Symposium on
Monday, October 12, 2015

BIOS

**Ayelet Blecher-Prigat** is a Senior Lecturer at Sha'arei Mishpat Law School, Hod Ha'Sharon, Israel. She obtained her JSD (2005) and LL.M. (Kent scholar 1999) from Columbia Law School. Her LL.B. (magna cum laude) is from the Tel-Aviv University (1997). Prior to turning to academic career, Dr. Blecher-Prigat clerked for the Israeli Supreme Court Justice Strasberg-Cohen.


**J. David Bleich, Ph.D.** Rosh Yeshivah (Professor of Talmud) and Rosh Kollel, Kollel le-Hora’ah (Director, Postgraduate Institute for Jurisprudence and Family Law), Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary; Professor of Law, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law; Tenzer Professor of Jewish Law and Ethics, Yeshiva University; Rabbi, The Yorkville Synagogue, New York City; has taught at the University of Pennsylvania, Hunter College, Rutgers University and Bar Ilan University; ordained, Mesivta Torah Vodaath; Graduate Talmudic Studies, Beth Medrash Elyon, Monsey, N.Y. and Kollel Kodshim of Yeshiva Chofetz Chaim of Radun; Yadin Yadin ordination; Doctor iuris, honoris causa, Humboldt University; Member, Order of the Coif; Woodrow Wilson Fellow; Post-Doctoral Fellow, Hastings Institute for Ethics, Society and the Life Sciences; Visiting Scholar, Oxford Center for Post-Graduate Hebrew Studies; Editor, Halakhah Department, Tradition; Contributing Editor, Sh'ma; Associate Editor, Cancer Investigation; Past Chairman, Committee on Medical Ethics, Federation of Jewish Philanthropies; Founding Chairman, Section on Jewish Law, Association of American Law Schools; Contributor, Encyclopedia of Bioethics; Fellow, Academy of Jewish Philosophy; Fellow, International Academy for the Study of the Jurisprudence of the Family; Member, Board of Directors, International Academy for the Study of the Jurisprudence of the Family; Member, New York State Task Force on Life and the Law; Past Chairman, Committee on Law, Rabbinical Alliance of America; Member, Executive Board, COLPA (National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs); Member, Board of Directors, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America; Member, National Academic Advisory Council of the Academy for Jewish Studies Without Walls; Member, Committee on Ethics, Hospital for Joint Diseases and Medical Center; Member, Bioethics Committee, Metropolitan Hospital; Author, Contemporary Halakhic Problems (6 vols.), Be-Netivot ha-Halakhah (4 vols.), Bioethical Dilemmas (2 vols.), Judaism and Healing, The Philosophical Quest: Of Philosophy, Ethics, Law and Halakhah, Time of Death in Jewish Law, Providence in the Philosophy of Gersonides and Bircas Ha-Chammah; Editor, With Perfect Faith: Readings in the Foundations of Jewish Belief; Editor (with Fred
John M. Breen is a professor of law at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. As an undergraduate, Professor Breen studied the “Great Books” while majoring in Program of Liberal Studies at the University of Notre Dame. He graduated from Notre Dame in 1985 with highest honors. Afterwards, he attended Harvard Law School where he was a member of the Board of Student Advisors, teaching research and writing to first year law students. Following his graduation from Harvard in 1988, Professor Breen clerked for Hon. Boyce F. Martin, Jr., of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. He then practiced law at Sidley & Austin in Chicago where he specialized in commercial litigation. Professor Breen left Sidley & Austin to pursue a teaching career in 1994. He served as an associate visiting professor of law at the Detroit College of Law at Michigan State University from 1994-1996. He received an appointment to join the Loyola faculty in 1996. At Loyola, Professor Breen teaches or has taught courses in Contracts, Professional Responsibility, Sales, Negotiable Instruments, Jurisprudence, and Catholic Social Thought. His scholarly writings have addressed a wide variety of topics including commercial law, statutory interpretation, abortion, law and religion, Catholic social thought and the law, legal ethics, and legal education. They have appeared in a variety of publications including the Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy, the Connecticut Law Review, and the American Journal of Legal History. He is currently working on a book with Lee Strang on the history of Catholic legal education in the United States.

