe, Lecturer, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Great Zimbabwe University, Zimbabwe
“Witchcraft Accusations in Colonial and Contemporary Africa”

Júlio R. Machete, Assistant Lecturer, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, History Department, Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Mozambique
“Do They Become a Lion? Witchcraft Accusation in Rural Mozambique”

Fortune Sibanda, Lecturer in Religious Studies, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Great Zimbabwe University, Zimbabwe
“The Legacy of Witchcraft Accusations in Colonial and Postcolonial Zimbabwe”

MARRIAGE, FAMILY, AND SECURITY OF SOCIETIES
Room 410 of Building 3

CHAIR:
Mary Anne Plaatjies van Huffel, Senior Lecturer in Ecclesiology, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa

SPEAKERS:

Pieter Coertzen, President, African Consortium for Law and Religion Studies; Faculty of Theology (Retd.), Stellenbosch University, South Africa
“The Heritage of Colonialism in South Africa and Its Effect on Marriages in Society”

Helen Linorange-Fantebe, Lecturer, Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Buea, Cameroon
“Conflict between State and Religious Concepts of the Nature of Marriage in Africa”

Mohamed Mraja, Senior Lecturer in Islamic Studies, Department of Philosophy, Religion, and Theology, Moi University, Kenya

John G. Esobonteng, PhD Candidate, Department for the Study of Religion, University of Ghana, Ghana
“Conflict between State and Religious Concepts of Marriage in Africa: The Ghanaian Experience”

18:30
BUS TRANSPORT TO DINNER LOCATION
Al Marsa Espagnol

19:00 – 21:00
CONFERENCE DINNER AND KEYNOTE
Al Marsa Espagnole

LAW, RELIGION, AND HUMAN SECURITY

CHAIR:
Abdulkader Tayob, Professor of Religious Studies, Department of Religious Studies, University of Cape Town, South Africa

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Funmi Olonisakin, Professor, African Leadership Centre, King’s College London, United Kingdom
8:30 – 9:00  REGISTRATION
Atrium of Building 3

9:00 – 10:30  FOURTH PLENARY SESSION
Amphitheatre 6 of Building 3

LAW, RELIGION, AND WOMEN: MOROCCAN PERSPECTIVES

CHAIR: Rosalind I. J. Hackett, Professor and Head, Department of Religious Studies, University of Tennessee, United States

SPEAKERS:
Aïcha Belarbi, Professor of Sociology, Mohammed V University – Rabat, Former Ambassador to the European Union, Former Secretary of State for Cooperation, Morocco
Amal Idrissi, Professor in Public Law and Political Sciences, University Moulay Ismail, Morocco
Fatima Sadiqi, Professor of Linguistics and Gender Studies, University of Fes, Morocco
Malika Benradi, Professor, Faculty of Law, Université Internationale de Rabat, Morocco
Moha Ennaji, Professor, University of Fes, Morocco

10:30 – 11:00  BREAK
Atrium of Building 3

11:00 – 12:30  PARALLEL SESSIONS 4:

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, VIOLENCE, AND PEACE
Amphitheatre 6 of Building 3

CHAIR: Abamfo O. Atiemo, Professor, Department for the Study of Religions, University of Ghana, Ghana

SPEAKERS:
Brett G. Scharffs, Francis R. Kirkham Professor of Law and Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University, United States
Jean-Baptiste Sourou, Professor of Religion and Law, Saint Augustine University Mwanza, Tanzania

"The Role of Religion and Religious Freedom in Challenging Violent Extremism"
"'Esprit d' Assise' ou quand les religions s' engagent pour la paix"

12:30 – 13:30  LUNCH
Atrium of Building 3

KENYAN ANTI-TERRORISM LAWS
Room 409 of Building 3

CHAIR: M. Christian Green, Senior Fellow, Center for the Study of Law and Religion, Emory University; Editor, Journal of Law and Religion, United States

SPEAKERS:
Fathima Azmiya Badurdeen, Chairperson, Department of Social Sciences, Technical University of Mombasa, Kenya
Loreen I. Maseno, Humboldt Research Fellow, University of Bayreuth, Germany
Hamisi Ali Mwadzogo, PhD Candidate, Faculty of Sharia and Law, Technical University of Mombasa, Kenya

"Religious Constructions of framings of Terror in Kenya: Contraster Narrative from the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK) and the Evangelical Alliance of Kenya (EAK)"

GENDER, VULNERABILITY, AND AGENCY
Room 410 of Building 3

CHAIR: Abiola Akiyode-Afolabi, Lecturer, Department of Public Law, Faculty of Law, University of Lagos, Nigeria

SPEAKERS:
Damaris Parsitau, Director, Institute of Women, Gender, and Development Studies; Lecturer, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Egerton University, Kenya
Meriem El Haitami, PhD Candidate, University of Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah, Morocco

"Homosexuality: see an [il]legalization Before the Lord’s Public Religion. Human Rights, and the Politicization of Homosexual Debates in Kenya"
"Moroccans’ State-Sanctioned Murshidat: Women as Providers of Spiritual Security?"
"This Man Is My Wife: Examining Challenges Confronting the Marriage Institution in Africa"

12:30 – 13:30  LUNCH
Atrium of Building 3
13:45 – 15:00

**GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVES ON LAW, RELIGION, AND SECURITY: A ROUNDTABLE**

*Amphitheatre 6 of Building 3*

**CHAIR:** Kevin S. Hamilton, President, Africa Southeast Area, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, South Africa

**SPEAKERS:**
- Saleh Bala, Brigadier General (Rtd.), Senior Adviser, Ministry of the Interior, Nigeria
- Adelaide Anno-Kumi, Chief Director, Ministry of the Interior, Ghana
- Francis Kabia, Director of Social Welfare, Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, and Children’s Affairs, Sierra Leone
- Mariatu Bangura, Deputy Chief of Social Services, Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, and Children’s Affairs, Sierra Leone
- Obedingwa Mguni, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs, Zimbabwe
- Halefom Abay Ayele, Director, Religious Organizations and Associations Registration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ethiopia
- Haji Ali Dermesha, Adviser to the State Minister, Ministry of Federal and Pastoralist Affairs, Ethiopia

15:00 – 15:30

**BREAK**

*Atrium of Building 3*

15:30 – 16:45

**PARALLEL SESSIONS 5: RELIGIOUS IDENTITY AND SECURITY IN ETHIOPIA**

*Amphitheatre 6 of Building 3*

**CHAIR:** Ahmed S. Garba, Faculty of Law, Bauchi State University, Nigeria

**SPEAKERS:**
- Mohammed Jemal Ahmed, Lecturer and Researcher of History and Tourism, Wollo University, Ethiopia
- Afeework Haile Beyene, Head of Student Affairs, Lecturer in Historical Studies, Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology, Ethiopia
- Serawit Bekele Debabe, Fritz Thysen Stiftung Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Bayreuth, Germany
- Abiola Akiyode-Afolabi, Lecturer, Department of Public Law, Faculty of Law, University of Lagos, Nigeria
- Sohail Wahedi, PhD Candidate, Erasmus School of Law, Netherlands
- Yolanda Van der Vyver, PhD Candidate, Department of Architecture, University of the Free State, South Africa

16:45 – 17:00

**BREAK**

*Atrium of Building 3*

17:00 – 18:30

**CONCLUSION AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN CONSORTIUM FOR LAW AND RELIGION STUDIES**

*Amphitheatre 6 of Building 3*

19:00

**BUS TRANSPORT TO CLOSING DINNER LOCATION**

*Restaurant Al Marsa Italian*
The African Consortium for Law and Religion Studies acknowledges with gratitude the generous contributions to this event of the Université Internationale de Rabat, the International Center for Law and Religion Studies of the J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University, the Campbell Family Foundation, Sheldon and Joan Child, Helen Leon, and the Sorenson Legacy Foundation.
Mahfoud Ali Zoui – Algeria
Associate Professor of Civilization, Department of English, Guelma University

Mahfoud Ali Zoui is an Associate Professor of civilization at the Department of English, Guelma University, Algeria. He is the author of many papers, including ‘Freedom of Expression and the Right to Offend: Western vs. Islamic Perspectives’ and ‘Media Discourse and Intolerance of Muslim Post-9/11 Visibility in the West: The British Context’. He provided over the organizing committee of the international conference “5 Years in the New Millennium: The Grand Upheavals, Global Security, Ideological Conflict and Literary Expression”, held at Guelma University in November 2016. His research areas of interest include faith minorities and intercivilizational dialogue, political Islam, and multiculturalism.

Jean-Baptiste Sourou – Benin
Professor of Religion and Law, Saint Augustine University Mwanza; President, CeDReS

Jean-Baptiste Sourou is a Professor and the Founder and President of the Center for Documentation and Research on Art and Social Sciences (CeDReS Project) in Benin Republic. He also teaches African cultures and migrations in universities and schools in Italy. He holds a BA, an MA, and a PhD in social communications and social sciences from the Gregorian University. He also has a BA and an MA in theology from universities in Padua and Rome. He is an international media practitioner, and he won the International Award of Solidarity with Refugees at the 2015 and 2016 International Journalism and Media Awards and the Best Writer/Author Award at the 2015 Africa Italy Excellence Awards. Professor Sourou’s research interests center on rites, dance, music, and the relationship between media, culture, and religion, especially in Africa. His research has earned him international honours, such as the 2012 African Studies Association (ASA) Presidential Fellowship and the 2007 International Award in Media, Religion, and Culture. He also researches African immigration through the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. He has founded two associations, CeDReS NGO in Benin and Il Cedro in Italy, to promote education in Africa as a solution to the endless flow of African forced migrations toward Europe. He has published writings on African cultural, social, and religious life. He is a member of the International Society in Media, Religion, and Culture and a consultant for the Observatory of Media and Religion in Canada.

