Law and Christianity
Strategic Focus Areas for the Center for the Study of Law and Religion:

Law and Christianity
Law and Judaism
Law and Islam
Law, Religion, and Human Rights
Law, Religion, and Jurisprudence
Law, Religion, and Social Justice
Law, Religion, and Health

Rick Garnett
Paul J. Schierl / Fort Howard Corporation Professor of Law, Notre Dame Law School

The Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory is the crossroads of the law and religion world, and it leads the way in supporting research, promoting scholarship, and facilitating dialogue about the many ways that legal rules and regimes shape, and are shaped by, religious beliefs, traditions, and practices.
For the past 35 years, the Center for the Study of Law and Religion (CSLR) at Emory University has been a thought leader in this growing interdisciplinary field of study. We have directed two dozen international projects on the fundamentals of faith, freedom, and the family. We have built new bridges of legal conversation within and across Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We have hosted a dozen international conferences and convened scores of public forums that have drawn tens of thousands of participants and online viewers. We have published 350 volumes and thousands of articles. And we have trained thousands of students in our courses and degree programs, several of whom are now leaders of the legal, religious, and academic professions.

Yet there remains so much more to do, as the world witnesses rapid and seismic shifts in law, religion, and society. Our center will continue its traditional work on law, religion, and human rights, including new studies of the scourges of Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and Christian persecution around the globe and what religious and political communities can do in response. We will continue to explore the place of religious legal systems in liberal democracies and the tensions between religious freedom and other fundamental rights, not least sexual liberty. And we will continue to be alert to creative tensions and promising convergences in the legal and religious traditions of the three Abrahamic traditions as well as in Asian and Indigenous traditions.

Why the study of law and Christianity matters

Even as all these areas of law and religion study will remain central to the center’s work overall, our accent here is on the strategic focus area of law and Christianity, which has been a major focus of our work since the center’s founding in 1982 by President James T. Laney and Professor Frank S. Alexander. We have probed the well-established bodies of canon law and church government that govern the polity, property, doctrine, and liturgy of the church as well as the spiritual and moral lives of clergy and laity. We have studied the influence of Christian ideas and institutions on understandings of sexuality, marriage, and family in the Western legal tradition and beyond.

We also have explored how Christian teachings have shaped Western legal and political theory, constitutional order, democratic government, and many areas of social, economic, and political life.

Going forward, the law and Christianity focus area will investigate the interaction of law and Christianity, historically and today, in the West and increasingly around the world. It also will promote cutting-edge work on Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox Christian contributions to law and legal theory. Our aim is to retrieve the rich Christian teachings on law from biblical times until today and to discern the contributions that Christianity—in all its diversity—can make to each of the major areas of public, private, penal, and procedural law. Our further aim is to provide a hub of scholarly resources, connections, and conversations among the many thousands of Christian students and scholars around the world interested in, as is said in Matthew 23:23, “the weightier matters of the law.”

Please take special note, on page 16, of our new Cambridge Law and Christianity Series published in collaboration with Cambridge University Press. Explore, too, our plans to make the center’s extensive work in this area available in a variety of fresh new digital formats. And take stock of the wonderful work being done by our students and alumni/ae and affiliated fellows from across the Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox traditions.

We draw great strength from Emory University, where interdisciplinary work is part of the culture of scholarship and teaching. Our deepest thanks go to the many foundations, corporations, and individuals who help our voices carry around the globe—whether via a book, a website, or a conference.

There is no denying that law and Christianity is a worldwide conversation. The following pages are evidence that this important conversation is continuing.

With kind regards,

John Witte Jr.
Director
Harold Berman came to his Christian faith in dramatic fashion. Born a Jew, Berman was a 21-year-old in Germany in 1939 when the announcement came that Germany was invading Poland. Berman feared for his life as a Jew and hopped a late-night train to France, in the course of which journey he had a vision of Christ. As he later wrote, “I suddenly realized that...it was not I but another, God himself, who bore the burden of human destiny, and that it was rather for me to believe in him even though human history was at an end. When the train arrived in Paris early that morning, I walked straight to the Notre Dame cathedral, and I prayed a personal prayer to God for the first time in my life.”

