RELIGIOUS PLURALISM, HERITAGE, AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
MAY 22-24, 2016
African Consortium for Law and Religion Studies

Religious Pluralism and Heritage: Legal and Social Development

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

22-24 May 2016

Organized by:

College of Law and Governance Studies, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

The International Center for Law and Religion Studies, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University, United States

International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies

PROGRAMME

SUNDAY, 22 MAY 2016

2:30 – 4:30 PM PRE-CONFERENCE MEETING
(Steering and Planning Committees only)

2 – 6 PM REGISTRATION

5 – 5:30 PM OPENING AND WELCOME
Room: River Nile Hall

Chair:
Pieter Coertzen, Professor, University of Stellenbosch; President, African Consortium for Law and Religion Studies, South Africa

Speakers:
W. Cole Durham, Jr., Susa Young Gates Professor of Law and Founding Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School; President, International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies, United States
Solomon Fikre, Dean, College of Law and Governance Studies, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
Kassa Tekleberhan, Minister of Ministry of Federal and Pastoralist Development Affairs, Government of Ethiopia, Ethiopia

5:30 – 7 PM FIRST PLENARY SESSION:

“RELIGIOUS REPRESENTATIVES”
Room: River Nile Hall
Chair:
**Pieter Coertzen**, Professor, University of Stellenbosch; President, African Consortium for Law and Religion Studies, South Africa

**Representatives from Religious Communities**  
(see special program)

**Belaynesh Zevadia**, Israeli Ambassador to Ethiopia

**7:30 PM**  
RECEPTION/DINNER

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**MONDAY, 23 MAY 2016**

**8:30 – 9 AM**  
REGISTRATION

**9 – 10 AM**  
SECOND PLENARY SESSION  
**“LAW, RELIGION, AND THE SECULAR STATE”**  
Room: River Nile Hall

Chair:
**Mark Hill QC**, Extraordinary Professor, University of Pretoria and Cardiff, United Kingdom

Keynote Speaker:
**Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na’im**, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law, Emory University School of Law, United States  
“The Future of Heritage and Social Development in Africa”

**10 – 10:15 AM**  
Break

**10:15 – 11:30 AM**  
THIRD PLENARY SESSION:  
**“LAW, RELIGION, AND HERITAGE IN AFRICA TODAY”**  
Room: River Nile Hall

Chair:
**Peter Petkoff**, Director of Religion, Law and International Relations Programme, Regent’s Park College, Oxford and Brunel Law School, United Kingdom

Speakers:
**Ahmed Hassen**, Director, Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University  
**Mgebémado Honoré**, Head of the Culture and Communication Department, National Commission of Francophonie/Benin, Ethiopia  
“Religious Traditions, Custom, and Patrimony in Africa”  
**Kizito Kabengele**, Research Associate and LL.D Candidate, Faculty of Law, Department of Public Law, University of Pretoria, South Africa
“The Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities”
**Tapuwa Mubaya**, Lecturer, Great Zimbabwe University, Zimbabwe
“Great Zimbabwe Heritage Site”
**Bojana Mojsov**, Macedonia
“Heritage Practices”

11:30 AM – 1 PM  PARALLEL SESSIONS

**MANAGING RELIGIOUS PLURALISM IN AFRICA**
Room: Tekeze

Chair:
**T. Jeremy Gunn**, Professor, International Studies, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Al Akhawayn University, Morocco

Speakers:
**Muhammed Haron**, Professor, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Botswana, South Africa
“Southern Africa’s Religious Mosaic: Emphasizing Exclusivism or Propagating Pluralism?”
**Simeon Ilesanmi**, Washington M. Wingate Professor of Religion, Department for the Study of Religions, Wake Forest University, United States
“Public Education in a Religiously Pluralistic Nigeria”
**Mmapula D. Kebaneilwe**, Lecturer, University of Botswana, Botswana “Neo-Christianities in Botswana: A Meeting Place for Culture, Custom and Religion?”
**Abdulkader Tayob**, Professor of Religious Studies, Department of Religious Studies, University of Cape Town, South Africa
“Religion Education Policy and Religious Performances in Post-Apartheid Schools”

