Past Lecturers of the Middle East Religious Dialogue

2008: Sheikh Hameed Ebrahim Nasser Al-Mubarak, chairman of Jaafari Sharia Higher Appeal Court, member of Justice Supreme Council, and member of Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Tales from a Sharia Court—A Shia Chief Justice Speaks; Mr. Mychal Khalil, attorney and former legal advisor with the Negotiations Support Unit, Palestinian Authority; Mr. Paul Scham, professor and director of the Githlenborn Institute for Israel Studies, University of Maryland, and Mr. Marshall Breger, professor of law, CUA Columbus School of Law, The Conflict in Gaza: Legal Perspectives and Political Approaches; Shaykh Fatih Kazif Al-Getaa, The Relationship Between Iran and the Marjaiyah of Najaf; Mr. Ghassan Manasra, Imam and Sheikh of the Quadi Sufi Center, Director of the Anwar II-Salaa, and Teacher of Sufi Philosophy and Islam, Islam and the “Other”: The View of an Iranian Muslim Cleric; Aaron David Miller, Public Policy Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, The Much Too Promised Land: America’s Elusive Search for Arab-Israeli Peace; Tamara Cofman Wittes, Senior Fellow and Director, Middle East Democracy and Development Project, Saban Center for Middle East Policy, The Brookings Institute, Freedom’s Unsteady March: America’s Role in Building Arab Democracy; Dr. Menachem Klein, Senior Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Bar-Ilan University, Israel, and comments by Mr. Daniel Levy, Senior Fellow and Director, Middle East Policy Initiative, the American Strategy Program and the New America Foundation, The Challenge of Jerusalem: Geneva, Annapolis, and Beyond; Zeid Ra’ad Zeid Al-Hussein, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United States of America, The International Criminal Court: Reflections of an Advocate; Ms. Barbara Slavin, USA Today Senior Diplomatic Reporter, Iran, the U.S. and Missed Opportunities for Reconciliation; 2007: Visit of the Council of Religious Institutions of the Holy Land, sponsored by USAID, Center for the Study of the Presidency, Pope John Paul II Cultural Center and The Catholic University of America; Symposium: The Future of the Freedom of Religion: A Dialogue, sponsored by CUA Interdisciplinary Program in Law and Religion, American Constitution Society, and Sidney Austin LLP; Dr. Mustafa ef. Ceric, Grand Mufti of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Islam in the Balkans: West - Ideals and Realities; Jacob Lassner, Professor of History and Religion, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, Skepticism in Law in Early Judaism and Islam; Joseph Cirincione, Senior Vice President for National Security and International Policy, Center for American Progress, Washington, D.C., Bomb Scare: How to Stop Iran’s Nuclear Program without War; Daniel Taub, Deputy Legal Advisor, Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Rule of Law in an Age of Terror; 2006: Rabbi Alon Goshen-Gottstein, Director, Elijah School for the Study of Wisdom in World Religions, Jerusalem and Director, The Study of Rabbinic Thought, Beit Morasha College, Jerusalem, Seeking New Paradigms in Interfaith Dialogue: A View From Jerusalem; William Beeman, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology and Director of Middle East Studies, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, Shia’s Islam and the Political Language of Iran; Judith Yafe, Ph.D., Professor, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University, Iran's Nuclear Ambitions and American Options: Is There Another Islamic Bomb in Our Future?; Bernard Sabella, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, Bethlehem University, The Situation of Palestinian Christians; Asher Maoz, Professor of Law, Tel Aviv University, Israel, Dr. Gloria M. Morán-Garcia, Ph.D., Professor of Law, University of A Coruha, Spain, and Rahim Nobahar, Ph.D., Faculty of Law, Shahid Beheshti University, Iran, Religion and the State: A Comparative Look at Israel, Spain and Iran; Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States of America; Jillian Schwedler, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Government and Politics, University of Maryland at College Park, Islamism and the Challenge of Political Inclusion; Faycal Souissi, Professor of International Relations, University of Tunis and Azhar Hussein, Senior Fellow in Education and Development, International Center for Religion & Diplomacy, Education for Toleration: Religious Education in Tunisia; Dr. ZacSwenga, Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda, The Decade of Dispute, Resolution, War Crimes, and Reconciliation in Rwanda; Nathan Brown, Ph.D., Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, The Religious Aspects of Arab Constitutions; 2005: Rabbi Arnold E. Resnicoff, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff of the Air Force on Values and Vision, Religion in the Military; Hon. Bisera Turkovic, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United States, Bosnia and Herzegovina: The Religious and Political Landscape Today; Dr. Nicholas K. Gvosdev, Editor, The National Interest, and Senior Fellow for Strategic Studies, The Nixon Center, The Rise and Fall of Radical Political Islam. His Majesty King Abdullah II, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Traditional Islam: The Path to Peace: MenachemKellner, 2005 Scholar-in-Residence, The Foundation for Jewish Studies, The Philosophical Underpinnings of Maimonides Legal Writings. Hon. Imad Moustapha, Ambassador of Syria to the United States, Syria: A Historic, Cultural and Political Perspective; Mary Shivanandan, S.T.D., Professor of Theology, John Paul II Institute for Studies in Marriage and Family, Modernity in the Abrahamic Religions, Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop of Washington, D.C. and Chancellor of The Catholic University of America, The Abrahamic Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Dr. HadiSemati, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, the U.S. and Missed Opportunities for Reconciliation: KarimKhatirAlmusawi, Washington Representative of the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), A Religious View of the Iraqi Elections; Archbishop Ramzi D. YousifGarmou, Grand Archbishop of Assyrians and Chaldeans in Tehran, Iraq, and Christianity in Iran: Past and Present, A Christian Voice from the Islamic Republic of Iran; 2004: Dr. Abdulkarim Soroush, Islam and the Concept of Secularity; Dr. S.H. Nasr, Professor of Islamic Studies, George Washington University, Misperceptions About Islam: Past and Present.

