THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR LAW AND RELIGION STUDIES

ANNUAL REPORT
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Dear Friends,

There has been a whirlwind of activity since I became director ten months ago. My overwhelming emotion has been one of gratitude—for Cole Durham and the solid foundation he has built over the past 25 years and for all of my colleagues at the Center and their commitment to the Center and its mission, as well as their patience with and support of me as I adapt to these new responsibilities.

The good news is that Cole Durham remains fully engaged and committed to the work of the Center in his new role as founding director. He even moved offices after 30 years, and he and I now have adjacent spots on the fifth floor looking out at the magnificent Y Mountain, which reminds us daily of the many mountains yet for us to ascend. My hope is to free him from as much of the administrative work of the Center as possible so that he can focus on what he does best: acting as an ambassador for religious freedom for all people in all places and as a senior statesman for the Center and our many projects and undertakings around the world. We hope he will have a little more time to spend with Louise and their family, who have together given so much for the work of the Center.

As you review the activities of 2016, I hope you will share in our gratitude for the opportunities we have at the Center to be engaged in meaningful work on a topic of timeless and eternal significance. I am mindful of the quality of partnerships that we enjoy in our work around the world and the quality of opportunities that we have to engage in the work of law and religion at high levels and in significant venues. Of course many of the opportunities we have today are the result of decades of building relationships and delivering quality work, and the opportunities we will have tomorrow will depend upon the quality of our work in the coming months and years. I also hope you will sense our deep commitment to our students and to providing meaningful educational and professional development opportunities for them. They make significant contributions to nearly every facet of our work, and their energy, optimism, and eagerness are quite literally what make our students the “special sauce” that is the key to our recipe.

On behalf of our entire little team, we express heartfelt gratitude to those with whom we collaborate and to those who support our work materially and in so many other ways.

With warm regards,

Brett G. Scharffs
Director
Staff Center Leadership

United to help secure the blessings of freedom of religion and belief for all people, Center staff work ceaselessly to further the efforts of the Center.

Back row, left to right: Deborah A. Wright, Coordinator and Administrative Assistant; Donlu D. Thayer, Senior Editor; W. Cole Durham, Jr., Founding Director; Gary B. Doxey, Associate Director; Elizabeth A. Clark, Associate Director.

Front row, left to right: Blythe M. Shupe, Communications Specialist; Brett G. Scharffs, Director; Sandy L. Stephenson, IAC and Conference Liaison.

Change in Leadership

Effective May 1, 2016, Brett G. Scharffs became director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies. W. Cole Durham, Jr., who has served as director of the Center since its beginning, assumed the role of founding director.

Outgoing BYU Law School dean James R. Rasband praised Professor Durham for his “visionary leadership of the Center since its founding” and noted that Professor Durham “will continue to play an important role in the Center he has sacrificed so much to build. As a leading figure in the world of law and religion, he will also serve as an ambassador for the Center and its work and for the Law School.”

Of Professor Scharffs, Dean Rasband said, “I am confident the Center will continue to flourish under his leadership. I know him to be a tireless worker with sound judgment and a deep commitment to both the Law School and the Center. His extensive university and law school leadership experience, as well as his distinguished record of scholarship and teaching, have prepared him well for this new role.”

Incoming Law School dean D. Gordon Smith, who began his term on May 1, 2016, said, “Under Professor Durham’s energetic leadership, the Center has become a leader in advancing the understanding of connections between law and religion among academics and policymakers throughout the world. We are confident that Professor Scharffs will continue the Center’s ambitious agenda of promoting religious liberty for all people.”

Professor Scharffs was an associate director at the Center since 2009 and associate dean of the BYU Law School since 2013. He and Professor Durham will continue to work side by side to promote the mission of the Center.

A Change in Leadership

BOB SMITH IS CALLED TO ARGENTINA

After 10 years as managing director of the Center, Robert T. Smith left for a three-year term of service beginning June 22, 2016, as president of the Argentina Buenos Aires North Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

“For the past decade Bob has served the Center with grace and patience,” said Professor Scharffs. “He has always half-listened on students and on helping prepare them for lives of service. We are confident that those are among the characteristics that have led to his call as a mission president and that will help him succeed in this exciting next chapter.”

Professor Durham expressed his gratitude for Smith: “Through his tenure I have been immensely grateful for his unceasing support. He is truly a person without guilt, willing to put his own self-interests behind the concerns of the Center at every turn.”

At the Center, Smith played an extensive role in the religious organizations and the law and was actively involved in fundraising, the receipt and management of major grants, and the growth of the Center’s annual regional conferences, particularly in Africa.

Smith said it has been interesting to watch religious freedom go from a peripheral issue in the United States to a main cultural issue. “It has been exciting to be a part of such an impactful and challenging work,” he said.

All of us at the center wish Bob, his wife, Kristine, and their family the best in their new adventure.

BOB SMITH IS CALLED TO ARGENTINA

Photo by Ellen Huish.

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AAB

THE ACADEMIC ADVISORY BOARD

A group of internationally recognized law and religion scholars, the Academic Advisory Board provides invaluable consultation and strategic advice that helps the Center fulfill its mission. We are grateful for the board’s friendship, support, and hard work on behalf of religious freedom throughout the world.

Professor Sophie van Bijsterveld
Universiteit Radboud, Netherlands
NIJMEGEN, THE NETHERLANDS

Professor Javier Martínez-Torrón
Universidad Complutense
MADRID, SPAIN

Reverend Doctor Kim-Kwong Chan
Executive Secretary, Hong Kong Christian Council
HONG KONG, CHINA

Professor Carolyn Evans
Dean of the Law School, University of Melbourne
MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Professor Silvio Ferrari
Dipartimento di Scienze giuridiche ‘Cesare Beccaria’
Università degli Studi di Milano
MILAN, ITALY

Professor Mohammad Hashim Kamali
International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

Professor Tata Helmond
Prevent and Chin, Ministry of Justice and Security
NEW DELHI, INDIA

Professor Juan Carlos A. Valderrama
Universidad Católica
LIMA, PERU

Professor Gerhard Robbers
Professor Emeritus, Universität Trier
TRIER, GERMANY

Professor Mohammad Hashim Kamali
International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

Professor Juan G. Navarro Floria
Pontificia Universidad Católica
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

Dr. Liu Peng
Pu Shi Institute for Social Sciences
BEIJING, CHINA

Professor Tore Lindholm
Professor Emeritus, Norrköpings Universitet Centre for Human Rights
UGL, NEWT

Professor Rik Torfs
 علماء، جامعة تريير، ألمانيا
LEUVEN, BELGIUM

Professor Rehman
Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais
BELGAS, BELGIUM

Professor Laurea Stirling
Professor Emeritus, University of British Columbia
LULA, NEW

Professor Mark Cressler
Professor Emeritus, University of British Columbia
LULA, NEW

The International Advisory Council, a membership of more than 140 men and women who are dedicated to the cause of freedom of religion and belief—by helping the Center fulfill its mission.