**SHARIA AND ISLAM IN AFRICA**
Room: Omo

Chair:
**Is-haq Oloyede**, Professor of Islamic Studies, Islamic University of Ilorin, Nigeria

Speakers:
**W. Wahab Egbewole**, Faculty of Law, Department of Jurisprudence, University of Ilorin, Nigeria;
and **Ismael Saka Ismael**, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Department of Islamic Law, University of Ilorin, Nigeria
“Reemergence of Shariah Law in Northern Nigeria”
**Ahmed S. Garba**, Professor, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Bayero University, Nigeria
“Shi’a and Military Clashes in Nigeria”
Hassan J. Ndzovu, Senior Lecturer, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Moi University, Kenya
“Kadhi Courts in Kenyan Constitution”

Ra Tiedemann-Nkabinde, PhD Candidate, Department of Religious Studies, University of Cape Town, South Africa
“Negotiating a Sacred Alliance in the Market: Islamic Finance and the South African State”

RELIGION AND THE SECULAR STATE IN AFRICA
Room: Awash

Chair:
W. Cole Durham, Jr., Susa Young Gates Professor of Law and Founding Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School; President, International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies, United States

Speakers:
Kofi Quashigah, Faculty of Law, University of Ghana, Ghana
“Religious Influence on the Concept of Justice and the Administration of Law in Ghana”

Abamfo O. Atiemo, Professor, Department for the Study of Religions, University of Ghana, Ghana
“African Spiritual Heritage and Human Rights NGO Perspectives on Ghana’s Prayer Camps”

John G. Esubonteng, PhD Candidate, Department for the Study of Religions, University of Ghana, Ghana
“State’s Role in Conflict Resolution: Baptist Nationalists and Missionaries in Fire Tango”

Prosper Muzambi, Lecturer of Theologies, Joshua Nkomo School of Arts and Humanities, Great Zimbabwe University, Zimbabwe
“Citizenship and Religion in Zimbabwe: Focus on the Politics of Zimbabwe’s First Lady, Grace Mugabe”

1 – 2 PM LUNCH

2 – 3:15 PM PARALLEL SESSIONS

LAW, RELIGION, AND WOMEN IN AFRICA
Room: Tekeze

Chair:
M. Christian Green, Senior Fellow, Center for the Study of Law and Religion, Emory University School of Law, Editor, Journal of Law and Religion, United States

Speakers:
Amal Idrissi, Professor in Public Law and Political Sciences, University Moulay Ismael, Morocco
“Feminism and Religion: Conflict Dialogue and Consensus in North Africa”

Abiola Akiyode-Afolabi, Faculty of Law, University of Lagos, Nigeria

"Reclaiming Women's Rights to Freedom of Religion: An Assessment of the Political and Legal Complexities Affecting the Domestication of CEDAW and the All-Women's Protocol in Nigeria"

Endalcachew Bayeh, Lecturer, Department of Civics and Ethical Studies, College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Ambo University, Ethiopia

“Customary Law, Women’s Rights, and Human Rights in Ethiopia”

LAND, WATER, AND HERITAGE IN ZIMBABWE

Room: Omo

Chair:

Jean-Baptiste Sourou, Professor of Religion and Law, Saint Augustine University Mwanza, United Republic of Tanzania

Speakers:

Fortune Sibanda, Lecturer in Religious Studies, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Great Zimbabwe University, Zimbabwe

“Rastafari Perspectives on Land Use Management in Postcolonial Zimbabwe”

Bernard Humbe, Lecturer, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Great Zimbabwe University, Zimbabwe


Edmore Dube, Lecturer in Islamic Studies, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Great Zimbabwe University, Zimbabwe

“Great Zimbabwe and Challenges to Western Policies and Classifications for African Heritage Management”

