



# CARIBBEAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM SYMPOSIUM

“Religious Freedom and Economic Development”

November 15-17, 2017

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**Auditorium I**

**Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM)  
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.**



# Condensed Program

## Wednesday, November 15

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Reception By invitation	Embassy Garden Room El Embajador Hotel
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## Thursday, November 16

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Welcome and organization	Auditorium I PUCMM
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9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	First Session — Opening Welcome by sponsors	
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9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Second Session — Introduction "Religious Freedom as a Fundamental Human Right"	
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10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Break	
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11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Third Session — Conference Business perspectives: "Religious Freedom and Economic Development"	Auditorium I PUCMM
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12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch By invitation	Executive Room PUCMM
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1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Fourth Session— Panel Discussion Government perspectives: "The Role of the State in Protecting Religious Freedom"	Auditorium I PUCMM
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2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Break	
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3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	Fifth Session — Panel Discussion International perspectives: "Fairness for All: Fighting Intolerance and Protecting Conscience"	Auditorium I PUCMM
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4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Launching Event — CIER PUCMM Official launching: Center for Research and Religion Studies at Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM)	
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7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Dinner and Cultural Show By invitation. Performance by PUCMM students	Embassy Garden Room El Embajador Hotel
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## Friday, November 17

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Welcome and organization	Auditorium I PUCMM
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Group Photo	Main Entrance PUCMM
9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Sixth Session — Panel Discussion Faith perspectives: "Contribution of Religion and the Fundamental Role of Religious Freedom in Society"	Auditorium I PUCMM
10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Break	
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Seventh Session — Discussion Media perspectives: "The Interrelation of Freedom of Speech, Press, and Religion"	Auditorium I PUCMM
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch By invitation	Executive Room PUCMM
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Eighth Session — Workshop Judicial perspectives: "Protecting Religious Freedom through Legislation and the Judicial System"	Auditorium I PUCMM
2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Break	
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Ninth Session — Panel Discussion Perspectiva académica: "Law Education as a Platform for Protecting Freedom of Religion or Belief (FORB)"	Auditorium I PUCMM
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Tenth Session — Summation Concluding reflections: Religious Freedom in the Caribbean: A Look into the Future". Final remarks.	
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Dinner and Social Activity By invitation. Performance by PUCMM students	Embassy Garden Room El Embajador Hotel

# Program

## Wednesday, November 15

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

### Reception

By invitation

Introduction of international delegates  
Greet and meet local participants  
Salutation by the organizers

Embassy Garden Room

El Embajador Hotel

## Thursday, November 16

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

### Welcome and organization

By invitation

Auditorium I

PUCMM

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

### First Session — Opening

Welcome by the organizers

#### Conduct:

**Katia Gutiérrez**

Department of Communication, PUCMM

#### Salutation:

**Pbr. Dr. Ramón Alfredo de la Cruz Baldera**

Rector, Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM)  
*Dominican Republic*

#### Comments:

**Prof. Gary B. Doxey**

Associate Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies  
J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University  
*United States of America*

**Prof. Léilah C. Decembre-Momplaisir**

Law Professor, Faculty of Law and Political sciences, Université Quisqueya  
*Haiti*

**Dr. Brian J. Grim**

President, Religious Freedom and Business Foundation (RFBF)  
*United States of America*

**Hon. Rubén Maldonado**

President, Cámara de Diputados, National Congress  
*Dominican Republic*

#### Remarks:

**H.E. Dr. Margarita Cedeño de Fernández**

Vice President of the Republic  
*Dominican Republic*

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

### Second Session — Introduction

“Religious Freedom as a Fundamental Human Right”

#### Conduct:

**Katia Gutiérrez**

Department of Communication, PUCMM

#### Moderator:

**Juan F. Puello Herrera**

Law Professor and Member of the Academic Committee, Law School,  
Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM)  
*Dominican Republic*

#### Keynotes:

“Religious Freedom as a Fundamental Human Right”

**Prof. Juan G. Navarro Floria**

Law Professor, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Argentina (UCA)  
*Argentina*



"The Value of Religious Liberty to Society"  
**Prof. Gary B. Doxey**  
Associate Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies  
J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University  
*United States of America*

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Break

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Third Session — Conference**

**Auditorium I**

Business perspectives: "Religious Freedom and Economic Development"

PUCMM

Conduct:  
**Katia Gutiérrez**  
Department of Communication, PUCMM

Introduction:  
**Roberto Herrera**  
Member of the Board, National Council of Private Enterprises (CONEP)  
*Dominican Republic*

Keynote speaker:  
**Dr. Brian J. Grim**  
President, Religious Freedom and Business Foundation (RFBF)  
*United States of America*

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Lunch**

**Executive Room**

By invitation

PUCMM

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

**Fourth Session— Panel Discussion**

**Auditorium I**

Government perspectives: "The Role of the State in Protecting Religious Freedom"

PUCMM

Conduct:  
**Laura V. Caminero**  
Protocol Coordinator, Alcaldía del Distrito Nacional

Moderator:  
**Euri Cabral**  
President, Señales TV / Commentator, "El Sol de la Mañana"  
*Dominican Republic*

Panelists:  
**Pastor Fidel Lorenzo Merán**  
President, Consejo Dominicano de Unidad Evangélica (CODUE)  
*Dominican Republic*

**Pastor Shurman Kook**  
President, Dutch Caribbean Union, Seventh-day Adventist Church  
*Curacao*

**Hon. Michelle Ortiz**  
Deputy, Cámara de Diputados, National Congress  
*Dominican Republic*

**H.E. Mrs. Sandra Granger**  
First Lady of the Republic  
*Guyana*

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Break

3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

**Fifth Session — Panel Discussion**

**Auditorium I**

International perspectives: "Fairness for All: Fighting Intolerance and Protecting Conscience"

PUCMM

Conduct:  
**Rafael G. Gutiérrez**  
Director of Public Affairs, Caribbean Area  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Moderator:  
**Juan C. Monge**  
Senior Advisor, Human Rights, United Nations  
*Dominican Republic*

