

Robert C. Blitt

Woolf, McClane, Bright, Allen & Carpenter Distinguished Professor of Law

University of Tennessee College of Law
1505 W. Cumberland Ave., Knoxville, TN 37996-1810

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ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Woolf, McClane, Bright, Allen & Carpenter Distinguished Professor of Law

University of Tennessee College of Law

2007-Present (Distinguished Professor 2021; Full Professor 2015; Tenured 2011)
Knoxville, TN

- 🎓 **Teaching:** Constitutional Law, International Law, European Union Law, Human Rights Law, International Religious Freedom, Global Constitutionalism, Legal Process I, Foreign, International and Comparative Law Research, and Cross Border Transactions
- 🎓 **Select College of Law Service:** Top 2% SSRN Author Ranking; Intercollegiate Review Committee (2024-present); Chair, Associate Dean Appointment Committee (2024); OED/FA Faculty Search Chair Orientation Certificate (2024); Strategic Plan Implementation Committee (2023-present); Assessment Committee (2019-present); Adjunct Faculty Committee (2022-present, 2014-2016, 2008-2009); Community and Inclusion Committee (2022-2023, Chair, 2012-2014, Member, 2007-2012); Academic Success Committee (2020-2022); Academic Freedom Task Force (2022); W. Allen Separk Faculty Scholarship Award Committee (2020-2022); International Law Students Association Faculty Advisor (2009-present); Student Code of Conduct Committee (2021-2022); Inclusive Teaching Certification (2021); Pro Bono & Public Interest Committee (2020-2021); Legal Writing Task Force (2019-2021); Advocates' Prize Brief Grader (2021, 2019 & 2015); LLM Taskforce (2017-2019); Legal Writing Program Director Search Committee (2019); Innovation Committee (2016-2018); First Year Faculty Advisor (2009-2018); Academic Standards Committee (2016-2017); Faculty Mentor (2012-2014); Jessup Moot Court Team Advisor (2008-2014); Moot Court Awards Committee (2008-2014); Clayton Visitor Advisory Committee (2014); AALS alternate delegate (2014); LLM Working Group (2011-2012); Safe Zone: Empowering LGBT Allies Training (2012); Recipient, UT Arab Culture Curriculum Infusion Grant (2010); SEALS New Scholar Mentor (2010); Cunningham Award Committee (2008-2009)
- 🎓 **Select University Service:** Commissioner, UT Global Strategy Commission (2024-present); Chair, Department Representative, and Member, Periodic Post-Tenure Performance Review (PPPR) Committees (2023-2024); Global Scholars at Risk Committee, UTK Center for Global Engagement (2023-present); Student Scholarship Committee for International Research, UTK Center for Global Engagement (2023-present); Center for the Study of Social Justice (CSSJ) (Founding Board Member & Division Head 2009-present); Judaic Studies Advisory Committee (2009-present); Affiliated Faculty, Department of Religious Studies (2019-present); [continued...]

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ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE (Cont.)





Select University Service (Cont.):

Department of Religious Studies Decadal Academic Program Review Team (2023); UT Dean of Students First Amendment/Free Speech Task Force (2019-2022); UT Student Code of Conduct Board (2017-2019); Affiliated Faculty, Disasters, Displacement, and Human Rights Research Group (2009-2019); Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program Grant Enhancement Committee (2010-2011); Focus on Poverty Task Force (2009-10)

- **University Guest Lectures:** Seminar on Literature and Civil/Human Rights (ENGL 690) (2022); Introduction to Law and the Legal Profession (2019-2022); UT's Honors & Scholars Program Global Awareness Lecture Series (2019); Global Studies Program (2018); Chancellor's Honors Program (2017); Global Studies Program (2012); & Anthropology Department (2011)
- **PhD Dissertation Committees:** Education Dep't. (2020-2022); Communications Dep't. (2015-2016); Anthropology Dep't. (2008-2012)
- **Faculty Senate (2012-2016):** College of Law Caucus Chair (2014-2015); Appeals Committee (2013-2016), Chair & Member, Appeal Panels (2013-2014); & Benefits and Professional Development Committee (2012-2013)

PUBLICATIONS

Law Reviews & Journals

-  *Agent of Russian Interests Abroad: Assessing the Moscow Patriarchate's Activity in the Balkans and Beyond*
27(2) GONZAGA JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW 57-122 (2024)
-  *Justifying Aggression: Russia's 2020 Constitutional Amendments and the War on Ukraine*
57(1) VANDERBILT JOURNAL OF TRANSNATIONAL LAW 1-90 (2024)
-  *Human Rights and Disinformation Under the Trump Administration: The Commission on Unalienable Rights*
66.1 ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY LAW JOURNAL 1-48 (2022)
-  *The International Religious Freedom Act: Non-State Actors and Freedom from Sovereign Government Control*
103.2 MARQUETTE LAW REVIEW 547-579 (2019)

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PUBLICATIONS (Cont.)