The efforts of the Center require the support and participation of many good people. We are honored and grateful to the International Advisory Council members, who participate in regular meetings and assist at national and international events, and give generously of their time, talents, and other resources. To learn more about how to support the Center or become an IAC member, please email getinvolved@iclrs.org or call 801-422-6842.

IAC

THE INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The IAC Executive Committee is made up of 12 International Advisory Council members who participate in regular meetings and assist in fundraising and special projects or initiatives of the Center. We appreciate their dedication and hard work.

Lynn Anderson
David Christensen
David Colton
Mark Crodder
Blair Garff
Pamela Madahen
David Nearon
Linda Nearon
Milt Shipp
David Sterling
Laura Morling
Bryce Wade

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TRAVEL STUDY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

From February 13 to 25, 2016, members of the IAC participated in a travel study tour of Southeast Asia. One goal of the travel was to provide occasions to reflect on the themes of religion and the rule of law as well as the Center’s mission to promote religious freedom for all people in all countries of the world. The group visited sites in Vietnam, Thailand, and Cambodia, and highlights included a trip to Ha Long Bay and dinner in one of the caves, a visit to the ancient temples of Angkor Wat, and a stay at the edge of the Krabi Marine National Park.

Professor Scharffs said of the trip: “Our deepened appreciation for the history and culture of these ancient civilizations will help us place into context the challenges and opportunities that exist in the part of the world today.” The trip began with a meeting between the Center and Vietnam National University, during which a historic blueprint for cooperation between the two organizations was signed.

HELEN LEON RECEIVES AWARD

IAC member Helen Leon was presented the 2016 BYU President’s Award for “her generous contributions and for her ongoing efforts to continue her and her late husband’s legacy of charity.” In addition to her work with the Center, Helen sits on the boards of the Arnold Palmiter Hospital for Children and the Orlando Health Foundation and regularly attends meetings for the BYU President’s Leadership Council and the BYU Jesus and Amanda Knight Society. Helen is committed to the importance of religious freedom for all. Her involvement with the Center is also a way to honor her late husband, Edward, whose worldwide friendships crossed religious and cultural boundaries. When I went to talk to Cole Durham, I knew immediately that that’s where money should go,” said Helen. “We have to work to get freedom of religion wherever we can.” We congratulate Helen and thank her for her patronage.

IAC SPRING MEETING

The 2016 annual spring meeting of the IAC was held March 31-April 1, 2016, in Salt Lake City. Thursday evening’s keynote speaker was Elder Craig A. Cardon, a General Authority Seventy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and previous president of the Africa West Area of the Church. He focused his remarks on the history of the Church in Africa.

Friday’s events included briefings and discussions by Center directors. Professor Durham explained the emerging challenges for religious freedom. David Christensen, chair of the IAC Executive Committee, spoke on current IAC membership, IAC activities, and the Center’s strategic needs. Center faculty members formed a panel to discuss the status of religious liberty by region and strategy. William E. Adams, Associate General Counsel for the Church, gave the closing address, “Religious Freedom Challenges Facing the Church.”

Elder Craig A. Cardon and Sister Deborah Cardon

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One of the Center’s greatest resources is the dedicated students who give of their time and talents to further the work. Some are volunteers, and others are selected to serve on the Student Management Board, on the Symposium Executive Committee, or as student fellows. At the 2016 symposium, Professor Scharffs spoke of these students as the Center’s “crown jewels” and “hope for the future.” The Center would like to thank them for their valuable service.

2016 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS

Each year at the Barrister’s Ball, an annual tradition of the BYU Law School, the Center honors students who have dedicated service to both the Center and the cause of international religious freedom. The following students received awards at the 2016 Barrister’s Ball:

- Ryan Andersen
- Eva Marie Brady
- Bennett Briggs
- Tara Fitzgerald
- Roman Harper
- Jedediah Knight
- Laura Monique Mullenaux Laing
- Aline Marie Longstaff
- Annalee Hickman Moser
- Lauren Ravsten Robins
- Zachary Smith

2016 FELLOWSHIPS

- Jack P. Peterson Research Fellow: Thomas Palmer
- Maud Birkin Peterson Research Fellow: Alex Alton
- W. G. and Helen Johnson Summer Research Fellow: Kaleb Brimhall

The 2016 Law and Religion Moot Court Competition in Venice: Students Ryan Andersen, McKenna Mills, Aline Longstaff, and Eva Brady with two of the competition judges, Professor Brett Scharffs and Judge Kent A. Jordan, US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Special thanks to Sandy Stephenson for her hard work in support of the IAC.
STUDENTS

A GLOBAL RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

ICLR student research fellows spend approximately a month during the summer following their first year of law school working in a legal extern for an international office of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This valuable experience teaches them about the complexities of various countries’ legal systems and the ways in which religious freedom impacts people and organizations in various regions. The fellows spend the remainder of the summer working with Center faculty on publications and projects, including the Religious Freedom Annual Review conference. This summer experience leads many to additional involvement with the Center in other capacities.

2016 STUDENT RESEARCH FELLOWS

Reed Adish, SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
Alexandr Aleem, SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL
Jared Blackhurst, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
Kalub Brimhall, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
Sarah Clifford, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND
Jacob Crumley, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
Jessica Ennsworth, HONG KONG
Jedidiah Gibson, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND
Ryan Holhe, FRANKFURT, GERMANY
Nathan Kinshofer, LIMA, PERU
Shad Larson, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA
Brittany Nelson, FRANKFURT, GERMANY
Thomas Palmiter, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
Joshua Palmer, MOSCOW, RUSSIA
Brendan Stuart, MOSCOW, RUSSIA
Benjamin Thornell, ACCRA, GHANA

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

“Almost all students learn how to give general legal support over the summer, but I learned how to give it across seven unique developing countries.”

BENJAMIN THORNELL
ACCRA, GHANA

“I worked daily with incredibly skilled attorneys who offered me constructive feedback and really made me feel as though my contribution mattered. I knew I was making a meaningful difference in the lives of real people.”