Panelists:

**Dr. Norberto Padilla**  
President, Consorcio Latinoamericano de Libertad Religiosa  
*Argentina*

**Dr. Ana María Celis Brunet**  
Director, Center for Law and Religion, Faculty of Law, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile  
President, International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS)  
*Chile*

**Roberto Rojas Dávila**  
Chief, Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups Section, Department of Social Inclusion  
Organization of American States (OAS)  
*United States of America*

**Scott E. Isaacson**  
Regional Advisor for Latin America, International Center for Law and Religion Studies  
J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University  
*United States of America*

4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Launching Event — CIER PUCMM**

Official launching: Center for Research and Religion Studies  
at Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM)

Conduct:

**Katia Gutiérrez**  
Department of Communication, PUCMM

Introduction:

**Dr. José Ángel González**  
Director, Centro de Investigación y Estudios sobre la Religión (CIER-PUCMM)  
*Dominican Republic*

Remarks:

**Pbr. Dr. Ramón Alfredo de la Cruz Baldera**  
Rector, Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM)  
*Dominican Republic*

Signing of agreement:

**Pbr. Dr. Ramón Alfredo de la Cruz Baldera**  
Rector, Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM)  
*Dominican Republic*

**Prof. Gary B. Doxey**

Associate Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies  
J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University  
*United States of America*

**Dr. Brian J. Grim**

President, Religious Freedom and Business Foundation (RFBF)  
*United States of America*

**Prof. Léilah C. Decembre-Momplaisir**

Law Professor, Faculty of Law and Political sciences, Université Quisqueya  
*Haiti*

**Dr. Norberto Padilla**

President, Consorcio Latinoamericano de Libertad Religiosa  
*Argentina*

**Dr. Ana María Celis Brunet**

Director, Center for Law and Religion, Faculty of Law, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile  
President, International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS)  
*Chile*

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Dinner and Cultural Show**

By invitation. Performance by PUCMM students

**Embassy Garden Room**

El Embajador Hotel

**Friday, November 17**

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

**Welcome and organization**

By invitation

**Auditorium I**

PUCMM

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

**Group photo**

**Main Entrance**

PUCMM

9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

**Sixth Session — Panel Discussion**

**Auditorium I**

Faith perspectives: "Contribution of Religion and the Fundamental Role of Religious Freedom in Society"

PUCMM

Conduct:  
**Libio Encarnación**  
Director, Enfoque Oratory School

Moderator:  
**Pastor Rafael B. Paz Manzano**  
President, Confraternidad Evangélica Dominicana (CONEDO)  
*Dominican Republic*

Panelists:  
**Elder Quentin L. Cook**  
Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
*United States of America*

**The Most Rev. Msgr. Victor E. Masalles Pere**  
Bishop, Diocese of Bani, Conferencia del Episcopado Dominicano  
*Dominican Republic*

**Suleiman Bulbulia**  
Secretary, Barbados Muslim Association  
*Barbados*

**Rev. Gary Harriott**  
Secretary-general, Jamaica Council of Churches  
*Jamaica*

**Rev. Manuel Estrella Polanco**  
Coordinator, Mesa de Diálogo y Representación Cristiana  
*Dominican Republic*

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**Break**

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Seventh Session — Discussion**

**Auditorium I**

Media perspectives: "The Interrelation of Freedom of Speech, Press, and Religion"

PUCMM

Conduct:  
**Susie Caraballo**  
Anchor, Antena 7 News

Moderator:  
**Rafael G. Gutiérrez**  
Director of Public Affairs, Caribbean Area  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
*Dominican Republic*

Presenters:  
**José P. Monegro**  
Director, El Día  
*Dominican Republic*

**Edith Febles**  
Journalist and Commentator, "Enfoque Matinal" y "En la Mira"  
*Dominican Republic*

**Alicia Estévez**  
Editor, Listin Diario  
*Dominican Republic*

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Lunch**

**Executive Room**

By invitation

PUCMM

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

**Eighth Session — Workshop**

**Auditorium I**

Judicial perspectives: "Protecting Religious Freedom through Legislation and the Judicial System"

PUCMM

Conduct:  
**Néstor Saldivar**  
Attorney at Law, CRFS Executive Committee



**Introduction:**  
**Dr. Denisse Posse Blanco de Lindberg**  
Judge (r), Third Judicial District, State of Utah, United States  
Advisor, International Center for Law and Religion Studies (ICLRS)

**Presenters:**  
**Prof. Léilah C. Decembre-Momplaisir**  
Law Professor, Faculty of Law, Université Quisqueya  
*Haiti*

**Pelegrin H. Castillo Semán**  
First Vice President, Fuerza Nacional Progresista (FNP)  
*Dominican Republic*

**Prof. Juan G. Navarro Floria**  
Law Professor, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Buenos Aires (UCA)  
*Argentina*

**Scott E. Isaacson**  
Regional Advisor for Latin America, International Center for Law and Religion Studies  
J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University  
*United States of America*

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Break**

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Ninth Session — Panel Discussion**

**Auditorium I**

Academic perspectives: "Law Education as a Platform  
for Protecting Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB)"

**PUCMM**

**Conduct:**  
**Dr. José Ángel González**  
Director, Centro de Investigación y Estudios sobre la Religión (CIER-PUCMM)

**Moderator:**  
**Dr. Mariano A. Rodríguez Rijo**  
Law Professor, Department of Law, PUCMM  
*Dominican Republic*

**Panelists:**  
**Dr. Francisco José García Rodríguez**  
Lecturer, Faculty of Humanities, Universidad de Puerto Rico (UPR)  
*Puerto Rico*

**Dr. Gélin Imânes Collot**  
Dean, Faculty of Law, Université d'Etat d'Haïti  
*Haiti*

**Dr. Ana Maria Celis Brunet**  
Director, Center for Law and Religion, Faculty of Law, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile  
President, International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS)  
*Chile*

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Tenth Session — Summation**

Concluding reflections: Religious Freedom in the Caribbean:  
A Look into the Future". Final remarks.