Law Reviews & Journals (Cont.)

- *The Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) Response to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Rights: A Challenge to Equality and Nondiscrimination Under International Law*
28.1 JOURNAL OF TRANSNATIONAL LAW & CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS 89-187 (2019)
- *The Wolf Act Amendments to the U.S. International Religious Freedom Act: Breakthrough or Breakdown?*
4.2 UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA JOURNAL OF LAW & PUBLIC AFFAIRS 151-201 (2019)
- *Leveraging Regional Human Rights Mechanisms Against Universal Human Rights: The OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission Study on Sexual Orientation*
60 WILLIAM & MARY LAW REVIEW ONLINE 1-43 (2018)
 - W. Allen Separk Faculty Scholarship Award for outstanding legal scholarship
- *Equality and Nondiscrimination Through the Eyes of an International Religious Organization: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) Response to Women's Rights*
34.4 WISCONSIN INTERNATIONAL LAW JOURNAL 755-822 (2017)
- *Experiencing Experiential Education: A Faculty-Student Perspective on the University of Tennessee College of Law's Adventure in Access to Justice Author*
50.1 JOHN MARSHALL LAW REVIEW 11-51 (2016) (co-authored)
- *Beyond Ruggie's Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Charting an Embrasive Approach to Corporate Human Rights Compliance*
48.1 UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS INTERNATIONAL LAW JOURNAL 33-62 (2012)
 - Translated to Bahasa Indonesia and republished by THE INSTITUTE FOR POLICY RESEARCH & ADVOCACY (ELSAM), Jakarta, Indonesia (2015)
- *Defamation of Religion: Rumors of Its Death are Greatly Exaggerated*
62.2 CASE WESTERN RESERVE LAW REVIEW 347-397 (2011)
- *Russia's "Orthodox" Foreign Policy: The Growing Influence of the Russian Orthodox Church in Shaping Russia's Policies Abroad*
33.2 UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW 363-460 (2011)
- *Should New Bills of Rights Address Emerging International Human Rights Norms? The Challenge of "Defamation of Religion"*
9.1 NORTHWESTERN JOURNAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS 1-26 (2011)

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PUBLICATIONS (Cont.)

Law Reviews & Journals (Cont.)

- 🔊 *Whither Secular Bear: The Russian Orthodox Church's Strengthening Influence on Russia's Domestic and Foreign Policy*
FIDES ET LIBERTAS (2011), 89-125
- 🔊 *One New President, One New Patriarch and A Generous Disregard for the Constitution: A Recipe for the Continuing Decline of Secular Russia*
43.5 VANDERBILT JOURNAL OF TRANSNATIONAL LAW 1337-1368 (2010)
- 🔊 *Babushka Said Two Things—It Will Either Rain or Snow; it Either Will or Will Not”: An Analysis of the Provisions and Human Rights Implications of Russia's New Law on Nongovernmental Organizations as Told Through Eleven Russian Proverbs*
40.1 GEORGE WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL LAW REVIEW 1-86 (2008)
- 🔊 *How to Entrench a De Facto State Church in Russia: A Guide in Progress*
2008 BRIGHAM YOUNG LAW REVIEW 707-778 (2008)
- 🔊 *The Religion-State Relationship and the Right to Freedom of Religion or Belief: A Comparative Textual Analysis of the Constitutions of Predominantly Muslim Countries* (co-authored)
36 GEORGETOWN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW 947-1078 (2006)
 - Translated to Arabic
 - Republished in 5(1) INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CIVIL SOCIETY LAW 43-156 (2007)
- 🔊 *Who Will Watch the Watchdogs? Human Rights NGOs and the Case for Regulation*
10 BUFFALO HUMAN RIGHTS LAW REVIEW 261-398 (2004)
 - Republished in 5(4) INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CIVIL SOCIETY LAW 8-96 (2007)

Peer Reviewed Chapters

- 🔊 *“Putin-ponia”: Harnessing Russian Orthodoxy to Advance Russia's Secular Foreign Policy*, in Peter Mandaville, ed., THE GEOPOLITICS OF RELIGIOUS SOFT POWER: HOW STATES USE RELIGION IN FOREIGN POLICY (Oxford University Press, 2023), 41-60
- 🔊 *The United States International Religious Freedom Act, Nonstate actors, and the Donbas Crisis*
in Elizabeth A. Clark and Dmytro Vovk, RELIGION DURING THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN CONFLICT (Routledge, 2019), 86-104
- 🔊 *The Promise of International Law in Developing a Global Foundation for Social Justice*
in Jon Shefner, et al., eds., SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE UNIVERSITY: GLOBALIZATION, HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014), 67-95

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PUBLICATIONS (Cont.)

