

Advancing Justice & Empowering the Community

March 31-April 2, 2006

Washington, D.C.

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Speaker & Moderator Biographies

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Dr. Umar F. Abd-Allah received his doctorate with honors from the University of Chicago in 1978 for a dissertation on the origins of Islamic Law, *Malik's Concept of 'Amal in the Light of Maliki Legal Theory*. He has taught at several prestigious universities throughout the world including Islamic studies and comparative religions, in Arabic, at the Department of Islamic Studies at King Abdul-Aziz University in Jeddah. While overseas, Dr. Abd-Allah also studied under a number of traditional Islamic scholars. He returned to Chicago in 2000 to work as chair and scholar-in-residence of the Nawawi Foundation. He currently teaches and lectures throughout the U.S. and Canada, while conducting research and writing in Islamic studies and related fields. He recently completed a biography of Mohammed Webb (d. 1916) under the title *A Muslim in Victorian America: The Story of Alexander Russell Webb*. Dr. Abd-Allah is presently completing a second work and is also updating his dissertation for publication. Dr. Abd-Allah is also the author of numerous foundational essays located at www.nawawi.org.

Engy Abdelkader, Esq. is an attorney based in the New York/New Jersey area working on a number of notable human rights cases involving claims to political asylum. She has an extensive record of public speaking on Islam, civil liberties and human rights related issues at law schools, universities and community forums. She served as a Civil Rights Attorney and the national director of Civil Rights at the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Washington, D.C. Miss Abdelkader provided information, advice and legal representation to American Muslims who suffered from religious discrimination and hate crimes. Miss Abdelkader also worked as a cooperating attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union, the Arab-American Justice Project run by the American-Arab Anti Discrimination Committee in New York, and the Center for Constitutional Rights. She is the author of *A Muslim Woman's Guide to Her Civil Rights: When Faith Practices Trigger Discrimination in America* and presently serves on the Board of Turning Point for Women and Families.

Ayan Afridi is the president of the National Muslim Law Students Association. Mr. Afridi is completing his second year at Rutgers Newark School of Law in New Jersey while also working as a Systems Analyst at MetLife, Inc. His undergraduate studies focused on computer and electrical engineering at Rutgers University at New Brunswick.

Hebba Aref is a native of Michigan and received her B.A. in Political Science from the University of Michigan-Dearborn in 2003. Currently, Ms. Aref is a law student at the University of Michigan and is expected to graduate in December, 2006. She is a member of several student organizations at her law school including the Muslim Law Students Association. Ms Aref is also a co-founder and a co-chair of the Middle Eastern and North African Law Students Association.

Amna Arshad is a Co-chair of the 2006 NAML-NMLSA Joint Conference and the D.C. Circuit Chair for the National Muslim Law Students Association. She is currently a second year law student at American University Washington College of Law. She received her B.A. in International Affairs and Middle Eastern Studies from George Washington University in 2004.

Mazen Asbahi, Esq. is a senior associate at the law firm of Goldberg Kohn in its corporate and intellectual property groups. Mr. Asbahi maintains a broad practice advising businesses, nonprofits and individuals on corporate and intellectual property transactional matters. Mr. Asbahi serves as general counsel to a number of nonprofit entities and is active with a variety of civic, educational and charitable groups. Mr. Asbahi serves as a member of the board of directors of the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, as a director of publications for the Nawawi Foundation, on the board of directors of the Muslim Bar Association of Chicago as its past-president, on the auxiliary board of the Chicago Legal Clinic and on his law firm's pro bono committee. Mr. Asbahi received his undergraduate degree in political science and Islamic studies, with highest honors, from the University of Michigan in 1996, and received a University of Michigan scholarship to attend the London School of Economics as a General Course student in 1995. He attended Northwestern University School of Law, where he received his law degree, *cum laude*, in 2000.

Angela Arboleda is the Associate Director for Criminal Justice Policy at the National Council of La Raza, the largest national Latino civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S. Ms. Arboleda's expertise spans civil rights, criminal justice, juvenile justice, hate crimes, racial profiling, sentencing reform, reentry, and police brutality and civil rights discrimination by state, local, and federal law enforcement. She works with the NCLR focusing on civil rights and criminal justice policy analysis, advocacy, and research affecting Latinos in the U.S. Before joining the NCLR she was a Senior Field Organizer with the National Organization of Women. She earned her Bachelor's Degree from the Elliot School of International Affairs, George Washington University.

Aminah Assilmi is a Muslim by choice since 1977 and is Director of the International Union of Muslim Women and President of the Sophia Development Foundation. She is a Chairperson of Munay Unlimited and a MYNA Advisor. Ms. Assilmi was a speaker at the Parliament of World Religions in Barcelona and participated in the Millennium World Peace Summit and in the World Youth Day, where she was a special guest of Pope John Paul II. Ms. Assilmi has been a guest speaker at Islamic Universities in Pakistan and Malaysia, and has lectured widely in Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Malaysia, Egypt, England, Canada, and the U.S. She is well published and has testified at various Senate hearings regarding American Muslim issues. Ms. Assilmi is devoted to correcting misinformation about Islam and teaching Muslims Qur'an and Sunnah and Muslim Character. Ms. Assilmi has also received prestigious degrees and numerous awards for her work.