JOSHUA PRINCE
MOSCOW, RUSSIA

“There are very few law students who are able to say they traveled to an international location in order to assist in the legal affairs of a religious organization.”

BRENDEN STUART
HONG KONG

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2016 SYMPOSIUM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Under the direction of Center associate director Elizabeth Clark, the law students of the Symposium Executive Committee spend the weeks leading up to the Symposium planning logistics. Then, during fall break, the BYU Law School turns into symposium command central, with the Executive Committee and many volunteer students manning the ship. For anywhere from a few hours to several days these students host almost 100 international delegates, providing informal translation, coordinating the delegates’ schedules, tracking and coordinating translation of delegate presentations, and providing transportation. The Symposium would not be successful without these students.

Second-year law student Kaleb Brimhall said, “I became involved with the International Law and Religion Symposium at Brigham Young University because of my desire to help promote religious freedom. . . . [It] gives me an opportunity to advance this noble cause and learn from [a] diverse group as they champion the cause of religious freedom throughout the world.”

Delegates speak highly of the students. Papua New Guinea Deputy Chief Justice Salika Gibbs personally complimented a student who waited for him at the airport when he missed his flight: “That is the dedication and commitment of your students, and they are a credit to the institution and to the Center.”

Master Schedule:
- Cara Duchene and Laura Shrum, co-chairs, with Jessica Farnsworth
- Recruitment: McKenna Mills, chair, with Ye Christensen, Jacob Crump, and Reed Adlish
- Transportation: Michael Goodrich and Bradley Rebeiro, co-chairs, with Joshua Prince and Thomas Palmer
- Concierge/Hosting: Scott Ludlow and Cami Schiel, co-chairs, with Elizabeth MacLachlan and David Headley
- Documents: John Sellers and Andee Devore, co-chairs, with Kaleb Brimhall and Nathan Kinghorn

2015–2016 STUDENT MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Student Management Board consists of second- and third-year law students with expertise in writing, research, editing, foreign languages, and an interest in law and religion. Some have previously worked as student fellows, as volunteers, or as members of the symposium’s student executive committee. These students work 5 to 10 hours a week for the Center on various projects, including research and publications. Some assist in planning and attend foreign conferences. The 2015–2016 board included students fluent in French, Spanish, Italian, Russian, Mandarin, Chinese, Arabic, Turkish, and Hindi.

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- Eva Brady
- Bennett Briggs
- Travis Hyer
- Jedediah Knight
- Monique Mullenaux Laing
- Aline Longstaff
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- Jarvis Yau

Third-Year Law Students: Ryan Andersen • Alex Biggs • Eva Brady • Bennett Briggs • Travis Hyer • Jedediah Knight • Monique Mullenaux Laing • Aline Longstaff • Annalee Moser • Jarvis Yau

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—Michael Goodrich

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—Michael Goodrich
TAKING A STAND FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM


As dean, Professor Akin pioneered the introduction of law and religion’s significant teaching and research on law and religion at the University of Lagos, Akoka, in Nigeria. He credits his involvement with the law and religion movement to his attendance at the 21st International Symposium on Law and Religion Studies at BYU Law School in October 2014. His faculty subsequently hosted an international conference, “Towards Law and Religious Freedom in Africa,” with support from the Center Professor Akin and colleagues throughout Nigeria have formed the Nigeria Association for Law and Religion Studies and the West African Regional Centre for Law and Religion Studies to promote teaching and research on law and religion in Nigeria and the West Africa subregion.

The scholars returned to Vietnam with a deeper understanding of the importance of religious freedom and the role of law and look forward to sharing their experiences. "The acquisition of knowledge and learning experiences from America will help Vietnam with broader insight about religious issues," said scholar Phung Thi Phuoc Thao. "We will work together to continue studies in order to propose to the authorities in Vietnam the best policies on religious issues."

VISITING FROM NIGERIA

The Center was honored to welcome Akinola Ibidapo-Obe as a visiting scholar in 2016. Professor Ibidapo-Obe (“Professor Akin”) is former dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Lagos. He credits his involvement with the law and religion movement to his attendance at the 21st International Symposium on Law and Religion Studies at BYU Law School in October 2014. His faculty subsequently hosted an international conference, "Towards Law and Religious Freedom in Africa," with support from the Center Professor Akin and colleagues throughout Nigeria have formed the Nigeria Association for Law and Religion Studies and the West African Regional Centre for Law and Religion Studies to promote teaching and research on law and religion in Nigeria and the West Africa subregion.

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G20 INTERFAITH SUMMIT 2016 IN CHINA

Hosted by the Institute of World Religions of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and jointly sponsored by ICLRS, a unique event took place in Beijing, China, on August 30–September 1, 2016, simultaneously with the G20 meeting of world leaders. The interfaith summit invited Chinese scholars and international experts to discuss the topic “Dialogue Among Civilizations and Community of Common Destiny for All Mankind.”

Presenter Katherine Marshall of the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs at Georgetown University said, “Echoing the title, the overall line of argument was that common values trump real divides linked to culture or religion. There were many papers exploring scholarship about religious traditions that have shaped China, touching more on ‘harmony’ than on tensions. How, some asked, is the Internet really changing transmission and practice of religious beliefs and adherence, and how can and should the negative features of the Internet . . . be governed?”

Professor Durham also participated, along with international experts Paul Babie and Carolyn Evans (Australia); Elisabeta Kitanovic (working in Belgium); Rodrigo Vitorino Souza Alves (Brazil); James Christie and Karen Hamilton (Canada); Katayoun Alidadi (legal scholar based in Germany and the United States); Tahir Mahmood and Faizan Mustafa (India); Asher Maoz (Israel); Marco Ventura (Italy); Rt. Rev. Yoshinobu Miyake (Japan); Liviu Olteanu (Switzerland); Recep Sentürk (Turkey); and Frederick Axelgard, Ram Cnaan, Ganoune Diop, and Sherrie Steiner (United States).

RELIgION AND THE RULE OF LAW CERTIFICATE TRAINING

A unique regional certificate training program on religion and the rule of law was held on September 19–24, 2016, in Lào Cai in the Northwest Highlands of Vietnam. Although Lào Cai Province has a population of only a little more than 600,000, it includes 24 of the 54 ethnic groups in Vietnam and an array of religious and linguistic communities.

