

Advancing Justice & Empowering the Community

March 31-April 2, 2006

Washington, D.C.

N | A | M | L
National Association of
Muslim Lawyers



Program

Featuring:

- ◆ Ambassador Feisal Al-Istrabadi, *Iraqi Ambassador to the United Nations*
- ◆ Daniel Sutherland, *Officer for Civil Rights & Civil Liberties, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security*
- ◆ Chip Poncy, *Director of Strategic Policy, Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes, U.S. Dept. of the Treasury*
- ◆ Jeremy Gunn, *ACLU's Director of Program on Freedom of Religion and Belief*
- ◆ Kevin Seamus Hasson, *Founder & Chairman The Becket Fund for Religious Freedom*

Friday, March 31

- 5:00 Registration
- 6:30 Salat ul Maghrib
- 6:50 Opening Reception

Saturday, April 1

- ◆ Coffee, tea and light breakfast items will be available.

8:00 a.m. Registration Front counter

Welcoming Remarks

Speakers:

Farhana Khera, Executive Director and President, National Association of Muslim Lawyers
Dean Susan Karamanian, Associate Dean for International and Comparative Legal Studies, George Washington University Law School
Kay Hodge, Chair, American Bar Assn Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession

Moderator: Ayan Afridi, President, National Muslim Law Students Association

Room: LL101

Time: 9:00—9:15

Plenary Session I

Racial and Religious Profiling: Its Definition & Legality in a Post-September 11th World

From the roundup of hundreds of mostly Arab and Muslim immigrant men in the aftermath of September 11th, to the creation of the NSEERS program, and to the FBI interview programs, the Muslim American community has been targeted for heightened scrutiny by federal law enforcement carrying out counterterrorism operations. This session will explore how racial profiling is defined and whether profiling based on race, religion, ethnicity or national origin is lawful. The session will also discuss the guidance banning racial profiling issued by the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The audience will leave with a deeper understanding of the law on the issues and become more aware of those avenues available for seeking redress for victims of unlawful profiling.

Speakers:

David Harris, Professor of Law, University of Toledo College of the Law

Daniel Sutherland, Officer for Civil Rights & Civil Liberties, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security

Robert Wilkins, Partner, Venable, LLP, Washington, D.C.

Angela Arboleda, Associate Director for Criminal Justice Policy, National Council of La Raza

Moderator: Naheed Qureshi, National Field Organizer, American Civil Liberties Union

Room: LL101

Time: 9:15 -10:45

Networking Break

Time: 10:45-11:00

Plenary Session II

Domestic Surveillance: The Law and Its Impact on American Muslims and Muslim Institutions

There has been rigorous public debate about the legality of the President's decision to authorize the National Security Agency to engage in warrantless surveillance of the communications of U.S. citizens. While this session will not focus on that debate, it will: (a) provide an overview of the law and the different legal standards authorizing surveillance in criminal v. foreign intelligence matters; (b) explore steps that can be taken to challenge government surveillance, including litigation and requests pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act; and (c) discuss the challenges facing lawyers representing clients where the government has engaged in surveillance and may seek to introduce FISA- obtained evidence in criminal or immigration matters.

Speakers:

Kate Martin, Director, Center for National Security Studies

Khurram Wahid, Partner, Wahid, Vizcaino & Maher, LLP

Jameel Jaffer, National Litigation Department, American Civil Liberties Union

Moderator: Sadiq Reza, Professor, New York Law School

Room: LL101

Time: 11:00-12:30

Break and Salat ul Dhuhur

Time: 12:30 - 1:00

Working Luncheon

Time: 1:00-2:00 Attendees are welcome to join any one of our five Discussion Tables or enjoy lunch amongst each other in the student lounge.

Discussion Table #1: Islamic Law, A Special Perspective

This session will focus on the role of the rich and extensive Islamic legal tradition as an essential part of the "Islamic literacy" of the American Muslim community and its indigenous culture. It will examine the formation of the Islamic legal tradition with particular view to the ancient and medieval paradigms that underlie it (like the medieval concept of "money and wealth") and how the tradition can be made meaningful in the context of twenty-first century American society.

