

## Recognising Difference & Protecting FoRB: A Transatlantic Policy Dialogue

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Committee Room G, House of Lords

### Participants' Bios

**Al-Khoei, Yousif** – Yousif is the Executive Director of the Al-Khoei Foundation in London, a major international Islamic charity institute and socio-economic foundation established under the patronage and auspices of his grandfather, the late Grand Ayatollah Abu al-Qassim al-Khoei of Iraq. Apart from his philanthropic work, al-Khoei is also a co-founder of Dialogue, an current affairs Islamic monthly magazine and is a regular participant in interfaith initiatives, and a founding trustee of several Muslim organizations, including the Forum Against Islamophobia and Racism and the Association of Muslim Social Scientists. Al-Khoei was awarded the Order of the British Empire in 2008 for his work with the British Muslim community.

**Alvarado, Victoria** - Victoria is a senior adviser with the U.S. State Department's International Religious Freedom Office (IRF). Previously, Ms. Alvarado was Deputy Chief of Mission to the U.S. Embassy to the Vatican. She has dedicated much of her diplomatic career to religion and foreign policy issues and human security. Victoria's Washington assignments included IRF director, adviser for the Bureau of Conflict Stabilization Operations, and director for Central America and Caribbean Affairs at the National Security Council. She has also served overseas in Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Iraq, Nicaragua, Venezuela, and Indonesia. Ms. Alvarado holds a Master's degree in Strategic Security Studies from the U.S. National Defense University. Her thesis assessed partnerships between governments and religious leaders to counter violent extremism.

**Bennett, Andrew P.W.** is Senior Fellow at Cardus, Canada's leading faith-based think-tank where he also serves as Chair of the Cabinet of Canadians –a body of eminent Canadian lay and clerical leaders committed to reaffirming the role of religious faith within Canadian society. Dr. Bennett served as Canada's first Ambassador for Religious Freedom and Head of the Office of Religious Freedom from 2013 to 2016 during which time he led in defending and championing religious freedom internationally as a core element of Canada's principled foreign policy. At the same time, Dr. Bennett served as Canada's Head of Delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, a 31-country body that leads international efforts in Holocaust education, research, and remembrance. An academic and advocate for religious freedom internationally, Dr. Bennett holds a Bachelor of Arts in History (Dalhousie), a Master of Arts in History (McGill), and a Ph.D. in Politics (Edinburgh).

**Berridge, Elizabeth** – Baroness Berridge is Co-Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on International Freedom of Religion or Belief. She began co-directing the Commonwealth Initiative for Freedom of Religion or Belief (CIFoRB) in October 2015. This three-year project aims to equip parliamentarians across the Commonwealth to address issues of Freedom of Religion or Belief through advocacy, education and research. Since 2012, Elizabeth has become a key voice in the deepening worldwide discussion on freedom of religion and belief as defined in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. 2014 saw the beginning of a partnership between the British APPG and United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, which resulted in the launch of an International Panel of Parliamentarians (IPPFoRB), whose pledge is to work together to end belief based persecution worldwide. Baroness Berridge sits on the Steering Group of this panel.

**Birdsall, Judd** - Judd is the managing director of the Cambridge Institute on Religion & International Studies at Clare College, Cambridge. He is also the executive director of the Transatlantic Policy Network on Religion and Diplomacy. A former U.S. diplomat, Birdsall served in the U.S. State Department's Office of International Religious Freedom and on the Secretary of State's Policy Planning Staff. He was also the founding chair of the Department's Forum on Religion & Global Affairs. Birdsall's Cambridge doctoral dissertation explored American religious engagement since 9/11. His articles have appeared in the *Washington Post*, *Guardian*, *Huffington Post* (US and UK), *Christianity Today*, and he is an editorial fellow with *The Review of Faith & International Affairs*.

**Brandsma, Arne** is currently working as senior policy advisor at the Human Rights department of the Netherlands ministry of Foreign Affairs in the area of Freedom of Religion and Belief. During his career at the ministry of Foreign Affairs he has worked at several departments in The Hague amongst others at the Financial and Economic Affairs Department, the European Integration Department, and the Multilateral Organisations and Human Rights Department, and at the embassies in Russia/Moscow and Uganda/Kampala. He holds a Master degree in Economics from the University of Amsterdam.