3:15 – 4:30 PM

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

GOVERNMENT LEADERS FROM EAST AND WEST AFRICA

Room: River Nile Hall

Chair:

Julian Reilly, Somalia Director, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom

Speakers:

Alice Nkom, Attorney and Human Rights Advocate, Cameroon

Stephen Okello, Secretary, National NGO Board, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Uganda

4:30 – 5 PM

BREAK
5 – 6:30 PM  PARALLEL SESSIONS
RELIGION AND HERITAGE IN AFRICA
Room:  Tekeze
Chair:
Nicolaas Horn, Professor of Public Law and Jurisprudence, University of Namibia, Namibia

Speakers:
Serawit B. Debele, Junior Fellow, Bayreuth University, Ethiopia
“Contesting Religious Heritage: The ‘Culture Turn’ in the Celebration of the Irreecha Ritual in Ethiopia”
Theodros A. Teklu, Lecturer in Theology and Dean of Studies, Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology, Ethiopia
“Religious Pluralism and Cohabitation: Critical Notes on Religious Freedoms, Rights, and Responsibilities in Ethiopia”

LAW AND RELIGION IN FRANCOPHONE AFRICA
Room:  Omo

Chair:
Bruce Wannell, United Kingdom

Speakers:
Celestin Gnonzion, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Information, Communication, and Arts, State University of Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire
“Mediatisation and Interactions between Religious and Political Leaders: The Post-Electoral Crisis of 2010-2011 in Côte d’Ivoire”
Jean-Baptiste Sourou, Professor of Religion and Law, Saint Augustine University Mwanza, United Republic of Tanzania
“10 January: Political Calculus or Response to a Socio-Political Exigency in Benin”
Andre Mangu, Professor, University of South Africa College of Law, Democratic Republic of Congo
“Religion and Politics in the Democratic Republic of Congo”

RELIGIOUS PLURALISM IN NIGERIA
Room:  Awash

Chair:
Akinola Ibidapo-Obe, Professor and Dean, University of Lagos Law School, Nigeria

Speakers:
Abdulnumini Adebayo Oba, Faculty of Law, University of Ilorin, Nigeria
“Navigating Inheritance across Religions by Muslim and Non-Muslim Heirs in Nigeria”
Danoye Oguntola-Laguda, Senior Lecturer, Lagos State University, Department of Religions, Nigeria
Muhjahid H. Shittu, Nigeria
“Islam and Religious Pluralism: Religious Freedom and Restriction on Church Proliferation in Nigeria”

6:30 – 7 PM  BREAK

7 PM  CONFERENCE DINNER
Room: River Nile Hall

Chair:
Pieter Coertzen, Professor, University of Stellenbosch; President, African Consortium for Law and Religion Studies, South Africa

Keynote Address:
Anton Knoetze, Commissioner, Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Culture, Religious and Linguistic Communities, South Africa
“Religious Pluralism, Heritage and Social Development in Africa”

TUESDAY, 24 MAY 2016

8:30 – 10 AM  PARALLEL SESSIONS

RELIGIOUS PLURALISM IN POST-APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA
Room: Tekeze

Chair:
Mary Ann Plaatjies van Huffel, Faculty of Theology, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa

Speakers:
Georgia Du Plessis, PhD Candidate, University of the Free State, South Africa
“Deep Diversity and a Rainbow of Heritages in the South African Public Sphere: The Issue of Signs, Symbols, and Slogans”
Duane Jethro, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Archive and Public Culture Research Unit, University of Cape Town, South Africa
“Of Ruins and Revival: Heritage Formation and Khoisan Indigenous Identity in Post-Apartheid South Africa”
Nokuzola Mndende, Director, Icamagu Institute, South Africa
“Individual and Collective Rights in Africa”
RELIGION, JUSTICE, AND TOLERANCE

Room: Omo

Chair:
Getachew Assefa Woldemariam, Dean, College of Law and Government Studies, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Speakers:
Mohammed D. Assen, Lecturer, College of Law and Governance, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
“Religious Tolerance in Ethiopia: Rhetoric and Reality”