Speakers:

Dr. Umar Farooq Abd-Allah, Chairman and Scholar in Residence, Nawawi Foundation
Intisar Rabb, Ph.D. Candidate, Islamic Jurisprudence, Princeton University

Room: LL101

Time: 1:00-2:00

Discussion Table #2: Making it to Partner

This is an informal discussion with two NAML members who are partners in major U.S. law firms. It will provide an opportunity for NAML members who are contemplating or currently on the partnership track to seek advice from those who have made it to partner.

Speakers:

LaDale George, Partner, Foley and Lardner, Chicago, Illinois
Shahzad Malik, Partner, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, Los Angeles, California

Room: LL102

Time: 1:00-2:00

Discussion Table #3: How to Build a Local Muslim Bar Association

This discussion will be an informal opportunity for Muslim lawyers interested in establishing or building a local Muslim bar group to seek advice from NAML members who have founded or been founding members of existing local Muslim bar groups.

Speakers:

Mazen Asbahi, Senior Associate, Goldberg Kohn, Chicago, Illinois
Shirin Sinnar, Equal Justice Works Fellow, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area

Room: L201

Time: 1:00-2:00

Discussion Table #4: Basic Training: Practical Advice in Making The Right Impression as a Summer/First Year Associate

What better way to learn about the proper etiquette at the law firm than over lunch? This discussion will address the do's and don'ts that Muslim summer and first year associates should know such as handling work assignments, dealing with social events, appropriate conduct toward attorneys and firm staff, and much more.

Speakers:

Umbreen Bhatti, Associate, Latham & Watkins, Washington, D.C.
Sobia Haque, Associate, Crowell and Morning, Washington, D.C.
Faiyaz Hussain, Associate, Grant Thornton, Chicago, Illinois

Room: L202

Time: 1:00-2:00

Discussion Table #5: Charity Without Fear

Have lunch with two of the U.S. Department of the Treasury's key officials in the area of terrorist financing and financial crimes. This will be a good opportunity to engage in a dialogue with government officials about the prosecution of

Muslim charities and the impact of these actions on well-intentioned charitable giving in the American Muslim community.

Speakers:

Aimen Mir, Associate, Wilmer Hale, Washington, D.C.

Chip Poncy, Director of the Office of Strategic Policy for Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes, U.S. Department of the Treasury

Amit Sharma, Senior Advisor in the Office of Terrorist Financing and Financial Crime, U.S. Department of the Treasury

Room: L301

Time: 1:00-2:00

Parallel Session I

Topic A: From NSEERS to Being Ensnared at the Border: Immigration and Border Security Issues Facing the Muslim American Community

This session will explore the numerous legal challenges facing Muslim immigrants post-September 11th, including increased scrutiny at the airport and borders upon entry to the U.S. The session will discuss how some of the challenges have been ameliorated, what challenges remain, and how lawyers can represent clients who are subjected to increased scrutiny by immigration and border enforcement.

Speakers:

Moushumi Khan, Khan Law Offices, New York, New York

Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia, Senior Policy Associate/Counsel, National Immigration Forum

Rebekah Tosado, Director for Internal Audit, Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Moderator: Mahsa Khanbabai, Mulberry Law Group, Springfield, Massachusetts

Room: LL101

Time: 2:00-3:15

Topic B: Upholding Religious Freedom, Ensuring the Right Remains

Although Americans proudly proclaim this country's First Amendment assurances of religious freedom, there appears to be a quiet, underlying current trying to weaken this fundamental right as applied to people of "other faiths." This session will provide a view from two advocacy organizations on how they use the courts of law, the court of public opinion and academia to protect religious freedom and educate the public of its benefits to society. This session will also explore the role of the federal government in protecting religious freedom, including the rights of Muslim Americans.