Peer Reviewed Chapters (Cont.)

- *Should an Australian Bill of Rights Address Emerging International Human Rights Norms? The Challenge of 'Defamation of Religion'*
in Paul Babie and Neville Rochow, eds., *FREEDOM OF RELIGION UNDER BILLS OF RIGHTS* (Adelaide University Press, 2012), 86-116
- *The Bottom Up Journey of "Defamation of Religion" from Muslim States to the United Nations: A Case Study of the Migration of Anti-Constitutional Ideas*
in Austin Sarat, ed., *56 STUDIES IN LAW, POLITICS, AND SOCIETY 1* (2011) (SPECIAL ISSUE HUMAN RIGHTS: NEW POSSIBILITIES/NEW PROBLEMS), 121-211

Reports, Chapters, & Book Reviews

- Robert C. Blitt, *Book Review: Jane Henderson, The Constitution of the Russian Federation: A Contextual Analysis* (Hart Publishing, 2d ed. 2022), 72(1) AM. J. COMP. L. 235 (2024)
- *Religious Soft Power in Russian Foreign Policy*
GEOPOLITICS OF RELIGIOUS SOFT POWER POLICY BRIEF #5, Brookings Institution & Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, May 2021
- *Human Rights Issues in Cross-border Mergers*
in Maurice Stucke, ed., *MAKING THE PIECES FIT: AN ANALYSIS OF THE DAIMLER-CHRYSLER MERGER* (Carolina Academic Press, forthcoming)
- *Springtime for Freedom of Religion or Belief: Will Newly Democratic Arab States Guarantee International Human Rights Norms or Perpetuate Their Violation?*
in David Kirkham, ed., *STATE RESPONSES TO RELIGIOUS MINORITIES* (ASHGATE, 2013), 45-64
- *Tolerance and International Law: The View From Outside*
in O.V. Inshakov, ed., *DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE STATE AND RELIGIOUS ASSOCIATIONS IN THE SPACE OF CONTEMPORARY CULTURE* (Volgograd State University Press, 2009), 231-239
- *Analysis of the Republic of Tajikistan's Draft Law "About Freedom of Conscience and Religious Unions"*, THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT LAW, 2008 (co-authored with Cole Durham) (report)
- *International Legal Developments in Review 2005: Iraq—The Constitution*
40 INT'L LAW. 605-606 (2006)
- *International Legal Developments in Review 2004: Iraq—Human Rights*
39 INT'L LAW. 605-606 (2005)

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PUBLICATIONS (Cont.)

Op-eds & Other Select Media

- 🔊 *North Korea's Alliance with Russia Proves Ukraine is Not About Religion*, THE HILL, November 2024 (Op-Ed)
 - Translated to Korean
- 🔊 *The Russian Orthodox Church as a Tool for Kremlin Influence in the Balkans*, TALK ABOUT: LAW & RELIGION, BYU International Center for Law and Religion Studies, March 2024
- 🔊 *Putin Constitutionalizes Soviet Mistakes Rather Than Learning from Them*, JURIST, September 2023 (Op-Ed)
- 🔊 *Russia's Constitutionalized Civilizational Identity and the Moscow Patriarchate's War on Ukraine*, TALK ABOUT: LAW & RELIGION, BYU International Center for Law and Religion Studies, February 2023
- 🔊 *The Moscow Patriarchate's Constitution: How the Russian Orthodox Church Champions the Kremlin's Battle Against "Falsification"*, TALK ABOUT: LAW & RELIGION, BYU International Center for Law and Religion Studies, August 2021
- 🔊 *Constitutional Amendments Bless the Russian Orthodox Church's Growing Foreign Policy Role*, PUBLIC ORTHODOXY, Fordham University Orthodox Christian Studies Center, July 2021
 - Translated to Bulgarian, Georgian, Greek, Romanian, Russian, and Serbian
- 🔊 *To Russia, With Love*, JURIST, July 2020 (Op-ed)
- 🔊 *Response to Draft Report Prepared by the Commission on Unalienable Rights*, submitted to the U.S. Department of State, July 2020 (Public Comment)
- 🔊 *U.S. Interference in Ukraine's Autocephaly: An Ineffective, Unnecessary, and Unlikely Affair*, TALK ABOUT: LAW & RELIGION, BYU International Center for Law and Religion Studies, January 2020
- 🔊 *Malaysia's Punishment of Lesbian Couple Highlights OIC Rejection of LGBTQ Rights*, OPEN GLOBAL RIGHTS, October 2018 (Op-ed)
 - Translated to Arabic
- 🔊 *International Religious Freedom Summit Fails to Mask Trump's Scorn for Human Rights*, JURIST, July 2018 (Op-ed)
- 🔊 *Defending Islam from Free Speech*, USA TODAY, 2015 (Op-ed)

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PUBLICATIONS (Cont.)