Asad Ba-Yunus is currently an associate at Fertig & Gramling, in Ft. Lauderdale, focusing on insurance defense, maritime law and government affairs. Originally from upstate New York, Mr. Ba-Yunus earned his J.D. from the American University Washington College of Law in 2000, and served as an Assistant State Attorney in Miami, Florida from 2000 through 2004. For the past 16 months, Mr. Ba-Yunus has been in private practice, originally with Mager Law Group and he currently handles civil litigation, including medical malpractice defense, as well as criminal defense. Mr. Ba-Yunus has been highly active in the American Muslim community since a young age and currently serves on the Board of Advisors of the Muslim Council of America.

Umbreen Bhatti is an associate in the Washington, D.C. office of Latham & Watkins LLP. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School and Barnard College. Prior to attending law school, Ms. Bhatti engaged in a guided study of Islamic law and the basic Islamic sciences in Islamabad, Pakistan, and Damascus, Syria from 2000-2002.

Farah Brelvi is a member of the Board of Directors of Muslim Advocates. She recently completed serving four years serving on the Board of Directors of Amnesty International, where she served on the Executive Committee as the Vice-Chair of the Board and, most recently, on the Executive Director Search Committee. Until 2002, she was a litigator at Cravath, Swaine and Moore; her practice comprised largely pro bono civil rights and affirmative action cases, including representation of the ABA as amicus curiae in *Grutter v. Bollinger*. She received her B.A. from Yale University and J.D. from Columbia Law School.

Marwa Elzankaly is an associate attorney at McManis Faulkner & Morgan. Ms. Elzankaly primary practices in a variety of civil litigation, which includes both plaintiff and defense work in state and federal courts; she also has experience in criminal defense. Ms. Elzankaly is experienced in consumer class action litigation and was recently involved in the successful representation of a class of elderly consumers against various reverse mortgage companies. Ms. Elzankaly also handles appellate work and was recently successful in a published Opinion by the California Court of Appeals for the Sixth Appellate District, *Jasmine Networks, Inc. v. Marvell Semiconductor, Inc.* Ms. Elzankaly received a B.S. from the University of California, Riverside and a J.D. from Santa Clara University School of Law.

Amany Ezeldin is a May 2005 graduate of DePaul University College of Law, where she attained a Certificate in International & Comparative Law. While at DePaul, she served as a research fellow for the Center on International Law, Policy & Africa. She also worked at the DePaul Legal Clinic: Asylum & Immigration. Ms. Ezeldin attended Loyola University Chicago and received a Bachelor of Arts *cum laude* in Political Science. Currently, Ms. Ezeldin practices real estate and family law. She also serves as a pro bono attorney with the Midwest Immigrant & Human Rights Center, where she is currently working on an asylum case.

Mohammad Fadel joined the University of Toronto Faculty of Law in January 2006 as an assistant professor teaching business law and Islamic law. Following graduation from law school in 1999, Mr. Fadel served as a law clerk to the Honorable Paul V. Niemeyer of the United States Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit and the Honorable Anthony A. Alaimo of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia and practiced securities and corporate law

with the firm of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP in New York. He has published numerous articles in Islamic legal history.

Patricia First is a Principal at The Raben Group, LLC where she advises clients on issues pertaining to civil rights, constitutional law and immigration. Prior to joining The Raben Group, Ms. First held senior level positions in both the legislative and executive branches of government, developing legislation and implementing regulations in the areas of civil rights, immigration, welfare reform and women's rights. Ms. First is a five-year veteran of the United States Department of Justice (DoJ) where she served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Office of Legislative Affairs. After obtaining her law degree, Ms. First joined the office of Senator Edward M. Kennedy, where for three years she served as counsel on the United States Senate Subcommittee on Immigration. Ms. First earned her law degree at the William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota and received her undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin.

LaDale K. George is a partner with Foley & Lardner LLP, where he is a member of the firm's Health Care Industry Team, as well as the Finance & Financial Institutions, and Health Care Finance & Restructuring Practices. Mr. George concentrates his regulatory practice on FDA and HHS clinical trial compliance and is particularly knowledgeable with respect to the legal issues of physicians groups and psychiatric providers. Mr. George is a graduate of Northwestern University School of Law and earned his B.A. from the University of Kansas. He serves as legal counsel to the African-American Health Care Council, and he is a former president of the Muslim Bar Association of Chicago and co-chair of the National Bar Association, Health Law Section.

Faisal Gill served as a Senior Policy Advisor to the Under Secretary for Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection at the Department of Homeland Security. As such he was responsible for formulating and coordinating policy for the intelligence directorate. Previously, he worked at the White House Office of Homeland Security as associate counsel. Previously, Faisal served as the Deputy General Counsel for Policy at the Office of Personnel Management. Faisal also served in the United States Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps and currently is a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve. He has a B.A. and J.D. from American University in Washington, D.C.

Nina J. Ginsberg is a founding partner in the law firm of DiMuroGinsberg. Among many other accolades, Ms. Ginsberg was named one of the 75 Top Lawyers in Washington by Washingtonian Magazine in 2002. Ms. Ginsberg concentrates on complex criminal trial and appellate litigation, with a focus on financial and health care fraud, espionage, PATRIOT Act and other international litigation, money laundering and professional ethics. Ms. Ginsberg is an Adjunct Professor at the George Washington University Law School. Currently, Ms. Ginsberg is a member of the Lawyers Strike Force Committee and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines Committee of the NACDL. Ms. Ginsberg is also an active member of the Virginia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Virginia Women's Attorney Association. Ms. Ginsberg received her B.A., with honors, from the University of Rochester and her J.D. degree from the Antioch Law School.

