

ROBERT A. DESTRO

Robert A. Destro is Professor of Law and founding Director of the Interdisciplinary Program in Law & Religion at The Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law in Washington, D.C. He has been a member of the faculty since 1982 and served as Interim Dean from 1999-2001. In 1982, Professor Destro was nominated by President Ronald Reagan for a six-year term as a Commissioner on the United States Commission on Civil Rights, and was appointed Commissioner in 1983 by the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Robert Michel. From 1983 to 1989, Commissioner Destro led the Commission's discussions on discrimination on the basis of disability, national origin and culture, religion, and the rule of law in tribal courts. He served as Special Counsel to the Ohio Attorney General and the Ohio Secretary of State on election law matters (2004-2006); as General Counsel to the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights (1977-1982); as Adjunct Associate Professor of Law at Marquette University (1978-1982); and in the private practice of law with Squire, Sanders & Dempsey in Cleveland, Ohio (1975 to 1977).

Professor Destro's areas of specialization, scholarship, and litigation include: freedom of speech and religion; bioethics; discrimination on the basis of race, disability, national origin and religion; comparative constitutional law and human rights; election law; private international law; legal ethics, and bioethics. He is co-author, with Michael S. Ariens, of *RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY* (Carolina Academic Press, 2d ed., 2002; 3d edition, forthcoming in 2012), a leading textbook on the issue of religious liberty. He is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States and other federal courts, and in the States of California and Ohio. Professor Destro's work in the field of religious liberty in America requires close cooperation and consultation with religious believers, religious leaders, and religious groups from nearly every faith tradition in the United States.

Professor Destro was born and raised in Akron, Ohio. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1972 from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and his law degree (J.D.) in 1975 from the University of California at Berkeley. He lives in Arlington, Virginia with his wife Brenda and their two children, Gina and Mark.