Op-eds & Other Select Writing (Cont.)

- 🗣️ *Gaza Inquiry's Bias Against Israel is Already Clear*, HA'ARETZ, 2014 (Op-ed)
- 🗣️ *Tunisia: Springtime for Defamation of Religion*, JURIST, 2012 (Op-ed)
 - Republished in 10 INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CIVIL SOCIETY LAW 4, 1-2 (2012)
- 🗣️ *Three Tweets Expose the False Hope of Combating Intolerance*, THE JERUSALEM POST, 2012 (Op-ed)
- 🗣️ "Human Rights and Religion", *The Spirit of Things: Presented by Rachael Kohn*, ABC Radio National, 2009 (hour-long feature interview)
- 🗣️ *Room for Hope? Obama's "Overseas Contingency Operations"*, THE TENNESSEAN, 2009 (Op-ed) (co-authored with Otis Stephens)

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SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

International Presentations

Recognizing and Responding to Religious Support for Illegal War

The Russia-Ukraine War: Law and Religion Context

University of Tartu School of Law

Tallinn, Estonia, February 2025

Justifying Aggression: Russia's 2020 Constitutional Amendments and the Invasion of Ukraine

Panel: Constitutional Revolutions in Russia & Georgia

ICON•S Annual Conference

IE University Law School

Madrid, Spain, July 2024

Blessings for War: The Moscow Patriarchate's Systematic Support for the Invasion of Ukraine & the Necessity of an Effective International Response

Panel: Religion as a Political Force

CEEISA-ISA Joint International Conference

University of Rijeka

Rijeka, Croatia, June 2024

Careers in International Law

Osgoode Law School International Law Society

Webinar, November 2022

Lawyers Doing Cool Things—Keynote

University of Toronto Faculty of Law & University of Toronto's Black Future Lawyers

Webinar, March 2022

Careers in International Law

University of Toronto International Law Society & Osgoode Law School International Law Society

Webinar, March 2022

Human Rights, "Religious Liberty" and Disinformation Under the Trump Administration

Flashpoints: Human Rights, Law and Religion Conference

Nottingham Law School

Nottingham, UK, December 2021

Kremlin-Russian Orthodox Church Relations

Research Project on Chinese Buddhism in Globalization

Hitotsubashi University (Japan) & Henry Luce Foundation

Webinar, October 2021

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SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS (Cont.)

International Presentations (Cont.)

International Religious Freedom and U.S. Policy in Donbas

Panel: "Religion During the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict"

10th World Congress of the International Council for Central and East European Studies (ICCEES)

Webinar, August 2021

Human Rights Diligence: The Hijacking of Regional Human Rights Mechanisms

Panel: "Human Rights Diligence and Its Place in the Toolbox of Public Law"

I-CON Society, ICON·S Mundo Conference

Webinar, July 2021

Regional Human Rights Mechanisms and International Best Practices: A Study in Contrasts

Panel: "International Human Rights Mechanisms in Asia: Rethinking Models and Realities"

Asian Society of International Law, Biannual Conference

Manila, Philippines, August 2019

Human Rights Accountability of Non-State Actors Under the International Religious Freedom Act

Panel: "Human Rights Accountability of Non-State Actors" (Presenter and Commentator)

29th biennial World Congress of the International Association for the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy (University of Lucerne Institute for Interdisciplinary Legal Studies)

Lucerne, Switzerland, July 2019

Amendments to the International Religious Freedom Act: Entities of Particular Concern

"War and Peace and Religion: Religious Freedom during Russian-Ukrainian Conflict"

Yaroslav the Wise National Law University

Kharkiv, Ukraine, April 2018

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation's Response to Women's Rights

Panel: "Law, Human Rights and Religion: Flashpoints"

Nottingham Trent University

Nottingham, UK, December 2016

The Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC): Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
(Invited keynote)

Queens University Law School

Kingston, Canada, October 2016

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SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS (Cont.)

International Presentations (Cont.)