Muhammed Haron – Botswana
Professor, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Botswana

Muhammed Haron is a South African Professor who is based in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Botswana. He has authored “The Dynamics of Christian-Muslim Relations in South Africa (circa 1960-2000)” (2006). He also completed his master of arts in the theory and practice of human rights at the Faculty of Law of Addis Ababa University in July 1998. He also completed his master of arts in the theory and practice of human rights at the Norwegian Center for Human Rights, University of Oslo. He is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Martin Luther, Germany. Yonas is the Head of the School of Law and Prof Tem Deane of the College of Law and Governance Studies, Addis Ababa University.

Helen Namondo Linonge-Fontebo – Cameroon
Lecturer, Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Buea

Helen Namondo Linonge-Fontebo earned a doctor of literature and philosophy (DLitt et Phil) in sociology from the University of South Africa as well as a master’s degree in women and gender studies and a BSc double major in women’s studies and law from the University of Buea, Cameroon. She is an alumnus of the Study of the United States Institute (SUSI) on religious pluralism and public presence from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Lecturer in the Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Buea, Cameroon. She is also a part-time Lecturer in the Department of Sociology at the Pan African University.

Tanto Richard Talla – Cameroon
Associate Professor, Department of History, Faculty of Arts, University of Bamenda

Tanto Richard Talla, Associate Professor of archaeology, holds a PhD in ethnarchaeology from the University of Ifodan, Nigeria (2000). He was Head of service and research and also Chair of the Department of History at the University of Buea, Cameroon, from 2012 to 2015. He is currently Vice Dean in charge of programmes and academic affairs, Faculty of Arts, at the University of Bamenda. Cameroon, where he also teaches archaeology and history in the Department of History. He has widely published in peer-reviewed journals and is currently working with Professor Elias Bongbnda of Rice University, Houston, Texas, USA, on a project entitled “Land and Authority in Postcolonial Cameroon.”

Mohamed Abdelaal – Egypt
Assistant Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, Alexandria University

Mohamed Abdelaal is an Assistant Professor of Law at Alexandria University. Faculty of Law, Egypt, and an Adjunct Professor of Law at Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, Indianapolis, Indiana. Abdelaal earned his bachelor of laws (LLB) degree from Alexandria University, Faculty of Law (English Department), in 2009, a diploma in public law in 2010; and his master of laws degree (LLM) and doctor of juridical science (SJD/PhD) from Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law in 2011 and 2014, respectively. He teaches constitutional law, administrative law, Islamic law, Islamic constitutional law, and international human rights. Abdelaal has authored articles in law reviews, and he serves as a presenter and a panelist in several law conferences and workshops in the United States of America. Meanwhile, he is licensed to practice law in Egypt and is admitted as a certified arbitrator under Egyptian law. He is a permanent member of the Egyptian American Rule of Law Association (EARLA), Washington, DC, and has been invited for two consecutive years (2012–2013) to serve as an Egyptian expert to draft the Rule of Law Index Report sponsored by the World Justice Project (WJP).

Yonas Adinew – Ethiopia
Lecturer, School of Law, Addis Ababa University

Yonas B. Adinew is a Lecturer at the School of Law of Addis Ababa University (AAU). He obtained his degree in law from the Faculty of Law of Addis Ababa University in July 1998. He also completed his master of arts in the theory and practice of human rights at the Norwegian Center for Human Rights, University of Oslo. He is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Martin Luther, Germany. Yonas is the Head of the School of Law and Prof Tem Deane of the College of Law and Governance Studies, Addis Ababa University.
Mohammed Dejen Assen — Ethiopia
Lecturer, College of Law and Governance, Addis Ababa University
Mohammed Dejen Assen obtained a BA in history in 2000, an MA in 2009, and a PhD in 2016 in federal studies from Addis Ababa University. He also received his LLB in law from Mekelle University in 2011. Currently, he is an Assistant Professor at Addis Ababa University. His research interests include religion and human rights, federalism, minority rights, and secularism.

Halefom Abay Ayele — Ethiopia
Director, Religious Organizations and Associations Registration, Ministry of Federal and Pastoralist Affairs
Halefom Abay Ayele obtained BAs in history, education, and sociology and social anthropology in 2011 and 2012, respectively, from Addis Ababa University. Currently, he is Director of Religious Organizations and Associations Registration Directorate at the Ministry of Federal and Pastoralist Development Affairs.

Afwork Hailu Beyene — Ethiopia
Head of Student Affairs, Lecturer in Historical Studies, Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology
Afwork Hailu Beyene holds a diploma in public administration. Currently, he is a trained teacher and has worked for the civil service for the past 26 years.

Haji Ali Dermesha — Ethiopia
Advisor to the State Minister, Ministry of Federal and Pastoralist Affairs
Haji Ali Dermesha obtained a BA in business administration in 2008 from New Generation University. Currently, he is Advisor to the State Minister at the Ministry of Federal and Pastoralist Development Affairs.

Solomon Negussie — Ethiopia
Dean, College of Law and Governance Studies, Addis Ababa University
Solomon Negussie is an Associate Professor and Dean of the College of Law and Governance Studies at Addis Ababa University. He earned an LLB from Addis Ababa University, an LLM from Amsterdam University, and a PhD from Utrecht University. Professor Negussie’s research interests are federalism and the management of resources, tax and development, and constitutional law and intergovernmental relations. His published articles include “A Constitutional Overview of Fiscal Federalism in Ethiopia”, “Intergovernmental Transfers and the Problem of Imbalances in Regional Development in Ethiopia: The Need for Benchmarking the Right-Based Approach” (FSS, 2014), “Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations from a Human Rights Perspective: The Ethiopian Context”, “Ethiopia and the African Human Rights and Good Governance Agenda” (Vienna, NWV, 2014), “Intergovernmental Relations and Fiscal Issues in Federations: The Case of Ethiopia”, “Constitutionalism and Human Security in the Horn of Africa” (Addis Ababa: 2009), and “The Role of the House of Federation in Promoting Fiscal Accountability in Ethiopia”, in Fiscal Federalism and Economic Development (Forum of Federations, Shama Books, 2012).

Burkhard J. Berkmann — Germany
Professor, University of Munich
Dr. Burkhard J. Berkmann holds a Chair for canon law at the University of Munich since October 2016. Religious pluralism and fundamental rights and their implications on canon law are among his primary research interests. He obtained an MA in philosophy, followed by doctorates in both law and theology from the University of Humburk and a licentiate in canon law from the University of Munich. After his habilitation at the University of Lucerne, he was a Lecturer and later an Associate Professor at the theological seminary of St. Poelten (Austria), besides working as a Legal Advisor and Diocesan Judge for the Diocese of St. Poelten. He was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Potsdam from 2009 to 2010 and has been a Lecturer at the University of Lucerne since 2015.

Serawit Bekele Debele — Germany
Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Bayreuth
Serawit Bekele Debele is a Fritz Thyssen Stiftung Postdoctoral Fellow based at the University of Bayreuth, Germany. Currently, she is conducting research on Ireecha celebration and its political significance among the Oromo living in Europe. She has published articles on women and religious authority, female leaders in new religious movements, fieldwork in the study of religion, and religion in revolutionary Ethiopia. Her forthcoming book is titled Managing Ireecha Ritual: Religion in Post 1991 Ethiopia.

Loreen Iminza Maseno — Germany
Humbold Research Fellow, University of Bayreuth
Dr. Loreen Iminza Maseno is a Humbold Research Fellow at the University of Bayreuth working on the project Hagar in Africa. Her PhD from the University of Oslo in 2008 culminated in an interdisciplinary dissertation that spans the disciplines of Christian theology, gender studies, and ethnography. She is also a Research Fellow in the Department of Biblical and Ancient Studies at the University of South Africa and serves as the Kenya National Representative of the African Association for the Study of Religions (AASR). Her research interests include religion and gender, feminist theology, Christology, Pentecostalism, religion and sexuality.

Adelaide Anno-Kumi — Ghana
Chief Director, Ministry of the Interior
Adelaide Anno-Kumi, Chief Director of the Ministry of Interior, Ghana, completed her bachelor of arts in political science and religions from the University of Ghana, Legon. She also received a bachelor of laws from the Ghana School of Law, Accra, in 1996. She completed an international executive master’s in business administration, strategic and consultancy management from the Paris Graduate School of Management in May 2012 and holds a diploma in public administration. Currently, Anno-Kumi is a member of the Ghana Highways Board and the Ghana Immigration Service Board. In the past, she worked as a trained teacher and has worked for the civil service for the past 26 years.
Abamfo Ofori Atieomore — Ghana
Professor, Department for the Study of Religions, University of Ghana

Abamfo Ofori Atieomore is a Senior Lecturer and former Head of the Department for the Study of Religions, University of Ghana, Legon. He obtained his PhD from the Free University of Amsterdam after studying for master of philosophy and bachelor of arts degrees in the study of religions at the University of Ghana. He also holds other qualifications from the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague and Trinity College, Legon. He has been a Senior Fellow at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study in Shimla, India, a Visiting Lecturer at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana; and a Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Theology, University of Pretoria, South Africa. He has also been a Fellow of the Linnaeus-Palme Exchange Programme at the University of Gavle, Sweden, and a Visiting Fellow of the African Studies Centre, London, in 2015. He teaches comparative religion and history of religion, and his current research interests include religion and human rights, Hinduism in Ghana, Pentecostalism, and evil and popular petry in African Christianity and Islam. Among his recent publications are Mapping the Space of the Sacred: A Reader in the Study of Religion (2014) and "Religion and Custom Are Not the Same: Sacred Traditional States and Religious Human Rights in Contemporary Ghana", in Law and Religion in Africa: The Quest for the Common Good in Pluralistic Societies (2015).