**Breeze, Sue** - Head of Stable World Team, Human Rights & Democracy Department, Foreign & Commonwealth Office. Sue is a career diplomat, who began her career by learning Mandarin and with a posting to China. Her most recent posting was as the UK's Deputy Ambassador to Venezuela. Her career has included time as Assistant Private Secretary to four Ministers for Europe and work on a wide range of bilateral and multilateral policy desks. She currently heads up a team responsible for the UK's work to promote and protect the right to freedom of religion or belief. She also works closely with the UK Envoy on Post-Holocaust Issues, Sir Eric Pickles to ensure that the UK plays a leading role in Holocaust education, research and remembrance internationally, and works actively to tackle anti-Semitism.

**Celis Brunet, Ana María** - Prof. Ana María Celis Brunet (Chile), is an attorney at Law as well as a Doctor in Canon Law (JCD, Pontificia Università Gregoriana). Prof. Celis is a full time professor with tenure at the Law Faculty of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile where she teaches Canon Law as well as Law and Religion and is the director of the Law and Religion Centre where there is an Observatory of religious freedom in Latin America and the Caribbean and an electronic Journal of Law and Religion in Latin America. Professor Celis is Past President of the Consorcio Latinoamericano de Libertad Religiosa and Vice president of the International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies.

**Coertzen, Pieter** - Pieter Coertzen is a retired professor of Church History and Church Law from the University of Stellenbosch. He is currently the Chairperson of the Unit for the Study of Law and Religion in the Faculty of Theology. He is also the President of the SA Council for Religious Rights and Freedoms. The Council is the guardian of the South African Charter of Religious Rights and Freedoms. Due to the membership of many religions in SA, the Council is the most representative body of religions in South Africa. Every year Prof Coertzen teaches a post graduate course in Comparative Church Law at the Catholic University of Leuven.

**Di Lillo, Francesco** – Francesco Di Lillo is Head of the European Union Office of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Brussels. Previously, he was Europe Assistant Area Director of Public Affairs of the Church and was co-founder and president of the Italy Utah Cooperation Center. In Cyprus, he interned with the Italian Embassy, UNDP and UNHCR. Francesco holds a Masters from the

University Roma Tre (cum laude) with a dissertation on conflict resolution and peacebuilding, and a Masters in International Relations and Human Rights Protection from the Società Italiana per l'Organizzazione Internazionale.

**Durham, Cole** - W. Cole Durham, Jr. is the founding Director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University. Graduated from Harvard College and Harvard Law School, where he was Note Editor of the *Harvard Law Review* and Managing Editor of the *Harvard International Law Journal*. President of the International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS), based in Milan, Italy; Co-Editor-in-Chief of the *Oxford Journal of Law and Religion*; co-author of *Law and Religion: National, International and Comparative Perspectives*; co-editor of the *Encyclopedia of Law and Religion* (Brill 2016), and co-author of a 4-volume treatise, *Religious Organizations and the Law*.

**Ferrari, Silvio** - Silvio Ferrari is Professor of Law and Religion, University of Milan. Visiting professor at the University of California (Berkeley, 1994 and 2001), the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies (London, 1998-99) and the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes (Paris, Sorbonne, 2004), the University of Leuven (2000-2012), Center of Theological Inquiry (Princeton 2014). His main fields of interest are law and religion in Europe, comparative law of religions and the Vatican policy in the Middle East. He is honorary president of the International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies and member of the International Academy of Comparative Law. He is also one of the editors-in-chief of the *Oxford Journal of Law and Religion* and member of the Editorial Board of the *Ecclesiastical Law Journal* (Cambridge Univ. Press).