Esubalew Belay Fanta, Dilla University, Ethiopia
“Pervasive Influences of Religion and Religiosity on the National Judicial System and Traditional and Popular Sense of Justice in the Juridical History of Imperial Ethiopia”

Elias Kifon Bongmba, Harry and Hazel Chair in Christian Theology; Professor of Religion, Religious Studies, Rice University, United States
“Christianity and Homosexuality and the Law in Africa: Revisiting the Implications of the Sachs Decision”

DEATH AND DIGNITY

Room: Awash

Chair:
Kofi Quashigah, Faculty of Law, University of Ghana, Ghana

Speakers:
Dineo Skosana, PhD Candidate in Political Studies, Department of Political Studies, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa
“Protecting Dead: The South African National Heritage Act in Context”

Helena van Coller, Faculty of Law, Rhodes University, South Africa
“Burial Rights: Protecting the Religious Right and Heritage of Communities”

Tobias Marevesa, Lecturer in Religious Studies, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Great Zimbabwe University, Zimbabwe

10 – 10:15 AM BREAK
10:15 AM –  FIFTH PLENARY SESSION:
12 NOON  “RELIGION AND HATE SPEECH”
Room: River Nile Hall

Chair:
**Brett G. Scharffs**, Francis R. Kirkham Professor of Law and Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School, United States

Speakers:
**Esha Faki Mwinyihaji**, Lecturer in Islamic Studies, Department of Religion, Theology and Philosophy, Maseno University, Kenya
“Freedom of Expression, Religious Hate Speech and National Cohesion in Kenya”

**Damaris Seleina Parsitau**, Lecturer, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Egerton University, Kenya
“Taming Hateful Fingers: Social Media, the Youth, Religious, and Political Hate Speech in Kenya”

**Enyinna S. Nwauche**, Professor, Rhodes University Grahamstown, South Africa
“Africa’s Constitutional Democracies and the Crime of Blasphemy” (videotape)

**Asonzeh Ukah**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Religious Studies, University of Cape Town, South Africa
“The Afterlife of Freedom of Religious Expression?: Hate Speech and Pentecostal Discourses on Same-Sex Relations in Nigeria”

**Lee-Shae Logan Scharnick-Udemans**, PhD Candidate, University of Cape Town, Department of Religious Studies, South Africa
“Blasphemy and Media in South Africa”

**Johan van der Vyver**, I.T. Cohen Professor of International Law and Human Rights, Emory University School of Law, United States; Extraordinary Professor, Department of Private Law, University of Pretoria, South Africa
“Hate Speech”

12 NOON – 1 PM  LUNCH

1:15 PM  BUSES DEPART FOR TOUR

7 PM  DINNER

8 PM  CONCLUDING REMARKS

**Pieter Coertzen**, Professor, University of Stellenbosch; President, African Consortium for Law and Religion Studies, South Africa

**BUSINESS MEETING OF THE AFRICAN CONSORTIUM FOR LAW AND RELIGION STUDIES**

**Shawn Boshoff**, Attorney/General Secretary, African Consortium for Law and Religion Studies; Law Society of South Africa, South Africa
FORWARD TO MOROCCO

Speakers:

T. Jeremy Gunn, Professor, International Studies, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Al Akhawayn University, Morocco

Mark Hill QC, Extraordinary Professor, University of Pretoria & Cardiff, United Kingdom

W. Cole Durham, Jr., Susa Young Gates Professor of Law and Founding Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School; President, International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies, United States
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Dr. Mmapula Diana Kebaneilwe is a Womanist scholar and lecturer in Hebrew and Old Testament Studies at the University of Botswana. She completed her PhD at the University of Murdoch in Western Australia. Her research interest is wide including: Women and the Hebrew Bible; the Hebrew Bible and Environmental issues; Women, HIV and AIDS, and the Bible.