Festus Kofi Aubyn — Ghana
Research Fellow, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPBTC)

Dr. Festus Kofi Aubyn is a Research Fellow at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPBTC) in Accra, Ghana. He lectures in the centre’s MA programmes and training courses. He is also a part-time Lecturer at Webster University in Ghana and has been a guest Lecturer at a number of institutions, including the Ghana Armed Forces Staff and Command College, the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration, the Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy, the University of Ghana, and the Ghana Military Academy. He was also a Visiting Lecturer at the Department of Political and International Studies, Rhodes University, South Africa, in September 2016. Before joining the KAIPBTC in 2021, Festus worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ghana and the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana.

John G. Esubonteng — Ghana
PhD Candidate, Department for the Study of Religions, University of Ghana

John G. Esubonteng is currently a third-year PhD candidate at the Department for the Study of Religions, University of Ghana, researching the dynamics of leadership and governance within Pentecostal charismatic churches. He is a Senior Associate Minister of the Study of Religions, University of Ghana, researching the dynamics of leadership and governance within Pentecostal charismatic churches. He is a Senior Associate Minister of

Marcus B. Nash — Ghana
Africa West Area Presidency, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Elder Marcus B. Nash was sustained as a General Authority Seventy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on 1 April 2016. At the time of his call he had been serving as a member of the Fifth Quorum of the Seventy in the North America Northwest Area. He has also served as Assistant Executive Director in the Church History and Correlation Departments, as Executive Director of the Correlation Department, and as a member of the Boundary and Leadership Change Committee. He is currently serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the Celtic Church in New York, New York. Elder Nash graduated from Brigham Young University with a bachelor’s degree in international relations and earned a law degree from the J. Reuben Clark Law School at BYU. He was a partner in a major Seattle law firm at the time of his call as a Seventy.

Cristiana Cianitto — Italy
Lecturer in Canon Law, University of Milan, General Coordinator, ICLARS Secretariat

Cristiana Cianitto attended the Faculty of Law in the Universitá degli Studi in Milan, where she took her undergraduate degree in law in 2000 and her PhD in philosophy of law, curriculum in ecclesiastical and canon law, in 2005. Since October 2007 she has been a Lecturer in canon law at the University of Milan, Faculty of Law. Her main fields of investigation are church and state relationships in the UK with a particular attention to Anglican canon law and the British legal system in relation to religious issues and hate crimes, freedom of religion, and freedom of expression in the UK, USA, India, and Italy. In 2008 she was a founding member of the International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS), and she has since continued as the general coordinator of ICLARS secretariat. She serves as a committee editor for the Oxford Journal of Law and Religion and is a member of the editorial committee of the journal Quaderni di diritto e politica ecumenica.

Ludovica Decimo — Italy
PhD Candidate, University of Padua

Ludovica Decimo is currently a PhD student in law, specifically law and religion and intercultural law, at the University of Padua, Italy. She is a teaching Assistant in law and religion, intercultural and religions law, ecclesiastical patrimonial law, and nonprofit organization law at the Department of Law, University degli Studi della Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, Italy. She has written many articles and spoken at conferences. She attended the conference “Right of Religious Minorities in the Islamic Territories—Legal Framework and the Call to the Initiative”, organized by the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies and the Ministry of Religious Endowments and Islamic Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco (2016). She was a Lecturer at several international conferences, including the Cardiff Festival for Law and Religion, “Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the LLM in Canon Law at the University of Milan”, the 2016 Annual Conference of the Law and Religion Scholars Network (LARSN), organized by Cardiff University and the Center for Law and Religion, and the 24th World Congress of Political Science. "Politics in a World of Inequality", organized by the International Political Science Association, Poznan.

Antonio Fuccillo — Italy
Professor of Law and Religion, Intercultural Law, Department of Law, Università degli Studi della Campania Luigi Vanvitelli

Antonio Fuccillo is currently a full Professor of law and religion and intercultural law at Università degli Studi della Campania Luigi Vanvitelli. He has written many monographs and articles and is an accomplished conference speaker. Recently he was appointed a member of the School of Law (Law and Religion) at Renmin University of China in Beijing. He is a cultural correspondent for the MACIT of Malta. He is a member of numerous scientific committees and Directorates of prestigious journals and a member of the PhD board at the University of Rome “La Sapienza”. He attended the conference “Right of Religious Minorities in the Islamic Territories—Legal Framework and the Call to the Initiative”, organized by the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies and the Ministry of Religious Endowments and Islamic Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco (2016). He was a Lecturer at several international conferences, including “International
Francesco Sorvillo – Italy
Production Fellow, Università degli Studi di Napoli, Italy
Francesco Sorvillo, PhD, Università degli Studi di Napoli, is a contract lecturer of law and religion and intercultural law, Department of Law, Seconda Università degli Studi di Napoli. He has written many monographs and articles and is an accomplished conference speaker. He attended the conference "Right of Religious Minorities in the Islamic Territories – Legal Framework and the Call to the Initiative", organized by the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies and the Ministry of Religious Endowments and Islamic Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco (2016). He was a lecturer at several international conferences, including "International Consultation on Religious Freedom Research", Istanbul (2012), "Crime and Punishment: Nature, Problems and Perspectives of Canon Law and Its Relation to Civil Law", Washington, DC (2014), "Religious Freedom in the Post-Secular Age", Switzerland (2014), "Cardiff Festival for Law and Religion – Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the LLM in Canon Law at Cardiff University", and Law and Religion Scholars Network (LARSN) annual conference 2016, organized by Cardiff University and the Center for Law and Religion (2016), and the 24th World Congress of Political Science, "Politics in a World of Inequality", organized by the International Political Science Association (IPSA), Poznan (2016).

Célestin Gnonzion – Ivory Coast
Professor of Media Ethics and Journalism, Faculty of Information, Communication, and Arts, Felix Houphouët-Boigny University
Dr. Célestin Gnonzion obtained his PhD from the Pontifical Gregorian University of Rome, Italy, in 2008. He is founder and president of the Ivorian Network for Promotion of Ethics in Society (Réseau Ivoirien pour la promotion de l’éthique dans la société – RIPES). Gnonzion is a teacher in the Faculty of Information, Communication and Arts, Felix Houphouët-Boigny University, Ivory Coast. He lectures on journalism and ethics topics, such as ethics of public social communications, ethics and deontology in media and methods, and techniques of social science. He has published on topics such as the impact of the press on democratic processes, ethical decision-making factors of journalists, and ivory coast and media freedom.

Taha Al-Adwan – Jordan
General Director, Judicial Institute of Jordan
Dr. Taha S. A. Al-Adwan, General Director of the Judicial Institute of Jordan, was the first PhD graduate from the Faculty of Law at the University of Jordan. He also holds a master of laws with merit from the University of Kent, UK, and a BA in law from the University of Jordan. Dr. Al-Adwan began his legal career as a Clerk at the First Instance Court in 1959. Since 1991 he has been a judge specializing in competition issues and intellectual property issues. His past experience includes Attorney General of the High Felony Court, Attorney General in Amman, Head of North Amman First Instance Court, Director of the Legal Department at the Ministry of Justice, and Director of the Studies and Planning Department at the Ministry of Justice. He is a member of many judiciary committees and has spoken at and participated in numerous international conferences. Dr. Al-Adwan is a lecturer at the Jordanian Judicial Institute, the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy, and the Faculty of Law, University of Jordan, as well as specialized educational centers. He has published two books.

Fayyad Alqudah – Jordan
Dean, University of Jordan Law School
Professor Fayyad Alqudah is the Dean of the University of Jordan Law School. He earned an LLB from the University of Jordan (UJ) and an LLM with distinction and a PhD, both in commercial law, from the University of Edinburgh. Prior to becoming Dean, Professor Alqudah assumed many posts at UJ, including Assistant Dean for administrative affairs, Assistant Dean for students’ affairs, Head of the private law department, and Vice Dean. He is a member of the Deans council, the Appointment and Promotion Committee, the UJ Legislative Committee, and the legal committee of the Council of Higher Education in Jordan. For his contributions, UJ awarded Professor Alqudah the title of Distinguished Alumnum. He has published articles in Arabic and English and has participated in many conferences, public lectures, and media interviews advocating rule of law. He is a member of the board of many local and regional refereed journals, and he works as an external examiner evaluating postgraduate degrees for various universities. Professor Alqudah is a practicing Attorney at Law and a Managing Partner in Alqudah Law and Arbitration. He has worked as a Legal Advisor to UJ, to Jordan University of Science and Technology, to the King Abdullah I Hospital, and to the Government of Jordan Privatizations Unit, as well as many other private and public institutions. By royal decree, Professor Alqudah was appointed a member of the Jordan Anti-Corruption Committee Board in 2010, a member of the board of King Abdullah II Center for Development and Design (KADDBI) in 2014, and later a member of the board of the Hashemite Fund for Badia Development.

