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**Annual Symposium Addresses “Law, Democracy, and Civil Society”
*Experts and Government Officials from around the World to Attend***

The International Center for Law and Religion Studies at Brigham Young University will hold its Nineteenth Annual International Law and Religion Symposium, “Law, Democracy, and Civil Society,” October 7-9, 2012 on BYU campus. The opening session on Sunday evening, October 7, will feature keynote addresses by Silvio Ferrari, professor at the University of Milan; Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett, Chair of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom; and Ambassador Suzan Johnson Cook, the U.S. Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom. This session, beginning at 7 p.m. MDT in the Moot Court Room of the Law School, will be available through live Internet streaming in English, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. (See the [Annual Symposium](#) tab at <http://www.iclrs.org>.)

The 2012 Symposium will bring together some 75 delegates from more than 40 countries to discuss such topics as Religious Organizations, Civil Society, and Pluralism; The Role of Religion in Democratic Transformation; and Religion in Public and Private.

To date, 900 scholars, educators, government officials, human rights workers, and religious leaders from 120 countries have come together at BYU to discuss principles of religious liberty and to explore how to better implement those principles in their own countries and in their broader spheres of influence.

Formally established in January 2000, the Center has provided the institutional base for longer-term initiatives in the field of law and religion throughout the world, helping BYU emerge as a recognized leader in the field of religious rights both nationally and internationally. The Center’s directors have lectured and published widely about the law and religion, have testified before legislatures and courts, and have sponsored conferences, seminars, and training sessions in all parts of the world.

“The question of religion’s role in democracy and civil society has come to the fore in many peoples’ minds as a result of democratic transformations in the Middle East and North Africa,” said Professor Elizabeth A. Clark, Associate Director of the Center. “What many may not realize, however, is that these questions are a source of discussion and debate throughout the world, including in the United States.”

The Center is dedicated to securing freedom of religion and belief for all people by expanding, deepening, and disseminating knowledge and expertise regarding the interrelationship of law and religion. It facilitates the growth of networks of scholars, experts, and policy makers involved in the field of religion and law and makes significant contributions to law reform processes and broader implementation of principles of religious freedom worldwide.

For additional information, please visit the Center’s website at <http://www.iclrs.org>.