

**"CIVIL RELIGION" IN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE:  
FOUR COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES**

March 12-14, 2009

Sponsored by the  
International Center for Law and Religion Studies  
Brigham Young University  
J. Reuben Clark Law School  
Provo, Utah USA

**Conference Program**

***Thursday, March 12, 4:00 p.m., 472 JRCB***

**Welcome**

Dean James D. Gordon III, Interim Dean and Marion B. and Rulon A. Earl Professor of Law, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.

Prof. W. Cole Durham, Jr., Susa Young Gates University Professor of Law and Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Provo, Utah.

**Keynote Address**

*"A Future for Civil Religion?"*

Prof. Dr. Silvio Ferrari, Professor of Church/State Relations, Director, Institute of Ecclesiastical Law, and Co-Director, International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS), Università degli Studi di Milano, Milan, Italy.

***Friday, March 13, 9:30 a.m., 472 JRCB***

**Session 1 - France**

*Chair:*

Prof. Dr. David M. Kirkham, Senior Fellow for Comparative Law and International Policy, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University Law School, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Provo, Utah.

*"Is Laïcité the Civil Religion of France"*

Prof. Dr. Blandine Chelini-Pont, Professor and Director, Center for Contemporary History, Université Paul Cézanne d'Aix-Marseilles III, Marseilles, France.

*Commentators:*

Prof. W. Cole Durham, Jr., Susa Young Gates University Professor of Law and Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University Law School, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Provo, Utah.

Pasquale Annicchino, Doctoral Candidate, School of Jurisprudence and Junior Fellow, Law and Religion Programme, Università degli Studi di Siena, Siena, Italy.

Prof. Dr. M. Emmanuel Tawil, Professor of Law, Université Panthéon-Assas (Paris II), Paris, France.

***12:00 noon - Lunch for Speakers and Invited Guests***

***Friday, March 13, 1:30 p.m., 472 JRCB***

**Session 2 - Italy**

*Chair:*

Prof. Robert T. Smith, Managing Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Provo, Utah.

*“Civil Religion in Italy: a ‘Mission Impossible’?”*

Prof. Dr. Alessandro Ferrari, Professor of Canon Law and Church/State Relations, Università dell’Insubria, Como, Italy.

*Commentators:*

Prof. Winnifred Fallers Sullivan, Associate Professor of Law and Director, Law and Religion Program, University at Buffalo Law School, The State University of New York, Buffalo, New York.

Prof. Andrew Koppelman, John Paul Stevens Professor of Law, Northwestern University School of Law, Chicago, Illinois.

***3:30 p.m., Break, 472 JRCB***

***4:00-6:00 p.m., 472 JRCB***

**Session 3 - United States**

*Chair:*

Prof. Elizabeth A. Sewell, Associate Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Provo, Utah

*American Civil Religion: An Idea Whose Time is Past*

Prof. Frederick Mark Gedicks, Guy Anderson Chair and Professor of Law, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah; Visiting Professor of Law, Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, Indiana.

*Commentators:*

Prof. Dr. Pierre-Henri Prelot, Professor and Director, Graduate School of Law and Human Sciences, Université de Cergy-Pontoise, Cergy-Pontoise, France.

Prof. David Fontana, Associate Professor of Law, George Washington University Law School, Washington, D.C.

***Saturday, March 14, 9:00 a.m., 472 JRCB***

**Session 4 - Roundtable - European Union**

*Moderator:*

Prof. David Moore, Associate Professor of Law, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah; Visiting Associate Professor, George Washington University Law School, Washington, D.C.

*“Liberal Democracy and Human Rights”*

Prof. Michael J. Perry, Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law, Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, Georgia.

*“A Civil Religion for Europe: How to Make Sense of the Past”*

Prof. Dr. Marco Ventura, Professor of Law and Religion, and Director, Law and Religion Programme, Università degli Studi di Siena, Siena, Italy.

*“Secular Nationalism and Incorporation of Religion by the State: Foundations of Civil Religion in Turkey”*

Prof. Dr. Talip Kucukcan, Professor of Sociology of Religion, Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey.

Dr. T. Jeremy Gunn, Director, Program on Freedom of Religion and Belief, American Civil Liberties Union and Senior Fellow for Religion and Human Rights, Center for the Study of Law and Religion, Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Concluding Remarks**

*“Creation and Preservation in the Constitution of Civil Religion”*

Prof. Brett G. Scharffs, Professor of Law, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University; and Associate Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Provo, Utah.

Prof. Frederick Mark Gedicks, Guy Anderson Chair and Professor of Law, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah; Visiting Professor of Law, Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, Indiana.

***12:00 Noon - Lunch for Speakers and Invited Guests***