**Conduct:**  
**Rafael G. Gutiérrez**  
Director of Public Affairs, Caribbean Area  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

**Moderator:**  
**Prof. Gary B. Doxey**  
Associate Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies  
J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University  
*United States of America*

**Comments:**  
**Various delegates**  
By invitation

*Nigel Hughes - Guyana*

*Mirelle Sint Jago - Aruba*

*Suleiman Bulbulia - Barbados*

**Final remarks:**  
**Pbr. Dr. Ramón Alfredo de la Cruz Baldera**  
Rector, Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM)  
*Dominican Republic*

*Léilah Decembre-Momplaisir - Haiti*

*Rodys Polanco - DR*

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Dinner and Social Activity**

**Embassy Garden Room**

By invitation. Performance by PUCMM students

El Embajado Hotel



# Biographical Profiles

## Chairman



**Pbr. Dr. Ramón Alfredo de la Cruz Baldera**  
Rector, Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM)

Born in San Francisco de Macoris, Dominican Republic. As a child he was inclined to serve the Lord through the Catholic Church.

He entered the Minor Seminary Santo Cura de Ars, La Vega in 1977 and, later, to the Major Seminary Santo Tomás de Aquino in Santo Domingo in 1981. In 1990, he was ordained a deacon, in Germany, and in 1991 he was ordained a priest in the Holy Trinity Parish of Nagua.

In the priestly exercise he has carried out various ecclesiastical functions, which has alternated with his fruitful academic work in various educational centers such as the Pontifical Seminary of Santo Tomás de Aquino, the Catholic University of Santo Domingo, the Catholic University Nordestana and the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra. He is also a writer. In his publications he has addressed topics such as Christian education in Latin America, reading and interpretation of the biblical text, christian humanism, education in values, among other current issues.

He is currently rector of the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra.

## Guests of Honor



**H.E. Dr. Margarita Cedeño de Fernández**  
Vice President of the Dominican Republic

A Juris Doctor from Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (UASD), and post-graduate studies in Business Law and Economic Legislation, and Political Science for Development (Universidad de Salamanca).

She started legal practice in the private sector in several prestigious law firms in the country. In 2004, she became the first Dominican lawyer to become First Lady. In that capacity, she promoted successful projects to fight poverty, promote values and build human capital. She is the first woman in her political party (PLD) to reach office as the Vice President of the Dominican Republic.

She has devoted most of her political career to the promotion of women's rights. She leads a strategy to bring families out of poverty based on social programs for the benefit of women, the youth, the elderly and the disabled, under the umbrella of a broad social initiatives program known as Progresando con Solidaridad (PROSOLI).



**Hon. Rubén D. Maldonado Díaz**  
President, Cámara de Diputados, National Congress of the Dominican Republic

His political career started in El Majagual, Sabana Perdida, in the municipality of Santo Domingo North.

He was first elected to Congress in 2002, and since re-elected four consecutives times. Since August 16, 2017, he has function as the President of the Lower Chamber (Cámara de Diputados). He is also a member of the Political Committee of the official party (PLD).

His career as Congressman includes service in the comissions of Economic Planning, Public Debt Management, and the Modernization and Reform of the Dominican State.



**H.E. Mrs. Sandra Marie Granger**  
First Lady of the Republic of Guyana

Her Excellency Sandra Marie Granger, First Lady of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, aims to empower and improve the lives of the most vulnerable sectors of the Guyanese population.

She is the Vice-Chair of Spouses of Caribbean Leaders Action Network (SCLAN), which focusses on reducing teenage pregnancy, cervical cancer, mother-to-child HIV transmission and domestic violence in the Caribbean. Her Excellency is a Champion of Every Caribbean Woman Every Caribbean Child initiative, a Champion for Change against HIV/AIDS Stigma and Discrimination of the Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV/AIDS (PANCAB), and FAO's Sustainable School Feeding Programme.

Mrs. Granger has been honoured by local and international organisations, including Celebrating Woman International (2016) and by the Centre for Economic and Leadership Development (2017).





### **Elder Quentin L. Cook**

Member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Elder Quentin L. Cook was called as a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on October 6, 2007.

When he was called to be the General Authority of the Church in 1996, he was vice president of Sutter Health System.

He served as a commercial attorney and partner-manager of a San Francisco Bay law firm and as a board member of several commercial corporations and non-profit organizations. In his youth, he was a missionary in the British Mission.

It's from Logan, Utah. He studied Political Science at the University of the State of Utah and obtained a Juris Doctorate from Stanford University.



### **Dr. Gary B. Doxey**

Associate Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies,  
J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University

Gary B. Doxey, Associate Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University, joined the center in 2005 and serves as regional advisor for Latin America. He also heads the center's development effort. He has co-authored several commentaries on draft legislation, and a number of amicus briefs in Latin America. He also teaches in the History Department at Brigham Young University. Professor Doxey's career has been divided between academia and public service. Prior to joining the law school, he has been chief of staff and general counsel to Utah Governors Mike Leavitt and Olene Walker and served as deputy commissioner of financial institutions and as associate general counsel to Utah Legislature. He has a PhD in History from Cambridge University and a JD from Brigham Young University. He speaks or reads several languages and has authored several scholarly publications.



### **Dr. Brian J. Grim**

President of the Religious Freedom and Business Foundation (RFBF)

Brian J. Grim, Ph. D., is president of the Religious Freedom & Business Foundation (RFBF) and a leading expert on international religious demography and the socio-economic impact of restrictions on religious freedom. Brian recently served as chair of the World Economic Forum's global agenda council on the role of faith (2015-16).

Brian holds a visiting professorship at St. Mary's University in London, where he is developing the RFBF's Empowerment+initiative to increase religious freedom by helping those experiencing a wide range of socio-economic risks including displacement, unemployment, isolation, crime, addiction and extremism become self-reliant. Brian also supports and works closely with the "Business for Peace" platform of the United Nations Global Compact. He is also a Distinguished Fellow at the Religious Freedom Center of the Newseum Institute in Washington, DC.