Speakers:

Kevin Seamus Hasson, Founder & Chairman, The Becket Fund for Religious Freedom

Jeremy Gunn, Director of Program on Freedom of Religion and Belief, American Civil Liberties Union

Eric Treene, U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division

Moderator: Mohammad Fadel, Professor, University of Toronto Faculty Law, Toronto, Canada

Room: LL102

Time: 2:00-3:15

Topic C: Using the Degree to be Heard, to Bring Peace

Women account for half the world's population and half of the U.S. attorneys, but much fewer than half are involved in the peace process or involved with policy decisions and legislative acts. This session will offer insight as to how women can become key participants in protecting human rights or in the peace process in areas of global conflict, what they can do once becoming participants and how to initiate and participate in social policy change.

Speakers:

Jolynn Shoemaker, Director, Women in International Security, Georgetown University

Aminah Assilmi, Director, International Union of Muslim Women

Mariam Nawabi, Alliance for Justice

Moderator: Amany Ezeldin, Staff Attorney, LifeSpan

Room: L201

Time: 2:00-3:15

Topic D: Overcoming the Big Whisper: How Your Deen Works for You, Not Against You, in the Workplace

Lurking in the back of one's mind may be whether the name on the résumé or the appearance with the hijab will prove detrimental in securing the ideal job or working in the firm. This session will address the issue head on, focusing on the reality of religious discrimination, how overcoming such discrimination strengthens our society and the steps currently underway to ensure that religious choice remains just that – a choice reflecting our democratic ideals. This session will also describe the signs of when such discrimination occurs, examine the various legal remedies available and when to use them.

Speakers:

Merve Kavakci, Former Member of Turkish Parliament; Lecturer, Elliott School of International Affairs

Arsalan Iftikhar, National Legal Director, Council on American Islamic Relations

Moderator: Hebba Aref, 3L, University of Michigan

Room: L301

Time: 2:00-3:15

Networking Break

Time: 3:15-3:30

Parallel Session II

Topic A: When the FBI Knocks: How to Represent Your Client in Federal Law Encounters and Educate the Community About Its Rights

The FBI has conducted interviews of nearly half a million people in the Muslim and Arab community since September 11, 2001. At the border and upon re-entry to the country at airports, many Muslim Americans have also faced secondary questioning and sometimes been detained or denied entry. This session will provide advice on how to represent individuals who are contacted by the FBI for a voluntary interview or pursuant to material witness warrants and how to advise clients who are subjected to adverse law enforcement action at the border. Lastly, this session will provide practical advice on how to educate the Muslim American community about their rights.

Speakers:

Nina Ginsberg, Partner, DiMuro & Ginsberg, Washington, D.C.

Sean Maher, Partner, Wahid, Vizcaino & Maher, New York, New York

Marwa Elzankaly, Associate, McManis, Faulkner & Morgan, San Jose, California

Moderator: Ruxana Meer, Bay Area Muslim Lawyers Association

Room: LL101

Time: 3:30 – 4:45

Topic B: Good Corporate Governance & Anti-Terror Financing Enforcement: How to Navigate the Post-9/11 Environment & Advise Muslim Nonprofit Organizations

Since September 11th, the federal government has taken several steps to scrutinize charitable organizations, particularly

Muslim charities. The broad U.S. charitable sector has also been facing increased scrutiny of their speech and advocacy activity. As such, Muslim charitable institutions are increasingly seeking the advice of lawyers as they navigate this legal environment. This session will seek to train lawyers in some of the basics of good governance, anti-terror financing laws as applied to nonprofit organizations, and the scope of allowable speech and advocacy activities for nonprofit entities.

Speakers:

Danish Hamid, Associate, Winston & Strawn, Washington, D.C.

Abby Levine, Counsel, Alliance for Justice

Chip Poncy, Director of the Office of Strategic Policy for Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes, U.S. Department of the Treasury

Amit Sharma, Senior Advisor in the Office of Terrorist Financing and Financial Crime, U.S. Department of the Treasury

LaDale George, Partner, Foley and Lardner, Washington, D.C.

Moderator: Aimen Mir, Associate, Wilmer Hale, Washington, D.C.

Room: LL102

Time: 3:30 – 4:45

Topic C: Identifying and Litigating Religion-Based Employment Discrimination Cases

This session will train lawyers on the basic elements of an employment discrimination case, key issues and murky issues to spot, and how to successfully bring such cases against offenders, including class action lawsuits.