Balancing Religious Freedom with Other Human Rights: The Promise and Perils of Transjudicialism (Debate)

“Constitutional Migration & Transjudicialism”

Princeton University and University of Kiel

Hanover, Germany, June 2015

The Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC): Navigating Equality Through the Lens of a Religious International Organization

“International Conference on Religion and Equality”

Bar Ilan University

Ramat-Gan, Israel, June 2015

Legal Responses to the Ongoing Global Challenge to Prohibit Defamation of Religion in a Post-Charlie Hebdo World

“Sex, Drugs & Rock ‘n Roll: Subversive Sites in the Law”

Osgoode Law School

Toronto, Canada, May 2015

The Organization for Islamic Cooperation’s Anti-Defamation Campaign at the UN
Panel: “Religion & Foreign Policy: The Global Challenges of Religious Pluralism”

McGill University

Montreal, Canada, June 2013 (via Skype)

“Religion and the Rule of Law” Certificate Training Program

Peking University Law School, Center for Constitutional and Administrative Law

Beijing, China, July 2012 (multiple presentations)

The Migration of Anti-constitutional Ideas and Restrictions on Civil Society

Israel Democracy Institute

Jerusalem, Israel, June 2011

The Migration of Anti-constitutional Ideas and Restrictions on Civil Society

Haifa University Faculty of Law, Faculty Seminar

Haifa, Israel, May 2011

Competing or Complimentary? EU and US Human Rights Policies

Panel: “International Law and Human Rights”

The Atlantic Council and Chatham House (UK)

London, UK, November 2010

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SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS (Cont.)

International Presentations (Cont.)

Russia's 'Orthodox' Foreign Policy: The Promotion of Orthodox Interests Abroad

"Religion in the Public Square"

Central European University

Budapest, Hungary, June 2010

Minority Rights & Defamation of Religion

"Religion, Law & Governance in Southeast Asia"

University of Malaysia Faculty of Law

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, January 2010

Tolerance and International Law: The View From Outside

"The Role of Religion in the State"

Volgograd University

Volgograd, Russian Federation, September 2009

Drafting Bills of Rights and Compliance with Customary International Human Rights

Law: The Challenge of 'Defamation of Religions'

"Cultural & Religious Freedom Under a Bill of Rights"

The University of Adelaide

Canberra, Australia, August 2009

NGO Regulation and the Development of Human Rights

"Conference and Research Workshop Marking the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights"

Bar Ilan University Faculty of Law

Ramat Gan, Israel, December 2008

The International Response to Russia's Law on Nongovernmental Organizations

American Bar Association

Brussels, Belgium, September 2008

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SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS (Cont.)

Domestic Presentations

Blessings for War: The Moscow Patriarchate's Systematic Support for the Invasion of Ukraine & the Necessity of an Effective International Response

7th Annual ICLARS Conference: "The Accommodation of Religion or Belief in the Public Sphere: Undeserved Privilege or Fundamental Right?"

University of Notre Dame

South Bend, October 2024

Russia's 2020 Constitutional Amendments and the War on Ukraine

Law & Society, Annual Meeting

San Juan, Puerto Rico, June 2023

Blessing War: The Moscow Patriarchate's Endorsement of Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

Scope of the Ukraine War: An Ontological Question of International Law

Gonzaga University School of Law

Spokane, April 2023

Women's Rights in Afghanistan: Before and After the Fall of Kabul and the Taliban Takeover (Moderator)

University of Tennessee College of Law

Knoxville, February 2023

Works in Progress Workshop

American Society of International Law Midwest Interest Group

Webinar, February 2023

Works in Progress Workshop

American Society of Comparative Law

Philadelphia, January 2023

Russia's 2020 Constitutional Amendments as a Pathway to War

Panel: Religion, Law, and the Russian War against Ukraine

American Association of Law Schools, Annual Meeting

San Diego, January 2023

Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization (Roundtable discussion)

University of Tennessee College of Law

Knoxville, October 2022

Robert C. Blitt

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SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS (Cont.)

Domestic Presentations (Cont.)

Religious Freedom Dimensions of the Ukraine-Russia Conflict

Panel: "The War in Ukraine and the Future of Global Order"

Southeastern Association of Law Schools

Sandestin, August 2022

Panel: "International Human Rights Law in Contemporary Context" (Organizer and Moderator)

University of Tennessee College of Law (Continuing Legal Education)

Knoxville, April 2022

International Law and Human Rights-related Dimensions of Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

UTK International Law Students Association

Knoxville, March 2022

Human Rights and Disinformation Under the Trump Administration

Center for International & Comparative Law, Saint Louis University School of Law

Distinguished International Speaker Series

Webinar, November 2021

The Kremlin Playbook 3 Workshop

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Webinar, November 2021

International Human Rights Law: A Primer

University of Tennessee Faculty Speaker Series

Knoxville Jewish Alliance

Knoxville, November 2021

Religious Soft Power in Russian Foreign Policy

"The Geopolitics of Religious Soft Power"

Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs and

Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies

Webinar, May 2021

Russia's 2020 Constitutional Amendments: The Moscow Patriarchate's Entrenchment as a Soft Power Lever for Foreign Policy

Panel: "Geopolitics of Religious Soft Power: Theories and Cases"

International Studies Association

Webinar, April 2021

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SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS (Cont.)