Prior to becoming the Foundation's president in 2014, Brian directed the largest social science effort to collect and analyze global data on religion at the Pew Research Center. He also worked for two decades as an educator in the former Soviet Union, China, Central Asia, the Middle East and Europe. Brian holds a doctorate in sociology from the Pennsylvania State University and is author of numerous articles and books including *The Price of Freedom Denied* (Cambridge Univ. Press), *The World Religion Database* (Brill), *The World's Religions in Figures* (Wiley) and *The Yearbook of International Religious Demography* (Brill). Dr. Grim writes the Weekly Number Blog and also is a TEDx speaker. He also writes the Weekly Rhyme, adding to a large body of poetry he's written through the years.



### **Prof. Leilah C. Decembre-Momplaisir**

Law Professor, Faculty of Law and Political sciences, Université Quisqueya

Prof. Decembre-Momplaisir obtained her Bachelor's degree from Université Quisqueya's Law School in 2013 and a Master's degree in Economic Law from Aix-Marseille Université, France.

As a part-time lecturer since 2014, she was nominated full-time professor and academic counselor in 2016 after teaching General Introduction to Law and Public Law. Prof. Decembre-Momplaisir is the author of an article entitled "The opportunity to legislate on Public-Private partnerships in Haiti" published in the legal journal JURIS. She is also interested in Property Law and Public Order/Procurement Law.

In January 2017, she joined the Frederic, Guillaume and Associates law firm as a Legal Counsel.



### **Dr. Ana María Celis Brunet**

Director, Center for Law and Religion, Faculty of Law, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile  
President, International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS)

Ana María Celis Brunet is an associate professor in the Department of Canon Law at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and director for the Center for Law and Religion. She has a bachelor's degree and a doctorate in Canon Law from the Pontifical Gregorian University of Italy. She also earned a law degree from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

Dr. Celis Brunet is an ecclesiastical lawyer before the Ecclesiastical Court of Santiago de Chile. She has written several volumes and academic articles on the subject of religious freedom. She is the president of the International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS), an organization for scholars and experts from around the world to study, analyze, and exchange ideas on issues related to law and religion.





**Dr. Norberto Padilla**  
President of the Latin American Consortium for Religious Freedom

Norberto Padilla is the president of the Latin American Consortium for Religious Freedom (elected September 2017), of which he is a founding member. Law professor (Constitutional Law) and member of the Higher Council of Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina (UCA). He is a graduate and associate professor at the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences, Universidad de Buenos Aires.

He is a founding member of the Latin American Council for Religious Freedom (CALIR) and a member of International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS). He has been an advisor to the Senate of Argentina; advisor, undersecretary and Secretary of Worship (1999-2001). Prof. Padilla has collaborated with the organism for ecumenical and interreligious relations of the Argentine Conference of Bishops. He is the author of several publications and conferences on legal, religious and historical issues. He speaks English, French and Italian.

## Participants



**Alicia Estévez**  
Director, Listindiario.com  
Writer

She was born in El Seibo, Dominican Republic. She is a journalist graduated from the School of Social Communication at Autónoma Universidad of Santo Domingo (UASD), where she was a professor for 14 years. She earned a certificate in New Trends of Journalism at Universidad de Navarra, Spain.

She was the first woman to function as and editor in Listin Diario, first in 2002 and then in 2006. Since 1999 she has written "Cosas de Duendes", and more recently "Cosas de Dios", a column based on real stories whose main characters are always children. She is the director of listindiario.com.

Her parents are the deceased composer Cuto Estévez and Mrs. Mercedes De León. She has three children who have been a source of inspiration for many of her stories.



**Carol P. Baal**  
Senior Lawyer, Schurman Advocaten, Suriname

Attorney at Law with over 20 years of experience. She has broad experience in tenancy, labor, contract, business and family law.

For the past 2 years she has worked with immigration issues. Since January 2011 she has provided legal assistance to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Ms. Baal lectured on legal topics relating to taxation and civil laws. She is a member of the Bar Association of Suriname.

She is the chair of Stichting Miliendia, an organization engaged in professional health care and a member of Bureau Dak en Thuislozen, an organization for the homeless.



**Christian de Lespinasse**  
President, Cabinet de Lespinasse

He is a fourth generation attorney with expertise in IP rights and insurance matters in Haiti. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Babson College, Wellesley, MA, USA and a Licence in law from Faculté de Droit et des Sciences Économiques at Université d'État d'Haïti, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. He also holds the insurance designations of Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC) and Certified Risk Manager (CRM). He is the owner-manager of Cabinet de Lespinasse, established in 1877.

He has over 35 years of experience in both legal and insurance matters. He is a member of various institutions, including: Chairman of the Haiti IP ad hoc Commission for advocating IP awareness and policies, International Trademark Association (INTA) and the Latin America Trademark Office Practice - Latin America Trademark Office Relations Sub Committee; International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI), Intellectual Property Caribbean Association (IPCA), among others.

Over his 35-year experience, in addition to legal services, He has been an active Board Member of an insurance company, a bank and an insurance brokerage company.





### **Dr. Denisse Posse Blanco de Lindberg**

Judge (r), 3rd Judicial District, State of Utah

Fellow, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, J. Reuben Clark Law School, BYU.

Dr. Posse Blanco de Lindberg was a judge for the 3rd Judicial District Court in Salt Lake County, Utah. She was appointed to the court by former Governor Michael Leavitt in November 1998 and retired on January 1, 2015. Judge Lindberg earned her Master's and Doctoral Degrees from the University of Utah. She went on to receive her JD degree from Brigham Young University in 1988.

Dr. Lindberg was a law clerk for Judge Monroe G. McKay of the United States Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit and for Justice Sandra Day O'Connor of the United States Supreme Court. Prior to her appointment to the 3rd Judicial District, she practiced appellate and healthcare law in Washington, D. C., and in Salt Lake City.