The certificate training program was modeled on successful programs held over the past five years—twice in Hanoi, once in Ho Chi Minh City, and once in Danang. This was the first time the program was designed for a primarily regional rather than national audience. More than 70 students participated in the program, including religious leaders, educators, and government and party officials with responsibilities regarding the regulation and oversight of religion and religious groups. Participants came from 10 different provinces in northwest Vietnam. Professor Scharffs and Eugene Tan, Professor of Law at the Singapore Management University, presented along with Vietnamese professors, officials, and other experts. ICLRS also helped organize the seventh Certificate Training Program on Religion and the Rule of Law in Beijing, held July 25–August 4, 2016, in Beijing, in partnership with the Center for Administrative and Constitutional Law at Peking University and the Pu Shi Institute. The program brought together 60 students from all over China and more than a dozen international experts, including young professors, graduate students, religious leaders, judges, and government officials. Professors Durham and Scharffs also attended.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAW AND RELIGION IN VIETNAM

Professor Scharffs participated in an international conference in Hanoi, Vietnam, on September 19–24, 2016, that focused on issues relating to law and religion in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region. The conference included two dozen experts from most of the 10 ASEAN countries and the United States. Professor Scharffs presented on “The UN Declaration of Human Rights: Foundations of International Standards for Religious Freedom and the Rule of Law” and “Regulating Religion: Before Registration, at Registration, and after Registration—Advantages and Disadvantages.” The conference was co-organized and co-sponsored by the University of Social Sciences and Humanities of Vietnam National University, ICLRS, and the Institute for Global Engagement.

LAW REFORM

Professors Durham, Scharffs, and Clark of ICLRS provided input at several stages in the formulation of the religion law ultimately adopted in Vietnam in late 2016.
Ordinary mechanisms of regulation, rather than specialized and extraordinary mechanisms of regulation, are generally preferable.

ASIA

FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND MASTER’S DEGREE IN SHARIA AND HUMAN RIGHTS

On May 30, 2016, the University of Muhammadiyah in Malang, Indonesia; the Oslo Coalition of Freedom of Religion or Belief in Norway; and ICLRS announced the creation of a master’s degree program on Sharia and human rights at the University of Muhammadiyah. The announcement marked the fifth year a master’s-level course (MLC) on Sharia and human rights was held at the university.

The first 10 students admitted to the master’s program were among 35 students from Indonesia who participated in the MLC, which was held in Malang on May 30–June 3, 2016. Thanks in part to a grant from the Asia Foundation, these students will have their costs covered for the two-year program, which formally launched fall 2016.

Professor Scharffs has participated for the past five years in planning, organizing, and teaching the MLC. He explained, “The goal . . . is to build bridges between legal systems and worldviews that often seem to be separated by a chasm so large as to seem unbridgeable. This course [and now the program] is built upon the proposition that meaningful dialogue between Sharia and human rights is not just possible but important.”

The theme of the 2016 MLC was “Background and Core Issues in Contemporary Indonesia.” In addition to Professor Scharffs, those who participated included Professor Syamsul Arifin, the newly appointed Vice Rector of the University of Muhammadiyah; Professor Tore Lindholm, a philosopher who specializes in both human rights and Islamic law at the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights at the University of Oslo, Norway; Cekli Pratiwi, LLM, an expert in human rights law at the University of Muhammadiyah; Professor Mun’in Sirry, an expert in interfaith dialogue at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana; and Professor Jensm Temporiman, an expert in human rights and editor-in-chief of the scholarly journal Religious & Feminist Rights at Erasmus University in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

An outgrowth of the MLC, a “Short Course on Sharia and Human Rights,” was held the previous week at the Universitas Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. This was the third year Professor Scharffs helped organize and teach this program.

A textbook designed for teaching Sharia and human rights will be published in 2017 in both English and Bahasa Indonesian and will be edited by Syamsul Arafin, Ahman Nur Fuad, Cekli Pratiwi, and Muhammadi Kasuma Pratiwi.

VIETNAM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WORKSHOP ON THE PROPOSED LAW ON BELIEF AND RELIGIONS

On September 15, 2016, Professor Scharffs and J. Clifford Wallace, Emeritus Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, presented at a workshop organized by the National Assembly of Vietnam. The two were invited to give foreign scholarly and judicial perspectives before the National Assembly on a proposed bill that would regulate religious groups in Vietnam. Professor Scharffs made eight recommendations:

1. The basic goal of the legislation should be to protect freedom of religion and belief while promoting government interests in the actual requirements of public order, public safety, public health, public morals, and the rights and freedoms of others.

2. The law should differentiate between circumstances when permission is required for religious groups to engage in specific activities and when they are required to provide information about their activities; information rather than permission is usually preferable.

3. The goal of the registration systems should be to make registration and recognition of religious groups as simple and straightforward as possible.

4. There should be a right to appeal unfavorable administrative decisions.

5. Restrictions of freedom of expression and religious persuasion will be met with criticism.

6. The law should provide clear deadlines for government actions that will promote timely administrative action.

7. Provisions regarding education should differentiate between education required by state and education needed for religious qualifications, such as ordination as a minister.

8. Restrictions of freedom of expression and religious persuasion will be met with criticism.
More than 60 international scholars, legal professionals, and religious leaders participated in the fourth conference of the African Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ACLARS) on May 22–24, 2016. The conference was organized by ACLARS in cooperation with the College of Law and Governance Studies of Addis Ababa University, the International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS) and ICLRS. A special opening program on Sunday evening featured representatives from various religious communities.

Afare Wagris, Ethiopia State Minister of Federal and Pastoralist Development Affairs, delivered the opening speech of the conference. "Looking ahead," he said, "the greatest challenges we face are religious pluralism, heritage, and social development. Right now, the influence of Western colonial policies, legal frameworks for re-negotiating state responses to religious pluralism and spiritual heritage; the potential of national systems, classifications, and terminology on legal professionals, and religious leaders to promote mutual understanding, respect, and cooperation among governmental bodies, religious communities, and nonreligious members of society." The conference was focused on religious pluralism in Africa, particularly in relation to contemporary questions of heritage, and social development. "Heritage" was defined broadly as how religious, cultural, legal, and historical traditions shape religious identities and societies in Africa today. Participants discussed topics such as the challenge for organizations like UNESCO and ICOMOS to promote and protect heritage in diverse African contexts; state responses to religious pluralism and pluralization in Africa; cooperation or tensions between international organizations, African states, and local communities over religious and spiritual heritage; the role of African heritage management; and the potential of national legal frameworks for re-negotiating relations and religious pluralism in African states; and interreligious and intercommunal relations and conflict among religious communities, and nonreligious members of society.