Speakers:

Omar Mohammedi, The Law Firm of Omar T. Mohammedi

Peggy R. Mastroianni, Associate Legal Counsel, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Harsimran Kaur Dang, of Council, The Sikh Coalition; Associate, Wiggins, Childs, Quinn & Pantazis

Moderator: David Allen Hitchens, In-house Attorney, Sodexo, Inc.

Room: L201

Time: 3:30 – 4:45

Topic D: “Your Honor, May It Please The Court...”: Working in the Area That Best Suits Your Interests

Having graduated a general practitioner and with so many choices of what to do with the J.D., it’s no wonder a student can leave law school not knowing quite the right field to enter. This session will provide strategies for students interested in clerking, getting into a boutique firm, and alternative career paths. It will also focus on what students should do to get their foot in the door to a specific area of law after having graduated as a general practitioner and tips and techniques from the field in giving oral arguments for those interested in litigation.

Speakers:

Asad Ba-Yunus, Associate, Fertig & Gramling, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Ayesha Najam, First Year Associate, Gibbs & Bruns, Houston, Texas

Moderator: Engy Abdelkader, Immigration & Human Rights Lawyer, New Jersey

Room: L301

Time: 3:30 – 4:45

Break and Salatul Asr

Time: 4:30—5:00

Banquet Dinner

Keynote Speaker: Hauwa Ibrahim, joint winner of the 2005 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, the European Parliament’s top human rights award. Ms. Ibrahim is a Nigerian human rights lawyer who is

currently at Yale as a World Fellow.

Time: 6:30 onward

Marriott at Metro Center, 775 12th Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

Salatul Maghrib

Time: 6:30 to be performed at the Marriott at Metro Center

◆ A limited number of banquet tickets will be available at the door; we highly recommend purchasing tickets in advance.

◆ Business attire required

◆ Hotel Address:

Marriott at Metro Center

775 12th Street, NW

Washington, D.C. 20005

Phone: 202-737-2200

<http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/WASMC>

◆ Directions: Escorts are available at the conference to assist with transportation . Please contact the conference volunteers if you need special assistance.

From George Washington University via:

Metro:

Take the Blue line from the Foggy Bottom metro stop at GW towards Largo Town Center to the Metro Center stop. You can also take the Orange line from Foggy Bottom towards New Carrollton to the Metro Center stop. Take the G & 12 Street exit when you get off the train at the Metro Center. Turn left on 12th St from G Street and walk up about a block to the hotel. Total one-way fare should be \$1.35.

Car:

Start at 2000 H Street, NW going towards 20th Street go 0.2 mile

Turn Left on 18th Street, NW - go < 0.1 mile

Turn Right on H Street, NW - go 0.8 mile

Turn Right on 11th Street, NW - go 0.1 mile

Turn Right on G Street, NW - go 0.1 mile

Turn Right on 12th Street, NW - go 0.1 mile

Arrive at 775 12th Street, NW, on the Right

The hotel has valet parking for \$22.00. Limited street parking is available.

◆ ALERT: Daylight Savings Time: Please Advance Your Watches By One Hour on Saturday Night

◆ Coffee, tea and light breakfast items will be available.

Parallel Session III

Topic A: Understanding the Tools of the Trade: Successful Legal & Policy Advocacy Models

This session will discuss successful legal and policy models in the pursuit of justice. With the participation of individuals with past or present affiliations with prominent civil rights organizations, the audience will learn about the role of lawyers in advocacy work, the role of impact litigation, and how lawyers can get engaged. From the USA PATRIOT Act debate to the NSA spying issue, this session will explore how legislative and litigation strategies are developed. Lastly, this session will explore the importance of coalitions and the necessity of securing allies from both sides of the aisle to win support for an issue.