### **Edith Febles**

Journalist and communicator, NCDN

Edith Febles has a long and distinguished career in audiovisual and written media.

She started in her hometown, El Seybo, being just a teenager, where she ventured into radio through Radio Seybo. Later, she moved to Santo Domingo to continue her studies. She worked in Z-101 (radio), and El Caribe and Clave Digital (press).

She also worked as research journalist in El Caribe and Clave Digital, as well as in El Informe, by Alicia Ortega, from SIN Group. For several years she conducted El Despertador, where she analysed and commented national news along side co-host and journalist Marino Zapete.

She still co-host with Mr. Zapete on El Jarabe TV (channel 45), and co-producer of En la Mira (radio show) with co-producer and journalist Amelia Deschamps.



### **Dr. Enrique Alemán Gutiérrez**

President, Proyecto Quisicuba

President, Cuban Platform for Interreligious Dialogue

As a Doctor in Sciences and Social Anthropology, he has worked tirelessly in pursuit of interreligious, multi-ethnic dialogue and cultural diversity, in Cuba and the World, for the recognition of religions and the importance of dialogue between them, which is a very important part of the Quisicuba Association Center.

Dr. Alemán has given many conferences in multiple universities of the world focused on interreligious dialogue for the resolution of global conflicts. Coordinator of the International Meeting for Interreligious Dialogue and World Peace celebrated in Havana, Cuba. He has received among other distinctions, the title of "Paradigm of Cuban Culture" delivered by the University of Havana and the Council of Rectors of Cuba on July 15, 2016.



### **Euri Cabral**

President, Señales TV / Commentator, "El Sol de la Mañana"

Dominican communicator, graduated with a degree in Economics from Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (UASD). He has collaborated in various written media outlets in the Dominican Republic, and he is commentator on El Sol de la Mañana (radio show, Zol 106.5), and a columnist for the newspaper El Caribe.

He is the Presidente of Producciones Ella y El and Señales TV, a television channel focused on promoting values. He is part of the leadership team for Iglesia Cristiana Palabras de Vida (ICPV)

He has written several books, "Planting Values: Reflections with Jesus in the heart" (2014), "Healthy and happy couples: planting values to achieve it" (2016).

He married Zinayda Rodriguez in 1987. They have two daughters and are grandparents of five.



### **Rev. Fidel Lorenzo Merán**

President, Consejo Dominicano de Unidad Evangélica (CODUE)

Graduated in sociology at Interamerican University. He also studied at the Billy Graham Association's Advanced Training Center, at the Haggai Institute, (Hawaii).

He began his ministerial education at Seminario Teológico Menonita. In 1984, he co-founded with Alberto Ramirez (President, Universidad Federico Henríquez y Carvajal) a church in Los Trinitarios, Santo Domingo Este.

In 1997, an alliance was made with the Primitive Methodist Church of the United States, where he was ordained as a pastor and held several positions until he was elected in 2007 as its president.

Then in 1998, he joined the Dominican Council of Evangelical Unity (CODUE), in the emergency department of natural disasters. Today, he functions as President of this organization.

Fidel Lorenzo is pastor of the Primitive Methodist Church located in Los Mameyes, Santo Domingo Este.





**Dr. Francisco José García Rodríguez**  
Lecturer, Faculty of Humanities, Universidad de Puerto Rico (UPR)

Francisco José García Rodríguez is Assistant Professor in the Humanities Department of the University of Puerto Rico, Bayamón campus. He obtained his master's degree in history from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras campus and has a doctorate in philosophy and letters with a concentration in history from the Advanced Studies Center of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean. He has participated in multiple panels, conferences and papers related to the history of Puerto Rico and Latin America. He has published several articles on the evolution of the prison system in the Spanish penal system in San Juan de Puerto Rico until 1910.

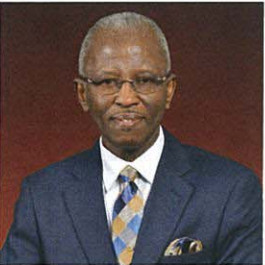


**Rev. Gary L. Harriott**  
Secretary General, Jamaica Council of Churches

Ordained in 1991, he has served the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands in a variety of capacities, both in Jamaica and Grand Cayman. These include the Pastoral Ministry, Director of Youth Ministries, Director of Chaplaincy and Counselling, and Director of Ministerial Formation.

Since September 2006, Rev. Harriott has been serving as General Secretary for the Jamaica Council of Churches (JCC), an ecumenical body of 11 Christian Denominations in Jamaica. This position has added to his public profile as he is often seen and heard representing the church's position on national issues. He also serves as secretary to the Jamaica Umbrella Groups of Churches (JUGC); the entity that brings together the wider church family in Jamaica.

Rev Harriott is a strong believer and advocate for the empowerment of individuals and communities.



**Dr. Gélin Imânes Collot**  
Dean, Faculty of Law, Université d'Etat d'Haïti

He is a doctor (PH.D) in law from the University of Aix-Marseille (France), mention: Very honorable.

He holds a Master's degree in Research and Public Finance from Panthéon-Sorbonne, France and in International Business. He has a degree in Law from the State University of Haiti (UEH), mention: Excellent

Mr. Collot has also developed curricular development studies at Laval University, Québec, Canada and on alternative methods of conflict resolution at the University Gainesville, USA. He has been a member of the International Law Committee of the OAS, of the State University of Haiti (UEH-Uniq-AUF Doctoral College) and the Doctoral School and dean of the Faculty of Law at the same university.

He is currently the rector of the Mount Everest University of Haiti, research professor and member of the doctoral thesis board. He is the author of several works, the last being: Law and religion: influence, interdependence or interference. What perspective does religious freedom have?



**Dr. José Ángel González**  
Director, Centro de Investigación y Estudios sobre la Religión (CIER-PUCMM)

He has studied management, philosophy, theology, psychology and education. He has worked in the fields of university teaching, community actions and management in several universities in the country.