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Alice Nkom studied law in Toulouse. Active as a lawyer in Douala for forty-five years, she is at present attached to the prominent firm VABNI. She has attracted international attention by her courageous stance on a wide array of topics. In February of 2008, she was the leading lawyer defending young victims of severe police violence after large scale demonstrations. She is especially well-known for taking up the defense of people accused of homosexual acts. In 2003, she founded ADEFHO (Association pour la Defense de l’ Homosexualité) that offers legal, material, and financial assistance to people prosecuted on homosexuality charges. She has become a rare point of support for an increasing number of people in Cameroun who are in
distress because of accusations of homosexuality. She has been awarded several human rights awards.

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Professor Andre Mbata Mangu is from the Democratic Republic of Congo. He holds a doctoral (LLD) and a Master's (LLM) degrees in constitutional, public, and international law from the University of South Africa (UNISA) as well as a bachelor’s degree in law (LLB) from the University of Kinshasa (UNIKIN). Prof Mangu has taught at several universities. He is currently a Research Professor in the College of Law at UNISA, Professor at the Faculty of Law of UNIKIN, and Guest Professor at the Faculty Jean Monnet at the University of Paris, Sud. Prof Mangu has coordinated several research projects and published many books, chapters in books, and journal articles. He has delivered papers at numerous international conferences. He also sits on the editorial boards of several international journals. A member of CODESRIA and the African Network of Constitutional Law, he recently received the Chancellor Award for Excellence in Research and the Barney Pityana Award for Research in African Law and Human Rights Law at UNISA. His research focuses on constitutionalism, democracy, elections, human rights and the rule of law with specific reference to the African continent.

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Dr. Célestin Gnonzion obtained his PhD from the Pontifical Gregorian University of Rome in Italy in 2008. He is founder and President of the Ivoirian Network for promotion of Ethics in Society (Réseau Ivoirien pour la promotion de l’Ethique dans la société-RIPES). Former Dean of the School of Moral and Political Sciences of Abidjan, Dr. Gnonzion is a teacher in the Faculty of Information, Communication and Arts, Félix Houphouet-Boigny University in Ivory Coast. He lectures on topics of journalism and ethics such as Ethics of Public Social Communications, Ethics and Deontology in Media and Methods, and Techniques of Social Science. He has published on topics such as the impact of press on democratic processes, ethical decision-making factors of journalists, and Ivory Coast and media freedom.
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Mohammed Dejen Assen obtained a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Master's of Arts in Federal Studies from Addis Ababa University. He also received an LLB in Law from Mekelle University with Very Great Distinction in 2012. He is currently a PhD Candidate at Addis Ababa University.

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Mr. Endalcachew Bayeh has a BEd in Civics and Ethical Education from Bahir Dar University. He also has an MA in International Relations from Addis Ababa University. Since 2010, he has worked as a lecturer at Ambo University in the Department of Civics and Ethical Studies. In addition to his duties as a university instructor, he has conducted research studies in social science discipline and published more than 10 internationally peer-reviewed articles. His research interests include human rights, gender equality, inter-state conflict, intra-state conflict, traditional conflict resolution mechanisms, hydro-politics, regional cooperation, and human security.