Speakers:

Wendy Patten, Director, Research & Program Development, American Bar Association CEELI

Jameel Jaffer, National Litigation Department, American Civil Liberties Union

Patty First, Principal, The Raben Group

Shirin Sinner, Equal Justice Works Fellow, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area

Moderator: Farah Brelvi, Board Member, Muslim Advocates; Board Member, Amnesty International USA

Room: LL101

Time: 9:00 - 10:30

Topic B: From the Law Office to Public Office: Crossing the Threshold

This session will address how to enter the judiciary or use the law degree to enter the realm of politics. Audience members will become aware of the joys and difficulties of being in public office, better appreciate the difference between running for office and receiving an appointment and learn of the various signposts indicating this is the right move for the individual.

Speakers:

His Excellency, Ambassador Feisal Al-Istrabadi, Iraqi Ambassador to the U.N.

Siobhan Murphy, Judicial Candidate for Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois; Partner, Mora, Baugh, Waitzman & Unger, Chicago, Illinois

Moderator: Faisal Gill, Principal, Sapentia LLC, Washington, D.C.

Room: LL102

Time: 9:00 - 10:30

Topic C: Islamic Law: Understanding the Universal Maxims of Islamic Law as a Bridge to Modernity and the Role of Usul a-Fiqh

This ambitious session hopes to address two lines of inquiry: Dr. Abd-Allah will provide a basic overview of key Islamic legal maxims that lay the foundation of a unique area of Islamic law that is not as prone as other areas to conjecture and dissent. Dr. Kavakci will address another aspect of Islamic law with the hope of educating the secular lawyer on "Usul a-Fiqh" and its importance for Muslim lawyers.

Speakers:

Dr. Umar Farooq Abd-Allah, Chairman and Scholar in Residence, Nawawi Foundation

Dr. Yusuf Kavakci, Resident Scholar, Islamic Assn of North Texas and Scholar in Islamic Jurisprudence

Moderator: Asifa Quraishi, Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin Law School

Room: L201

Time: 9:00 - 10:30

Topic D: The Law, Ethics and Islam

This session will explore actual situations where these three areas intersect and various ways that practitioners handled such situations. Each practitioner will have an area of dilemma and provide their means of overcoming that dilemma while explaining their thinking process behind making such a decision. Examples may include when to attend an office function that involves alcohol, what to do if a Muslim client wants to engage in an activity that is lawful but un-Islamic (e.g., write a will that does not follow Islamic formula), how to handle client accounts when the jurisdiction requires that client funds must be in an interest-bearing account.

Note: This is not a session on theology, but one on applying Islam to the real world.

Speakers:

Engy Abdelkader, Immigration & Human Rights Lawyer, New Jersey

Ferah Shea, Esq., Paloma Systems, Inc.

Moderator: Rufiath Yousuff, Vice President, National Muslim Law Students Association

Room: L301

Time: 9:00 - 10:30

Networking Break

Time: 10:30 - 10:45

Final Plenary Session

Empowering the American Muslim Voice

This final, wrap-up session will be a discussion with leaders and activists in the Muslim American community about how the Muslim American legal community can work with the community to protect our rights as Americans and ensure a vibrant Muslim community in America. Audience members will leave feeling motivated after recognizing the enormous challenges ahead, but also hopeful in finding opportunities to better the lives of our fellow Muslims and all Americans.

Speakers:

Chaumtoli Huq, Senior Staff Attorney, MFY Legal Services, New York, New York

Arsalan Iftikhar, National Legal Director, Council on American Islamic Relations

Edina Lekovic, National Communications Director, Muslim Political Action Committee

Moderator: Janaan Hashim, Spokesperson, Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago

Room: LL101

Time: 10:45-12:00

Closing Remarks

Speakers:

Dr. Ahmed Taha, Conference Co-Chair for NAML

Amna Arshad, Conference Co-Chair for NMLSA

Dua'a: Dr. Yusuf Kavakci, Resident Scholar, Islamic Assn of North Texas and Scholar in Islamic Jurisprudence

Moderator: Farhana Khera, Executive Director and President of NAML

Room: LL101

Time: 12:00 - 12:10

Hosted by the George Washington University Law School and GWU Muslim Law Students Assn

Cosponsored by Muslim Advocates and the Capital Area Muslim Bar Association