He currently directs the Center for Research and Studies of Religion of the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM)



**José P. Monegro**  
Director, El Día Newspaper

Mr. Monegro is the youngest director of one of the newspapers members of the Dominican newspaper society, although he has 28 years of uninterrupted experience in journalism. He studied journalism and law, with a Master's degree in Political Science and another in Government and Public Administration, as well as a specialty in communications from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia.

Mr. Monegro has held all the positions in the journalistic world until reaching the maximum editorial position of a newspaper. He started as a reporter for Listín Diario in 1989, being only 18 years old. He was recruited by Rafael Herrera Cabral. He was later promoted as the first editor of Listín Digital and then Head of Information. In 2000 he joined Molina Morillo as editor of Ahora (magazine), and went on to become Deputy Director for El Día, since its foundation in March 2002.

For 14 years he was a correspondent for the Dominican Republic to Associated Press, the most important news agency in the United States and one of the worldwide leaders. He was part of the First Electoral Observation Mission for the Organization of American States (OAS), in Mexico, during the time that President Antonio Peña Nieto was elected. His experience as a reporter includes the coverage of political information, foreign relations, energy, education and is one of the most knowledgeable about the drug trafficking issue in the Dominican Republic.





**Juan C. Monge**  
Senior Advisor, Human Rights, United Nations

Mr. Monje works at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, since October 1999. Since August 2015, he has been assigned to the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Dominican Republic, supporting the work of the different agencies, funds and programs and to facilitate the integration of the human rights approach into their activities. He has served as Deputy Representative of the Office in Colombia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights between 2011 and 2014. He was Coordinator of the mission created by the Human Rights Council of the United Nations to investigate the military assault on the humanitarian flotilla that was going to Gaza, in May 2010.

Previously he served as Deputy Representative and Deputy Representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner in Guatemala between 2006 and 2010. He has also served as Coordinator of the Observation Area, Coordinator of the Office of the High Commissioner in Cali and Human Rights Officer of the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Colombia. Mr. Monge was also a political advisor to the UN peacekeeping mission in Guatemala, Minugua; He participated as an observer in electoral missions in Peru, Venezuela and the Dominican Republic, with the Organization of American States (OAS). He is a Lawyer from Universidad Autónoma de Centro América, Costa Rica and obtained a Masters in International Affairs from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts.



**Hon. Michelle Ortiz**  
Deputy, Cámara de Diputados, National Congress

Ms. Ortiz holds a degree in Law from the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra, PUCMM, with a Master in International Business from the same university. She is a founding member of Fundación de Liderazgo Emergente and secretary of organization of Movimiento Joven Ponte en Política, the first non-partisan political movement in the country that seeks to motivate young people to participate and become involved in politics regardless of their partisan preference. She is also the president of the Youth of the Liberal Action Party (Partido de Acción Liberal, PAL).

She was National Youth Award winner in 2016 and is currently a deputy of the Congress of the Dominican Republic.



**Juan F. Puello Herrera**  
Law Professor and Member of the Academic Committee, Law School.  
Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM)

Mr. Juan F. Puello Herrera is a lawyer graduated from the Universidad Nacional Pedro Henríquez Ureña (UNPHU). He completed a Master's Degree in Religious Sciences, 1991-1995, post-graduate studies in Specialization in Constitutional Law of the Dominican Republic in 2010, Master's Degree in Public Constitutional Law from 2011-2012 at the Castilla-La Mancha University, Diploma in Criminal and Constitutional Procedural Law, University of San José Costa Rica in 2007 and Diplomas in International Commercial Arbitration, 2009-2012.

Mr. Juan F. Puello Herrera holds a Diploma in University Pedagogy from the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra in 2007. He has been a university professor since 1973 at APEC University, Pedro Henríquez Ureña National University (UNPHU), where he was the dean of the Faculty of Legal and Political Sciences. Since 2007 and until 2016 he was the coordinator of the Master Corporate Businesses at Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCAMAIMA), Santo Domingo, C.S.T.A. He is currently the Academic Officer of Private Law at the same university. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the National School of the Judiciary and a member of the C.S.T.A-PUCMM Postgraduate Council.



**Prof. Juan G. Navarro Floria**  
Law Professor, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Argentina (UCA)

Dr. Juan G. Navarro Floria is graduated in Law from Catholic University of Argentina, where he teaches Civil Law, Ecclesiastical Law, and Law and Religion in Latin America; and PhD in Law from the Complutense University (Spain). He is also lawyer, litigator and legal advisor of religious institutions. He was Chief Advisor to the Secretariat of Religious Affairs of the Argentine Government. He is founder and board member of the Argentine Council of Religious Freedom, the Latin American Consortium of Religious Freedom, and the International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS). He is member of the National Committee "Justice and Peace" at the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Publications include books, chapters of books and articles in scientific reviews in Argentina and other countries in America and Europe.



**Lea Bernabela**  
President, Curaçao Religious Liberty Foundation

Lea Bernabela, born in Curaçao and bred in Bonaire, with a degree in education, has dedicated about 40 years in primary and secondary vocational education in Bonaire and Curaçao.

The shaping of the conscience of a youngster was her primary goal. As a believer and active member in her church she considers it a fundamental human right to practice one's own religion, what helps to shape the conscience.

When the time was right, together with a few persons interested in this issue in a multi-cultural community, Curaçao Religious Liberty Foundation was founded, of which foundation she is a co-founder and president, to serve the community of Curaçao.





**Marsha Nathalee Martin**  
Communications Officer, Jamaica Council of Churches

A warm, vibrant and dynamic woman who is guided by a deep spirituality expressed in a life marked by integrity and sound moral judgement. A diligent professional and a passionate communicator with an analytical mind.