W. Cole Durham, Jr., ICLRS Founding Director, delivered the keynote address for a judicial roundtable of approximately 100 judges in Abuja, Nigeria, on June 20, 2016. Roundtable participants included Professor Is-haq Oloyede, OFR, National Coordinator, Secretary of the Nigeria Inter-Religious Council; James Anthony, Judge of the Court of Appeal, Nigeria; Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun, representing Honorable Justice Mahmud Mohammed, Chief Justice of Nigeria; Yemi Osunbajo, GCON, SAN, Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria; Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, President of Nigeria; Malam A. U. Madaki, representing Honorable Justice R. P. I. Bamidele, Administrator, Ministry of Justice, Nigeria; and member of the ACLARS steering committee; Wahab Shittu, Coordinator of the Center for Human Rights, University of Lagos; and a Grand Khadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal, Nigeria.

"Law, religion, and development in Africa" was the theme of the conference’s main agenda, which covered the topics “Law and Religion Studies in Nigeria: The Journey So Far” and “Law, Religion, and Development.” At the end of the conference, a communique was issued with 19 points, including recognition of the symbiotic relationship between law, religion, and development; the urgent need to address the misunderstanding between law and religion; the understanding that the harmony between law, religion, and development can lead to peaceful coexistence in diverse societies with far-reaching implications on development; the need to change the narrative in regard to the use of religion as an instrument of oppression or an obstacle to development; and the understanding that freedom of religion is a must in modern nation states, especially pluralistic societies.

Over the past five years, the Center has been able to play an important role in the formation of the African Consortium for Law and Religion Studies and in organizing the first four of its Africa-wide conferences. Both the geography and the challenges faced in Africa are vast, but we believe we have helped form a growing and lasting dialogue of leaders sensitive to the importance of religious freedom to Africa’s future.

—W. Cole Durham, Jr., ICLRS Founding Director
Our conferences in Eastern Europe have provided an important platform and support for scholars, government leaders, and activists working in a very difficult part of the world. Over the years, we have built bridges and helped establish key players on religious freedom issues and promoted important scholarship in a region with a short history of freedom to discuss religion openly.

—Elizabeth Clark, ICLRS Associate Director

EASTERN EUROPE CONFERENCE: “FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF IN SITUATIONS OF CRISIS”

More than 50 speakers took part in a regional conference in Tallinn, Estonia, on June 16–19, 2016. Co-sponsored by ICLRS and Estonia’s University of Tartu Faculty of Law, the conference addressed current challenges to religious freedom in crisis situations, particularly in regard to the migration crisis in Europe and the conflict in Ukraine. Topics included freedom of religion or belief of refugees and migrants, religious symbols in public space, accommodation of diversity education, and an ambush against religious hatred and interreligious dialogue.

Professor Laim Maldzis and Dr. Merlin Kirnig of the University of Tartu and Professor Elizabeth Clark from ICLRS opened the conference. After their remarks, Professor Silvio Ferrari of the University of Milan delivered the keynote: “The Decline of Europe and Its Impact on Freedom of Religion.” Professor Clark spoke in a plenary session on pending cases in the European Court of Justice involving religious discrimination in employment against women wearing headscarves. Many of the presentations from the conference will be published in a book, with additional publication options in international journals. Conference presentations hailed from Armenia, Croatia, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

CONFERENCE: “RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND SECURITY”

The Department of Legal Studies at Central European University (CEU) and ICLRS co-sponsored a conference at CEU in Budapest, Hungary, on May 20–21, 2016. The conference addressed the religious factor in conflict settings, rights and security, and approaches to religion and security issues.

According to familiar accounts, religious liberty emerged both as an antidote to religious violence and as a tool for promoting social stability and peace. However, its historical origins do not explain contemporary threats to global and national security that are justified in the name of religious teachings and convictions. As governments impose restrictions on religious freedom in the name of national security and public safety, the legitimate exercise of religious liberty is often affected. And those very restrictions may be counterproductive, fueling further violence and human rights violations. Speakers tested the utility and limits of a human rights-based approach and explored secular and faith-based perspectives on pressing contemporary problems.

The conference opened with a welcome and introduction by Renáta Uitz, chair of the Comparative Constitutional Law Program at CEU, followed by a keynote address by Husain Haqqani, former Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States and current Director for South and Central Asia at the Hudson Institute in Washington, D.C. Professors Durham and Scharffs represented ICLRS at the conference.

Other participants included Brian J. Grim, President, Religious Freedom and Business Foundation; Christopher Marsh, professor of national security and strategic studies, U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies; Kishan Manocha, Senior Advisor on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR); Jennifer S. Bryson, Director of Operations and Development, Center for Islam and Religious Freedom, United States; Lucian Leustean, Reader in Politics and International Relations, Aston University, United Kingdom; Amos Guiora,
TEACHING COMPARATIVE FREEDOM OF RELIGION

For the past several years Professors Schraff and Durham have taught the course Comparative Freedom of Religion in the Department of Legal Studies at Central European University in Budapest. Hungary. The 2016 class began by Professor Durham in April and concluded by Professor Schraff in May, in which we invited 30 discussants from 18 countries and addressed law and religion issues regarding both individual freedom of religion and belief, and constitutional arrangements between religion and the state from international law and comparative law perspectives. Topics included comparative constitutional law approaches to the regulation of religious groups, tensions that arise between freedom of religion and other important human rights, financial relationships and tensions that arise between religion and the state, religion and education, and religion in the public square.

CONFERENCE: “LAW, RELIGION, AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE 20–21ST CENTURY”

Professor Elizabeth Clark presented at a conference at Ivanovo State University in Russia on October 19–22, 2016. She spoke on the rise of the equality paradigm and challenges to multi-tier church-state systems.

CONFERENCE: “SACRED PLACES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FROM THE PERSPECTIVES OF INTERNATIONAL, CONSTITUTIONAL, RELIGIOUS LAW, AND FOREIGN POLICY” in Jerusalem on March 15–17, 2016. Based on the conference the Oxford conference was co-sponsored by ICLARS, ICLRS; the University of Oxford; the South Asia Centre of Cybersecurity and Privacy Law, Raytheon Company, and former lead lawyer for Homeland Security at the White House; James Patton, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer: International Center for Conflict Resolution, was the second panelist.