Fathimah Aminya Badurdeen – Kenya
Chairperson, Department of Social Science, Technical University of Mombasa
Fathimah Aminya Badurdeen is the Chairperson of the Department of Social Sciences, Technical University of Mombasa. She specializes in conflict and security studies. Her PhD research was on youth radicalization and recruitment in Kenya. Her research fellowships and presentations include presentations at the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford, Mahantibani Calcutta Research Institute, India, and CODESRIA, Dakar, Senegal.

Tito Kunyuk – Kenya
Magistrate, Kenya Judiciary
Honourable Tito Kunyuk is a Kadhi’s court magistrate based at Kakuma law courts in Turkana County, Kenya. He holds a bachelor of sharia from the International University of Africa, Sudan (2005), a bachelor of laws from Mt. Kenya University (2016), and a diploma in English, literature, and history from Kagumo Teachers Training College (2012). He is currently finishing his MA in religious studies (Islamic studies) from Mt. Kenya University. He joined the Kenyan judiciary in December 2012 and is currently a Senior Resident Kadhi. His research interests include the role of Islamic law in advancing the rule of law in Kenya.
Mohamed Mraja – Kenya
Senior Lecturer in Islamic Studies, Department of Philosophy, Religion, and Theology, Moi University

Dr. Mohamed Mraja is currently the Head of the Department of Gender and Social Economic Development in the School of Arts and Social Sciences, Moi University. He is a Senior Lecturer in Islamic studies in the Department of Philosophy, Religion, and Theology in the same university. He has authored, among other scholarly articles, “Sheikh al-Amin Mazar (1890–1947) and the Dilemma of Islamic Law in the Kenyan Legal System in the 21st Century”, in the Journal of Islamic Studies, vol. 31 (2011), and “The Reform Ideas of Shaykh `Abdullah Stihl al-Farsi and the Transformation of Marital Practices among Digo Muslims of Kenya”, in Islamic Law and Society, vol. 17, no.2 (2010).

Hamisi Ali Mwadzogo – Kenya
PhD Candidate, Faculty of Sharia and Law, Omdurman Islamic University

Hamisi Ali Mwadzogo holds a bachelor of laws from the International University of Africa, Khartoum, Sudan, and a master’s in sharia and law from Omdurman Islamic University, Khartoum, Sudan. He also earned a postgraduate diploma in law from the Kenya School of Law. He is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and a Tutorial Fellow at the Technical University of Mombasa, Kenya. Previously, he worked as the National Programmes Coordinator of the Council of Imams and Preachers of the Kenya national office in Mombasa. He also practiced law with the firm of A. A. Mrazu and Company. Advocates and was a part-time lecturer in several Kenyan public universities.

Hassan Ndzovu – Kenya
Senior Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, Religion, and Theology, Moi University

Hassan J. Ndzovu is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Philosophy, Religion, and Theology, Moi University, Kenya. He was awarded a PhD in religious studies from the University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa, in 2009. Ndzovu has also held two postdoctoral positions at Freie Universität Berlin (2013–2014) and Northwestern University, USA (2010–2011). His research interests are broadly focused on Islam in Africa, especially sub-Saharan Africa, and his research revolves around religion and politics and law, religious-based conflict, religious authority within the Islamic tradition, religion and sexuality, and witchcraft among African societies. Ndzovu has conducted previous studies related with the Muslim community of Kenya. His book Muslims in Kenyan Politics: Political Envelopment, Marginalization, and Minority Status is the culmination of several of his research projects.

Damaris Seleina Parsitau – Kenya
Director, Institute of Women, Gender, and Development Studies; Lecturer, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Egerton University

Damaris Seleina Parsitau is a Lecturer and a Researcher of Kenyan Pentecostalism based at Egerton University, Kenya. She has published more than 20 book chapters and journal articles on Kenyan Pentecostalism. She recently completed her PhD thesis, “Neo-Pentecostalism: Its Civic and Public Roles in Kenya (1979–2012).” Currently, she is researching Pentecostals and politics, Christian churches, Islamophobia, the Kadhi court controversy, and prophecy and prayer as civic engagement. She was a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge, UK, and a Visiting Fellow at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK.

Lalla Aicha Belarbi Alaoui – Morocco
Professor of Sociology, Mohammed V University, Rabat, Former Ambassador to the European Union, Former Secretary of State in charge of Cooperation

Aicha Belarbi is a women’s rights activist and scholar. She is a Professor of sociology at Mohammed V University in Rabat, Morocco. In March 1998 she was appointed Secretary of State to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, in charge of Cooperation by His Majesty Hassan II. She also served as the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco at the European Union. As Secretary of State and as a member of the Ministerial Commission on Migration, she worked extensively on migration issues. As an academic researcher, she focuses on girls’ education and gender socialization. Dr. Belarbi is a Founder of the Moroccan Organization of Human Rights and a member of the Scientific Committee of the Arab Institute of Human Rights. She offers her expertise as a human rights activist to a number of organizations, including the Initiative for Peace and Cooperation in the Middle East, Human Rights Watch, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, and International Federation of Jurists. She has published several articles and books on children, women’s issues, and human rights education, among other topics. Her latest work is *“Mother or stepmother, the challenges of migration in the Mediterranean”* (Cenová 2010). Dr. Belarbi speaks Arabic, French, and English.

Abdelaziz Benjouad – Morocco
Vice President for Research and Development, Université Internationale de Rabat

Mohamed Mraja is currently the Head of the Department of Gender and Social Economic Development in the School of Arts and Social Sciences, Moi University. He is a Senior Lecturer in Islamic studies in the Department of Philosophy, Religion, and Theology in the same university. He has authored, among other scholarly articles, “Sheikh al-Amin Mazar (1890–1947) and the Dilemma of Islamic Law in the Kenyan Legal System in the 21st Century”, in the Journal of Islamic Studies, vol. 31 (2011), and “The Reform Ideas of Shaykh `Abdullah Stihl al-Farsi and the Transformation of Marital Practices among Digo Muslims of Kenya”, in Islamic Law and Society, vol. 17, no.2 (2010).

Hamisi Ali Mwadzogo holds a bachelor of laws from the International University of Africa, Khartoum, Sudan, and a master’s in sharia and law from Omdurman Islamic University, Khartoum, Sudan. He also earned a postgraduate diploma in law from the Kenya School of Law. He is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and a Tutorial Fellow at the Technical University of Mombasa, Kenya. Previously, he worked as the National Programmes Coordinator of the Council of Imams and Preachers of the Kenya national office in Mombasa. He also practiced law with the firm of A. A. Mrazu and Company. Advocates and was a part-time lecturer in several Kenyan public universities.

Hassan Ndzovu is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Philosophy, Religion, and Theology, Moi University, Kenya. He was awarded a PhD in religious studies from the University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa, in 2009. Ndzovu has also held two postdoctoral positions at Freie Universität Berlin (2013–2014) and Northwestern University, USA (2010–2011). His research interests are broadly focused on Islam in Africa, especially sub-Saharan Africa, and his research revolves around religion and politics and law, religious-based conflict, religious authority within the Islamic tradition, religion and sexuality, and witchcraft among African societies. Ndzovu has conducted previous studies related with the Muslim community of Kenya. His book Muslims in Kenyan Politics: Political Envelopment, Marginalization, and Minority Status is the culmination of several of his research projects.

Damaris Seleina Parsitau is a Lecturer and a Researcher of Kenyan Pentecostalism based at Egerton University, Kenya. She has published more than 20 book chapters and journal articles on Kenyan Pentecostalism. She recently completed her PhD thesis, “Neo-Pentecostalism: Its Civic and Public Roles in Kenya (1979–2012).” Currently, she is researching Pentecostals and politics, Christian churches, Islamophobia, the Kadhi court controversy, and prophecy and prayer as civic engagement. She was a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge, UK, and a Visiting Fellow at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK.

Lalla Aicha Belarbi Alaoui is a women’s rights activist and scholar. She is a Professor of sociology at Mohammed V University in Rabat, Morocco. In March 1998 she was appointed Secretary of State to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, in charge of Cooperation by His Majesty Hassan II. She also served as the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco at the European Union. As Secretary of State and as a member of the Ministerial Commission on Migration, she worked extensively on migration issues. As an academic researcher, she focuses on girls’ education and gender socialization. Dr. Belarbi is a Founder of the Moroccan Organization of Human Rights and a member of the Scientific Committee of the Arab Institute of Human Rights. She offers her expertise as a human rights activist to a number of organizations, including the Initiative for Peace and Cooperation in the Middle East, Human Rights Watch, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, and International Federation of Jurists. She has published several articles and books on children, women’s issues, and human rights education, among other topics. Her latest work is *“Mother or stepmother, the challenges of migration in the Mediterranean”* (Cenová 2010). Dr. Belarbi speaks Arabic, French, and English.

Abdelaziz Benjouad is currently the Head of the Department of Gender and Social Economic Development in the School of Arts and Social Sciences, Moi University. He is a Senior Lecturer in Islamic studies in the Department of Philosophy, Religion, and Theology, Moi University. He was awarded a PhD in religious studies from the University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa, in 2009. Ndzovu has also held two postdoctoral positions at Freie Universität Berlin (2013–2014) and Northwestern University, USA (2010–2011). His research interests are broadly focused on Islam in Africa, especially sub-Saharan Africa, and his research revolves around religion and politics and law, religious-based conflict, religious authority within the Islamic tradition, religion and sexuality, and witchcraft among African societies. Ndzovu has conducted previous studies related with the Muslim community of Kenya. His book Muslims in Kenyan Politics: Political Envelopment, Marginalization, and Minority Status is the culmination of several of his research projects.

