

The Herbert and Elinor Nootbaar Institute on Law, Religion, and Ethics

The purpose of the Herbert and Elinor Nootbaar Institute on Law, Religion, and Ethics is to bring the redemptive capacities of religious faith and moral insight to law, to find ways in which persons trained in law can serve “the least of these” throughout the world, and to explore how the practice of law might be a religious calling. We seek to do so at a theoretical level through seminars, conferences, and scholarship. We also seek to put theory into action, working with governments and human rights organizations to bring peace, justice, and the rule of law around the globe.

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The Global Justice Program

The Nootbaar Institute’s Global Justice Program touches all corners of the globe through its initiatives in 1) international human rights and religious freedom, 2) developing the rule of law, and 3) global development. Through these initiatives, students and faculty collaborate to seek justice and create a lasting impact in some of the world’s most vulnerable places. The Global Justice Program is growing rapidly in response to student interest and demand from global partners.

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PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

The Herbert and Elinor Nootbaar
INSTITUTE ON LAW, RELIGION & ETHICS

A Call for

INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2011
Pepperdine University School of Law
Malibu, California

Welcome

Dear Friends,

In recent years, the world has watched the brutal clashes between religions in Jos, Nigeria, and Orissa, India. We have heard, firsthand, the stories of the persecution of house churches in China, the Baha’is in Iran, and the recent bombings of Coptic Christian churches in Egypt. There is growing concern over the lack of tolerance between faiths, particularly as the Muslim and Christian and secular worlds collide.

Globally, violations and threats to international religious freedom are increasing at an alarming rate. But, in addition to blatant incidents of religious persecutions, other violators have altered their methods of restricting religion. The restrictions become less obvious, more subtle, and pragmatic. Instead of public proclamations or uses of force, international governments apply technicalities or stonewall religious believers.

This year’s Herbert and Elinor Nootbaar Institute on Law, Religion, and Ethics conference will address, “A Call for International Religious Freedom” We selected this topic as a matter of urgency.

As we look ahead in this new decade, religious freedom weighs heavily on our minds. From the violent clashes of religions to the technicalities restricting worship, the Nootbaar Institute conference will explore the state of religious freedom and how we should respond. But how can an ordinary individual or an ordinary religious congregation respond to such problems?

The conference addresses speakers who have worked for religious freedom in government positions, for NGOs, and as private citizens. It also includes two speakers who have personally been subject to religious persecution in other countries. They will serve as our witnesses to the brutality and the impact of that persecution.

ROBERT F. COCHRAN, JR.

Director, Nootbaar Institute and Louis D. Brandeis Professor of Law

JAY MILBRANDT

Associate Director, Nootbaar Institute and Director, Global Justice Program

A Call for INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

SPEAKERS

HELEN BAKO, founder of Nigerian Women Against Violence. She is a social worker based in Southern California who comes from the area of Jos, Nigeria. Bako works to bring to light the threat to the Christian church in Nigeria to the Nigerian government and to the world.

SANDRA BUNN-LIVINGSTONE, J.D., LL.M., Ph.D., executive director of Jus Cogens. She is a scholar and attorney, specializing in human rights and religious freedom. She is the former international religious freedom team leader for multilateral and European affairs in the Bureau of Human Rights, Democracy, and Labor at the U.S. Department of State.

MATT DANIELS, J.D., Ph.D., founder and president, Good of All. In 1996 he became director of the Massachusetts Family Institute, a nonprofit organization concentrating on family issues. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and earned his doctorate in politics from Brandeis University.

JUDGE BRUCE EINHORN, J.D., director of the Pepperdine University School of Law Asylum and Refugee Clinic. He is a retired federal immigration judge and former chief of litigation for the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Special Investigations (OSI).

BOB FU, founder and president of China Aid Association and former political prisoner. Before fleeing China, he was a student democracy leader during the Tiananmen Square massacre and a house church leader. Fu founded China Aid to confront religious persecution in China. He is completing his Ph.D. dissertation.

BRIAN GRIM, Ph.D., Senior Research Fellow in religion and world affairs at the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. He is a research affiliate for Pennsylvania State University's Population Research Institute and Boston University's Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs. Grim formerly worked as an educator, researcher, and development coordinator in China, the former USSR, Kazakhstan, Europe, Malta, and the Middle East.

ZUHDI JASSER, M.D., president and founder of the American Islamic Forum for Democracy (AIFD). He is an expert in the contest of ideas against political Islam and American Islamist organizations. He regularly debriefs members of Congress and has spoken nationally and internationally.

PAUL MARSHALL, M.Phil., Ph.D., Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute's Center for Religious Freedom. For eight years prior to joining Hudson, he worked at Freedom House, as Senior Fellow at the Center for Religious Freedom. Marshall is the author and editor of over 20 books on religion and politics with an emphasis in religious freedom.

BRENT MCBURNEY, J.D., president and CEO of Advocates International. He is the former director of legal aid ministries for the Christian Legal Society and a former trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice. Advocates International encourages and engages a global network of advocates to promote justice, the rule of law, religious freedom, reconciliation, and integrity.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



SUZAN JOHNSON COOK, D.Min., president and CEO of Charisma Speakers. Johnson Cook is an author, minister, and advisor. President Barack Obama nominated her to be ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom. She was an advisor to former President Bill Clinton and a White House Fellow on the Domestic Policy Council. She has experience in the ministry and leading delegations to Israel, Jordan, and Egypt.



REPRESENTATIVE FRANK WOLF, of Virginia's 10th District, is serving in his 16th term in Congress. He is cochair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, a bipartisan organization of Congress who works together to raise awareness about international human rights issues. Wolf sits on the Appropriations Committee and serves on the Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee.



Location, Accommodations, and MCLE Credit

The conference will be held at Pepperdine University School of Law, Malibu, California. The weather in February is typically sunny and pleasant, in the mid-70s during the day and the 50s at night. The campus is along the coast, 45 minutes north of Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

For links to hotels in the area, visit: law.pepperdine.edu/welcome/visitor_information/hotels.html

MCLE Credit - This conference has been approved by the State Bar of California for six hours of Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) credit. Pepperdine University School of Law certifies that this activity conforms to the standards for approved education activities prescribed by the rules and regulations of the State Bar of California governing minimum continuing legal education.

Conference Schedule

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2011

8 AM	Breakfast
8:45 AM	Welcome Professor Bob Cochran and Jay Milbrandt
9:45 AM	Panel 1: "Global Impact" Paul Marshall and Brian Grim
11 AM	Break
11:15 AM	Panel 2: "Resonding to Religious Persecution" Matt Daniels, Judge Bruce Einhorn, and Brent McBurney
12:30 PM	Lunch
1:45 PM	Keynote Suzan Johnson Cook
2:15 PM	Panel 3: "Faith Foundations for Religious Freedom" Dr. Zuhdi Jasser and Sandra Bunn-Livingstone
3:45 PM	Break
4 PM	Keynote Representative Frank Wolf
5:30 PM	Reception Law School atrium