Dr. T. Jeremy Gunn is the Director of the ACLU's Program on Freedom of Religion and Belief and the Senior Fellow for Religion and Human Rights at the Center for the Study of Law and

Religion at Emory University School of Law. He is a member of the Advisory Council on Freedom of Religion and Belief of the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and is the member of several advisory boards for organizations involved in freedom of religion and belief. Dr. Gunn received his Ph.D. in the Study of Religion from Harvard University, a J.D., *magna cum laude*, from Boston University, and an A.M. in Humanities from the University of Chicago. After completing law school, he served as a law clerk for the Honorable Douglas P. Woodlock in the Federal District Court of Massachusetts, before moving to Washington, D.C., where he was an attorney at the law firm Covington & Burling. Dr. Gunn is a well-versed author with books in both French and English.

Danish Hamid is a corporate associate at Winston & Strawn LLP concentrating his practice on a variety of international transactional matters. Mr. Hamid's experience includes mergers and acquisitions, entity structuring and organization, and general commercial matters. In addition, he has developed an expertise in international data protection laws, including the EU Data Protection Directive and its corresponding U.S. Safe Harbor. Mr. Hamid assisted with the registration of Muslim Advocates as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. He is a member of the board of directors of TRACE International, Inc., an international anti-corruption organization. Mr. Hamid graduated from the University of Oxford in 1997 with a B.A. (Honors) in Jurisprudence (an English law degree). He received his J.D. from The George Washington University Law School where he was a member of *The George Washington International Law Review*.

Sobia Haque is an associate in Crowell and Morning, LLP's International and Litigation groups. She joined the firm in 2003. Ms. Haque graduated With Distinction from the University of Virginia in 1999, with a B.A. in Foreign Affairs and a minor in Middle Eastern Studies. Sobia received her J.D. in 2003 from the University of Virginia School of Law, where she was a member of the Virginia Journal of International Law and the Jessup International Law Moot Court team.

David A. Harris is the Balk Professor of Law and Values at the University of Toledo College of Law, and former Senior Justice Fellow at the Open Society Institute in New York. Professor Harris is recognized as America's leading authority on racial profiling. His first book, *Profiles in Injustice: Why Racial Profiling Cannot Work*, marked a major turning point in the public debate on profiling in the U.S. The book was the first to demonstrate that using race or ethnicity as part of a profile actually hurts police efforts to apprehend criminals. Professor Harris's new book, *Good Cops: The Case for Preventive Policing*, shows that police departments in the U.S. have begun to embrace a new approach to law enforcement, which Harris calls "preventive policing" in which he showcases police work that *both* reduces crime effectively, *and also* respects the civil rights and dignity of citizens. Professor Harris has appeared on numerous national media outlets addressing his field of expertise as well as before legislative bodies.

Janaan Hashim recently graduated *cum laude* from DePaul University College of Law where she was an award winning member of the National Moot Court Society. She completed her undergraduate studies With Distinction in one of her two majors as well as *magna cum laude* from Mary Baldwin College in 1989. Ms. Hashim plans to pursue her legal career in civil rights/civil liberties and criminal defense. Ms. Hashim is the spokesperson for the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago, a federation representing the city's 400,000 Muslims;

she also serves as co-chair of its Media Relations Committee. Ms. Hashim is a radio talk show host for WCEV's Radio Islam program, a daily, live call-in talk show targeting Chicago's mainstream audience and she serves as chair of its Advisory Board. This fall, Ms. Hashim will join the faculty of McCormick Seminary as an adjunct professor team-teaching a course titled *Pluralism in the Ministry*.

Kevin J. ("Seamus") Hasson has specialized in religious freedom cases for over fifteen years. He left a large Washington, D.C. law firm to found The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty. He is a former Attorney-Advisor for the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel, where his responsibilities included advising the Reagan Administration on church/state issues. He is a 1985 *magna cum laude* graduate of the Notre Dame Law School, and also holds a Masters Degree in Theology from Notre Dame. Mr. Hasson is a renowned author with his latest book *The Right To Be Wrong: Ending the Culture War Over Religion in America*.

David Hitchens is an attorney in labor and employment law at Sodexo, Inc. in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Prior to his employment at Sodexo, Mr. Hitchens was an associate in the Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. offices of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, where he practiced labor and employment law. Mr. Hitchens attended the University of Pennsylvania, and is a graduate of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law of the College of William & Mary, where he was a Graduate Research Fellow and a member of the *William & Mary Law Review*.

Kay Hodge is a partner in the labor law firm of Stoneman, Chandler & Miller LLP, where she represents management in labor, employment, and employee relations matters. She is also a Fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers. Ms. Hodge is the Massachusetts State Delegate to the American Bar Association House of Delegates, past member of the Board of Governors, and Chair of the American Bar Association Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity. Ms. Hodge is a past President of the Massachusetts Bar Association. Ms. Hodge is a member of the Race and Ethnic Advisory Board for the Massachusetts Trial Court and has been a member of numerous commissions of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. Ms. Hodge serves on the Board of Directors of several non-profit entities. Ms. Hodge has received numerous awards for her outstanding work including the Massachusetts Bar Association Gold Medal. Ms. Hodge received a B.A. from Boston University and a J.D. and LL.M in Taxation from the Boston University School of Law.

