

Law & Religion Symposium at Brigham Young University
Provo, Utah, 4-7 October, 2009

“Connecting Communities of Discourse: How the Judiciary, Academia, Government and International Institutions Further the Work of Religious Freedom”

Topic proposed: **”Religious law(s) in Court. Judges in Europe facing new challenges”**
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Introduction

I. Religious affiliations and State law in Europe: ‘Nothing new under the Sun’

II. Plural identities in contemporary context: flexible affiliations and new social realities. Demands for an ever more sophisticated multiculturalism, a serious challenge to politics in Europe

1. The limits of freedom of religion with in the framework of secular state logic: the role of the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg with regard to cultural and religious diversity
2. Private international law techniques: about old constraints and new anachronisms
 - Increasing numbers of dual nationals: which law applies?
 - ‘Forum shopping’ behavior: are bilateral agreements the answer?
3. Muslim communities and their claim to identity recognition: complaints about a double standard approach
4. ‘Reasonable accommodation’, a new vein of thinking. How useful in European context?
5. ‘Cultural expertise’: strength(s) and weaknesses of professional advice to Courts in religious/cultural matters
6. ‘Strong’ versus ‘weak’ legal pluralism? Differential laws for religious communities?
7. Judicial pluralism: does ‘religious arbitration’ offer a viable alternative?

Concluding remarks

Bibliography + C.V.