

This symposium on gender-relevant legislative change invites explicit comparisons of the position of women in Muslim and non-Muslim countries. The easing of patriarchal norms as well as the formal commitment to equality has been relatively recent everywhere. So-called “second-wave” feminism and the associated gains in women’s employment and political and educational achievement are the accomplishment of a single generation, still very much alive and active. Thus, the comparative endeavor need not begin with an assumption of positional superiority but may be a discourse about the concrete and particular legal manifestations of how gender is lived and how women struggle and advance. A distinguished multi-disciplinary group of international scholars and activists will address this comparison including:

**PARTICIPANTS:**

**MICHELE ALEXANDRE**

*Assistant Professor of Law, University of Memphis School of Law*

**ZAINAH ANWAR**

*Executive Director of Sisters in Islam, Selagor, Malaysia*

**MARK CAMMACK**

*Professor of Law, Southwestern Law School, Los Angeles*

**VARSHA CHITNIS**

*Visiting Scholar, University of Florida Levin College of Law*

**MOUNIRA MAYA CHARRAD**

*Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology, University of Texas, Austin*

**MARTHA ALBERTSON FINEMAN**

*Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law, Emory University Law School*

**MARIE-CLAIRE FOBLETS**

*Professor Ordinaris of Law and Anthropology, Louvain University, Belgium*

**LOUISE HALPER**

*Professor of Law, Washington and Lee University School of Law*

**MARTIN LAU**

*Islamic Legal Studies Program, Harvard Law School and Chair, Department of Law SOAS, London*

**RUTH MILLER**

*Assistant Professor of History, University of Massachusetts, Boston*

**ZIBA MIR-HOSSEINI**

*Global Visiting Professor of Law, New York University Law School and SOAS, London*

**AMIRA SONBOL**

*Professor of Islamic History, Law and Society, Georgetown University, Washington, DC*

**ADRIEN WING**

*Bessie Dutton Murray Professor, University of Iowa School of Law*

**DANAYA WRIGHT**

*Professor of Law, University of Florida Levin College of Law*

**PANEL CHAIRS:**

**PENNY ANDREWS**

*Professor of Law, CUNY Law School*

**MARK DRUMBL**

*Professor of Law, Washington and Lee School of Law*

**FRANK VOGEL**

*Founding Director, Islamic Legal Studies, Harvard Law School*

**ROBIN F. WILSON**

*Visiting Professor of Law, Washington and Lee School of Law*

SYMPOSIUM  
**Gender-Relevant  
Legislative Change in  
Muslim and  
Non-Muslim Countries**



*March 30-31, 2007*

*Lexington, Virginia*

JOINTLY SUPPORTED BY THE WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY  
FRANCES LEWIS LAW CENTER AND THE ISLAMIC LEGAL STUDIES  
PROGRAM OF THE HARVARD LAW SCHOOL.

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## SYMPOSIUM

# Gender-Relevant Legislative Change in Muslim and Non-Muslim Countries

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2007

8:15-9:00 REGISTRATION

9:00 WELCOME AND OPENING  
REMARKS

9:15 PANEL ONE:  
*The Particularity of the Past*

Panel Chair: MARK DRUMBL

MARTIN LAU  
*The Zina Ordinance of  
Pakistan—A Review of the  
First 25 Years*

DANAYA WRIGHT  
and VARSHA CHITNIS  
*The Legacy of Colonialism:  
Religion, Law and Women's  
Rights in India*

LOUISE HALPER  
*Comparing Modernities:  
Nationalism and Gender  
Law in Turkey and Iran*

10:45 BREAK

11:00 PANEL TWO: *Changing  
Families, Changing Family  
Law*

Panel Chair: ROBIN F. WILSON

ZIBA MIR-HOSSEINI  
*How the Door of Ijtihad  
was Opened and Closed?  
A Comparative Analysis of  
Recent Family Law Reforms  
in Iran and Morocco*

ZAINAH ANWAR  
*Justice and Equality in  
Islamic Family Law:  
Possibilities, Challenges and  
Strategies for Reform*

MARTHA ALBERTSON  
FINEMAN  
*The Competing Paradigms  
of Religion and Rights:  
Authority within the Family*

12:30-1:45 LUNCH

2:00 PANEL THREE:  
*Marriage Across Continents*

Panel Chair: PENNY ANDREWS

MARIE-CLAIRE FOBLETS  
*Muslim Women in Europe:  
Bargaining for Autonomy*

MARK CAMMACK  
*Marital Property Rights in  
Indonesian Islam and the  
Common Law*

MICHÈLE ALEXANDRE  
*Lessons from Islamic  
Polygamy: A Case for  
Expanding the American  
Concept of Surviving Spouse  
so as to Include DeFacto  
Polygamous Spouses*

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2007

8:15-9:15 BREAKFAST

9:15 WELCOME REMARKS

9:30 PANEL FOUR: *Gender  
Legislation and Social  
Context*

Panel Chair: FRANK VOGEL

MOUNIRA MAYA CHARRAD  
*Steady Reforms: Path  
Dependency Theory and  
Gender Legislation in Tunisia*

ADRIEN WING  
*The Future of Palestinian  
Women's Rights: Lessons from  
a Half Century of Tunisian  
Progress*

RUTH MILLER  
*On the Limits of Bodily  
Integrity: Rape Legislation in  
Comparative Perspective*

AMIRA SONBOL  
*Nationality and Citizenship:  
Women's Fight for Basic  
Freedoms*

11:30-12:30

DISCUSSIONS AND  
REFLECTIONS



A special thank you to:

BABER JOHANSEN, Acting Director, Islamic  
Legal Studies Program of Harvard Law  
School

FRANK VOGEL, Founding Director, Islamic  
Legal Studies Program of Harvard Law  
School

PERI BEARMAN, Associate Director, Islamic  
Legal Studies Program of Harvard Law  
School

DOROTHY BROWN, Director, Frances Lewis  
Law Center, Washington and Lee  
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CLE credit is expected in Virginia. If you have any questions, please contact Tobie Baumann at (540) 458-8509 or baumann@wlu.edu.

Applying for CLE credit:  Yes  No

Send registration to: Washington and Lee University; School of Law; Sydney Lewis Hall; Attn: Tobie Baumann, Lexington, VA 24450-2116.

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If you have any questions about registration or the symposium, please contact: Louise Halper (540) 458-8962, halperl@wlu.edu or Tobie Baumann (540) 458-8509, baumann@wlu.edu.

### Travel/Accommodations

The Washington and Lee University School of Law is situated in Lexington, Va., in the Shenandoah Valley. Travel access by car is on I-81 or by airlines serving the Roanoke Regional Airport (50 miles from campus). Lexington has a number of picturesque bed and breakfast inns and hotels.

Web site:  
[law.wlu.edu/lawcenter/symposium](http://law.wlu.edu/lawcenter/symposium)