Pepperdine School of Law is committed to providing its students with a superior legal education grounded in principles of moral conscience and religious expression. The Herbert and Elinor Nootbaar Institute on Law, Religion, and Ethics builds upon this foundation by simultaneously affirming Pepperdine University’s Christian identity while openly embracing the diverse range of religious voices represented by our faculty and student body, seeking dialogue and common ground among faith traditions.

The Nootbaar Institute proudly hosts this conference focused on religious-based claims for asylum, both to ensure an understanding of our nation’s laws for the protection of religious refugees and other prisoners of conscience from around the world, and to express our institution’s solidarity with those persons persecuted for their nonviolent confessions of faith.

Asylum
A Home for the Oppressed
MELANIE HOWARD is the associate director of the Herbert and Elinor Noo... ours for College of Columbia University, and his J.D. in 1978 from New York University...

ALONZO KERWIN is the executive director of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), a position he has held since December, 1993. During Mr. Kerwin’s tenure, CLINIC has coordinated among the nation’s largest affirmative asylum, detained immigrant, immigration appeals, and naturalization programs. CLINIC also offers the nation’s most extensive training and legal support programs for community-based legal agencies. He serves as an associate at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Migration, a member of the American Bar Association’s Commission on Immigration, and a Nonresident Fellow at the Migration Policy Institute. Prior to joining CLINIC in 1992, Mr. Kerwin was an associate at the Washington, D.C. law firm of Patton Boggs. Mr. Kerwin is a 1984 graduate of Georgetown University and a 1990 graduate of the University of Michigan Law School.

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KAREN MUSALO directs the Center for Gender and Refugee Studies, and the Refugee and Human Rights Clinic at UC Hastings College of Law. Professor Musalo is lead counsel in Refugee Law and Policy: An International and Comparative Approach (3rd edition). Professor Musalo has written numerous articles on refugee law issues, with a focus on gender asylum, as well as religious persecution, and conscientious objection as bases for refugee status. Professor Musalo’s current work examines the linkage between human rights violations and migration. Professor Musalo, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, received a B.A. in comparative literature from Brooklyn College, and her J.D. from the University of California, Boalt Hall School of Law.

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