Distinguished Lectures

Harold J. Berman Lecture
The Berman Lecture was founded in 2009 with a generous grant from Berman’s family, friends, and supporters to honor the intellectual legacy of Harold J. Berman (1918-2007). Berman was Emory’s first Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law and is considered the father of the modern study of law and religion.

Lecturers (partial listing): Irwin Cotler, former Canadian Minister of Justice; Mary Ann Glendon, Harvard University; Martha A. Finaeen, Emory University; Seyed Hossein Nasr, George Washington University

Don S. Browning Lecture
The Don S. Browning Lecture was founded in 2011 with generous gifts from friends and colleagues to honor the intellectual legacy of Don S. Browning (1934-2010). The lectures are informed by his founding scholarship in practical theology and religious ethics, and their application to marriage and family life.

Lecturers: Barbara B. Woodhouse, Emory University; John Witte, Jr., Emory University

Altman L. McDonald Lecture in Christianity and Law
The Altman L. McDonald Lecture in Christianity and Law was founded in 2005 with a generous grant from the McDonald Agape Foundation. The lectures explore the fundamental issues at the intersection of law, religion, and society from various Christian perspectives.

Lecturers (partial listing): Robert N. Bellah, University of California at Berkeley; Michael Welker, Heidelberg University; Luke Timothy Johnson, Emory University; Martin E. Marty, University of Chicago; Katharine Jeffress Schori, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church; John Witte, Jr., Emory University; Nicholas P. Woltzstofferf, Yale University

Carrie Lecture
The Carrie Lecture in Law and Religion was founded in 1986 with a generous grant from Overton and Lavona Carrie.

Lecturers (partial listing): Frank S. Alexander, Emory University; Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na‘im, Emory University; Jimmy Carter, 39th President of the United States; Rebecca S. Chopp, Swarthmore College; Menachem Elon, Israeli Supreme Court; Jean Bethke Elshayian, University of Chicago; John T. Noonan, United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit; Steven0 Omern, Harvard University; Michael J. Perry, Emory University; Venerable Matthies Ricard, Shechen Monastery; V. Gene Robinson, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire; Brian Tierney, Cornell University; Desmond M. Tutu, Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town

Decalogue Lecture
The Decalogue Lecture was founded in 2002 with generous support of the family, friends, and colleagues of Emory philosopher Paul G. Kurtz (1915-2000).

Lecturers (partial listing): Derrick Bell, New York University; David R. Blumenfeld, Emory University; Michael J. Boyle, Emory University; Stephen L. Carter, Yale University; Ira Glasser, American Civil Liberties Union; Wilton D. Gregory, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Atlanta; Mark D. Jordan, Washington University in St. Louis; Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth; Leah Ward Sears, Supreme Court of Georgia; Lloyd Weinreb, Harvard University

Affordable Housing and Community Development
Provides technical assistance to local governments and nonprofit community development organizations as they determine how to revitalize blighted neighborhoods and return abandoned, vacant, and tax delinquent properties to productive use.

The Child in Law, Religion, and Society
An interdisciplinary exploration of children, with focus on birth, naming, and growth; children’s rights and rites; education and formation; child abuse, poverty, and homelessness; juvenile delinquency; violence, public policy responses, and reforms.

Christian Legal Studies
An exploration of the historical and contemporary influence of Christian ideas, institutions, and individuals on Western law, politics, and society.

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

Islamic Legal Studies
Explores the relationship between Islam and Shari’a (Islamic law) on the one hand, and law, human rights, constitutionalism, and secularism, on the other, in different parts of the world.

Jewish Legal Studies
An analysis of the contributions of historical and contemporary Jewish law, theology, and ethics to modern issues of marriage and family, liberty and rights.

The Pursuit of Happiness
An exploration of various discourses on happiness, including the epithet “Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness” enshrined in the American Declaration of Independence, and an attempt to foster more holistic and realistic public, if not popular, understandings of the meanings of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” in all its varieties.

Law, Religion, and Human Rights
Makes the CSLR’s 20 years of research on religion and human rights available to activists, public policy leaders, and media experts, and assesses the current state and future questions of religion and human rights that will confront different legal communities around the world.

Sex, Marriage, and Family
An analysis of the role that Christianity, Judaism, and Islam have played and can play in forming and reforming theories, laws, and practices of sex, marriage, and family life.

Research Projects

Center for the Study of Law and Religion
at Emory University

Emory University
1301 Clifton Road, Suite 310
Atlanta, Georgia 30322-2770
404-712-8710
http://cslr.law.emory.edu

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 interactions 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.

Mission
Our mission is to help the peoples of the world learn how law and religion can balance each other and ultimately stabilize society and politics.