**Figel, Jan** - Since May 2016 Jan Figel was nominated by the European Commission as the first Special Envoy for promotion of freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) outside the European Union. Mandate represents a new task to engage in this sensitive area mainly through international cooperation and development aid policy of the EU. Figel often underlines that FoRB is an essential value for human dignity everywhere, for peace and justice in the world. His role is to work closely with other institutions within the EU (EEAS, Council, Parliament) and Member States especially in most critical countries. He named several regions as his priority: Middle East, especially Iraq and Syria, Northern and Central Africa, South Eastern and Southern Asia. Mandates includes Special Envoy's reporting within the regular dialogue of the EU with churches and religious communities based on Art. 17 of the Lisbon Treaty. Jan Figel is experienced Slovak and European politician. He was Slovakia's Chief Negotiator and the first EU Commissioner responsible for education, culture and youth policies and Deputy Prime Minister and Vice-president of the National Council.

**Fisher, Steven** - Steven Fisher graduated in Modern History and Modern Languages from Oxford University in 1987. He joined FCO in 1993 and has worked in the EU Dept, the Former Soviet Union Dept (responsible for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine). Postings have been to Singapore, Venezuela, Hungary, Dominican Republic where he served as HM Ambassador from 2009 to 2015, with accreditation to Haiti as well. Since October 2015 he has been Deputy Head of Human Rights & Democracy Dept in FCO.

**Fordham, Medeni** - Research and Enterprise Coordinator, University of Sussex. Medeni's roles focusses on raising the visibility of policy-relevant research generated by the School of Global Studies to a wide range of policy and industry stakeholders through events, policy briefings and engagement to enhance the delivery of impact. Medeni is a member of the Policy@Sussex team at

the University of Sussex, an ESRC-funded pilot project, which aims to create an internal hub and an external gateway for policy-relevant social science research at the University of Sussex.

**Garvey Hammond, Angela** - Media and Public Relations for the Commonwealth Initiative for Freedom of Religion or Belief. A former BBC Business presenter and reporter Angela has extensive experience in journalism and international relations, working throughout Europe and New York. Prior to joining CIfORB she managed publications and events at the Franco-British Council working with the British Ambassador in Paris and the French Ambassador in London as well as senior politicians and policy experts on both sides of the Channel to promote a stronger relationship between Britain and France. Angela has lectured at the University of Brighton training students in news gathering and current affairs, and has written extensively for INSEAD, Paris.

**Gordon, James** - Lord Gordon; Political Editor , Scottish Television 1964-73, Chief Executive Radio Clyde and subsequently Scottish Radio Holdings 1973-1996, Chairman SRH 1996-2005, Chairman Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre 1983-88, Chairman Scottish tourist board 1998-2001, Member Scottish Development Agency 1981-90, Member of Court, University of Glasgow 1984-98, Trustee National Galleries of Scotland 1998-2001'. Chair Inquiry into Listed Sporting events 1998, Member Inquiry into Licence Fee for the BBC 1998-9. Lord Provost's Award for Public Service to Glasgow 1994, CBE 1984, raised to Peerage 1997.

**Green, Mike** - Mike is the Parliamentary Officer for Christian Solidarity Worldwide, a Freedom of Religion or Belief NGO that advocates for the rights of those of all faiths and none. As well as leading the UK Parliamentary work on the 26 countries of expertise CSW works in, he also leads CSW's FoRB work in Egypt. Before working for CSW, Mike was a Senior Parliamentary Research Assistant in the House of Commons for five years, focussing among other topics on Anglo relations with countries of the Arab League including Libya, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Mauritania.

**Hoffler, Harriet** - Harriet has extensive academic and practical expertise in FoRB and international human rights research, lecturing and consultancy. She currently holds the position of Research Fellow on the Commonwealth Initiative on the Freedom of Religion or Belief at the University of Birmingham. Previously she worked across South Asia and Europe on projects with a particular emphasis on FoRB and IHRL and as a Research Consultant to ODI, DFID, the EHRC and Oxfam GB. She has taught widely in the field of international human rights law, holding positions both in the UK and abroad and has numerous publications in this field. She is particularly interested in FoRB and Pakistan.