Jason S. Carroll, Ph.D. is a Professor of Marriage and Family Studies in the School of Family Life at Brigham Young University and a Fellow of the Wheatley Institution. He also currently serves as Associate Director in the School of Family Life. He received his Ph.D. in Family Social Science from the University of Minnesota. Dr. Carroll is an internationally-recognized researcher and educator in the areas of marriage fragmentation, sexual intimacy, marriage readiness among young adults, the effectiveness of marriage education, and modern threats to marriage (such as pornography, delayed age at marriage, materialism, premarital sexuality, and non-marital childbirth). Dr. Carroll’s work has been featured in the Economist, the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, the LA Times, Newsweek, USA Today, Psychology Today Magazine, National Public Radio, the Tonight Show with Jay Leno, and other popular media and news outlets. In 2014, Dr. Carroll received the Berscheid-Hatfield Award for Distinguished Mid-Career Achievement, an annual award given for distinguished scientific achievement by the International Association for Relationship Research.

Rabbi Dr. Yitzchak Cohen is an associate professor of law and senior faculty member at Ono Academic College, Israel. He earned LL.B. (cum laude) and LL.M. in the direct path (cum laude), from the Faculty of Law at Bar-Ilan University. He wrote his doctoral dissertation with the assistance of the President’s Scholarship for Outstanding Students. During the 2012-13 academic year, he was a visiting scholar at Columbia University Law School in New York, and in 2013, a Visiting Professor at McGill University, Canada. He is the head of several academic programs, among them Religious Leaders (Christian, Muslim, Druze and Jews) Interfaith LLB Law Program, the first and only class of this kind in the world. Cohen has been a member of the Israel Bar Association since 1999, and was ordained as a rabbi by the Chief Rabbinate of Israel. His primary fields for teaching and research are Jewish law, family law, and civil procedure. He has published numerous articles in these areas. He is the Academic Director
of the Ono Academic College Faculty of Law, Jerusalem Campus, and Chairman of the Public Committee for Prenuptial Agreements appointed by the Minister of Religious Affairs.

**George W. Dent, Jr.**, has been a Professor of Law at Case Western Reserve University Law School since 1990. Before joining the faculty at Case Professor Dent taught at New York Law School, Cardozo School of Law (Yeshiva University) and New York University School of Law.

Professor Dent holds a B.A. (1969) and J.D. (1973) from Columbia, and an LL.M. from New York University. Before entering academia he clerked for Judge Paul R. Hays on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (1973-74) and practiced corporate law at Debevoise, Plimpton, Lyons & Gates (now Debevoise & Plimpton).


**Carlos Martínez de Aguirre.** Catedrático (professor) of Civil Law at the University of Saragossa (Spain), since 1992. Formerly, Catedrático (Professor) of Civil Law at the University of Extremadura (Cáceres, Spain, 1990-1991), and Profesor Titular (Associate Professor) of Civil Law at the University of Saragossa (1986-1990). He received a doctorate in Law from the University of Saragossa in 1984.

Current research interests: Family Law (marriage, unmarried couples, same-sex relationships, filiation and parenting, adoption, children protection; Law of the Person (legal concept of “person”, legal status of human embryo, legal status of persons with disabilities); mortgage Law.

Lead researcher of *Ius Familiae*, research team about Family and Person Law of the University of Saragossa, financially supported by the Spanish Department of Economy and Competitiveness, the Government of Aragon and the University of Saragossa. President of the *International Academy for the Study of the Jurisprudence of the Family*. President of *The International Institute for Family Research – The Family Watch*, which is a think-tank founded in 2007, and committed to research on family issues, and finding solutions to the problems it faces (www.thefamilywatch.org). Member of the *International Society of Family Law*, the *European Law Institute* and the *Academy of European Private Lawyers*. Corresponding Academic of the Spanish Royal Academy for Jurisprudence and Legislation.

**William C. Duncan** is director of the Marriage Law Foundation and former research fellow at the Columbus School of Law of The Catholic University. He has previously served as a visiting professor at the J. Reuben Clark Jr. Law School at Brigham Young University and teaches courses as an adjunct professor at Brigham Young University.
Scott FitzGibbon is a graduate of the Harvard Law School (J.D.), where he was an Articles Officer of the Harvard Law Review, and of Oxford University (B.C.L.), where he studied legal philosophy. He is a professor at Boston College Law School, a member of the American Law Institute, and a member of the International Society of Family Law. He is the Editor in Chief of the International Journal of the Jurisprudence of the Family and a member of the Board of Directors of the International Academy for the Study of the Jurisprudence of the Family. He is a member of the Irish Jurisprudence Society and of the International Chair on Natural Law and Human Personhood, Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina.