A Jamaican who served the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI) for just over fifteen (15) years as: Guidance Counsellor at the Iona Preparatory School in St. Mary and the Webster Memorial Counselling Centre; Coordinator for the Church's Children's Ministry; Coordinator for the Chaplaincy Advancement Programmes; and other important capacities. She has written Devotionals for Women and Submissions for the publications of the Council for World Mission.

She holds the Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Theology and Counselling Psychology (double major) from the Institute of Theological and Leadership Development - ITLD (now International University of the Caribbean - IUC) and a Degree of Master of Arts in Communication for Social and Behaviour Change from the University of the West Indies (UWI). She currently serves as Communications Officer for the Jamaica Council of Churches.

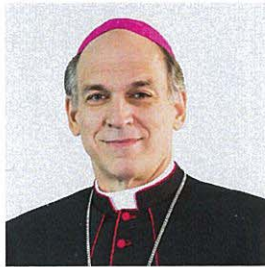


**Mireille Sint Jago**  
Secretary of International Affairs (UPP Aruba)

Mireille Sint Jago was born in Willemstad, Curacao. She attended the University of Aruba, to the school of law. She is an Educational Bachelor, Chemistry, Tilburg Netherlands. She has done the Toastmasters: Advanced Leadership Bronze, Advanced Communicator Bronze. Speaks five languages (Dutch, English, Papiamentu, some Spanish, and German)

She's an Aruban politician for the Social Democrat Party UPP, Education Policy advisor. Author of three Papiamentu spoken children's books. 'Bombero ribabais', 'Professor Luciano' and 'Fiesta di Awa'. Co-writer of several textbooks, Producer and host of 30+ Educational TV-shows (2011-2013), Radio host weekly political program (2016-2017).

She's the founder and president of Gilberto F. 'Betico' Croes Toastmasters Club, Key-note speaker at events and Student trainer and coach.



**The Most Rev. Msgr. Victor E. Masalles Pere**  
Bishop, Diocese of Bani, Conferencia del Episcopado Dominicano

He was born in Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain and studied at Universidad Autónoma of Santo Domingo, where in 1983 he obtained a degree in Economics.

In 1985 he received his call to a life as a priest, which he unconditionally accepted. He joined the Pontifical Seminary of St. Tomás de Aquino, where he studied Philosophy and Theology, to be ordained for the Archdiocese of Santo Domingo in July 1991.

In 1994, he was sent to Rome to study more. After completing his studies, he returned to the Dominican Republic. As a priest he has dedicated himself to the promotion of the human being and apostolic and evangelizing work. In 2006, he was appointed Episcopal Vicar in the Administration of the Archdiocese of Santo Domingo. In 2010, he was named Auxiliary Bishop of Santo Domingo by His Holiness Benedict XVI and received his Episcopal Consecration on June 29, 2010, at the Cathedral Primada de América in Santo Domingo.

He presides over the following national commissions in the Conference of the Dominican Episcopate: Doctrine of Faith and Ecumenism, Culture and Penitentiary.



**Nicole Poyer**  
Council member, The Sehon Goodridge Theological Society

Nicole Poyer works as a full time Administrator at one of the leading Financial Advisors in Trinidad and Tobago. She lectures in the Diploma in Theology Programme on a part-time basis at the Sehon Goodridge Theological Society. Nicole is also a trained Youth Minister and Catechist in the Roman Catholic Church, who currently serves her parish church as a Lay Minister and Lector. Together with her friend Stephen Jones, she Co-founded Taizé Trinbago which later became Sychar House of Prayer, the only ecumenical prayer community in Trinidad & Tobago. Nicole lives in Belmont with her three children.



**C. A. Nigel C. Hughes**  
Managing partner, Hughes Fields & Stoby

C.A. Nigel Hughes read law at University College London, where he graduated L.L.B. (Hons.) (1985) and L.L.M (1986).

He is a former President of the Guyana Bar Association and has served on Criminal Law Reform Committee as well as Civil Rules Committee. He was a lecturer in negotiations at the University of the West Indies post graduate Executive Masters program.

In 2015, Mr. Hughes was appointed convener of the Special Committee on Constitutional Law by the Prime Minister and was tasked with making recommendations for constitutional Reform in Guyana. The Committee successfully submitted its report to the Prime Minister.

Mr. Hughes has drafted legislation which has been submitted to the National Assembly as well as prepared the legal and regulatory framework for Catch and Release Fishing in Guyana.

Mr. Hughes is a founder member and Director of the Guyana Oil and Gas Association.





**Pelegrín Horacio Castillo Semán**  
First Vice President, Fuerza Nacional Progresista

Pelegrín Horacio Castillo Semán was born in San Francisco de Macoris, Dominican Republic. He has been a candidate for the presidency of the Dominican Republic for the Fuerza Nacional Progresista (2016-2020). He ran for the first time in 2010.

He has a Law Degree (Magna Cum Laude), from the National University Pedro Henríquez Ureña (UNPHU), 1978. He is a university professor in Administrative Law, Constitutional Law, History of Political Ideas and Law of the Sea (UNIBE, PUCMM and UNPHU).

He was the first Minister of Energy and Mines as soon as that ministry was organized. He has been deputy on five occasions from 1994 to 2010 (in 2014 he resigned to accept as Minister of Energy and Mines).

He is recognized as one of the most active legislators in the Dominican National Congress. It has been affirmed that it has the highest percentage of attendance at the Chamber of Deputies and that it has been the congressman with the most bills submitted and approved.



**Pastor Rafael B. Paz Manzano**  
Christian Church Palabras de Vida  
President, Confraternidad Evangélica Dominicana (CONEDO)

Pastor Paz is the President of Confraternidad Evangélica Dominicana (CONEDO), the oldest institution of grouping and representation of evangelical churches in the Dominican Republic. He is a communication specialist and co-host of the "Teleanálisis con Jesús" (TV), which airs every Friday and Saturday on the Tele 16 and SDTV, channel 24.

He studied Business Administration at INTEC and has a specialty in Family Therapy at the Christian Family Counseling Center (CECAF). For four years he was associated with Department of Foreign Languages of the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM), Santo Domingo.