Domestic Presentations (Cont.)

International Law and Human Rights-related Dimensions of Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

UTK International Law Students Association

Knoxville, March 2022

Human Rights and Disinformation Under the Trump Administration

Center for International & Comparative Law, Saint Louis University School of Law

Distinguished International Speaker Series

Webinar, November 2021

The Kremlin Playbook 3 Workshop

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Webinar, November 2021

International Human Rights Law: A Primer

University of Tennessee Faculty Speaker Series

Knoxville Jewish Alliance

Knoxville, November 2021

Religious Soft Power in Russian Foreign Policy

"The Geopolitics of Religious Soft Power"

Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs and

Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies

Webinar, May 2021

Russia's 2020 Constitutional Amendments: The Moscow Patriarchate's Entrenchment as a Soft Power Lever for Foreign Policy

Panel: "Geopolitics of Religious Soft Power: Theories and Cases"

International Studies Association

Webinar, April 2021

Panel: "Winning Likes and Minds: Creative responses to the international struggle over information" (Co-organizer and Co-moderator)

American Society of International Law

Webinar, April 2021

Panel: "Human Rights in the Shadow of Covid-19: Challenges and Limitations" (Organizer and Moderator)

University of Tennessee College of Law (Continuing Legal Education)

Knoxville, April 2020

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SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS (Cont.)

Domestic Presentations (Cont.)

Overlapping Jurisdictions, Human Rights, and the Migration Crisis in Greece

Haslam Scholars Program Global Awareness Lecture Series

University of Tennessee

Knoxville, November 2019

Anti-Semitism, Hate Crimes and the First Amendment

Workshop: "Creating Safer Communities-A novel hate crimes training" (Co-organizer and Presenter)

Matthew Shepard Foundation and the University of Tennessee Police Department

Knoxville, Oct. 2019

The International Religious Freedom Act, "Entities of Particular Concern" & the Crisis in the Donbas

Association for the Study of Nationalities, "24th Annual World Convention" (Columbia University)

New York, May 2019

Taking Stock of International Criminal Law Today

"International Criminal Justice: The Nuremberg Trials and Lessons for Today" (Convener and Presenter)

University of Tennessee College of Law, Continuing Legal Education

Knoxville, April 2019

"Discussion Forum about Free Speech and Hate Speech"

Faculty Senate Council for Diversity and Interculturalism

University of Tennessee

Knoxville, March 2019

The Promise of International Law in Promoting Universal Human Rights

University of Tennessee Global Studies Program

Knoxville, November 2018

Recent Amendments to the U.S. International Religious Freedom Act: Entities of Particular Concern

"Summer Research Forum"

University of Tennessee College of Law

Knoxville, June 2018

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SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS (Cont.)

Domestic Presentations (Cont.)

The OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission: A Relativist Echo

Chamber for Undermining International Human Rights

"What's Law Got To Do With It? Examining the Role of Law in a Changing World"

Stanford Law School

Stanford, November 2017

ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, OIC Independent Permanent

Human Rights Commission & Best Practices for Regional Human Rights Mechanisms

American Society of International Law, "Midyear Meeting"

St. Louis, October 2017

The OIC as an International Religious Organization

Panel: "The Past & Future Role of Organized Religion in the Development of International Law"

Southeastern Association of Law Schools

Boca Raton, August 2017

Equality & Nondiscrimination Through the Eyes of an International Religious

Organization: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) Response to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Rights

"International Organizations Interest Group Works-in-Progress Workshop" (Presenter and Commentator)

American Society of International Law

Brooklyn, February 2017

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: An International Human Rights Law Primer

UTK Chancellor's Honors Program Living and Learning Community

University of Tennessee

Knoxville, January 2017

Bringing Access to Justice to the Classroom through Focused Experiential Education

"From the Classroom to the Community: Teaching and Advancing Social Justice"

SALT Teaching Conference

Chicago, September 2016

Equality and Nondiscrimination Through the Eyes of an International Religious

Organization: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Response to Women's Rights and Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Rights

"Summer Research Forum"

University of Tennessee College of Law

Knoxville, July 2016

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SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS (Cont.)

Domestic Presentations (Cont.)