The successful planning, organization, and execution of this complex event was largely the work of ICLRS personnel, including Administrative Assistant Deborah Wright, Senior Editor Donlu Thayer, and Blythe Shupe, Communications Specialist Blythe Shupe, and Student Fellows Lauren Flores and Michael Goodrich, all of whom attended the conference. The fourth conference of the International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS) brought together nearly 150 international experts from 17 countries at St. Hugh’s College, Oxford on September 8–11, 2016. Participants considered the fundamental right of freedom of religion from differing perspectives, shedding light on its various and interconnected facets and addressing new challenges in the modern world.

The conferences on the formal launch of the Routledge ICLARS Series on Law and Religion, of which Professors Durham and Silvio Ferrari, joined by Professors Russell Sandberg, Pieter Coertzen, and Tahir Mahmood, are editors. Two volumes on this series are scheduled to come from conference presentations at this Oxford conference. Also launched at the event was the BORALpedia of Zanz and Religion, edited by Founding Member of the ICLRS Steering Committee Gerhard Robbers, coauthoring ICLARS President and ICLARS Developing Director Cole Durham, and ICLARS Member and ICLRS Senior Editor Douglas Taylor, with contributions by many ICLARS members.

This fourth conference followed ICLARS conferences in Milan (2010), Santiago (2011), and Oxford (2013). The Oxford conference was hosted by ICLARS: the University of Oxford, and the Religion, Law, and International Relations Programme of the Centre for Christianity and Culture of Regent’s Park College, Oxford.

As exemplified by opportunities to make three presentations at the House of Lords in the United Kingdom; to present in the European Parliament in Brussels; to organize a major international conference there, we have entered new levels of recognition and credibility in Europe, which has significantly enhanced our efforts to promote religious freedom worldwide.

—W. Cole Durham, Jr., ICLRS Founding Director
COLE DURHAM COMPLETES TERM AS ICLARS PRESIDENT

The 2016 conference of the International Consortium of Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS) marked the end of Professor Durham’s five-year term as ICLARS president. ICLARS is an international network of scholars and experts in law and religion that began in 2007 under the direction of founding president Silvio Ferrari of the University of Milan. The organization’s purpose is to provide a forum for exchange of information, data, and opinions among members at present from more than 40 countries—that can be made available to the broader scholarly community. The ICLARS Steering Committee members, past and present, are eminent law and religion scholars from Argentina, Germany, India, Israel, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

At the recent conference, new members of the ICLARS Steering Committee were appointed, including Professor Scharffs. Professor Ana María Celis Brunet, director of the Center of Religious Liberty at the Faculty of Law of the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (Santiago), was installed as ICLARS president. During his tenure as president, Professor Durham oversaw two ICLARS conferences, the creation and publication of the Brill Encyclopedia of Law and Religion—the first of its kind to cover the relation between law and religion for all independent nations, jurisdictions, and major international organizations—and the creation of the ICLARS Series on Law and Religion, serving as coeditor of the series and coediting the launch volume as well as two forthcoming volumes in the series.

“My five years serving as president provided remarkable opportunities to collaborate with many of the leading international figures in the field of law and religion studies,” and Professor Durham. “Friendships nurtured through this organization will be fruitful for years to come.”

NEW CONCEPTUAL CHALLENGES REGARDING FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

ICLRS co-organized a series of discussions at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, on November 17–18, 2016. The event involved a small group of internationally known human rights scholars and just over one-quarter of the 47 judges on the Court. Discussions covered key issues in the religious liberty sphere: the meaning and scope of the idea of conscience, religious rights and security, and the notion of reasonable accommodation of religious rights. A larger session, focused on religious freedom and security, was opened to the staff of the Court as part of the Court’s in-service training.

Professor Durham and Scharffs, Senior Editor Donlu Thayer who maintains the Strasbourg Consortium website and case table; and IAC members Duane and Erlyn Madsen, attended. Grégor Puppinck, director of the European Centre for Law and Justice, assisted in the event organization, and his colleagues Thierry Rembaud, Vincent Cadot, Claire de la Hougue, and Jean Pierre Schoepf also attended. Other participants included Jan Figel’, Special Envoy for promotion of freedom of religion or belief outside the European Union; Austrian barrister and legal academic Neville Rochow and his wife Penelope, who are serving as government relations representatives of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at the seat of European Union governance in Brussels; and a number of other noted scholars of the Court’s freedom of religion or belief jurisprudence, including Sophie van Bijsterveld, Silvio Ferrari, T. Jeremy Gunn, Zdravka Kalaydjieva, Yannis Ktistakis, Vincenzo Pacillo, Javier Martínez-Tortosa, Kevin Tempering, and Renáta Uitz.

The Strasbourg Court is a body of the Council of Europe whose jurisdiction comprises the 47 member states that have acceded to the European Convention on Human Rights, the treaty that provides the body of law for the work of the Court. ICLRS has for many years hosted and maintained the Strasbourg Consortium case table, which many view as the most comprehensive and useful database tracking the Court’s cases dealing with freedom of religion or belief.
**The Steering Group of the International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief (IPPFoRB) met on September 1–2, 2016, at the Palace of Westminster, United Kingdom, to reflect on the conference "Beyond Jurisprudence: Pan-European Perspectives on Hate Speech" at the T reviso Campus of the University of Padua. The conference was sponsored by the Council of Europe.**

On October 3–4, 2016, the IPPFoRB hosted a gathering of select parliamentarians, dignitaries, businesspeople, and others throughout Europe who work in the area of religion.
LATIN AMERICA

CONFERENCE: "CHANGES IN LEGAL PROTECTIONS FOR CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION"

Professor Gary Doxey, ICLRS Associate Director, and Scott Isaacson, ICLRS Senior Fellow and regional advisor for Latin America, participated in the XVI Symposium of the Latin American Consortium for Religious Freedom held at the Vatican in April 2016. The event’s theme: “Religious Freedom, the Essence of Human Equality.” The conference took place with the institutional support of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ciudad del Este in the person of the Center’s good friend, auxiliary bishop Menzingo Pedro Còllar, who is a member of the Latin American Consortium. The organization of the symposium was overseen by Professor Abogado José Bernal and colleagues from the host university.

Professor Doxey presented a paper on restrictions to religious freedom often experienced in countries with a large denominational majority. He contrasted this phenomenon with what is generally experienced in countries with a large Catholic majority, where typically there has been a high level of respect for the separation of religion and religious diversity in the wake of Vatican II’s Dignitatis Humanae.