Offerings
- 6 degree programs (JD/MDiv, JD/MTS, JD/PhD, LL.M, SDJ, JM)
- 40 cross-listed courses
- 9 major ongoing research projects
- 4-8 annual public forums
- Book series
- 300 plus published volumes
- 90 Emory senior fellows and associated faculty from 20 fields of study
- Visiting scholars and fellows program
- 1,600 corresponding members
Degree Programs

Doctor of Law/Master of Theological Studies
The Doctor of Law/Master of Theological Studies (JD/MTS) is a four-year program recommended for students interested in pursuing a career in law who have deep interests in theology, ethics, social and political theory, or church life. It is also recommended for candidates aspiring to pursue academic careers in law or theology, including the later pursuit of an SJD or Ph.D.

Doctor of Law/Master of Divinity
The Doctor of Law/Master of Divinity (JD/MDiv) is a five-year program combining academic and clinical/practical training in law and theology. This program is recommended for students interested in combining legal study with preparation for ordained ministry. It is also recommended for students aspiring to work within the administrative structure or denominational polity of the church.

Doctor of Law/Doctor of Philosophy
The Doctor of Law/Doctor of Philosophy (JD/PhD) program is a six-year, highly concentrated study of law and religion, yielding a dissertation on a law and religion topic. This program is recommended especially for students with ambitions to teach law and religion topics in law schools, theology schools, and research universities.

Master of Laws
The Master of Laws (LLM) Concentration in Law and Religion is a one-year program open to American and foreign applicants who already hold a JD or LLM and who wish to pursue advanced legal training in law and religion.

Doctor of Juridical Science
The Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD) Concentration in Law and Religion is a two-year program open to American and foreign applicants who already hold both a JD and an LLM (or MA in Law). It requires a dissertation on a law and religion topic.

Master of Theology
The Master of Theology (ThM) Concentration in Law and Religion is a one-year (full time) or up to four-year (part time) program for professionals in various fields interested in law and religion themes.

Courses (partial listing)

Historical Studies
- American Legal History I
- History of Christian Theological Ethics
- History of Church-State Relations in the West
- The Later Roman Empire: Law, Religion, and Society

Ethical, Methodological, and Philosophical Themes
- Law and Theology
- Love and Justice
- Law and Morality
- Morality and Constitutionality

Religion, Human Rights, and Religious Freedom
- American Constitutional Law: Religion and State
- International Human Rights
- Law, Morality, and International Human Rights
- Religion and Human Rights

Religious Legal Systems
- Canon Law
- Islamic Law
- Jewish Law

Admission

Master of Laws, Doctor of Juridical Science, Juris Master
Prospective candidates must apply to Emory Law

Joint Degrees in Law and Religion
Prospective candidates must apply separately to each school, and be admitted by each school.

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Director

JOHN WITTE, JR. is Jonas Robinrechner Professor of Law, Alonzo L. McDonald Distinguished Professor, and Director of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion. A scholar of legal history, marriage law, and religious liberty, Witte has published 200 articles, 13 journal symposia, and 26 books.

Associate Director

SILAS W. ALLARD is Harold J. Berman Senior Fellow in Law and Religion. A scholar of law and religious ethics, Allard’s work focuses on issues of immigration and human rights.

Founding Director

FRANK S. ALEXANDER is Sam Nunn Professor of Law and Founding Director of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion. A scholar of homelessness and housing issues, Alexander works to improve vacant and abandoned property policies at federal, state, and municipal levels.

I chose to pursue a joint degree because I wanted to understand what justice could and should mean from both the practical side (law) but also the theoretical side (religion and ethics). This taught me to ask the questions necessary to help someone but also to listen to what the person really wants and needs – vital skills for my work in public interest law.

Jennifer Williams, JD/MTS 2012
Recipient of the Savage-Seatley Scholarship in Law and Religion

We seek to sponsor a deeper and richer understanding of law by increasing understanding of the fundamental role religion has played in shaping law, politics, and society.

John Witte, Jr.
CSLR Director

For me, where law and religion lead is the call to respond in service to those who are facing really tough issues, and to do so with all of the resources of legal and religious traditions.

Frank S. Alexander
CSLR Founding Director

Since law and religion represent profound and nearly universal realms of human existence, and since they are interactive in various ways among most people around the world, citizens are finding it important to discern new ways for law and religion to interact, and to become together a synergistic force with two sets of approaches. Thus, the separate topics “law” and “religion” can be connected with hyphens into “law-and-religion.”

Martin E. Marty
University of Chicago

CSLR has published more than 300 volumes out of its projects and book series. Among recently published volumes:


Publications

Center for the Study of Law and Religion
at Emory University