



CENTER FOR
LAW & RELIGION
ST. JOHN'S LAW



Dear Friends,

It has been a productive year at the [Center for Law and Religion](#), during which we celebrated our 10th anniversary. We are pleased to share some 2021 highlights and achievements with you here.

CENTER NEWS

10th Anniversary

Following a pandemic postponement, the Center [celebrated its 10th anniversary](#) at the iconic Metropolitan Club in Manhattan this fall. The evening began with a judges' panel program on law and religion issues before the U.S. Supreme Court moderated by Center advisory board member Hon. Richard J. Sullivan. Dinner followed and, as a highlight of the evening, U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr. delivered remarks on the Center's achievements over the past decade. To mark the milestone, we produced a [short video](#) featuring some of the people and programs behind the Center's success over the past decade.

Podcasts

[Legal Spirits](#), the Center's podcast series on cases and issues in law and religion, continued to grow its listener base and is now available on Apple iTunes, Android, Spotify, and other media platforms. Episodes this year covered a range of topics, including religion at the presidential inauguration, religious exemption cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, local restrictions on worship during the pandemic, and law and religion themes in Augustine's *City of God* and Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*.

Blog

The Center's blog, the [Law and Religion Forum](#), continued to feature commentary and weekly "Around the Web" posts on the latest law and religion news. The *Forum* regularly draws media attention and has been cited in major law reviews.

Reading Society

This past year, the CLR Reading Society continued to bring law students, alumni, and friends together virtually to discuss law and religion in literature. Our 2021 selections, Augustine's *City of God* and Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*, sparked lively conversations about each work's law and religion themes.

Webinar

Along with the Fletcher Initiative on Religion, Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and the Armenian Studies Program at California State University-Fresno, the Center co-sponsored a [webinar](#) on Cultural Heritage in Law and Diplomacy. Center Co-Director Mark L. Movsesian served as one of the organizers and moderators. Participants included scholars from around the world, who contributed short essays for the *Law and Religion Forum* blog.

Student Fellows

Each year, the Center selects St. John's Law students to serve as student fellows and assist with its programs and initiatives. This year's fellows were [Catherine Mapelli '21](#) and [Jordan Pampanye '22](#). We are grateful for all their hard work, which included their contributions to the Center's blog.

CO-DIRECTOR NEWS

The *Journal of Law and Religion* (Cambridge) commissioned Professor **Mark Movsesian's** article, "[Law, Religion, and the Covid Crisis](#)," as its annual State of the Field essay. He presented a draft of the article, which will appear in print next year, at the annual St. John's Law faculty retreat. In 2021, while continuing to serve as a co-editor of the *Journal of Law and Religion*, Professor Movsesian wrote regularly on church-state issues for opinion journals, including [First Things](#) and [Law & Liberty](#), and contributed to [The Volokh Conspiracy](#) blog. He participated in a [webinar](#) on secularism in the United States and France sponsored by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation at Johns Hopkins University and co-organized and moderated a [webinar](#) on cultural heritage in law and diplomacy, co-sponsored with Tufts University and California State University-Fresno. Professor Movsesian commented on a paper at the Federalist Society's annual Junior Scholars Colloquium and taught an online class in constitutional rights at the American University of Armenia. Several media outlets also interviewed him about church-state issues.

Professor **Marc DeGirolami** published several articles in the area of law and religion this year. "Establishment's Political Priority to Free Exercise" will appear in the *Notre Dame Law Review*, and the *American Journal of Jurisprudence* will publish "The End of the Affair," which reviews Joel Harrison's recent book, *Post-Liberal Religious Liberty* (Cambridge). Professor DeGirolami's research and writing on torts also earned attention. The peer-reviewed *The Journal of Tort Law* published "Reconstructing Malice in the Law of Punitive Damages." The article explores the genealogy of the concept of malice in tort law and criminal law, drawing on several religious sources. His essay on legal conservatism was the subject of the Dulles Colloquium at *First Things*, and he has written for *Law & Liberty*. Professor DeGirolami is a Fellow at Pepperdine Law School's Nootbaar Institute for Law and Religion. He also presented his work at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family at the Catholic University of America and at the University of Arizona Law School's National Conference of Constitutional Law Scholars, among other forums.

Thank you for being part of the Center community. We have much more planned for next year, so please follow us at the [Law and Religion Forum](#), and on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions for future programs. If you would like to support our ongoing research, programs and student fellowships, please make a gift on the Law School's [online giving page](#) (from the designation menu, first select Centers and then select Center for Law and Religion).

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and See You Next Year!

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