His point was that tolerance and respect taught by religious leaders can make the difference, and religious people can take action to preserve the practice of religious freedom and to live respectfully in a time of strong disagreement.

On November 3, 2016, Professor Gary Doxey addressed the Commission on Religious Freedom of the Ordem de Advogados do Brasil – the Brazilian Bar Association. The next day he gave a lecture and participated in a debate at the Universidade Federal de São Paulo in an event titled “Comparative Law of Religious Freedom in Brazil, Europe, and the United States.” The debate was moderated by Professor Rodrigo Medina Zagni.

The World Congress of Interfaith Dialogue’s conference “A Path Toward Peace” was hosted in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on April 12–14, 2016. The conference featured speakers from all over Latin America and the world. Professor Gary Doxey presented a panel on Religion Education, and Technology and participated in a panel in a session titled “Work, Development, and Growth as a Source of Peace.”

On November 7–8, 2016, Professor Gary Doxey spoke on “Freedom of Religion Threats and Challenges” at Brazil’s Universidade Adventista de São Paulo (UNASP) and the São Paulo Comissão de Direitos e Liberdades Religiosas. The event was moderated by Drs. Damasus Morei Kiti, president of Comissão de Direitos e Liberdades Religiosas.
NORTH AMERICA

23rd INTERNATIONAL LAW AND RELIGION SYMPOSIUM: “RELIGIOUS RIGHTS IN A PLURALISTIC WORLD”

ICLRS held its 23rd annual International Law and Religion Symposium at Brigham Young University on October 2–4, 2016. This year’s theme—“Religious Rights in a Pluralistic World”—brought together 95 invited delegates, including scholars, jurists, political and civil society leaders, religious leaders, and religion policy makers from 45 countries. Speakers and panelists explored the relationships among religion, pluralism, and religious rights.

The symposium opened on Sunday evening with a keynote address by Professor Heiner Bielefeldt, then UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief. Professor Bielefeldt spoke of freedom of religion or belief as a highly provocative right because of the healthy and necessary challenges it poses to governments, religious communities, and societies. For governments, it is a reminder that respect for human rights lies at the heart of democracy and rule of law. For religious communities, it is a reminder that authentic belief is free belief and is a priority for minorities and majorities. For societies, it is a reminder that freedom of religion or belief is not a matter of lifestyle; “freedom requires real convictions, not just faith.” Professor Durham presented Professor Bielefeldt with the Center’s Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to the cause of freedom of religion or belief worldwide.

The symposium’s theme encouraged delegates to examine the struggles societies and legal systems have in an increasingly pluralistic world to articulate the role religion and religious believers play in their communities. Speakers were encouraged to address questions such as: “What role should neutrality, secularism, or dominant religions play in civic life?” “How can we articulate the relationship between religious rights and culture, particularly in a time of shifting cultural norms?” “How can religious rights best protect religious minorities or religious believers in a pluralistic world?” New to this year’s symposium was a “young scholars” session, with presenters from China, Italy, Vietnam, and the United States.

Center Associate Director Elizabeth Clark chaired the Symposium Organizing Committee, and with Administrative Assistant Deborah Wright coordinated all Symposium activities. Center personnel moderated sessions, made presentations, and along with the Symposium Executive Committee composed of BYU Law students, worked tirelessly behind the scenes. International Advisory Council members graciously hosted delegates, and many others volunteered their time and efforts.

All recordings of the symposium, as well as past symposia, are available at www.iclrs.org.

McKenna Mills, chair of the Executive Committee’s recruiting team, said: “While the symposium allows for international religious and political leaders to discuss the importance of religious freedoms, perhaps the most important outcome is the friendships that are formed. It is these friendships that are the greatest protection for religious freedoms. Those who attend the symposium realize the importance of not only protecting their own religious freedoms, but their friends as well.”

“Why is the symposium so important, and this is why I have been involved. Religion is a right that needs to be protected, no matter the religion.”

All recordings of the symposium, as well as past symposia, are available at www.iclrs.org.
2016 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ANNUAL REVIEW

The 2016 Religious Freedom Annual Review of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies took place July 7–8, 2016, in the BYU Conference Center. Organized under the direction of Center Associate Director Elizabeth Clark, the conference provided an up-to-date review on religious freedom challenges worldwide. Experts presented in both workshop and lecture settings on topics such as religion in public schools, religion and the workplace, First Amendment protections, understanding media coverage of religion, discussing religious freedom effectively, and reducing the perceived conflict between religious freedom and LGBT rights. Attendees were counseled that advocating for religious freedom means advocating for religious freedom for all, not just a particular group.

Elder Lance B. Wickman, General Counsel and Emeritus General Authority of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, opened the conference with the address “Promoting Religious Freedom in a Secular Age: Fundamental Principles, Practical Priorities, and Fairness for All.” He spoke of the need to defend the core freedoms—personal belief and family worship, the free exercise of religion in public, autonomy for churches, and the right of believers and nonbelievers to free speech and expression in the public square. He defined a hierarchy of principles, with the outer circle of religious liberty compromised by compromise. “Protecting those core freedoms must remain the priority, or we risk losing even them,” he said.

Matthew S. Holland, president of Utah Valley University, presented a keynote titled “Religious Liberty v. Secularity: Is the American Founding Still Useful?” Recognizing an increase in religiously unaffiliated people, President Holland pointed out that the American Founders and the principles they placed in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights are still directly relevant today. “Religion is not too pointless or too poisonous to be given special protections in the law,” he said. He stated that religious freedom was America’s first liberty and is a gift to be protected and preserved, and he encouraged audience members to be actively involved.

Center directors Brett Scharffs, Cole Durham, and Elizabeth Clark, as well as Senior Fellow David Kirkham also spoke.
On October 7, 2016, ICLRS partnered with the Religious Freedom Center of the Newseum Institute to bring together key scholars and authors involved in government responses to religious restrictions to address pressing issues concerning the International Protection of Religious Freedom. The event was held at the Newseum Knight Conference Center in Washington, D.C. Professor Scharffs moderated a panel featuring Rabbi David Saperstein, US State Department ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom; Honorable Ian Jelg, E.U. Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion and belief outside the European Union; and Professor Thomas Farr president of the Religious Freedom Institute and associate professor of the Practice of Religion and International Affairs at Georgetown University. This discussion was streamed live via the Newseum website and broadcast on ABC.com.