Chaumtoli Huq is a senior staff attorney with MFY Legal Services in the Workplace Justice Project. She represents low income New Yorkers on a wide range of civil and employment matters. She also conducts workshops for community based organizations and training for lawyers. Prior to joining MFY, she was an OSI Community Fellow with New York Taxi Workers Alliance, where she provided legal support to the organization's campaigns and direct representation to its members. Ms. Huq successfully challenged the summary suspension procedures implemented by the Taxi and Limousine Commission and advocated for government resources for drivers post 9-11.. She began working for NYTWA as a Skadden Fellow at the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund. Ms. Huq also worked as a Staff Attorney in the Office of Staff Attorneys for the Third Circuit in Philadelphia, PA. She is a graduate of Columbia University and Northeastern University School of Law.

Faiyaz Hussain works as an Associate Counsel at the international accounting firm of Grant

Thornton LLP based in Chicago where he concentrates his practice in litigation and employment matters. Prior to joining Grant Thornton in November of 2005, Mr. Hussain worked for Winston & Strawn LLP from 2001 through 2005. While at Winston & Strawn, Mr. Hussain defended various corporations including American Airlines, Abbott and other major U.S. and international companies. Also, while at Winston, Mr. Hussain provided employment counseling in connection with large corporate transactions. He has also successfully represented various pro-bono clients on issues ranging from political asylum to civil rights-related concerns including leading a team of attorneys in submitting an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court. Mr. Hussain received a B.S. in Finance, with high honors, from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1992 and a J.D., cum laude, from the University of Illinois College of Law in 2001.

Nadia Hyder is currently a 2L at College of William & Mary School of Law in Williamsburg, VA--class of 2007. Received B.S. in Psychology/Poli Sci from Virginia Commonwealth Univ. in Richmond, VA in 2004. Ms. Hyder is secretary of the National Muslim Law Students' Association.

Arsalan Iftikhar serves as National Legal Director for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, the nation's largest American Muslim civil rights and advocacy group headquartered in Washington D.C. and with over 31 chapters nationwide and in Canada. His interviews and commentaries appear regularly in international media outlets such as CNN, BBC World Service, The Associated Press, Al-Jazeera, NBC Nightly News, Washington Post, ABC World News Tonight, The New York Times, among dozens others. Mr. Iftikhar is also a contracted freelance opinion writer with over 15 major daily newspapers. He has spoken on the national and international level in various venues and institutions of higher learning. Mr. Iftikhar graduated with an A.B. from Washington University in St. Louis and received his law degree from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis in 2003. A native Chicagoan, he specializes in international human rights law and is licensed to practice law in Washington D.C.

Jameel Jaffer is a litigator for the American Civil Liberties Union, working on the organization's national security docket. Since 2002, Mr. Jaffer has served as lead counsel in several significant cases involving the USA PATRIOT Act, including a successful constitutional challenge to the "national security letter" provision. Mr. Jaffer currently represents a coalition of public interest organizations in Freedom of Information Act litigation for records concerning the United States' interrogation and detention policies in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Guantánamo Bay Naval Base. He also represents the several organizations in a challenge of the government's refusal to grant a visa to Professor Tariq Ramadan. Mr. Jaffer is a graduate of Williams College, Cambridge University, and Harvard Law School, where he served as an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. Before joining the staff of the ACLU, he served as law clerk to Hon. Amalya L. Kearse, United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and then to Rt. Hon. Beverley McLachlin, Chief Justice of Canada. The *National Law Journal* named him to its "40 under 40" list in 2005.

Dean Susan Karamanian is George Washington University's Associate Dean for International and Comparative Legal Studies and joined the Law School in 2000 after a 14-year career at Locke Liddell & Sapp, LLP in Dallas, Texas. While in private practice, Dean Karamanian represented foreign and domestic clients in a variety of commercial disputes. She also

maintained an active pro bono docket, in which she represented inmates on Texas death row in their post-conviction appeals. Dean Karamanian was vice-president of the American Society of International Law from 1996 to 1998, and currently serves as a counselor of the Society. She is a member of the board of the Association of American Rhodes Scholars, the Center for American and International Law, and the Texas Appleseed Foundation. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the American Council on Germany and a fellow of the American Bar Foundation and the Texas Bar Foundation.

Merve Kavakci is a lecturer on culture and international affairs at the Elliott School of International Affairs of George Washington University. She teaches courses on "Islam-democracy" and "Turkish politics." Ms. Kavakci is a former member of the Turkish Parliament. In 1999, she ran for Parliament and was elected to the Turkish Grand National Assembly. However, she was precluded from swearing-in due to her religious observation of wearing the headscarf. Ms. Kavakci's primary expertise is in the area of democratization of Muslim societies and the role of religion in secular Muslim states. She has authored numerous articles, the most recent appearing in *Foreign Policy* titled *Headscarf Heresy*. Ms. Kavakci has authored the book *Scarf-less Democracy*, which is available in Turkish and Arabic and she is also a columnist for the *Turkish Vakit* newspaper. She earned her B.S. in software engineering from the University of Texas at Dallas and MPA from Harvard University.