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Serawit Bekele Debele is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Bayreuth where she also completed her doctoral studies in 2015 in the field of religious studies (Religionswissenschaft). Her current research focuses on the interplay of religion and politics in contemporary Ethiopia. She takes an annual thanksgiving ritual known as Irreecha, predominantly celebrated by the Oromo ethnic group, to demonstrate that religion, ethnic identity/nationalism, and state politics are closely intertwined and the understanding of one begs for a closer scrutiny of the other. She also focuses on the interplay of religion and space, media, and gender in Ethiopia.
Dr. Solomon Fikre Lemma received his PhD from the University of Warwick, and an LLM from Erasmus University (The Netherlands) as well as an LLB with distinction from Addis Ababa University. Dr. Solomon is currently serving as Assistant Professor and Dean of the College of Law and Governance Studies of Addis Ababa University. Previously, he was an instructor, researcher, and practitioner of law at Hawassa University, Hawassa, Ethiopia. Solomon has also served as Deputy Chairman of the Lawyers’ Association of the SNNPRS (Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Regional State) in Ethiopia, where he led, directed, and managed the Association in that position between 2007 and 2009. Dr. Solomon has served as a legal advisor, human rights activist, and educator and trainer of law at various international and local NGOs, federal and state agencies, as well as a self-employed consultant and attorney-at-law since October 2002. In these capacities, Dr. Solomon has performed social works, and provided legal advice, human rights advocacy, education, and training for the benefit of vulnerable groups and other members of the community. Dr. Solomon’s research interests include law and development, particularly the role and potential of land, business, and trade laws in tackling poverty and fostering economic development in developing countries like Ethiopia. As a volunteer, Dr. Solomon had served as a UNHCR volunteer at Bonga and Fugnido Camps for Sudanese refugees in western Ethiopia, contributing to his research interest in the protection and treatment accorded to vulnerable groups such as women, children, and refugees under international and Ethiopian laws.

Ahmed Hassan is the Director of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies at Addis Ababa University.

Mégbémado Honoré graduated in History and Geography at the Université Nationale du Bénin. In 1986, he obtained a Certificate of Teaching from the National School for High School Professors in Porto-Novo. He obtained a Master's in Management of Cultural Heritage from the Senghor University of Alexandria in Egypt in 1995. He worked at the Ministry of Culture in the cultural heritage office until 2000. From 2005 to 2007, he was the head of the Historic Museum and then the principal of Memory House in Ouidah. Since 2008, Mr Mégbémado is the Head of the Culture and Communication Department of the National Commission Francophonie of Benin. He is a member of the Steering Committee of the Center for Documentation and Research on Art and Social Sciences.
Kassa Tekleberhan - Ethiopia
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Theodros Assefa Teklu completed a PhD (2013) at the University of Manchester under the supervision of Prof. Graham Ward. Before that, he earned a postgraduate diploma and MA in Biblical and Theological Studies from the Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology (EGST), and a BSc from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. His professional experience includes teaching, research, and educational administration. He published his first book, *The Politics of Metanoia: Towards a Post-Nationalistic Political Theology in Ethiopia*, with Peter Lang Publishers in 2014. Currently, he is serving as lecturer and Head of Academic Affairs at Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology.

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Getachew Assefa graduated with an LLB Degree (with Distinction) from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia (1996), and obtained an LLM Degree from the University of San Francisco, USA (2001), and a PhD in law from the University of Melbourne, Australia (2014). He is the author of numerous publications that have appeared in many national and foreign academic journals including the *American Journal of Comparative Law*. He is also the author of *Ethiopian Constitutional Law with Comparative Notes and Materials: a textbook* (Addis Ababa: Master Printing Press, 2012) and *Grass-roots Justice in Ethiopia: The Contribution of Customary Dispute Resolution* (co-editor with Alula Pankhurst) (Addis Ababa: United Printers, 2008). Currently, he is associate professor and Dean of College of Law and Governance Studies of Addis Ababa University. Dr. Getachew’s areas of research and teaching interest include Ethiopian and comparative constitutional law and federalism, human rights law, law and religion, children’s and women’s rights, administrative law, local governance, Ethiopian and comparative judicial system and dispute settlement, alternative dispute settlement, and traditional (informal) justice systems.
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Abamfo Ofori Atiemo is a senior lecturer and former Head of the Department for the Study of Religions, University of Ghana, Legon. He obtained his PhD from the Free University of Amsterdam after he had studied for the Master of Philosophy and Bachelor of Arts degrees in the Study of Religions at the University of Ghana. He also holds other qualifications from the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague and the Trinity College, Legon. He has been a senior fellow at the Indian Institute of Advance Study in Shimla, India; a visiting lecturer at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana; and a visiting professor at the Faculty of Theology, University of Pretoria, South Africa. He has also been a fellow of the Linnaeus-Palme Exchange Programme at the University of Gavle, Sweden, and a visiting fellow of the African Studies Centre, Leiden, in 2015. He teaches Comparative/History of Religion and his current research interests include Religion and Human Rights; Hinduism in Ghana; Pentecostalism; and Evil and Popular Piety in African Christianity and Islam. Among his recent publications are *Unpacking the Sense of the Sacred: A Reader in the Study of Religion* (2014), and “Religion and custom are not the same: sacred traditional states and religious human rights in contemporary Ghana” in *Law and Religion in Africa–The Quest for the Common Good in Pluralistic Societies* (2015).