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**Driss Bouyahya – Morocco**
Professor, Moulay Ismail University

Dr. Driss Bouyahya is a Professor at Moulay Ismail University. He holds a PhD in political Islam and political communication. His publications include Islam Oriental Parties Ideologies and Political Communication in the Quest for Power in Morocco (Cambridge, 2016), Islamist Movements Typology in Morocco (2014). Is Islam an Ideology? How and Why? (2015), and Size, and Religious Tourism in Morocco (2016). His fields of interest are religious studies, political Islam, interfaith dialogue, and intercultural communication.

**Driss El Yazami – Morocco**
Chairman, Moroccan National Human Rights Council

Mr. Driss El Yazami was appointed by His Majesty the King to Chair the National Human Rights Council on 3 March 2011. A graduate of the Paris-based Centre de formation et de perfectionnement des journalistes, he was a member of the Advisory Council on Human Rights (CCHR), the Equity and Reconciliation Commission (Moroccan Truth Commission), and the board of the Three Cultures Foundation (Spain). He is the Director of Généreux, an association specializing in the history of foreigners and immigration in France, and the Chief editor of Sujets. Mr. El Yazami is a former Vice President of the French League of Human Rights (LDF), former Secretary General of the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH), and former member of the Executive Committee of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network. Since 2004 he has been President of the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders and member of the board of the Cité nationale de l'histoire de l'immigration in France. Mr. El Yazami is co-Director of the Centro Atlántico film. He was in charge of several exhibitions - “France of foreigners, France of freedoms” (Marcelle, Paris, Orléans, Strasbourg, 1989–1992). “In the mirror of the other, immigration in France and Germany” (Frankfurt, May 1993), “Generations, a century of history of Maghrebians in France” (Lyon, Paris, 2009). He has published several articles in the French-speaking press and coauthored several works, including For Human Rights; Les étrangers en France, guide des sources d’archives publiques et privées; (XIXè–XXè siècles); Le Paris-Atar: et Génération. In 2005 Mr. El Yazami drafted (with Remy Schwartz) a report on the establishment of a national centre for the history and culture of immigration, submitted to the French Prime Minister. Mr. El Yazami was awarded the Legion of Honor (Knight grade) of the French Republic on 14 July 2010. He was appointed to Chair the Council of Moroccan Community Abroad in 2007.

**Meriem El Haitami – Morocco**
PhD candidate, University of Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah; Area Studies Instructor, AMIDEAST Rabat

Meriem El Haitami is completing a PhD at the University of Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah in Fez, Morocco. Her research explores the dynamics of women’s religious authority and activism in Morocco with a focus on state-sanctioned female imams and their particular role in nation building and in the war on terror. During 2015 to 2016 she was a Rice Fellow and Lecturer at Yale University, where she taught courses on Islam and gender in North Africa. From 2012 to 2013 she was a Fulbright Scholar at SUNY Binghamton, conducting research in affiliation with the Political Science Department. Her research during this period explored Sufism as a global Islamic movement. In spring 2015 she was a Carnegie Fellow at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, where she was conducting research relating to modes of religiosity and attitudes toward human rights in Morocco. El Haitami is currently a Research Fellow at the Center for the Study of Islamic Law and Civilization at the Yale Law School.

**Moha Ennaji – Morocco**
Professor, University of Fez

Moha Ennaji is a Moroccan linguist, author, political critic, and civil society activist. He is a University Professor in the Department of English Language and Literature at Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, where he has worked for over 30 years. In addition to his publications in linguistics, he has written on language, education, migration, politics, and gender, and he is the author or editor of over 20 books. His works include Multilingualism, Cultural Identity and Education in Morocco (2009), “Language and Gender in the Mediterranean Region”, International Journal of the Sociology of Language (editor, no. 190. 2008). Migration and Gender in Morocco (coauthor, 2008). Women Writing Africa: The Northern Region (coeditor, 2009). Women in the Middle East (coeditor, 2010) and Gender and Violence in the Middle East (2011). His writing has appeared in international publications, including Common Ground News, Project Syndicate, Al-Safir, Al-Ahrar, Khaled, Times Japan Times, the Boston Globe, and many Arabic newspapers. Ennaji is a Visiting Professor at Rutgers University. He is the President of the South North Center for Intercultural Dialogue and a founding President of the International Institute for Languages and Cultures at Fez, Morocco. Since the 1980s Ennaji has been working for the revival of the Berber (Amaazigh) language in Morocco and the protection of human rights, especially women’s rights, in the Middle East and North Africa regions. His work has been in fields such as Arabic and Berber linguistics and the sociology of language.

**T. Jeremy Gunn – Morocco**
Professor of Law and Political Science, International University of Rabat

T. Jeremy Gunn, now at the International University of Rabat, was previously Professor of international studies in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Al Akhawayn University. Prior to these appointments in Morocco, he served as Director of the program on Freedom of Religion and Belief at the American Civil Liberties Union and as Director of research at the US Commission on International Religious Freedom. He earned his PhD from Harvard University, JD from Boston University (magna cum laude), MA from the University of Chicago, and BA in international relations and humanities from Brigham Young University. His publications include his Harvard dissertation, published as A Standard for Repair: The Establishment Clause, Equality, and Natural Rights; the book No Establishment of Religion. America’s Original Contribution to Religious Liberty; edited with John Witte Jr. (OUP 2012); and the articles “Religious Symbols in Public Schools: The Islamic Headscarf and the European Court of Human Rights Decision in Sahin v. Turkey”, “Permissible Limitations on Religion”, “Freedom of Religion and International Politics”, “Religious Symbols and Religious Expression in the Public Square”, and “The Human Rights System”.

**Amal Idrissi – Morocco**
Professor in Public Law and Political Science, University Moulay Ismail

Amal Idrissi is Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Moulay Ismail in Meknès, Morocco. She is the first woman to be promoted to full Professor in the law faculty at the university. She previously taught at Hassan I University in Settat, Morocco. She received a national doctorate in public law from Hassan I University in Casablanca. In addition to teaching public law and constitutional law, her research interests and publications focus on the rights of women and religion and law. With T. Jeremy Gunn, she wrote the article on Morocco for The Brill Encyclopedia of Law and Religion.
Driess Sidi Maghraoui — Morocco
Associate Professor, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Al Akhawayn University

Driess Maghraoui earned his PhD in history from the University of California, Santa Cruz, USA. Among his research interests are history and memory, colonialism, Moroccan culture and politics, and world history. His publications include Revisiting the Colonial Past in Morocco (Routledge, 2012), as well as the Oxford History (co-authored with Said Ennahid, Al Akhawayn University Press, 2012), and numerous articles in international journals. He was awarded the 2009 Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Fellowship and the Edward J. Dorothy and Clarke Kempf Fund, Middle East Studies Council, Center for International and Area Studies, Yale University, in fall 2005.

Najib Mokhtar — Morocco
Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Université Internationale de Rabat

Najib Mokhtar holds a PhD in English and comparative literature from the University of Texas at Austin, USA. He is an Associate Professor of English and comparative literature, a Senior Visiting Lecturer on the diacritical readings of post-colonial literatures and cultures within and across global strategic dialogues in a number of colleges and universities, and a supervisor of interdisciplinary academic research projects. Since 2011 he has been appointed Director of Studies at the International University of Rabat, where he has been instrumental in securing a high standard of teaching, syllabus design, teaching practice, translation, and research in English. Dr. Najib is currently Academic Advisor and Director of the MedDNA Studies Program, a cross-disciplinary study and research program on Middle Eastern, North African, and Mediterranean area studies.

M. Noureddine Mouaddib — Morocco
President, Université Internationale de Rabat

M. Noureddine Mouaddib has spent 25 years in the field of higher education in France as a tenured full Professor and Researcher in computer science. After obtaining his PhD in computer science from the university Henri Poincare in 1989, M. Mouaddib earned the Habilitation à diriger des recherches (HDR) in computer science from the same university in 1995. Since 1996 he was appointed as a full tenured Professor at the Ecole Polytechnique de Nantes (France) and was for many years the Head of LINA (Laboratoire d’Informatique de Nantes Atlantique), a major research lab in computer science in Nantes University. Besides supervising a significant number of PhD students, M. Mouaddib published more than 90 publications in conferences and in national and international reviews and was also appointed as Vice President at the Ecole Polytechnique de Nantes in France. M. Mouaddib is the founder and President of the Université Internationale de Rabat (UIR) since 2010. He believes that the role of the Moroccan academic diaspora in the development of higher education in Morocco is of the essence. He belongs to such academic diaspora who chose to come back to their home country to contribute to its development process. In October 2011, M. Mouaddib was appointed by His Majesty the King Mohamed VI as a member of the National Council of Human Rights (Conseil National des Droits de l’Homme, CNDH), among eight other members appointed by the King of Morocco.

Eric Stanley Ross — Morocco
Associate Professor, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Al Akhawayn University

Eric S. Ross is a cultural and urban geographer. He earned an MS in geography at the Université du Québec à Montréal (1990) and a PhD in Islamic studies at McGill University (1996). He is currently a Professor at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco, where he has been teaching geography and research methods since 1995. Ross has conducted research on Sufi institutions and urban processes in Senegal and on the city of Touda in particular. He also studies cultural heritage, tourism, and urban planning in Morocco and contributed to a multidisciplinary study of the impacts of tourism on Essaouira.