Dr. Yusuf Ziya Kavakci received a bachelor's degree in law from the College of Law of Istanbul University and also in Islamic Studies from the Institute of Higher Islamic Studies. He earned his Ph.D. in Islamic History and Culture from Faculty of Arts, Istanbul University. After working as Assistant Professor and as Associate Professor in the Institute of Islamic Research, Istanbul University, he helped establish the first college of Islamic Studies in modern Turkey. He is a board certified attorney in Turkey and practiced law in Libya, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia. At an early age he accomplished memorizing whole Qur'an (Hifz al-Qur'an), graduated from Hasircilar Qur'anic School with a training in Tajwid, Qira'ah, Arabic (Sarf and Nahw), Tafsir, Hadith, Fiqh, and allied Islamic Sciences. In addition to numerous books published in Turkish, he is also well-published in English. Dr. Kavakci currently resides in Richardson, Texas where he is the resident Islamic Scholar and Spiritual Leader of the Muslim community affiliated with the Islamic Association of North Texas.

Farhana Khera is the Executive Director of the National Association of Muslim Lawyers and its charitable education and advocacy entity, Muslim Advocates. Prior to joining NAML, she worked for six years as counsel to Senator Russell D. Feingold (D-WI), the ranking member of the Constitution Subcommittee, U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary. Ms. Khera focused substantially on the USA PATRIOT Act, racial and religious profiling, and other civil liberties issues raised by the government's anti-terrorism policies since September 11, 2001. Prior to her service with the Senate Judiciary Committee, Ms. Khera was an associate with various Washington, D.C. law firms. Ms. Khera received her B.A. with honors from Wellesley College where she served as president of the student body and co-founded the first Muslim students organization, al-Muslimat. Ms. Khera received her J.D. from Cornell Law School, where she was a finalist in the law school's annual Cuccia Cup Moot Court Competition and was an editor with the Cornell Journal of Law and Public Policy.

Moushumi M. Khan earned her B.A. degree *cum laude* from Mount Holyoke College where

she studied Critical Social Thought and Politics. She spent a year doing a General Course at the London School of Economics in England in 1991 in the Government Department. Ms. Khan received her J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School and has had extensive experience in the non-profit, development and law sectors. Since 2001 Ms. Khan has been in solo practice in New York City, concentrating on real estate, corporate and civil rights law. Her clients include the local Muslim and immigrant populations. She has advocated for these communities on post 9/11 civil rights issues, including with the Special Registration Process and racial profiling. Ms. Khan is an active participant in interfaith activities and in public diplomacy efforts between America and the Muslim world. Ms. Khan is a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Mahsa Khanbabai is an attorney and partner in the Mulberry Law Group in Massachusetts. She has dedicated her career to immigration law representing individual, nonprofit, educational and business clients. A significant part of Mahsa's practice is devoted to assisting international medical graduates with J-1 Waiver issues and employment related visa matters. Mahsa graduated *cum laude* from Albany Law School and is a graduate of Union College. She's a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, NAML, and the board of Wilbraham & Monson Academy. Mahsa is debating about entering her 1st marathon and encouraging words are welcome!

Edina Lekovic is the Communications Director of the Muslim Public Affairs Council located in Los Angeles, California. Ms. Lekovic acts as a spokesperson for the American Muslim community to media outlets, government officials, interfaith leaders, academic institutions, and community groups. Ms. Lekovic has appeared on national media outlets, including CNN, BBC, MSNBC, Fox News, and in national print media. Ms. Lekovic also participates in numerous national and international conferences and interfaith dialogues speaking on a variety of issues relating to American Muslims. In all settings, Ms. Lekovic works to enhance the political and social participation of the American Muslims by sharing tools and avenues for engagement that will lead to a future in which Muslims are a positive, contributing part of the American fabric. Ms. Lekovic is also pursuing her Master's degree in Communications at Pepperdine University.

Abby Levine serves as Foundation Advocacy Counsel at the Alliance for Justice. Prior to joining the Alliance, she was the Public Policy Analyst at the National Council of Nonprofit Associations (NCNA). At NCNA, Ms. Levine monitored and analyzed issues affecting the nonprofit sector, such as challenges to nonprofit tax exemptions and advocacy, state budget cuts, government grants streamlining, and corporate governance. Before working at NCNA, Ms. Levine was an associate in the tax department at Squire, Sanders & Dempsey in Cleveland, Ohio. Ms. Levine received a B.A. from American University and her J.D. from Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

Sean Maher is a Partner of Wahid, Vizcaino & Maher LLP and is based in the Firm's New York office. His practice focuses on criminal defense as well as more general litigation. He has represented clients charged with a wide array of criminal activity, including murder, terrorism, conspiracy to assassinate the President of the United States, fraud, and drug trafficking. Before entering private practice, Mr. Maher was responsible for supervising and training the criminal defense trial teams of the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem. Mr. Maher also was a

Senior Felony Trial Attorney at the Fulton County Public Defender's Office in Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Maher has served on the faculty of the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council Trial Advocacy Program since its inception, including its Honors Program. Mr. Maher received his B.A. from Northwestern University and, in 1995, graduated *cum laude* from Boston University School of Law.

Shahzad A. Malik is a partner at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld. His practice involves transactional tax matters. Mr. Malik is a prolific author and speaker at professional conferences. He is a past chair of the Los Angeles County Bar Association Corporate Tax Committee and is currently a member of the Board of Directors of NAML and of the South Asian Bar Association of Southern California, where he co-chairs the Judicial Endorsements Committee. Prior to joining Akin Gump, Mr. Malik was an associate at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP. Mr. Malik received his B.S. and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from the University of Ottawa. He received his LL.M. in taxation from the New York University School of Law in 1997.