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Rev. John Ghartey Esubonteng obtained a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in 1984 at the University of Science and Technology. In 2005, he changed academic direction to start theological studies at the Regent College of Science and Technology. He is currently a second year PhD candidate at the Department for the Study of Religions, University of Ghana, researching church governance and leadership within Pentecostal Charismatic churches. He is a senior associate minister of the Living Streams International, a Charismatic Church headquartered in Accra, Ghana.

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Kofi Quashigah is Dean of the School of Law, University of Ghana. Before joining the University of Ghana, he taught at the University of Nigeria Enugu Campus. He was a Fulbright Scholar at the Harvard Human Rights Program between 2001-2002, and a McArthur Foundation Visiting Scholar at the University of Wisconsin in 1992. His teaching and research interests include constitutional law, human rights, international humanitarian law, jurisprudence, governance, elections law, law and religion, and alternative dispute resolution. He is a member of the General Legal Council of Ghana and on the advisory board of the Ministry of Justice. For several years, he has been President of the Ghana Association of Certified Mediators and Arbitrators.

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Dr. Esha Faki Mwinyihaji is a lecturer in Islamic Studies and current Chair of the Department of Religion, Theology, and Philosophy at Maseno University, Kenya. Her research interests are Muslim women’s rights and the Shari’a, with a focus on education, inheritance, politics, marriage, and property; religion and politics, inter-religious dialogue, divination, and Islam and human rights. She has written a book on *The Persistence of Divination among Swahili Muslims in Kenya*.

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Hassan J. Ndzovu is a senior lecturer in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Moi University, Kenya. Ndzovu is the author of *Muslims in Kenyan Politics: Political Involvement, Marginalization and Minority Status* (Northwestern University Press, 2014). His research interests are broadly focused on Islam in sub-Saharan Africa, and they revolve around Islam and politics, religion and law, women religious authority within the Islamic tradition, and religion and sexuality.
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Park College, Oxford, in which capacity he brings together lawyers, theologians, philosophers, and social and political scientists, to develop innovative interdisciplinary strategies for studying law, religion and international relations from legal and theological perspectives. He is Legal Consultant on Media Freedom and Freedom of Expression for the Representative on Freedom of the Media at the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, a TEPSA consultant of the European Parliament, as well as a consultant for the All Party Parliamentary Group on International Freedom of Religion or Belief at the House of Lords. He is Managing Editor of the *Oxford Journal of Law and Religion*. He is writing a book for Oxford University Press on Holy Sites under International Law and has recently edited (together with Malcolm Evans and Julian Rivers) the volume *The Changing Nature of Religious Rights under International Law*. His work - engaging with academics, lawyers, religious leaders and think tanks working in the field of religion and public life - has had impacts on policy makers and on the ways religious communities articulate their public self-perception and their attitude to law, civic values, secularism, and to their own internal normative systems.

**Julian Reilly - United Kingdom**
Somalia Director, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Julian Reilly is a British diplomat, born in Mauritius. Attending the conference in a private capacity, he has recently been appointed the Somalia Director at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and is based in London. Much of his career since 1993 has been concerned with African and Middle Eastern affairs, and has included postings in Egypt, Sudan, Kenya and Saudi Arabia. He has also been engaged more recently on the significance of religion and culture in foreign policy.