**Jhans, Gurinder** – Gurinder works as a Researcher & Events Manager for the All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom of Religion or Belief. Prior to this he worked as a Campaign Organiser during the 2015 General Election in a key seat in the South East. He has an MA in International Peace and Security from King's College London. Alongside his academic studies he worked for Amnesty International and took part in The Three Faiths Forum's UN award-winning leadership programme, ParliaMentors.

**Kerr, Susan** - Dr Susan Kerr is the Europe Advocacy Manager at Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), a human rights NGO that specialises in Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) and works to promote and defend this right for people of all faiths or none. Before working for CSW, Susan worked in the European Parliament. Susan represents CSW as a member of the Board of

Coordinators of the European Platform on Religious Intolerance and Discrimination (EPRID), which brings together different faith and non-faith based organisations to promote FoRB worldwide. Susan is also a member of the Board of Experts of the Conscience and Liberty Journal.

**Mandaville, Peter** - Dr Peter Mandaville is Senior Advisor in the Secretary of State's Office of Religion and Global Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. He is on leave from George Mason University where he is Professor of International Affairs in the Schar School of Policy & Government. He was previously a member of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's Policy Planning Staff where he helped to shape the U.S. response to the Arab Uprisings of 2010-11. He has also been a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution and a Visiting Senior Fellow at the Pew Research Center. His books include *Islam & Politics* (2014) and *Transnational Muslim Politics: Reimagining the Umma* (2001).

**Martínez-Torrón, Javier** - Prof. Dr. Javier Martínez-Torrón is Professor of Law and Director of the Department of Law and Religion, Complutense University (Madrid, Spain). Vice-President of the Section of Canon Law and Church-State Relations of the Spanish Royal Academy of Jurisprudence and Legislation. Honorary Foreign Member of the National Academy of Law and Social Sciences of Cordoba, Argentina. Former member of the OSCE/ODIHR Advisory Council for Freedom of Religion or Belief (2005-2013), and of the Spanish Advisory Commission for Religious Freedom in the Ministry of Justice (2002-2014). His writings, published in twenty-three countries and in twelve languages, include twenty books as author, co-author or editor, and more than one hundred essays in legal periodicals or collective volumes. He is currently preparing the 2d edition of his book *Religion and Law in Spain* (Wolters-Kluwer).

**Meral, Ziya** – Ziya is a Resident Fellow at the UK Army's new civilian and military think-tank Centre for Historical Research and Conflict Analysis (CHACR) based at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. He is also the founder and director of Centre on Religion and Global Affairs (CRGA)- a London, Beirut and Accra based new research and policy initiative exploring relationship of religion with contemporary issues with a focus on Africa and Middle East. He is an expert on Turkish and Middle Eastern foreign policies, and thematic issues of religion and violent conflict. He is frequently interviewed by international media, and have given lectures and expert briefings at leading political, diplomatic, military and academic institutions around the world. These have included the US Congress, Danish Parliament, British House of Commons and House of Lords, as well as NATO Defence College, US State Department, British Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He has published on a wide range of topics, including a book comparing lives and thoughts of Nietzsche and Dostoyevsky, Turkish foreign policy, and a play which was produced for stage in Istanbul. He has authored multiple special policy reports. These have included public reports such as "Prospects for Turkey" for Legatum Institute, "Article 18: An Orphaned Right" for APPG on International Religious Freedom at the House of Commons, "No Place to Call Home: Apostates from Islam and Failures of International Community" for Christian Solidarity Worldwide, "Compulsory Religious Education in Turkey" for US Commission on International Religious Freedom. He is currently writing a report on Religion and Failed States, and working on research on combat preparedness and generation of mass in modern warfare.

**Navarro Floria, Juan G.** – Juan is an Argentine lawyer committed with the studies in the Law and Religion field. He is Professor of Civil Law and Law and Religion, at the Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina, Faculty of Law and Faculty of Canon Law. Founder and Past President of the

Argentine Council of Religious Freedom and of the Latin American Consortium of Religious Freedom. He has been Chief Advisor of the Secretariat of Religious Affairs at the Argentine Government and is currently advisor of the Conference of Catholic Bishops. He has published many books, chapter of books and articles in scientific reviews in many countries.