His scholarly presentations include “The ‘Beautiful City’ of Plato’s Republic: How the Legal and Social Promotion of Divorce and Same-Sex Marriage Contravenes the Philosophy and Undermines the Projects of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights” (United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, August, 2004); “Divorce and the Decline of Obligation: Towards a Recovery of the Philosophy of Marital Fidelity” (Beijing, China, July, 2004); “Procreative Justice and the Recognition of Marriage” (Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, September, 2006); “Marriage Law: Selected Topics” (University of Padua, Padua, Italy, May, 2007); “Supporting the Family by Telling the Truth: The Law’s Duty of Veracity” (University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria, September, 2008); “Is Family Law Sacred?” (Bar Ilan University, Israel, May, 2009); “Thieving Spartan Boys” (Trinity College, Dublin, February, 2011); “The Legal Definition of the Family” (panel presentation)(Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cambridge, Massachusetts, March, 2011); “The Deeper Meaning of Equal Protection” (Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, November 2012); “Harmonious Legal Discourse and the Good of Family Law” (Brooklyn Law School New York, June, 2013); “The Law’s Duty to Protect the Kinship System and the Failure of Cultural Anthropology” (Cardozo Law School, New York, June, 2013); “The Law’s Duty to Protect the Kinship System” (School of Law, University of La Coruña, Spain, June, 2014); “The Good of Recapitulation and the Good of the Family” (Brigham Young University, Utah, October, 2014); and “The Law’s Obligation to Recognize and Support the Family Business: Foundations in Principles of the Subsidiarity, Freedom of Affiliation, and Promotion of the Best Interests of the Child” (Ono University, Israel, June, 2015).

He was the co-convener, together with Professor Lynn Wardle, of a symposium on the Jurisprudence of Marriage at Boston College Law School and Brigham Young University on March 13 & 15, 2009, a symposium on the Jurisprudence of the Family at Bratislava Law School on May 28-29, 2010, at which he delivered a paper entitled “That Man is You!': The Juristic Person and Faithful Love,” symposia at the Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina in May, 2011 and at the University of Malta in July, 2011, where he delivered a paper entitled "Parenting and the Culture of Friendship," and a symposium at the
Qatar Foundation in Doha, Qatar in May and June, 2012, at which he delivered a paper entitled “The Biological Basis for the Recognition of the Family.”

**Carmen Garcimartin**, PhD Jurisprudence, University of Santiago de Compostela (1998). Lecturer in Family Law, and Law and Religion - UDC. Visiting Scholar in Università La Sapienza, Rome; National University of Ireland, Galway; Catholic University of America, USA; Lecturer in several European Universities (Yeditepe University, Istanbul-Turkey; National University of Ireland, Dublin; University of Ljubljana, Slovenia). She has published five books on Relations between Church and State and Marriage Law and more than thirty chapters of books and articles in Spanish, European and USA Journals. She has been keynote speaker in International Conferences (Tehran, Milan, Vilnius, Buenos Aires, Doha, New York, etc.), and presenter in others. She is the Vice Dean for International and Institutional Relations in the School of Law, UDC. She is leading a project funded by the Spanish Government on “Religious in the Public Space: Juridical Challenges”. She is a member of the Spanish Royal Academy of Law and Jurisprudence and Executive Secretary of the International Academy for the Study of the Jurisprudence of the Family.

**Alan J. Hawkins** is the Camilla Eyring Kimball Endowed Professor of Home and Family Life at Brigham University in Provo, Utah, USA. He earned a Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies at The Pennsylvania State University in 1990. Professor Hawkins’ has taught and conducted research and outreach at Brigham Young University since 1990. In 2012, he received the university's prestigious Karl G. Maeser Research Award. His scholarship and outreach focuses on educational and policy interventions to help couples form and sustain healthy relationships and enduring marriages. He is widely cited for his meta-analytic work that examines the overall effectiveness of marriage and relationship education. In 2003-2004, he was a visiting scholar with the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services), working on the federal healthy marriages initiative. He is the current Chair of the Utah Marriage Commission. He is a member of the Research Advisory Group of Project Relate Oklahoma (formerly the Oklahoma Healthy Marriage Initiative).