Fatima Sadiqi — Morocco
Professor of Linguistics and Gender Studies, University of Fes

Fatima Sadiqi is Professor of linguistics and gender studies, University of Fes, Morocco. Her work focuses on women’s issues in modern North Africa, the Middle East, and the Mediterranean world. She is the author and editor of numerous volumes and journal issues, including Women, Gender and Language (Belli: 2004), “Women’s Activism and the Public Sphere: Local/Global Linkages” (Journal of Middle East Women Studies 2, no. 2, 2006), Women and Knowledge in the Mediterranean (Routledge, 2013), Moroccan Feminist Discourses (Palgrave: Macmillan, 2014), and Women’s Movements in the Post-Arab Spring (Africa 2016). Fatima Sadiqi also is a public speaker in many languages and is a member of many national and international scholarly and policy-making boards. She served as Director General of the Fes Festival of Sacred Music and as an administrative board member of the Royal Institute of the Amazigh Language and Culture (IRCAM). Her work has been supported by numerous prestigious awards and Fellowships from Harvard University, the Woodrow Wilson Center, the Rockefeller Foundation’s Bellagio Center, and Fullbright. She currently serves on the editorial board of The Oxford Encyclopedia of African Women History.

Julio R. Machele — Mozambique
Assistant Lecturer, Faculty of Letters and Social Sciences, History Department

Júlio Raimundo Machele earned his degree in history with honours from the University Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo, Mozambique, in 2008. He is an Assistant Lecturer at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University Eduardo Mondlane, from 2008 to the present. His research interests include social medicine, traditional medicine, public health, environmental history, poverty, development, urbanization, music, and religion.

Soheil Wahedi — Netherlands
PhD Candidate, Erasmus School of Law

Soheil Wahedi is a PhD candidate at Erasmus School of Law in the Netherlands. His research elaborates on the liberal theories of religious freedom and aims to theorise, from that perspective, the relationship between law and religion. His work has been published in the Oxford Journal of Law and Religion, among others, and covers topical issues such as ritual circumcisions and religious clothes. Prior to his appointment as PhD candidate, Wahedi was a working student at De Brauw Blackstone Westbroek Lawyers and Notaries in Amsterdam. Next, he was deputy clerk of the Rotterdam District Court. From July 2011 until December 2011 he was an intern at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Seyni Moumouni — Niger

Seyni Moumouni, Professor and Doctor of philology; Islamic studies, is a Senior Researcher and Director of the Institut de Recherches en Sciences Humaines of the Abdou Moumouni University of Niamey. He is a teaching coordinator for the Arab language and Islamic culture at the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences, and he is a corresponding member of the Program Fontes Historiae Africae of the International Union of Academies. He is also a member of the subcommission Education of UNESCO World Memory. He is a national expert in Islamism, radicalization, and terrorism to the courts of the Niger Republic. Moumouni is the author or coauthor of Victor ou les Civil Utérans des Faux (1752-1817) (2008), Integration prélude et débâcle de sciences ésotériques contemporaines (2012), “Niger Islamic Scholarship”, Oxford Islamic Studies Online (2013), and “Al Fram Mamun Jobobo”, Oxford Islamic Studies Online (2011), and coordinator of Voice of Special Past (2014).

Musa Usman Abubakar — Nigeria

Dr. Musa Usman Abubakar is a Solicitor and Advocate of the Supreme Court of Nigeria. He studied common and Islamic law at Usman Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, Nigeria (1997). He earned a master of laws in legislative drafting (NALSA, Lagos, 2003), a master of laws in law in development, and a PhD in law (University of Warwick, United Kingdom, 2005 and 2012, respectively). He is a recipient of the prestigious British Chevening Scholarship Award 2003-2004 session. Currently, he is an Associate Professor in the Department of Islamic Law, Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria, and is the Sub Dean, academic, of the faculty. He attended many local and international conferences and has published in journals and contributed chapters to books both locally and internationally. He is currently working on a book to be published by Hart Publishing London in 2018. His research interests include child justice administration, criminal law, constitutional law, international human rights law, and gender and Islamic law.

Abiola Akiyode-Afolabi — Nigeria

Abiola Akiyode-Afolabi is a Lecturer in the Department of Public Law. University of Lagos. Dr. Abiola Akiyode-Afolabi is a Lecturer in the Department of Public Law. University of Lagos. Following Director of Women Advocates Research and Documentation Center (WARDC), and currently the Acting Secretary. West African Law and Religion Society. A former student leader and dedicated human rights defender, she specializes in gender, human rights, peace, conflict resolution, and international human rights law. In recognition of her commitment and efforts on behalf of her fellow citizens, particularly women, the International League for Human Rights named her a recipient of the 1999 Defenders’ Day Award, presenting the award on 11 December 1999, the first anniversary of the United Nations Defenders Declaration. A graduate of law from the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ille Ife, Dr. Akiyode-Afolabi has a master’s degree from the University of Notre Dame Law School, Center for Civil and Human Rights, Indiana, USA. She attended the course on a full-tuition scholarship and was awarded a fellowship for her distinction in performance and professionalism. She later earned a doctoral degree from SOAS, Faculty of Law and Social Sciences, University of London. She has produced several research materials and publications in the areas of her specialization and has worked as a consultant to local and international organizations on several projects including gender and climate change. She was part of Nigeria Negotiators at the Conference of Parties (COP) of the UNFCCC at Copenhagen and Mexico. A delegate of the 2014 National Conference and also a prominent member of the ongoing 2016 Presidential Electoral Reform Committee. Dr. Akiyode-Afolabi is the Chair of the Committee on Review of Relevant LAWS and Constitutions affecting electoral reforms in Nigeria. She is also the Chairperson of the Transition Monitoring Groups and leads a UN Democracy Fund project on the Safe and Secure Schools Initiative in the North East, Nigeria.

Saleh Dwamlong Bala — Nigeria

Brigadier General Saleh Bala (retired) is a Senior Adviser to Lt. General (retired) Abdulrahman Bello Dambazau CFR, PhD. the Honourable Minister of Interior, Federal Republic of Nigeria. He is also the Chief Executive Officer of White Ink Consult, a private defense and security research, strategic communications, and training consultancy firm based in Abuja, Nigeria. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Literature from the University of Mashiagari, Nigeria (1982), a master’s degree in international peace studies from the University for Peace, San Jose, Costa Rica (2006), and another master’s in national security strategy from the National Defense University, National War College, Washington, DC, USA (2010). He is an honours graduate of the Special Forces Detachment Officers Qualification Course (1991), John F. Kennedy, United States Special Warfare Centre, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; an alumnus of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, Sanremo, Italy; International Refugee Law Course (2010), and a member of the International Training Advisory Group. He is also a Resource Associate of the Africa Centre for Strategic Studies, National Defense University, Washington, DC, and the Africa Institute for Strategic and Security Studies, Alexandria, Virginia. USA. Bala was commissioned into the Nigerian Army on 11 December 1984. He served in various command, staff, and training capacities, which included company commander, 72 parachute battalion (1987–1988) and instructor at the Nigerian Army Infantry School, Airborne, Tactics and Special Warfare Wongs (1988–1991). He also served as an instructor at the Nigerian Defence Academy (1991–1993) as well as a directing staff member at the Nigerian Armed Forces Command and Staff College (2002–2004) and the National Defence College (2005–2011). Bala had peacekeeping experience as a UN Military Observer at the United Nations Verification Mission in Angola II (1995–1996) and was the Military Chief of Staff, United Nations Operations in Cote D’Ivoire (2011–2012). His last military assignment was as the Chief of Staff, Nigerian Army Infantry Corps Center (2012–2015).

A. Wahab Egbewole — Nigeria

Wahab Egbewole is a Legal Practitioner and academic. He was called to the Nigerian bar as a solicitor and advocate on 20 August 1985, and he holds a master’s and a PhD in law. Currently, he is a Professor in the Department of Jurisprudence and International Law, Faculty of Law, University of Ilorin. He has served in various capacities in the faculty, including the Office of the Dean, University of Ilorin. He is a member of the governing council of the University of Ilorin representing the Senate and Director of General Studies Unit. He is a member of several learned societies, including the African Consortium on Law and Religion, the Law and Society Association, and the Nigerian Bar Association, and is a Fellow at the Society for Peace Studies and Practice. At the 2015 International Bar Association’s Annual Conference held in Vienna, Austria, he was unanimously elected as newsletter editor of the IBA Damages and Negligence Committee. He has published widely in the areas of jurisprudence and legal theory and has five books on his name, including Jurisprudence of Election Petitions by the Nigerian Court (Jispal (Lambert Academic Publishing, Germany). He has attended several conferences, including those of the American Society of International Law, the International Bar Association, and the Law and Society Association. He has served in executive positions of many learned societies and is serving as academic examiner in a few universities across the continent.
Ahmed Salisu Garba — Nigeria
Professor, Faculty of Law, Bauchi State University

Ahmed Salisu Garba attended the University of Jos, Faculty of Law, earning first and second degrees in 2003 and 2011, respectively. Called to the Nigerian bar in 2005, he is still in active legal practice and has held the position of Head of Chambers in the law firm of ABC Attorneys. He is presently the acting HOD in the Department of Private and Business Law. He teaches law at Bauchi State University, Gadau, Nigeria. A PhD candidate at the Faculty of Law, Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria, he is working on the regulation of religious preaching in Nigeria with a focus on Islamic Preaching Board laws. He was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Iowa College of Law in the United States from August to December 2013. His publications include a recent article in the *Annual Review of Islam in Africa*, published by the University of Cape Town.