**Oates, Jonny** - Lord Oates was Deputy Director of Communications in 10 Downing Street and then Chief of Staff to the Deputy Prime Minister, Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, throughout the coalition government (2010-2015). He is a former Director of Policy and Communications at the Liberal Democrats and was Director of General Election Communications for the 2010 General Election. Prior to his time in government, Jonny Oates worked in communications roles in the public and private sector, including as Policy and Communications Adviser to the Chairman of the Youth Justice Board and a Director of Political Communications at Bell Pottinger. From 1999-2001 he worked in South Africa for the Westminster Foundation for Democracy on a project to support political parties previously excluded from the political process under apartheid. In 1988 he taught in - and helped establish - a new rural secondary school in Zimbabwe. He is a former councillor and Deputy Leader of the Council in the Royal Borough of Kingston and was appointed a life peer as Lord Oates of Denby Grange in August 2015.

**Peaucelle, Jean-Christophe** – Jean-Christophe is a French career diplomat. He graduated from the National School of Statistics and Economic Administration, from the Institute of Political Studies in Paris and from the National School of Administration. He joined the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1987 and was a member of the Schengen Agreement negotiation team. He served as deputy head of mission in Jerusalem and Tehran, consul general in Istanbul, deputy director for Middle East and Northern Africa. From 2011 to 2014, he was ambassador in Qatar. Since September 2014, he has been serving as ambassador, advisor for religious affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**Petito, Fabio** - Dr Fabio Petito is Senior Lecturer in International Relations at the University of Sussex. He received his PhD in IR from the LSE, where he was also editor of the journal Millennium. Among his publications: Religion in International Relations (2003), Civilizational Dialogue and World Order (2009) and Towards a Postsecular International Politics (2014). Recent articles include 'Encounter, Dialog, and Knowledge: Italy as a Special Case of Religious Engagement in Foreign Policy', The Review of Faith and International Affairs, with S Thomas, 13, no 2 (2015) and "An Italian foreign policy of religious engagement: challenges and prospects", The International Spectator, with P. Ferrara, 51, no 1, (2016). He has been the principal investigator of the 'Bridging Voice' British Council-sponsored policy dialogue on 'FoRB and Foreign Policy: A transatlantic dialogue for a multilateral approach to religious freedom' (2014-16) and he is the Scientific Co-ordinator of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs-ISPI initiative on 'Religions and International Relations'.

**Petkoff, Peter** - Dr. Peter Petkoff is a Law Lecturer at the Brunel Law School. He is also Director of the Religion, Law and International Relations Programme, at Regent's 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. 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*.

**Reed, Charles** - Charles Reed is part of the policy adviser team for the Church of England, taking a lead on foreign policy issues. Before joining the NCI's Charles worked as a policy analyst for Burson Marteller in London and the European Commission in Brussels. His blog, *Ethical Comment*, provides regular updates and insights into world affairs.

**Rolles, Lenny** – Lenny is the Head of Public Affairs at University of Sussex.

**Ryall, David** - David Ryall is the Assistant General Secretary at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. He has taught politics at the University of Wales and has published articles in *International Relations*, *Third World Quarterly* and *The World Today*.

**Scharffs, Brett G., J.** - Brett Scharffs is Francis R. Kirkham Professor of Law at Brigham Young University's J. Reuben Clark Law School, and Director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies. He received a BSBA in international business and an MA in philosophy from Georgetown University, was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, where he earned a BPhil in philosophy, and received his JD from Yale Law School, where he was Senior Editor of the *Yale Law Journal*. Professor Scharffs was a law clerk on the U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit, and worked as a legal assistant at the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal in The Hague. For the past ten years he has been a visiting Professor at Central European University in Budapest, and for the past seven years he has helped organize teaching programs on religion and the Rule of Law in China, Vietnam and Myanmar, and on Shari'a and Human Rights in Indonesia. In his eighteen year academic career, Professor Scharffs has written more than 100 articles and book chapters, and has made over 300 scholarly presentations in 30 countries. His field-creating casebook, *Law and Religion: National, International and Comparative Perspectives*, published by Aspen Press / Wolters Kluwer (co-authored with his BYU Law School colleague W. Cole Durham, Jr.), has been translated into Chinese and Vietnamese, and translations are underway into Arabic, Burmese, Indonesian and Turkish.