Interdisciplinary Program in Law and Religion–The Middle East Religious Dialogue roperty Center for the Study of Culture and Values roperty Center for Study of Islam and the Middle East present

Storm Clouds Over Jerusalem

Wednesday, February 4
4 pm
Room 220
Columbus School of Law
Daniel Seidemann, founder and legal counsel for "Ir Amim," a non-profit association dedicated to an equitable, stable and sustainable Jerusalem, has been a practicing attorney in Jerusalem and a partner in a firm specializing in commercial law since 1987. Since 1991, he has also specialized in legal and public issues in East Jerusalem, in particular, with regard to government and municipal policies and practices, representing Israeli and Palestinian residents of Jerusalem before the statutory Planning Boards regarding development issues. Key cases have included: the takeover of properties in Silwan, the legality of the Har Homa expropriation and town plan, the Ras el Amud town plan, and administrative demolition orders. In 2001, he successfully filed suit to the Israel Supreme Court, requiring the Jerusalem Municipality and the Israeli Ministry of Education to provide adequate educational facilities and services to the Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem.

From 1994 to 2000, Mr. Seidemann served as lead counsel of Ir Shalem, an NGO dedicated to the development of Jerusalem for the benefit of all of its residents, Israeli and Palestinian. In this capacity, he acquired expertise in the functional exercise of authority in Jerusalem particularly in the fields of planning, residency rights, allocation of resources, property rights, and the subjective perceptions of the various populations of the city in this regard, particularly as these impact on the functioning and viability of Jerusalem.

Due to this expertise, since 1994, he has participated in Track II talks on Jerusalem between Israelis and Palestinians. In 2000-2001, Seidemann served in an informal advisory capacity to the final status negotiations; serving as a member of a committee of experts commissioned by the Prime Minister Barak's office to generate sustainable arrangements geared to implement the emerging political understandings with the Palestinians.

Mr. Seidemann has participated in various Jerusalem-related projects, colloquia and back channel work, sponsored, by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the French Institute of Foreign Relations (IFRI), UNESCO, The Davis Institute of the Hebrew University, the British Foreign Office, the Olaf Palme Institute, the Organization of Architects and Planners in Israel, the European Parliament, New York University, and others.

Mr. Seidemann is a native of Syracuse, NY, and a graduate of Cornell University, emigrating to Israel in 1973, where he has lived since. From 1973-77 he was involved with educational work with youth leaders in Israel. He is a retired Reserve Major in the Israeli Defense Forces, who engaged in leadership training of senior officers. Mr. Seidemann is a member of the Israeli Bar Association, receiving his degree in Law from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He is married and has three daughters.

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Welcome and Introduction

Mr. Robert A. Destro  
Professor of Law and Director of the Interdisciplinary Program in Law and Religion, CUA Columbus School of Law

and

Mr. Marshall Breger  
Professor of Law, CUA Columbus School of Law

discussion presented by

Daniel Seidemann  
Founder and Legal Counsel for Ir Amim, practicing attorney in Jerusalem and a partner in a firm specializing in commercial law since 1987

Reception to follow