

The State of Religious Freedom Conference

Sunday | June 7, 2026

6 PM : Welcome Reception | Private Malibu Residence

Monday | June 8, 2026

8:30 AM Breakfast and Coffee Hour | Caruso School of Law

9:30 AM Opening and Introduction: **Jim Gash**, *President and CEO, Pepperdine University*

9:45 AM Session I: *History and Tradition in Religious Liberty Adjudication*

Moderator:

The Honorable Matthew H. Solomson, *Chief Judge,
United States Court of Federal Claims*

Panel: **Thomas C. Berg**, *James L. Oberstar Professor of Law
and Public Policy, University of St. Thomas School of Law*

Noel J. Francisco, *Partner,
Jones Day and former Solicitor General of the United States*

Andrew M. Koppelman, *John Paul Stevens Professor of Law,
Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law*

Erin E. Murphy, *Partner,
Clement and Murphy, PLLC*

Lael Weinberger, *Assistant Professor of Law,
George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School*

11 AM Break

11:15 AM Session II: *Judging Religious Freedom: Comparative Jurisprudence*

Moderator:

The Honorable Sam Brownback, *Senior Fellow, Pepperdine University
Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom (ret.)*

Presenters:

The Honorable Daphne Barak-Erez, *Justice,
Supreme Court of Israel*

The Honorable Ignacio Sancho Gargallo, *President,
Civil Chamber of the Spanish Supreme Court*



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Monday | June 8, 2026 (cont.)

12:30 PM

Lunch

The Honorable Ioannis Ktistakis, *President,
Third Section of the European Court of Human Rights*

The Honorable Kevin Newsom, *Judge,
United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit*

The Honorable Brantley Starr, *Judge,
United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas*

12:45 PM

Lunch Panel: *Ten Commandments in Schools*

Moderator:

The Honorable Kenneth K. Lee, *Judge,
United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit*

Presenters:

Stephanie Barclay, *Professor of Law,
Georgetown University Law Center*

Alan E. Brownstein, *Distinguished Professor of Law Emeritus,
University of California Davis School of Law*

Eric Rassbach, *Vice President and Senior Counsel,
The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty and Visiting Professor,
Pepperdine Caruso School of Law*

Mark Storslee, *Associate Professor and C. Boyden Gray
Distinguished Scholar, University of North Carolina School of Law*

Anna Su, *Associate Professor, Henry N.R. Jackman
Faculty of Law, University of Toronto*

2 PM

Session III: *Parental Rights and Religious Exercise*

Moderator:

The Honorable Don R. Willett, *Judge,
United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit*

Presenters:

Richard W. Garnett, *Paul J. Schierl Professor of Law,
University of Notre Dame Law School*



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Monday | June 8, 2026 (cont.)

3:15 PM

Break

3:30 PM

Session IV: Government Funding and Religion

Moderator:

The Honorable Jennifer Walker Elrod, Judge,
United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

Presenters:

Nathan S. Chapman, A. Gus Cleveland Distinguished Chair of Law,
University of Georgia School of Law

John Meiser, Associate Clinical Professor and Director of the Lindsay and
Matt Moroun Religious Liberty Clinic, *University of Notre Dame Law School*

Rev. Patrick Reidy, Associate Professor of Law,
University of Notre Dame Law School

Faraz Sanei, Associate Professor,
American University Washington College of Law

Chagai Schlesinger, Assistant Professor
University of Haifa Law Faculty

5:15 PM

Dinner at Duke's Malibu

Discussion: *Lessons from War and Peace in the Middle East*

Moderator:

Lavenski Smith, Judge,
United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit



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Tuesday | June 8, 2026 (cont.)

Presenters:

Johnnie Moore (Rev.), Vice Chancellor and Managing Director of Middle East Studies, Pepperdine University School of Public Policy

Netta Barak-Corren, Assistant Professor of Law, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Wednesday | June 9, 2026

8:30 AM	Breakfast and Coffee Hour Caruso School of Law
9:30 AM	Opening and Introduction: Paul Caron , Dean, Pepperdine Caruso School of Law
9:45 AM	Session V: <i>Judging Religious Freedom Cases</i>
	Moderator: The Honorable Patrick J. Bumatay , Judge, United States Court of Appeal for the Ninth Circuit
	Presenters: The Honorable Josh Divine , Judge, United States District Court for the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri
	The Honorable Danielle Forrest , Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
	The Honorable Chad Readler , Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
	The Honorable David Stras , Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
	The Honorable Timothy Tymkovich , Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
11:00 AM	Break
11:15 AM	Session VI: <i>Issues in Comparative Religious Freedom</i>
	Moderator: David K. Trimble , President, Religious Freedom Institute



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Tuesday | June 9, 2026 (CONT.)

12:30 PM

12:45 PM

Presenters:

Sophie van Bijsterveld, Professor of Religion, Law, and Society,
Radboud University Nijmegen

Grzegorz Blicharz, Associate Professor and Director of the Centre
for Law and Religious Freedom, Jagiellonian University in Kraków

Mark Hill KC, Barrister, Inner Temple, London; Global Distinguished
Professor of Law, the University of Notre Dame London Law Programme

Michał Kowalski, Vice Dean and Professor,
Faculty of Law and Administration, Jagiellonian University in Kraków

Lunch

Lunch Panel: Evaluating *Employment Division v. Smith*

Moderator:

The Honorable Marvin Quattlebaum, Judge,
United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

Presenters:

Paul Horwitz, Gordon Rosen Professor of Law,
The University of Alabama School of Law

Branton Nestor, Non-Resident Fellow,
Stanford Constitutional Law Center

Audra Savage, Associate Professor of Law,
Wake Forest University School of Law

Gene Schaerr, Partner,
Schaerr Jaffe LLP

Steven D. Smith, Warren Distinguished Professor of Law (ret.),
University of San Diego School of Law

Conclusion of Programming



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