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Bruce Wannell is a writer, linguist, and lecturer who has spent many years travelling in Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Arabia and eastern Africa. A graduate of Oriel College Oxford, he lived for two years in Isfahan during the Revolution, where he taught at Isfahan University, and then later travelled extensively in the Middle East. Bruce speaks Arabic, Persian, and several European languages. Bruce has a wide experience of the Middle East and has a deep affinity with Islamic culture. He has lectured widely on Persian and Islamic history, culture, and even cuisine and as a result, is in demand as a tour leader. Now based in York, Bruce is currently writing about his experiences in the Islamic world and translating Persian mystical poetry, as well as pursuing his interests in music.

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Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im (from Sudan) is the Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law at Emory Law, associated professor in the Emory College of Arts and Sciences, and Senior Fellow of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion of Emory University. An internationally recognized scholar of Islam and human rights and human rights in cross-cultural perspectives, Professor An-Na'im teaches courses in international law, comparative law, human rights, and Islamic law. His research interests include constitutionalism in Islamic and African countries, secularism, and Islam and politics. Professor An-Na'im directed research projects which focus on advocacy strategies for reform through internal cultural transformation. Professor An-Na'im's current research projects include a study of Muslims and the secular state, and of human rights from state-centric to people-centered. He continues to further develop his theory of *Islam and the Secular State* (Harvard University Press, 2008), also published in Arabic and Indonesian. Professor An-Na’im has written several books and more than 60 articles and book chapters on human rights, constitutionalism, and Islam and politics in African and Islamic countries. He received his PhD in law from the University of Edinburgh.

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Cole Durham is Founding Director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University. He is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, where he was a Note Editor of the Harvard Law Review and Managing Editor of the Harvard International Law Journal. He has been heavily involved in comparative law scholarship, with a special emphasis
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Fortune Sibanda lectures in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Great Zimbabwe University, Masvingo. He has published many articles in refereed journals, and written book chapters on various themes from a religious perspective such as new religious movements, land, indigenous ways of knowing, human rights issues, and the environment in the African context. Among other platforms, Sibanda attended and presented papers at the second and third African Consortium of Law and Religion Studies (ACLARS) conferences.
Following the success of conferences in Ghana (2013), South Africa (2014), Namibia (2015) and Ethiopia (2016), the African Consortium for Law and Religion Studies will be convening its Fifth Annual Law and Religion Conference in Rabat, Morocco from 14 to 17 May 2017 in collaboration with the International University of Rabat, and the International Center for Law and Religion Studies of the Brigham Young University Law School, USA.

The subject of the conference will be *Religion, Law and Security* focusing on religious extremism, blasphemy, violence, and terrorism. Participants are encouraged to submit abstracts which address any aspect of this broad theme drawing upon their particular field of study and their national, regional or comparative experience. Themes for the conference will include:

- The inter-relationship between freedom of expression, freedom or religion and other fundamental rights in Africa
- Legal foundations for the promotion of sustainable peace and religious tolerance in Africa
- The role of inter-faith and intra-faith dialogue in countering extremism in Africa
- Blasphemy and defamation of religion in the light of the *Rabat Plan of Action* (December 2014)
- The evaluation of national and regional laws in Africa designed to combat extremism and to promote freedom of religion
- The future of the *Marrakesh Declaration on the Rights of Religious Minorities in Predominantly Muslim Majority Communities* (January 2016)
- Protection of vulnerable African communities, with particular reference to women, children, the elderly and the disabled
- Conflicts between state and religious concepts of the nature of marriage in Africa
- Witchcraft accusations in colonial and contemporary Africa
- The value of religion or belief in challenging the ideologies that drive violent extremism
- Religion, law and security in international relations, particularly within Africa

Abstracts (not exceeding 250 words) should be submitted by **Friday 30 September 2016**. The conference committee will notify successful applicants in November 2016. All abstracts, together with a short biographical note of the author, should be sent to secretariat@aclars.org

Prof Pieter Coertzen, President, ACLARS
Dr T Jeremy Gunn, Professor of Law and Political Science, International University of Rabat