Kate Martin is Director of the Center for National Security Studies, a non-profit human rights and civil liberties organization in Washington, D.C. Ms. Martin taught Strategic Intelligence and Public Policy at Georgetown University Law School and also served as general counsel to the National Security Archive from 1995 to 2001. Since September 11, 2001, she has testified before Congress concerning the USA PATRIOT Act and intelligence issues and also filed amici briefs challenging government surveillance and the illegal detentions of U.S. citizens as “enemy combatants.” She also served as lead counsel in the lawsuit brought by more than 20 organizations challenging the secret arrests of 1200 people in the wake of September 11. She is a well-versed author in the area of post 9/11 legal issues. Previously Ms. Martin was a partner with the Washington, D.C. law firm of Nussbaum, Owen & Webster. She graduated from the University of Virginia Law School, where she was a member of the Law Review, and completed her undergraduate degree from Pomona College.

Peggy R. Mastroianni is Associate Legal Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She is responsible for developing Commission guidance under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Equal Pay Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Recent policy documents developed under Ms. Mastroianni's direction address National Origin Discrimination, Discrimination Based on Genetic Information, and the Application of EEO Laws to the Contingent Workforce. Ms. Mastroianni is a well-versed author and has served on the Board of Directors of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia. Ms. Mastroianni graduated from Cornell University, Harvard University Graduate School of Education, and the Fordham University Law School. In May, 2003, she was elected a fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers.

Ruxana Meer is an associate attorney in private practice at Jon York & Associates, a civil litigation firm whimsically located in Berkeley, California. Ruxana graduated from Hastings College of the Law in 2002.

Aimen Mir is an associate in the Defense, National Security, and Government Contracts Department of WilmerHale in Washington, D.C. Mr. Mir's practice involves advising and representing clients in compliance and enforcement matters related to technology export controls,

economic sanctions, defense and strategic industry transactions, government research and technology transactions, U.S. and foreign anti-bribery laws, and other government contract and international trade matters. Mr. Mir received his M.S. and J.D. degrees from Georgetown University, where he served as the managing editor of the *Georgetown Immigration Law Journal*. Mr. Mir is actively involved in the NAML and Muslim Advocates initiatives related to protection of charitable giving and compliance with U.S. anti-terrorism laws.

Omar Mohammedi has a private practice in New York specializing in Civil Litigation and Business Law. Mr. Mohammedi has handled various high profile cases such as the *Amadou Diallo* case and Muslim Women against the MTA for Religious discrimination. He is presently representing various organizations in the MDL 9/11 8 trillion dollar lawsuit. Mr. Mohammedi has three law degrees. He is a Cambridge graduate and a *magna cum laude* Fordham Law graduate. He has two LL.M degrees in International Trade and Business Law and received the Barry Hawk International Antitrust and Trade Law Award. In 2002, Mayor Bloomberg appointed Mr. Mohammedi to be the first Muslim-Arab-American Commissioner to the NYC Commission on Human Rights. Mr. Mohammedi has been elected President of CAIR-NY. He is a founder and member of the Board of the Association of the Muslim American Lawyers.

Siobhan Maura Murphy is currently running as Democrat for Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois having recently completed the March Primary. She earned twelve bar association ratings of Qualified, Recommended, and Highly Recommended. Siobhan has been a partner in civil litigation since 1997, first as a named partner in Conklin, Murphy, and Conklin and currently at Mora, Baugh, Waitzman & Unger, LLC. Siobhan is a member of the federal trial bar and lead trial counsel and outside general counsel to a Chicago-based family of companies providing in home assisted living services in a multi-state region. Siobhan clerked for the Honorable Robert E. DeMascio of the United States District Court after earning her LL.M. with honors from University of Cambridge, England. Siobhan graduated with high honors from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1991, and was elected to the Order of the Coif.

Ayesha Najam is currently a first-year associate at the firm of Gibbs & Bruns LLP in Houston, Texas, a small/mid-sized litigation boutique that handles mainly commercial litigation. She obtained her J.D. in 2004 from Harvard Law School, after which she clerked for the Honorable Judge Glickman of the D.C. Court of Appeals for one year. Among the local organizations and firms where Ms. Najam has also worked/interned/clerked include the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the D.C. Public Defenders Service, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and the (large) law firm of Crowell & Moring LLP.

Mariam A. Nawabi is an attorney, human rights activist, entrepreneur, humanitarian, writer, photographer, wife, and mother of two children. She currently serves as Senior Advisor to the Afghan-American Chamber of Commerce and Afghanistan International Chamber of Commerce. She is also Vice President of Afghanistan Market Development, Inc. Ms. Nawabi was an Associate at Dechert LLP in Washington, D.C. from 1999 until 2003, practicing litigation and intellectual property law. Ms. Nawabi has also been actively involved in legal reform for Afghanistan. Ms. Nawabi serves on the Board of Advisors of several nonprofit organizations, including Nooristan Foundation and Women for Afghan Women and of KARAMAH. Ms. Nawabi is a *cum laude* graduate of The Georgetown University Law Center, where she served on

the Editorial Board of Law and Policy in International Business and earned her B.A. *summa cum laude* from George Mason University.

Wendy Patten is Director of Research and Program Development at the American Bar Association's international rule of law programs, where she leads a team of lawyers responsible for the ABA's research, assessment, and analysis of international rule of law promotion strategies. Prior to joining the ABA last summer, she was U.S. Advocacy Director at Human Rights Watch, where she handled policy, legislative, and media advocacy on human rights in the United States. Previously, Ms. Patten held several attorney positions over five years at the U.S. Department of Justice. From 1999 to 2001, she served as Director of Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs at the National Security Council. Ms. Patten was also a Skadden Fellow and legal aid lawyer at Ayuda. A graduate of Princeton and Harvard Law School, Ms. Patten has lived and worked in Senegal and Uganda, where she worked, respectively, on women's small enterprise development programs, and human rights and legal services programs.