Hammed A. Hanafi — Nigeria
Senior Lecturer, AG HOD, Public and International Law, Al-Hikmah University

Hammed A. Hanafi earned his bachelor of laws (LLB) from Usman Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, in 1997 and his barrister at law from Nigerian Law School, Abuja, in 1999. In 2006 he earned a master of laws from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, and in 2013 a PhD in law from the University of Ilorin. Hanafi worked as a Lecturer and Researcher at Kwara State College of Arabic and Islamic Legal Studies from 2001 to 2011, Kogi State University, Ayigna, from 2011 to 2015, and Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin, from 2015 to the present, where he is currently Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of Public and International Law.

Akinola Ibidapo-Obe — Nigeria
Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Lagos

Akinola Ibidapo-Obe is a Professor and former Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Lagos, Alaka, Lagos. Nigeria. As Dean of Law, he pioneered the introduction of law and religion studies as an approved course in the curriculum of the Faculty of Law of the University of Lagos for the 2016–2017 session. He is the former Director of the Centre for Human Rights (CHR) in the Faculty of Law. Ibidapo-Obe's involvement with the law and religion movement began when he attended the 2016 International Conference on Law and Religion held in Provo in October 2016. His faculty subsequently hosted an international conference, “Towards Law and Religious Freedom in Africa”, with support from Brigham Young University (BYU). Ibidapo-Obe, together with his colleagues in several other Nigerian universities and the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) branches in Lagos and Ikeja, have formed the Nigeria Association for Law and Religion Studies (NALARS) and the West African Regional Centre for Law and Religion Studies (WARCRLS) to promote teaching and research on law and religion in Nigeria and the West Africa subregion. NALARS, WARCLARS,ACLARS,ICLARS, and the National Judicial Institute of Nigeria collaborated to organize the first National Judicial Roundtable on “The Intersection Between Law and Religion: World Perspectives” in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, on 20 June 2016.

Afis Ayinde Oladosu — Nigeria
Professor, Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies, University of Ilorin

Afis Ayinde Oladosu is a Professor in the Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Ilorin. He specializes in Islamic studies broadly defined and has expertise and competence in Islamic law and jurisprudence and in Middle Eastern, North African, and cultural affairs. Before his promotion to the rank of Professor at the University of Ilorin in 2011, Afis participated in many international conferences on Islam and Muslim culture in the United States, Malaysia, Uganda, Saudi Arabia, and Sudan, among others. He was a Fulbright Scholar to the University of Southern Maine, United States; a Bill Gates Scholar and Fellow, African Scholar Program, at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst; a Visiting Professor to the International Islamic University of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur; and was once aabbatical to the University of Ghana. Afis has published in all continents of the world except Latin America. He is a consultant and resource person to the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA), the Muslim Students Society of Nigeria (MSSN), the Federation of Muslim Women Organisation of Nigeria (FOMWAN), and others. He is an external examiner and assessor to universities in Nigeria and abroad, including the International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM), Kuala Lumpur.

Habihat Oladosu-Uthman — Nigeria
Lecturer, Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies, University of Ilorin

Dr. Habihat Oladosu-Uthman obtained her PhD from the International Islamic University, Malaysia, specializing in Islamic and other civilizations. Her areas of interest include gender studies, cultural criticism, modernity, the history of Islam, and Muslims in West Africa. She is the author of Muslim Women and the Politics of Emplacement (2011).

Is-haq Oloyede — Nigeria
Professor, Islamic Studies, University of Ilorin; Registrar of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board

Professor Is-haq Olanrewaju Oloyede, OFR, FNAL, secretary general of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, was appointed on 1 August 2016 by the federal government of Nigeria as registrar of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB). He holds a PhD in Islamic studies from the University of Ilorin, where he is Professor of Islamic studies and was formerly Deputy Vice Chancellor and Director of Academic Planning. He is a Fellow of the Islamic Academy of Cambridge, United Kingdom; Fellow of the Academy of Entrepreneurship; member of the Nigerian Association of Teachers of Arabic and Islamic Studies (NATAIS); and member of the editorial board for the Centre for Islamic Legal Studies, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. He was national President of the Unilorin Alumni Association and a member of the University Governing Council, the Students’ Disciplinary Committee, the Revenue Yielding Committee, the Honorary Degree and Monuments Committee, the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, and the Capital Project Implementation Task Force. In 2005 Professor Oloyede was appointed co-secretary of the National Political Reform Conference by President Olusegun Obasanjo. He has been a consultant to the National Universities Commission on Educational Reforms in Nigeria and was Chairman of University of Ilorin Holdings Ltd., Executive Secretary of the National Inter-Religious Council (NIREC), and President of the Association of African Universities (AAU).
Mariatu Bangura — Sierra Leone
Deputy Chief of Social Services, Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs
Mariatu Bangura is Deputy Chief of Social Services, Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs (MWSGCA) of Sierra Leone. She is a veteran in child protection and gender issues with the responsibility of providing technical guidance and managing national child protection, gender, and social welfare issues. She holds a bachelor’s degree in history and sociology from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, in 1988 and a master’s degree in gender and development from the same university in 2004. She has vast knowledge on issues of religion, as she plays an oversight role on the Social Welfare Directorate of her ministry. She has attended numerous international conferences relating to children, social welfare, and gender.

Francis Kabia — Sierra Leone
Director of Social Welfare, Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, and Children’s Affairs
As the current Director of Social Welfare, Francis Kabia monitors key interventions covering religious affairs, antihuman trafficking, disability, disaster risk management, and older persons. His overarching responsibilities are to ensure that all divisions within the directorate fulfill their mandated tasks and ensure the development and implementation of legal frameworks on the aforementioned intervention areas. As part of the National Hajj Committee and the National Pilgrimage Committee, Kabia ensures that the two major religions in the country are represented at pilgrimages to the holy land of Mecca and Israel. In collaboration with the Inter-Religious Council, he works for religious tolerance in Sierra Leone.

Ján Figel’ — Slovakia
Special Envoy for the Promotion of Freedom of Religion Outside the EU, European Commission
In May 2016 Jan Figel’ was nominated by the European Commission as the first Special Envoy for Promotion of Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) outside the European Union. Formerly European Commissioner for Education, Training, and Culture, Mr. Figel has also held other positions, such as State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and was the Chief Negotiator for Slovakia’s accession into the EU. He joined the Christian Democratic Movement party in 1990 and was elected in 1992 as an MP to the National Council of the Slovak Republic, serving on its Foreign Affairs Committee and becoming a member of Slovakia’s delegation to the Council of Europe. In 1998 he was appointed State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was also the representative of the Slovak government to the European Convention, which drafted the European Constitution. From 2004 to 2009 he served as European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture, and Multilingualism, with a brief stint as Commissioner for the Enterprise and Information Society. In 2009 he was elected leader of the Christian Democratic Movement in Slovakia. He stepped down from his commission post in 2009, following his election.

Pieter Coertzen — South Africa
Professor, University of Stellenbosch (Retired); President, African Consortium for Law and Religion Studies, South Africa; Member, ACLARS Steering Committee
A retired Professor of theology at the University of Stellenbosch, Pieter Coertzen still teaches a course in comparative canon law at the KU Leuven every year. He is Chairperson of the Unit for the Study of Law and Religion in the Beyers Naude Centre for Public Theology, Faculty of Theology, University of Stellenbosch, and President of the African Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ACLARS). He holds seven degrees BA, BA honours, and MA in philosophy (Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education), and bachelor of theology, licentiate in theology, master of theology in ecclesiology, and doctorate degree in theology (ecclesiology) (University of Stellenbosch). For the Dutch Reformed Church, he has served in many capacities, including as Parish Minister, as Artius, and on church law committees. He was Senior Lecturer in ecclesiology, Professor, and Dean at the Faculty of Theology (University of Stellenbosch). He has published 36 articles in NGCT (of which he has been editor for many years), has written 14 books, and is coauthor or editor of more than 50 other publications. Among many honours and activities, he is Chairman of the Huguenot Memorial Museum in Franschhoek.

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Kevin S. Hamilton — South Africa
President, Africa Southeast Area, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Kevin S. Hamilton was sustained as a General Authority Seventy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on 6 April 2013. At the time of his call he was serving as a Church public affairs Director in Southern California. He is currently serving as a member of the Africa Southeast Area Presidency. Elder Hamilton received a bachelor’s degree in marketing from Brigham Young University in 1979. In 1982 he received a master’s degree in finance from the University of Washington. He has been CEO of several mobile telecommunications companies, and prior to his call he was a coFounder and partner in a venture capital firm. Elder Hamilton has served in several capacities for the LDS Church, including as full-time missionary in the Switzerland Geneva Mission, counselor in a bishopric, bishop, high councilor, stake President, and President of the Belgium Brussels Netherlands Mission (2003–2006).