Bringing Access to Justice to the Classroom through the A2J Author Course Project

"The Year of Living Dangerously"

CALI Conference (CALICon)

Atlanta, June 2016

Human Rights in Tennessee: The Access to Justice Challenge

"UT Faculty Lecture Series"

Arnstein Jewish Community Center

Knoxville, December 2015

Panel: "Responding to the Legal Needs of Disaster Survivors: A Collaborative Effort of the Legal Profession" (Moderator and Discussant)

"Disasters, Displacement and Human Rights: Bridging the Collaborative Gap"

University of Tennessee Anthropology Department

Knoxville, September 2015

Springtime for Freedom of Religion or Belief? Considering the Arab World in Flux

"Fifth Annual Religious Legal Theory Conference"

Emory University School of Law

Atlanta, February 2014

Defamation of Religion: Rumors of Its Death are Greatly Exaggerated

Panel: "Blasphemy, Religious Defamation, and Religious Nationalism"

American Association of Law Schools, Annual Meeting

Washington DC, January 2012

International Human Rights Norms and Sexual Orientation Discrimination

Panel: "'License to Bully' Legislation"

University of Tennessee College of Law

Knoxville, February 2012

The Promise of International Law in Developing a Global Foundation for Social Justice

"Social Justice and the University"

University of Tennessee Center for the Study of Social Justice

Knoxville, April 2011

Migration of Anti-constitutional Ideas: Defamation of Religion at the United Nations

"Faculty Exchange Workshop"

Marquette University Law School

Milwaukee, September 2010

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SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS (Cont.)

Domestic Presentations (Cont.)

Constitutional Promise and Practice: An International Survey of the Right to Freedom of Religion or Belief

University of Tennessee College of Law (Continuing Legal Education)
Knoxville, September 2010

Church-State Overlaps and Mutual Reinforcement in Russia's Foreign Policy
"Religious Freedom in the Former USSR"

Catholic University of America School of Law
Washington DC, April 2010

Defamation of Religion in the United Nations Human Rights Bodies
Panel: "New Voices in Human Rights"

American Association of Law Schools
New Orleans, January 2010

The Migration of Anti-Constitutional Ideas: The Bottom Up Journey of Defamation of Religion from Muslim States to the United Nations
"Faculty Scholarship Roundtable Series"

John Marshall Law School
Chicago, November 2009

Constitutional Promise & Practice: The Case of Freedom of Religion
"Constitution Week: Keynote Address"

Northeast State Community College
Blountville, October 2009

Public International Law: A Primer

Federal Defender Services of Eastern Tennessee (Continuing Legal Education)
Knoxville, June 2009

Conflicting Rights? Freedom of Religion and Right to Equality
"Property, Community, and the Where of a Same-Sex Civil Union Ceremony"

University of Tennessee College of Law
Knoxville, April 2009

Lost in Translation? Comparing Local and Global Interpretations of Religious Freedom
(Discussant)

Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy
Knoxville, February 2009

Robert C. Blitt

Woolf, McClane, Bright, Allen & Carpenter Distinguished Professor of Law

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS (Cont.)

Domestic Presentations (Cont.)

The UDHR & U.S. Foreign Policy: On the Right to Freedom of Religion
Panel: "60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Its Impact and Future Implications" (Presenter and Panel Organizer)
Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Annual Meeting
Palm Beach, August 2008

Treatment of Religious Groups Under Russia's Amended NGO Law
"14th Annual International Law and Religion Symposium"
Brigham Young University College of Law
Provo, October 2007

Harmless Regulation or Harmful Regression? Russia's New NGO Law
Panel: "New Scholars Workshop"
Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Annual Meeting
Palm Beach, August 2007

Building Credible Self Accountability Principles in An Age of Increasing NGO Regulation
American Bar Association, Annual Meeting (Presenter and panel co-chair)
Washington, DC, May 2007

Challenge to Civil Society: Russia's Amended Law on Noncommercial Organizations
"Briefing on the Russian Federation"
Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
Washington, DC, April 2007

Continued on next page...

Robert C. Blitt

Woolf, McClane, Bright, Allen & Carpenter Distinguished Professor of Law

SELECTED LEGAL & OTHER EXPERIENCE

International Law Specialist

U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, Washington, DC 2004-2006

- Promoted incorporation of international human rights standards in Iraq's permanent constitution by developing relevant legal analysis and policy recommendations.
- Researched and wrote legal opinions on an array of issues, including draft amendments to Sri Lanka's constitution, Russia's law on nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and the 1998 International Religious Freedom Act.
- Identified and coordinated an international network of legal experts on Islam and human rights to serve as a resource tool for Iraq's constitution-drafting committee.
- Represented and advocated USCIRF positions in public events and private meetings with various officials, international constituencies, other experts, and the media.