Chip Poncy is the Director of the Office of Strategic Policy for Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. This office advises and assists senior Treasury policymakers on international and domestic legal, regulatory, and law enforcement matters concerning terrorist financing and money laundering. Mr. Poncy's responsibilities include: assisting in the development and implementation of strategies for combating terrorist financing and money laundering; working with other U.S. departments and agencies to advance counter-terrorist financing and anti-money laundering initiatives; developing and implementing bilateral and multilateral projects and initiatives related to anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing; and assisting in private sector outreach on terrorist financing and money laundering issues. Mr. Poncy began his career as an associate in the New York offices of the law firm White & Case. He holds a B.A. from Harvard College, a Masters from The Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and a J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center.

Asifa Quraishi is an Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School, teaching courses in Islamic law and American Constitutional Law. She holds degrees from the law schools at Harvard, Columbia, and U.C. Davis Law School and an undergraduate degree from U.C. Berkeley. She has served as a judicial law clerk in the Ninth Circuit, and has published in Islamic criminal law, family law, and American federal jurisdiction. Her current area of research is in comparative legal theory, focusing on methods of interpretation in Islamic law and American constitutional law. Asifa Quraishi is a founding Board member of NAML.

Naheed A. Qureshi is a national field organizer with the American Civil Liberties Union's Washington Legislative Office, focusing on post-9/11 civil rights and civil liberties issues. Prior to joining the ACLU, Ms. Qureshi built bridges between the federal government and ethnic and immigrant communities throughout the country. Holding positions at the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security, she worked with non-profit organizations and community groups about government policies and services. At the Department of Justice, Ms. Qureshi served as a trial attorney for the Civil Rights Division, where she worked on the division's Initiative to Combat Post-9/11 Discriminatory Backlash. Ms. Qureshi received her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center.

Intisar Rabb completed her J.D. at Yale Law School this year and is a Ph.D. Candidate at Princeton University . Ms. Rabb compares legal maxims as tools of legal interpretation in American law and in Islamic law, with particular focus on criminal law. In 1999, Ms. Rabb graduated from Georgetown University with an honors degree in Arabic and Government which included a year abroad in Cairo. After graduating, she attended the Abu Nour Institute in Damascus for a program in Islamic studies and Islamic law. Since, Ms. Rabb has engaged in various studies and research projects on Islamic law that have taken her to Morocco, Iran and Senegal. In the coming year, Ms. Rabb will be clerking for Judge Thomas Ambro of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

Sadiq Reza is a professor at New York Law School, where he teaches courses in criminal law and procedure, and Islamic law. His current research and writing is in criminal law and procedure under Islamic law and in the modern Muslim world. Last year he was a Visiting Researcher at the Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School. Professor Reza has written and spoken frequently about aspects of the U.S. law-enforcement response to September 11. Before becoming a professor, Professor Reza clerked in San Francisco, and then spent 7 years in here in Washington, 4 of them at the D.C. public defender's office.

Amit Sharma is a Senior Advisor in the Office of Terrorist Financing and Financial Crime (TFFC) in the U.S. Department of the Treasury. In this role, he develops strategies to combat a wide range of illicit finance activities including terrorist financing through the charitable sector, on which he also engages with the Muslim-American non-profit community. Mr. Sharma focuses his international work throughout Asia, Russia, Eastern Europe and the CIS States. He also works on issues to combat illicit finance through the formal and alternative, or informal financial sectors, as well as networks that facilitate WMD proliferation. Prior to joining Treasury, Mr. Sharma held various consulting roles in the areas of international and development finance both domestically and overseas. He holds an MBA and Masters from the Monterey Institute of International Studies and received his bachelors from the University of Virginia. He also spent two years with the Peace Corps in Mongolia working on development banking and business development.

Ferah Shea is a Virginia-licensed attorney who graduated from the University of Notre Dame Law School in 1996. After clerking for a Circuit Court judge in Chesterfield County (south of Richmond, VA), she hung out her shingle and started practicing family and criminal defense work. Quickly, she realized that the stress of jeopardizing someone's freedom was not for her, she got a job as a bankruptcy attorney working for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Along the way, she also got married to Sean, a U.S. Marine. Being married to a military man presented a different set of career challenges as they moved approximately every three to four years. Because of this, Ms. Shea began teaching Business Law online for a North Carolina college. Recently, she decided to break from the law altogether and is currently the Executive Manager for a systems engineering firm in Fairfax, Virginia.

Jolynn Shoemaker joined Women in International Security as Executive Director in January 2006. Previously, she handled international law and policy issues for the Initiative for Inclusive Security (formerly Women Waging Peace), an initiative of Hunt Alternatives Fund. She served as Country Director in the U.S. Department of Defense, Office of the Secretary of Defense, International Security Policy (Eurasia), where she focused on the Western Balkans region. Ms.

Shoemaker was Presidential Management Fellow from 2000-2002. She completed two rotational assignments working as an attorney in the U.S. Department of Defense, General Counsel's Office for International Affairs. She has published articles and chapters on women and armed conflict, legal reform in post-conflict situations, and human rights. Ms. Shoemaker has a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center, an M.A. in Security Studies from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, and a B.A. from University of California, San Diego.