**Lynne Marie Kohm**, is Professor and John Brown McCarty Professor of Family Law at Regent University School of Law, and Associate Dean for Faculty Development and External Affairs. Her research and publications focus on marriage, children, gender equity, and family law all in the context of family restoration. She was honored with the Chancellor’s Award for Faculty Excellence as the Regent University Professor of the year in 2005 for her work in defending marriage, training lawyers in family restoration and discipling women law students. She earned her law degree from Syracuse College of Law, and is a graduate of Albany University (BA Philosophy). She has written two books: her seminal work is Family Manifesto: What Went Wrong with the Moral Basis for the Family and How to Restore It, and her most popular book is Estate Planning Success for Women, which has been nominated for several awards because of its unique perspective on women and their influence over the transfer of wealth in the next generation. Prior to teaching, Professor Kohm practiced law in New York and she is licensed to practice law in Virginia, New York, Florida, Massachusetts and the District of Columbia, and is also a Certified Guardian ad Litem. Professor Kohm has a missionary heart, having served with the full time staff of Campus Crusade for Christ for six years prior to and during law school, and is approaching two decades of being part of the law faculty at Regent University School of Law.

**Sandra E. Alcaide** is a J.D. Candidate 2016 from Regent University School of Law, having graduated with a B.A. from N.Y.U. in 2011 and a M.Ed. in Special Education from Hunter College in 2013. Her most recent publication is “The Extension of Battered Woman’s Syndrome
to Victims of Sex Trafficking,” published in the *Family and Intimate Partner Violence Quarterly* (2015). She was a Teach for America Corps member teaching underprivileged children in the Bronx prior to attending law school.

**Richard S. Myers** is Professor of Law at Ave Maria School of Law. He is a graduate of Kenyon College and Notre Dame Law School. He taught at Case Western Reserve University School of Law and the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law before moving to Ann Arbor, Michigan to help start Ave Maria School of Law. He has also taught as a visitor at Notre Dame Law School.

His courses have included Constitutional Law and First Amendment, in addition to Civil Procedure and Conflict of Laws. He has published extensively on constitutional law in the law reviews of Catholic University, Case Western Reserve University, Notre Dame University, and Washington and Lee University.

Professor Myers is the co-editor of St. Thomas Aquinas and the Natural Law Tradition: Contemporary Perspectives (2004). He is also the co-editor of the Encyclopedia of Catholic Social Thought, Social Science, and Social Policy (original two volumes, 2007; 3rd volume 2012). He was the President of University Faculty for Life (2004-2011) and is now its Vice-President. He is the Executive Secretary of the Society of Catholic Social Scientists.

Professor Myers is married to Mollie Murphy, who is also on the Ave Maria faculty. They are the proud parents of six children--Michael (26), Patrick (24), Clare (22), Kathleen (21), Matthew (18), and Andrew (15).

**Douglas NeJaime** is Professor of Law at UCLA School of Law and Faculty Director of the Williams Institute. He teaches in the areas of family law, law and sexuality, constitutional law, and legal ethics. He was previously Professor of Law at UC Irvine School of Law, Associate Professor of Law at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, and the Sears Law Teaching Fellow at the Williams Institute.


**David Pimentel** joined the University of Idaho law faculty this year as Associate Professor, coming from Ohio Northern University, where he directed the LL.M. Program and the Center for Democratic Governance and Rule of Law. He studied at BYU, Berkeley, and Harvard, and has graduate degrees in both law and economics from Berkeley. Before beginning his academic career, he worked for the federal courts, oversaw court management at a UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague, and directed Rule of Law activity in South Sudan for the U.N. Mission there. He has also led court reform projects in Romania and in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He has served as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Sarajevo, and as a Supreme Court Fellow in Washington DC. His 2012 article in the Utah Law Review, *Criminal Child Neglect and the Free Range Kid: Is Overprotective Parenting the New Standard of Care?*, has been downloaded over 20,000 times, quoted by the Wall Street Journal’s editorial staff, and relied upon by the
Kansas Supreme Court in 2013 overturning a conviction against a child’s care-giver (State v. Cummings, 297 Kan. 716, 726-27 (2013)).