Attorney Advisor

Department of International Agreements, Ministry of Justice, Tel Aviv, Israel 2001-2002

- Identified and analyzed legal issues relevant to the Department's mandate, including international trade, human rights, immigration, and money laundering.
- Collaborated in the preparation of reports for submission to the United Nations and other regional and international agencies.
- Researched and wrote comparative legal opinions covering U.S., Canadian, Australian, and various European jurisprudence.

Law Clerk, President Aharon Barak

Supreme Court of Israel, Jerusalem, Israel 1999

- Researched and drafted legal memoranda on issues including transnational constitutional law, commercial law, civil rights, and public international law.
- Collaborated with law clerks to identify and prioritize docket-driven research questions.

Director of Projects & Development

Physicians for Human Rights, Tel Aviv, Israel 1995-1997

- Enhanced respect for human rights by developing projects, including a survey of conditions at detention centers in Israel.
- Expanded public relations and organizational network by liaising with foreign media, diplomatic missions, and other NGOs.
- Planned and procured organizational budget, boosting funding by 75% within two years.

Robert C. Blitt

Woolf, McClane, Bright, Allen & Carpenter Distinguished Professor of Law

EDUCATION

University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

LLM (Public International Law & Human Rights), 2003

Faculty of Law Fellowship, Rabin Fellowship for Peace & Tolerance (**Hebrew University of Jerusalem**, 2002)

University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

JD & MA (International Relations) Collaborative Program, 2000

Law Review Editorial Assistant (1998-99), Jessup Moot (1998-1999), Bronfman Award for Middle East Studies (1999), International Human Rights Fellowship (1999)

McGill University, Montreal, Canada

BA *magna cum laude*, North American Studies, 1994

International Politics and Diplomacy Semester (**American University**, 1993)

North American Studies Prize, 1992

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel

Freshman Year Program, Middle Eastern Studies (1991)

Languages: English, French, and Hebrew

EXTERNAL SERVICE, AFFILIATIONS, MEMBERSHIPS & AWARDS

Peer reviewer, variety of scholarly journals, books, and grant-awarding institutions (2008-present), including:

- CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY JOURNAL
- DEMOCRATIZATZYA
- DIGEST OF MIDDLE EAST STUDIES
- ISRAEL LAW REVIEW
- ISRAEL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
- JOURNAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS
- JOURNAL OF LAW AND RELIGION
- LAW AND RELIGION: NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL, AND COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES
- MUSLIM WORLD JOURNAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS
- NORDIC JOURNAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS
- SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA
- SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Member, International Academic Advisory Board, Advanced Program on Religion and the Rule of Law at Oxford University (2018-present)

Robert C. Blitt

Woolf, McClane, Bright, Allen & Carpenter Distinguished Professor of Law

EXTERNAL SERVICE, AFFILIATIONS, MEMBERSHIPS & AWARDS (Cont.)

Member, International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS) (2014-present)

Member, SEALS International Committee (2013-present)

Member, American Branch of the International Law Association (2009-present)

Member, Bar of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (2004-present)

Member, Executive Council, International Law & Practice Section, Tennessee Bar Association (2019-2023)

Co-Chair, American Society of International Law (ASIL) Southeast Region Interest Group (2020-2023) (**Member**, 2008-present)

Member, ASIL Helton Fellowship Selection Committee (2013-2022)

Member, Executive Council, Immigration Law Section, Tennessee Bar Association (2019-2020)

Recipient, W. Allen Separk Faculty Scholarship Award, College of Law, University of Tennessee (2019)

A2J Fellow, The Computer Assisted Learning Institute (CALI) (2015-2016)

Grant recipient, CALI Access to Justice Author Course Project (2015)

Faculty, Downing College, Cambridge University (Summer 2015)

Brief Grader, National Black Law Students Association Moot Court Competition (2015)

Commentator, ASIL Southeast Workshop, University of Virginia Law School (2014)

Convener & Commentator, ASIL International Human Rights Law Workshop, UC Berkeley Law School (2013)

Co-chair, ASIL International Human Rights Interest Group (2011-2014) (**Member**, 2008-present)

Member, Board of Directors, Knoxville Jewish Day School (2013-2017)

Member, Executive Committee, American Association of Law Schools (AALS) Section on International Human Rights Law (2009-2016)

Robert C. Blitt

Woolf, McClane, Bright, Allen & Carpenter Distinguished Professor of Law

EXTERNAL SERVICE, AFFILIATIONS, MEMBERSHIPS & AWARDS (Cont.)

Chair, American Bar Association (ABA) International NGO & Not-for-Profit Organizations Committee (2007-2009); **Vice-chair**, ABA International Middle East Committee (2005-2008)