**NORTH AMERICA**

**ICLRS Associate Director**

Elizabeth Clark was the keynote speaker at a religious freedom symposium on November 12, 2016, at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. She provided an overview of the fundamental principles of religious freedom, including the benefits to society that religious freedom provides. The symposium was hosted by the J. Reuben Clark Law Society’s Salt Lake City and S. J. Quinney College of Law Chapters.

On August 16–18, 2016, ICLRS partnered with the Religious Freedom Center of the Newseum Institute to bring together key scholars and authors involved in government responses to religious restrictions to address pressing issues concerning the International Protection of Religious Freedom. The event was held at the Newseum Knight Conference Center in Washington, D.C. Professor Scharffs moderated a panel featuring Rabbi David Saperstein, US State Department ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom; Honorable Ian Jelg, E.U. Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion and belief outside the European Union; and Professor Thomas Farr president of the Religious Freedom Institute and associate professor of the Practice of Religion and International Affairs at Georgetown University. This discussion was streamed live via the Newseum website and broadcast on ABC.com.

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**MARCH 12**

Professor Durham participated in the Freedom of Religion Symposium at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law as part of a panel of religious liberty experts and practitioners. The panel also discussed the fundamentals of religion liberty law-making conflict, and in individuals to advocate for religious freedom at the state and local level. Hon. Steven T. Collis, an attorney at Holland & Hart, chaired the event.

**MARCH 26**

Professor Durham joined Hannah Smith, Senior Counsel at the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty; Deano Ware, trial counsel for the Hosanna Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church and School in its successful Supreme Court challenge, and others for a religious liberty roundtable at the Santa Clara University School of Law on March 26, 2016. The roundtable discussed religious liberty issues and perspectives.

**FEBRUARY 1**

Professor Scharffs spoke at the Center for Law and Religion at St. John’s School of Law in New York City as part of its biannual Colloquium on Religious Liberty on February 1, 2017. At the seminar, leading law and religious liberty scholars presented an address of academic and faculty members. The first speaker of the Colloquium Professor Scharffs presented his paper “Time-Marked Public Discourse and Their Implications for the Public Square.”

**AUGUST 16-18**

Professor Durham participated in a symposium on August 16–18, 2016, at Harvard University for the 18th Meeting of Experts of the International Religious Liberty Association, an independent advocacy organization founded by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Established by international scholars and attorneys convened annually. This year’s meeting focused on a paradox: that while the principle of religious freedom is gaining foothold within international law, restrictions on religious practice continue to rise.

**OCTOBER 16**

Professor Durham delivered the University Alumni Address on October 16, 2016, in the Marriott Center on the BYU Campus. This address will be titled "Ambassador Faith: Appreciating the Unique Power and Singular Appeal of LDS Doctrine." The powerful message was broadcast live on BYUtv, BYUtv.org, KBYU-TV 11, Classical 89 FM, and BYUradio and may be read or heard on the BYU Speaches web page.

**NOVEMBER 6-7**

"Law, Religion, Equality, and Dignity" was the theme of the Restoring Religious Freedom Conference held at the Emory University School of Law on November 6–7, 2016. This biennial event, sponsored by the J. Reuben Clark Law Society, Freedom of Religion Project, Professor Durham, and E.U. Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief, was a conversation titled A Century of Genocides: Is Better Accommodation of Conscience an Answer? The event, which also commemorated the 100-year anniversary of the Emory University School of Law, was moderated by Mark Segraves, senior lecturer and Spirid founder, senior fellow of Honor Law Center for the Study of Law and Religion.
The International Religious Liberty Awards Dinner was held at the Hotel Monaco in Washington, DC, on October 6, 2016. Dr. David Hollander, associate professor at Harvard Divinity School and advisory board member of the National Museum of American Religion, delivered the keynote address.

The writing contest promotes legal and academic studies in religious liberty. It is open to law school students, students pursuing related graduate studies, and law school graduates who are not yet practicing due to clerkships or

In addition, at the dinner the Clark Society and ICLRS announced the winners of the seventh annual Religious Liberty Student Writing Competition. Entrants could address either domestic or international religious liberty issues in their essays.

First Place $4,000
HERMAN HOFMAN
Connecticut College of Law

Second Place $3,000
LISA MATHEWS
George Mason School of Law

Third Place $2,000
CALEB WOLANEK AND HEIDI LIU
Harvard Law School

HONORABLE MENTIONS $1,000
NEVIN BEILER
Student Fellow, University of Minnesota
JONATHAN BACKER
University of Nebraska
WILLIAM SIMPSON
University of Michigan

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Dr. David Holland, associate professor at Harvard Divinity School and advisory board member of the National Museum of American Religion, delivered the keynote address.

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Second edition of the Center’s two major ongoing publication projects are ready for release:

- Religion and Equality Law in Conflict (Wolters Kluwer)

This landmark international textbook by Brett Scharffs and Cole Durham was published in 2010 and has been extensively updated, with contributions from Center student researchers and senior editor Donlu Thayer. The first edition was translated into Chinese and Vietnamese; the second edition is being translated into Arabic, Indonesian, and Turkish.

Center Publications Highlights

Elizabeth Clark and Brett Scharffs were invited to author Religion and Law in the USA, a volume in the religion section of the prestigious International Encyclopedia of Law (Kluwer Law International).

- Encyclopedia of Law and Religion (Brill), edited by Gerard Robinson, Cole Durham, and Donlu Thayer and assisted by Ashley Jeannine Woolfey
- Some 100 attorney volunteers from the J. Reuben Clark Law Society, coordinated by BYU Law graduate Nan Barker, performed an initial review of the first batch of submitted articles in 2011. In 2013, on this first volume project proceeded more than 100 BYU Law student research fellows contributed to 73 of the Encyclopedia's 242 articles, reviewing, researching, translating, and authoring.
- Religion and Constrained Transition in the Maldives, edited by Alexandra Ferrer and ICLRS senior fellow James Torres

Other important publications included:

- Elizabeth Clark, "Russia's New Anti-Missiary Law and Its Impact," on a religious freedom blog, Religious Freedom Institute, Georgetown University
- Brett Scharffs, "Religious Minorities and Restrictions on Religion," in Notre Dame Law Review

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- Some 100 attorney volunteers from the J. Reuben Clark Law Society, coordinated by BYU Law graduate Nan Barker, performed an initial review of the first batch of submitted articles in 2011. In 2013, on this first volume project proceeded more than 100 BYU Law student research fellows contributed to 73 of the Encyclopedia's 242 articles, reviewing, researching, translating, and authoring.
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