Charles J. Russo, M.Div., J.D., Ed. D., is the Joseph Panzer Chair in Education in the School of Education and Health Services, Director of its Ph.D. Program, and Adjunct Professor in the School of Law at the University of Dayton. The 1998-99 President of the Education Law Association, and 2002 recipient of its McGhehey (Achievement) Award, he authored or co-authored more than 260 articles in peer-reviewed journals; authored, co-authored, edited, or co-edited 55 books, and more than 950 publications. Dr. Russo has spoken in thirty-four states and twenty-six nations on all six inhabited continents.

Gene Schaerr, a Washington, D.C. appellate lawyer, is also an adjunct professor of law at Brigham Young University, where he teaches religious freedom and Supreme Court litigation. He has argued and won dozens of cases in a variety of forums—including the U.S. Supreme Court (where he has argued six cases), every federal circuit, and numerous federal district courts and state appellate courts. He holds a B.A. in economics from Brigham Young University, an M.A. and M.Phil. in economics from Yale University, and a J.D. from Yale Law School, where he was Editor-in-Chief of the Yale Journal on Regulation and Senior Editor of the Yale Law Journal. Following law school, Mr. Schaerr clerked on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit (for then-Judge Kenneth Starr) and on the U.S. Supreme Court (for Chief Justice Warren Burger and Justice Antonin Scalia). He also served in the White House as Associate Counsel to the President, where he had responsibility for a wide range of constitutional and administrative-law issues, including those involving economic regulation, higher education, separation of powers, federalism and religious freedom.

In private practice, Mr. Schaerr was a coordinator of the appellate group at Sidley Austin and co-chair of the firm’s Religious Institutions Practice Group. He then spent nearly a decade as the chair of the global appellate practice at Winston & Strawn. In 2014, he formed his own firm, the Schaerr Law Group, which defended the marriage laws of Utah and Idaho in the Tenth and Ninth Circuits. He also represented the Governor of Idaho and a large group of marriage scholars as amici curiae in the Supreme Court’s recent marriage case, Obergefell v. Hodges.

Walter Schumm has taught at Kansas State University since 1979. He has authored over 300 scholarly publications, including a recent book (2014) on the Transition to Parenthood, co-authored with R. Roy and S. Britt. He has served as editor of Marriage and Family Review since 2010. He served in the Army Reserve and Guard for 30 years, retiring as a colonel in 2002. He and his wife Kimberly have seven children and 21 grandchildren.

Edward Stein is Professor of Law at Cardozo School of Law in New York City and the Director of the Gertrud Mainzer Program in Family Law, Policy, and Bioethics. He holds a B.A. from Williams College, a J.D. from Yale Law School, and a Ph.D. in Philosophy from M.I.T. Before arriving at Cardozo, he taught philosophy at Yale University, NYU, Williams College, and Mount Holyoke College. He also clerked for Judge Dolores Sloviter on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. In spring of 2016, he will be the Maurice R. Greenberg Visiting Professor of Law at the Yale Law School.

Stein’s research interests include legal and philosophical topics related to families, sexual orientation, reproduction, cognition and science. He has written extensively on these and other legal, philosophical, and scientific topics and is the author of two books, The Mismeasure of Desire: The Science, Theory and

Avishalom Westreich is a Senior Lecturer (equivalent to American Associate Professor) at the College of Law and Business, Ramat Gan, Israel, and a Research Fellow in the Kogod Research Center for Contemporary Jewish Thought at the Shalom Hartman Institute, Jerusalem. In 2007–2008 he was a Research Fellow in the Agunah Research Unit at the University of Manchester, UK. He was awarded his Ph.D. on "The Talmudic Theory of Torts" from Bar-Ilan University (2007), and holds degrees in Hermeneutic Studies (M.A.), Law (LL.B.), Talmud (B.A.), and Jewish History (B.A.).

Dr. Westreich's main research and teaching areas are Jewish Law, Family Law, and the Philosophy of Law. His research employs interdisciplinary methodologies derived from and integrating legal, hermeneutical, and historical research methods. His publications include NO FAULT DIVORCE IN THE JEWISH TRADITION (Hebrew; 2014) and TALMUD-BASED SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM OF THE AGUNAH (2012).