Nokuzola Mndende — South Africa
Director, Icamagu Institute, Research Associate, Department of Theology, University of the Free State
Dr. Nokuzola Mndende is the President of Icamagu Spirituality, a national organization for African traditional religion in South Africa (ATR), and is the Director of Icamagu Institute, an academic institute that develops African traditional religion clergy. She is the Deputy Chairperson for the Commission on Traditional Leadership Disputes and Claims and is also a Research Associate in the Department of Theology, University of the Free State, South Africa. Dr. Mndende has been a Lecturer of African traditional religion, feminist/womanist theology, and religion education at the University of Cape Town and of African traditional religion at the University of South Africa (UNISA). She has also worked as a freelance presenter of the ATR at Umhlobo Wenene, the second largest radio station of the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC). Dr. Mndende is an expert in South African customary law and a consultant on all issues regarding the comparative analysis between the South African Constitution and customary law. She is an activist for the liberation of African traditional religion in a postcolonial and postapartheid South Africa and has published several books and papers on African traditional religion in a democratic state. She holds a PhD in religious studies from the University of Cape Town, South Africa.
Saibu Mutaru — South Africa
PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Stellenbosch University

Saibu Mutaru is a Ghanaian citizen by birth. He holds a bachelor of arts in sociology with political science from the University of Ghana, Legon. In 2011 he won a common scholarship award offered by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission to undertake postgraduate study at Edinburgh University, leading to the award of a master of science degree in Africa and international development. He is currently a Lisa Mackell Fellow at the Graduate School of Arts and Social Sciences, Stellenbosch University, where he is pursuing a PhD programme in social anthropology. His research focuses on “witch camps” in Northern Ghana.

Enyinna Sodienye Nwauche — South Africa
Professor, Rhodes University, Grahamstown

Professor Enyinna Sodienye Nwauche teaches in the area of company and commercial law with research interests in human rights in Africa, intellectual property and development, business and human rights, trade and culture, legal pluralism in Africa, law and religion, regional integration in Africa, and constitutionalism in Africa. He was Director of the Nigerian Copyright Commission (2003–2004). Dean at the Faculty of Law, Rivers State University of Science and Technology (1999–2002). member of the Executive Council of the International Association of Constitutional Law (IACL). Professor Nwauche received his bachelor of laws (LLB) and master of laws (LLM) from the Obafemi Awolowo University ile-Ife. He also has a doctor legum (LLD) from North-West University (Potchefstroom campus).

Mary Anne Plaatjies van Huffel — South Africa
Senior Lecturer in Ecclesiology, University of Stellenbosch

Professor Mary Anne Plaatjies van Huffel teaches ecclesiology and church polity at the University of Stellenbosch. Currently, she serves as the Moderator of the General Synod of the Uniting Reformed Church in South Africa and was chosen in 2013 as the Africa University of Stellenbosch. Currently, she serves as the Moderator of the General Synod of the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa and was chosen in 2013 as the Africa University of Stellenbosch. Currently, she serves as the Moderator of the General Synod of the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa. She obtained a BA (honours) in French and a BArch from the University of the Free State (BIGSAS), University of Bayreuth, Germany. She has been practicing architecture since 1996 and is a founding member of Y and K Architects and a Fellow of the Association of Architects.

Lee-Shae Logan Scharnick-Udemans — South Africa
Research Associate, Department of Religious Studies, University of Cape Town

Lee-Shae Logan Scharnick-Udemans is a Lecturer at the University of Cape Town. She holds a bachelor’s in social science (honours) and a master’s in social science (distinction) from the University of Cape Town. Her research interests include religion and public pedagogy, religion and media, religion and politics, religion and law, and critical pedagogy and curriculum design. Her research focuses on the multiple historical and contemporary intersections of the religion, politics, and media triptych. It traces and critically engages with the historical and contemporary role of religion in the political economy of public broadcasting in South Africa.

Abdulkader Tayob — South Africa
Professor of Religious Studies, Department of Religious Studies, University of Cape Town

Abdulkader Tayob holds the chair in Islam, African Publics, and Religious Values at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. He has published on Islam in South Africa, modern Islamic thought, and Islam and the history of religions. He has led a number of research initiatives and projects and has convened workshops and conferences locally and abroad. Professor Tayob obtained his doctoral degree in 1989 from Temple University in the United States. His teaching experience includes Cape Town, Charlottesville (Virginia, USA), Bayreuth, Hamburg, and Cologne (Germany), and Nijmegen and Leiden (the Netherlands). His current research is focused on religion education in South Africa, modern Islam, and biographies of religious engagement. He is a widely published author.

Asoneh Ukah — South Africa
Senior Lecturer, Department of Religious Studies, University of Cape Town

Asoneh Ukah is a sociologist and historian of religion. He joined the University of Cape Town, South Africa, in 2014. Previously, he taught at the University of Bayreuth, Germany, from 2005 to 2014. He studied at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, and the University of Bayreuth, Germany. He is the author of A New Paradigm of Pentecostal Power: A Study of the Redeemed Christian Church of God in Nigeria (Africa World Press, 2008) and coeditor of Breathing in Africa Exploring the Dynamics of Religious Fields (Broll, 2016). He is Director of the Research Institute on Christianity and Society in Africa (RICSA). University of Cape Town, South Africa, and Affiliated Senior Fellow of Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS), University of Bayreuth, Germany.

Yolanda Van der Vyver — South Africa
PhD Candidate, Department of Architecture, University of the Free State

Yolanda Van der Vyver holds a master’s degree in architecture from the University of Pretoria. For her thesis she rewrote the curriculum for a course on the history of the southern African environment. She obtained a BA (honours) in French and a BArch from the University of Pretoria. She is currently enrolled at the University of the Free State for her PhD, titled “A Critical Interpretation of the Temporal Impact of Landscape: Space and Power on the Built Environment of Church Square: Pretoria (1841–2016).” She has been practicing architecture since 1996 and is a founding member of Y and K Architects and a Fellow of the Association of Architects.

Mohammed Jamal Ahmed — Turkey
Lecturer and Researcher of History and Tourism, Wollo University of Ethiopia

Mohammed Jamal Ahmed earned a BA from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, in tourism and development. From 2009 to 2016 he was Lecturer of History and Tourism at Jigjiga University. Currently he is a Lecturer and Researcher at Wolle University, Ethiopia, and a PhD student of tourism at Kath Celbi University, Turkey.

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Sir Malcolm D. Evans — United Kingdom
Chair, U.N. Subcommittee on Torture, Professor of Public International Law, University of Bristol

Sir Malcolm D. Evans OBE is Professor of public international law at the University of Bristol. His areas of specialization include the international law of the sea and international human rights protection. His particular interests concern torture and torture prevention and the protection of religious liberty under international law. He is a member of the United Nations Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture (the SPT) and has been Chair since 2011. From 2014 to 2017 he served as Chair of the Meeting of Chairs of UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies. From 2003 to 2013 he was also a member of the OSCE ODIHR Advisory Council on the Freedom of Religion or Belief. Major published works include Religious Liberty and International Law in Europe (CUP 1997); Manual on the Wearing of Religious Symbols in Public Areas (Council of Europe. Brill, 2009); and The Changing Nature of Religious Rights under International Law (editor. OUP. 2013). He is also an Editor-in-Chief of the Oxford Journal of Law and Religion.

Mark Hill — United Kingdom
Extraordinary Professor, University of Pretoria, South Africa; Visiting Professor, Cardiff University

Mark Hill QC is a Barrister specializing in ecclesiastical law and religious liberty. He has represented clients in the UK Supreme Court and the European Court of Human Rights. He is a Recorder on the Midland Circuit (sitting in criminal, civil, and family cases) and Deputy Judge of the Upper Tribunal. Immigration, and Asylum Chamber. He sits as Judge in ecclesiastical courts of the Church of England and is Visiting Professor at Cardiff University’s Centre for Law and Religion (United Kingdom) at the University of Pretoria in South Africa and at the Dickson Poon School of Law at King’s College, London. Publications include: Magistratura, Religion and the Rule of Law: Religion and Law in the United Kingdom: Religious and Discrimination Law in the European Union; Ecclesiastical Law; Religious Liberty and Human Rights; and English Canon Law. He is a consultant editor of the Ecclesiastical Law Journal and a member of the editorial boards of the Oxford Journal of Law and Religion and the Revista General de Derecho Canónico y Derecho Conciliario del Estado. He is Ecclesiastical Fellow in Canon Law at the Venerable English College in Rome and is a former President of the European Consortium for Church and State Research. He is an accredited Mediator, current Chair, and a Founder of BIMA, a charity that promotes faith-based mediation.

Funmi Olonisakin — United Kingdom
Professor, African Leadership Centre, King’s College London

Funmi Olonisakin, a British-Nigerian scholar, is a Professor of leadership, peace, and conflict at King’s College London and a distinguished Associate Scholar at the University of Pretoria. She is the Founder and former Director of the African Leadership Centre (ALC), founded on the principle of pan-Africanism to build the next generation of leaders and scholars on the African continent with core transformational values. Olonisakin is a Senior Lecturer at King’s College London and the programme Director of the ALC’s master of science (MS) programmes on leadership, peace, and security. She is a Research Associate of political sciences at the University of Pretoria. Under her many erudite caps, Olonisakin is an Andrew Mellon Foundation distinguished scholar and a distinguished Fellow of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP). She is currently an appointed member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) advisory group of experts on the review of the UN Peace-Building Architecture. Olonisakin is currently the Vice Dean International, Faculty of Social Science and Public Policy, King’s College London.

Professor Elias Bongmba is the Harry and Hazel Chair in Christian Theology, Professor of Religion, Rice University, Houston, Texas

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