When Law and Religion Meet

The Center for the Study of Law and Religion (CSLR) is dedicated to studying the religious dimensions of law, the legal dimensions of religion, and the interaction of legal and religious ideas and institutions, norms and practices. This study is predicated on the assumptions that religion gives law its spirit and inspires its adherence to ritual and justice. Law gives religion its structure and encourages its devotion to order and organization.

Offerings

- 4 joint-degree programs (JD/MDiv, JD/MTS, JD/MA, JD/PhD)
- 14 cross-listed courses
- 8 major research projects; dozens of individual and side research projects
- 3-6 annual public forums
- 2 book series
- 300 plus published volumes
- 90 Emory senior fellows and associated faculty from 20 fields
- 1,600 corresponding members from around the world

“At a Glance

“...I’m interested in advancing the protection and promotion of human rights around the globe. The law cannot do this alone; a variety of approaches is necessary, and religion is a vital element in this mix.”

Silas Allard
2L-Emory Law
Joint-Degree Programs

Degrees

The Juris Doctor/Master of Divinity (JD/MDiv): A 10-semester program that combines training in law with preparation for ordained ministry.

The Juris Doctor/Master of Theological Studies (JD/MTS): An eight-semester program that combines training in law with religious studies. This program emphasizes the scholarly interaction of law and religion.

The Juris Doctor/Master of Arts in Judaic Studies (JD/MA): An eight-semester program that combines training in American law with a study of Jewish law, theology, history, and ethics.

The Juris Doctor/Doctor of Philosophy (JD/PhD): An individually tailored program for students pursuing law and advanced studies in ethics and society, biblical studies, or history of religion in the Graduate Division of Religion.

Courses

Cross-listed courses include Christian Canon Law, Jewish Law, and Islamic Law; History of Church-State Relations in the West and American Constitutional Law; Religion and State; Law, Religion and Human Rights; Law, Religion and Family; and others.

Admission

Admission to each CSLR joint-degree program requires separate admission to the Emory University School of Law for the JD (Juris Doctor) and to the Candler School of Theology or the Graduate Division of Religion for the accompanying master’s or doctoral degree.

Admission Contacts

- Emory Law: John Witte, Jr. 404-727-6980 john.witte@emory.edu
- Candler School of Theology: Steven J. Kraftchick, 404-727-2883 steven.kraftchick@emory.edu
- Graduate Division of Religion: Elizabeth M. Bounds, 404-727-6333 ebounds@emory.edu
- Judaic Studies: Michael Berger 404-727-6258 michael.berger@emory.edu

Research Opportunities

Joint-degree candidates participate actively in CSLR research projects and public conferences, and pursue clinical internships and externships in America. Current research opportunities include:

Christian Jurisprudence II
A comprehensive analysis of the contributions of modern Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox figures to fundamental questions of law, politics, and society.

Law, Religion, and Human Rights in International Perspective
Assesses the current state and future questions of religion and human rights that will confront different legal communities around the world.

Aruch Hashulchan Translation
Preparation of a translation and authoritative edition of this 19th-century masterwork of Jewish law of Yheil Michel Epstein.

Religious Foundations of Religious Freedom and Rule of Law
Explores the role of religious ideas and institutions in the development of our most cherished legal ideals.

The Future of Shari’a
Probes the place of Islamic religious law, particularly the law of domestic relations, in various communities with minority and majority Muslim populations.

Career Opportunities

Joint-degree graduates teach in law schools, seminaries, and colleges; lead foundations, mediation centers, prison fellowship groups, and religious liberty organizations; practice law, and pursue religious ministry.

Danielle Goldstone
3L-Emory Law

“My law and religion degree has been integral to how I approach my practice of law. Representing the child welfare system in Georgia, I encounter families at their worst. Remembering law as a ministry, I am able to approach each case with the proper legal framework, but also with the necessary human framework.”

Laurie-Ann Fallon
JD/MTS 2005
Associate, Law Offices of Ashley Willcott

“The opportunities to work closely with seminal figures like John Witte, Jr., Frank Alexander, Steve Tipton, Michael Broyde, Abdullahi An-Na’im, Michael Perry and others are incredible. Their willingness to take seriously students’ contributions and to engage meaningfully in one-on-one dialogue is something I found to be truly formative.”

Charles Hooker
JD/PhD 2006
Associate, Kilpatrick Stockton LLP

“The global attention on Islam and politics was particularly on my mind as I chose the law and religion program at Emory.”

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