**Shaheed, Ahmed** is Lecturer in the School of Law and Deputy Director of the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex. He had twice previously served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives and had led the Maldives' efforts to ratify and implement the core human rights treaties. Since 2011, he has been serving as the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Iran. He will assume the duties of the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief in November. Shaheed is also the founding chair of the Geneva-based think-tank, Universal Rights Group.

**Shannon, Jim** – Jim Shannon MP is a Democratic Unionist Party politician and the Member of Parliament for Strangford in Northern Ireland. He is also the Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom of Religion or Belief. Jim has been a vocal advocate for FoRB issues across the world consistently raising concerns within the House of Commons Chamber as well as by supporting the stakeholders of the APPG.

**Thane, Katharine** - Katharine is the Operations Director of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Freedom of Religion or Belief. In her current role she works with different human rights and faith-based organisations, parliamentarians, diplomats and civil servants to advance the right to freedom

of religion or belief, including within UK Government departments and internationally. She has previously worked in Christian Solidarity Worldwide's European Institutions' Office in Brussels, advocating for Freedom of Religion or Belief for all at EU level, as well as at UN Human Rights Council Sessions. Katharine has a BA in Philosophy and Theology from Durham University and a MA in Human Rights and Cultural Diversity from Essex University, where she graduated top of her year with a Distinction and specialised in Islam's compatibility with Freedom of Religion or Belief. Over the past six years Katharine has also enjoyed working with political and human rights' organisations, including with Essex University's Human Rights Clinic in conjunction with Palestinian NGO Al-Haq, in London, Durham and Essex.

**Timms, Stephen** - The Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP is the currently the Member of Parliament for East Ham. He is also the Labour Party's Faith Envoy, and sits on the Education Select Committee. Stephen entered Parliament in 1994 and held a number of ministerial posts under the previous Labour Government including Chief Secretary to the Treasury and Financial Secretary to the Treasury. In Opposition, he was Shadow Minister for Employment from 2010 to 2015. Before entering Parliament, Stephen worked in the telecommunications industry for fifteen years, first for Logica and then for Ovum. He managed Ovum's telecommunications reports business until his election in 1994.

**Turkov, Danielle** - Danielle represents the European Parliament FoRB & RT Intergroup. Her role is to ensure that the goals and objectives of the intergroup are realized through MEP membership drive actions, organizing FoRB & RT awareness campaigns, following and amending relevant EP Resolutions and reports as well as working with a group of cross-party, multi-national members of the European Parliament who take an interest in FoRB & RT under the direction of Co-Chairs MEP Dennis de Jong and Peter van Dalen. In addition to her commitment to FoRB & RT, Danielle founded a global political advocacy consultancy in the hub of the European Union.

**Ventura, Marco** - Marco (PhD Strasbourg) is a full professor in law and religion at the University of Siena and the director of the Centre for Religious Studies of Fondazione Bruno Kessler in Trento. From 2013 to 2015 he visited Vietnam as an expert in the dialogue between the European Union and the Vietnamese Committee on Religious Affairs. He is a member of the OSCE/ODIHR Panel of experts on freedom of religion or belief. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the Ecclesiastical Law Journal (Cambridge University Press). His last book is *From Your Gods to Our Gods* (Cascade Books, 2014).

**Wright, Deborah A.** - Center Coordinator and Executive Assistant. Deborah Wright has been with the International Center for Law and Religion Studies since 2001. She supervises the administrative staff and coordinates the activities of all Center personnel. The organization and scheduling of the Center's many conferences, including logistics, travel, accommodations, on campus and all around the world, fall upon her capable shoulders. Most especially, the continued success of the annual International Law and Religion Symposium would not be possible without Deborah's competence and tireless efforts in the year-round efforts of organization, planning, communication, and coordination of events and facilities, of faculty, students, delegates, hosts, and visitors, all of which combine to bring to pass such a complex undertaking.