Shirin Sinnar is an attorney and Equal Justice Works Fellow at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area. Ms. Sinnar works to combat post-9/11 discrimination against Muslims, Arabs, South Asians, and others by employers, banks, landlords, schools, and other private institutions. She is a graduate of Stanford Law School, Cambridge University, and Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges. From 2003 to 2004, she served as a law clerk to Judge Warren J. Ferguson of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in Santa Ana, California. Ms. Sinnar helped found, and served as the first president of, the Bay Area Association of Muslim Lawyers, a group that has organized numerous post-9/11 "know your rights" outreach campaigns and legal trainings in the local Muslim community. Prior to law school, Ms. Sinnar worked at the World Bank as a consultant on legal and judicial reform in developing countries.

Daniel W. Sutherland was appointed by President Bush to serve as the first Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Sutherland and his office provide advice on issues such as: the use of race or ethnicity in law enforcement and intelligence activities; detention policies relating to aliens deemed of "special interest" to national security investigations; building strategic partnerships between the homeland security effort and the Arab American and Muslim American communities; the development of biometric identifiers without creating a national identification system; and, the need to integrate people with disabilities into emergency planning and preparedness. Mr. Sutherland has been a civil rights attorney throughout his legal career, serving fourteen years with the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice and nearly two years with the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education.

Dr. Ahmed Taha is an Associate Professor at Wake Forest University School of Law, where he teaches courses on civil procedure, business associations, and law and economics. Dr. Taha previously served as a trial attorney in the Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice and as a litigation associate with the firm of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich and Rosati in Palo Alto, California. He holds both a J.D. and Ph.D. in Economics and serves as this year's Conference Co-Chair.

Rebekah Tosado is the Director of the Internal Audit unit in the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The Office is charged with reviewing and assessing information concerning abuses of civil rights, civil liberties, and profiling on the basis of race, ethnicity, or religion, by employees and officials of the Department. As Director of the Internal Audit unit, Rebekah is responsible for overseeing the investigation and resolution of complaints filed with the Office. Ms. Tosado has worked on matters related to immigration law and policy, including conditions of detention, asylum and refugee issues, and issues addressed by the Department of Justice Inspector General on the treatment of September 11 detainees. She is a graduate of Boston College Law School.

Eric W. Treene is Special Counsel for Religious Discrimination for the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. In this newly created position, he coordinates the Civil Rights Division's cases involving religious discrimination in employment, public facilities, education, housing, and other areas. Prior to joining the Justice Department, he was Litigation Director at the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C. He is a graduate of Amherst College and Harvard Law School, and a former law clerk to Chief Judge John M. Walker, Jr. of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He is the author of a number of articles about the First Amendment.

Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia serves as Senior Policy Associate/Counsel for the National Immigration Forum, a national, pro-immigrant organization based in Washington, D.C. She advances the organization's policy positions through legal analysis of administrative and legislative proposals, direct advocacy with Members of Congress and the Department of Homeland Security, and leadership in work groups focused on due process and immigrants' rights. Ms. Wadhia serves as an Adjunct Professor for Asylum and Refugee Law at the Washington College of Law at American University, Washington, D.C. Formerly, Ms. Wadhia was a practicing attorney at the Washington immigration firm Maggio and Kattar, P.C. She also represented clients seeking asylum. She obtained her *Juris Doctorate* from Georgetown University Law Center, where she also served as a research assistant to former INS General Counsel T. Alexander Aleinikoff. Ms. Wadhia is a recipient of the 2003 *Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award* by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

Khurrum Wahid is a Partner of Wahid, Vizcaino & Maher LLP and has a national litigation practice that encompasses both criminal and civil matters. After 9/11, Mr. Wahid worked with CAIR and other civil rights organizations to represent hundreds detained on material witness warrants and immigration holds. Before entering private practice, Mr. Wahid served as a Senior Trial Attorney at the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem and as an Assistant Public Defender in Miami. He has handled hundreds of criminal cases, including murder, money laundering, armed robbery, sex crimes, drug trafficking. Mr. Wahid received his J.D. from Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

Robert L. Wilkins obtained a B.S. *cum laude* from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in 1986 and in 1989, he received a J.D. from Harvard Law School, where he served as a C. Clyde Ferguson human rights fellow in South Africa, President of the Black Law Students Association and an Executive Editor of the *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*. Mr. Wilkins clerked for the late Honorable Earl B. Gilliam of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California and then joined the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia in 1990. Mr. Wilkins' leadership in the fight against racial profiling has been covered by media throughout the world and resulted in numerous honors. In 2002, Mr. Wilkins joined Venable LLP as a partner, specializing in white-collar defense, intellectual property and complex civil litigation. Mr. Wilkins was recently selected as one of the "40 under 40 most successful young litigators in America" by The National Law Journal.

Rufiath Yousuff, a 2L at Hofstra University School of Law, is currently the Vice-President of the NMLSA. She holds a Science/Arts double-degree from the University of Melbourne, Australia, with majors in Chemistry, Arabic, and Islamic Studies. Ms. Yousuff participated on the university's Student Ambassador Leadership Program Advisory Board. Further she was a

National Youth Roundtable member, an Australian Federal Government youth initiative, and delivered an address to MPs and Senators in the National Parliament House. Last summer, Ms. Yousuff was a legal research intern at the Australian Federal Court. Last week, she represented Hofstra Law School in the Nassau Academy of Law 23rd Annual Moot Court Competition with her team winning the final round.