He is the Vice President of Msa de Dialogo y Representación Cristiana, an institution where he has helped to coordinate the actions of evangelicals in the Dominican Republic.

He is married to pastor Maria Isabel Palacios. They have three children.



**Roberto Herrera**  
Member of the Board, National Council of Private Enterprises (CONEP)

Masters in Business Administration at Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM) and Economic Business of the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland.

He was sub director in the Dominican Republic of Basic Energy and Vice President of Administration of EGE HAINA and CEPM. He was Regional Manager of the Americas for Scotia Energy Limited (SEL). He was a consultant on SEL service commission to Cogentrix Energy, Inc.

He acted as a consultant for the Caribbean Basin Power Fund and Basic Energy Limited. He was also president of the National Network of Business Support for Environmental Protection and vice president of the Round Table of the Commonwealth Countries. He is also a member of the boards of directors of the National Council of Private Enterprise, Association of Industries of the Dominican Republic and the American Chamber of Commerce of the Dominican Republic.

He is the General Manager of the Electricity Company of San Pedro de Macoris and its operator BasicRD.



**Roberto Rojas Dávila**  
Head of the Groups Section in Vulnerability Situation of the Department of Social Inclusion,  
Organization of American States (OAS)

He is the head of the Groups Section in Vulnerability Situation of the Department of Social Inclusion for the Organization of American States (OAS). From this position, he provides support in complying with the OAS mandates regarding the promotion of the rights of vulnerable groups; promotes the signing, ratification and implementation of inter-American conventions related to vulnerable groups.

He is also a legal officer of the Department of International Law of the OAS, a position from which he offers legal advice to the organs, agencies and entities of the OAS, especially to the (CAJP); monitors the implementation of the Inter-American Program for the Development and Promotion of International Law; coordinates the courses of: International Law, Refugees, Statelessness, and on the Inter-American System.

He studied International Law and Human and Human Rights at the American University Washington College. He has a law degree from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Perú, where he also did postgraduate studies.





**Rev. Ronald P. McGarrell**

National Director, Family Federation for World Peace and Unification Guyana  
President, Interreligious Organization of Guyana

Pastor Ronald P. McGarrell is the National Director for Family Federation for World Peace (Guyana Chapter) since year 2000. He also served in a similar position in Jamaica from 1996 to 2000. National Secretary General for Universal Peace Federation (Guyana Chapter). Chairman of the Inter-Religious Organization (The IRO), Chairman of the Inter-Religious Television (The GIRTV Inc).

He is the Vice Chairman of the National Dress Code Committee, and the Association for culture and friendship with China. Was trained in Missionary work in the USA and in South Korea. As a Legal Marriage, he has presided over the marriages of more than a thousand couples and has participated in family values conferences in almost thirty countries. He is married to Mrs. Josefa McGarrell and together they have one adult son.



**Scott E. Isaacson**

Regional Advisor for Latin America, International Center for Law and Religion Studies  
J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University

Scott Isaacson is Senior Fellow with the International Center for Law and Religion Studies and a member of the international section or the law firm Kirton McConkie. He advises domestic and foreign businesses and not-for-profit organizations regarding all aspects of international trade and business, with specific emphasis in Latin America. He previously served as International Legal Counsel for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, supervising all of church's legal work in South America. As part of this position, he managed international real estate acquisitions and construction, complex litigation and international arbitration, international tax compliance for not-for-profit organizations, government relations, and legal implementation of new programs. On a regular basis, he makes presentations at international seminars held in countries such as Chile, Argentina, and Mexico about legal matters related to non-profit and religious organizations. Isaacson is recognized as one of Utah's Legal Elite in international law.



**Shiva Rajiv Maharaj**

Attorney at Law, J. D. Sellier + Co.

Shiva Rajiv Maharaj is an Associate Attorney-at-Law of the Corporate Commercial Department of the prestigious law firm of J.D. Sellier + Co. in Trinidad and Tobago. Shiva joined the Firm in August 2015 and has been under the tutelage of Dennis Gurley, S.C., one of the more senior partners of the Firm.

Shiva's practice includes the broad spectrum of corporate work for both local and foreign entities, financial institutions, private individuals and last but not least The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints. He has worked extensively in matters involving mergers, acquisitions and joint ventures. Shiva also handles several matters inclusive of providing detailed advices and opinions for operations and initiatives for the Church and is their legal contact in the jurisdiction.

He earned his legal qualification from Staffordshire University in the United Kingdom, his LL.B from the University of London and his B.Sc. from the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. He is admitted to the bar of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.



**Pastor Shurman R. Kook**

President, Dutch Caribbean Union, Seventh-day Adventist Church

Shurman R. Kook is co-founder and secretary of the Curaçao Religious Liberty Foundation. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology from Andrews University, Michigan, U.S.A. and a Masters of Arts in Applied Ethics from Utrecht University, the Netherlands. A native of Curaçao, and an ordained minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He is currently serving as the President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Dutch Caribbean, covering the islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao. He is the author of the volume entitled; "Secularism and Religious Emancipation in Curaçao." In 2015 he received recognitions from IRLA (International Religious Liberty Association) Inter-American region for his contribution to the promotion and defense of Religious Liberty.



**Suleiman Bulbulia**

Secretary, Barbados Muslim Association  
Director, Organization for Islam in Latin America and the Caribbean

Suleiman Bulbulia is Muslim Chaplain of the Cave Hill Campus, University of the West Indies, Secretary- Barbados Muslim Association and Director- Regional office, Organization for Islam in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Mr. Bulbulia graduated with a BSc. Management Studies from the University of the West Indies. And holds a Certificate in Arabic Studies from the Arabic Language Institute, King Saud University, Saudi Arabia.

He has worked extensively in the area of inter-faith dialogue, representing Barbados and the Islamic faith at local, regional and international conferences.

Mr. Bulbulia sat as the Muslim representative on the Prime Minister's 'Religious Advisory Committee on National Affairs'.