In a full life that stretched to his 89th year and included World War II service as a code breaker, Berman found a longtime academic home at Harvard Law School, where he taught from 1948 until 1985, retiring as the James Barr Ames Professor of Law. At that time, he joined Emory School of Law, becoming the first Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law. At Emory, he was also a Fellow in Russian Studies at The Carter Center, founding director of the American Law Center in Moscow, and Senior Fellow of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion. With a keen appetite for work, he famously kept office hours six and a half days a week, taking off only Sunday mornings for worship.

For the first three decades of his career, Berman focused on the Soviet legal system and the law of East-West trade. He developed new courses; testified frequently before courts, commissions, and Congress; and traveled regularly to Europe and the Soviet Union—55 times to Russia alone. He produced a massive body of work, including his famous Justice in the U.S.S.R. (1950; rev. ed., 1963). Berman also developed an intense interest in bringing legal education into college courses and the public mainstream. Moreover, extending the classroom globally, he orchestrated a series of public lectures on the fundamentals of law that was broadcast throughout the world on Armed Forces Radio and then published in multiple languages as Talks on American Law (1961).


Bringing an expertise that was invaluable to the Center for the Study of Law and Religion in its early years, Berman was a pioneer in laying the foundation for the interdisciplinary study of law and religion. He developed an innovative theory of the religious dimensions of law, the legal dimensions of religion, and the need for a healthy interaction of legal ideas, institutions, and methods in a just and orderly society. Berman argued that neither law nor religion can maintain its vitality independently of the other and, at the highest level, surely the just and the holy are one.

Michael McConnell
Richard and Frances Mallery Professor and Director of the Constitutional Law Center, Stanford University Law School

The interconnections between Christianity and the law are increasingly important to scholars both religious and secular. Emory’s Center for the Study of Law and Religion has without doubt published the most serious scholarly works and sponsored the most significant events in this field.
Throughout his career, internationally renowned scholar John Witte Jr. has played a seminal role in creating a framework of academic study within which law and theology not only coexist but work with each other for the good of society.

Witte earned a B.A. at Calvin College (1982) and a J.D. at Harvard Law School (1985). While at Harvard, he worked on law and religion themes in Western history with Harold J. Berman, a Harvard law professor, who later became Emory’s first Woodruff Professor of Law. They came together to Emory in 1985 to join Frank S. Alexander in leadership of the work in law and religion, which Witte has directed since 1987.

In the course of three decades, Witte has explored the relationship between law and religion in 32 books, 280 articles, and 18 journal symposia in 15 languages. He has delivered more than 350 public lectures throughout the world, including recently the Farley Lectures at Yale, the Jefferson Lectures at Berkeley, the Cunningham Lectures at Edinburgh, and the Pennington Lectures at Heidelberg and Yale. Witte will serve as Gifford Lecturer in Aberdeen in 2020.


With major funding from the Pew, Ford, Lilly, and McDonald foundations, he has directed 14 major international projects on democracy, human rights, and religious liberty; on marriage, family, and children; and on law and Christianity.

Witte’s career is defined by more than academic successes, writing and lecturing, and the millions of dollars in grants he has raised for major research projects he has directed.

His impact is also in the passion he brings to educating the next generation of scholars—efforts that have resulted in his being selected 12 times by Emory law students as “Most Outstanding Professor” and receiving the university’s prestigious Scholar/Teacher Award, Emory Williams Teaching Award, and two Crystal Apple Awards.

Specialties: legal history, human rights, religious freedom, marriage and family law, and law and religion

Domingo, a native of Spain, also serves as professor of law and research professor at the University of Navarra.

Domingo studied law at the University of Navarra. He received a postdoctorate fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to conduct research in legal history at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, where he familiarized himself with German culture and the great German legal historians at the end of the 20th century.

In 1993, Domingo was awarded tenure at the University of Cantabria and elevated to the rank of full professor of law, becoming the youngest full professor of Roman law in Spain in more than 10 years. Domingo became dean of the law school at University of Navarra. After his deanship, he worked as the general editor of the Global Law Collection by Thomson Reuters, as well as an international consultant for a multinational company. He held one of the first global law chairs in Europe, sponsored by the Garrigues Law Firm and the Spanish Association of Registrars.

His work as editor of the four-volume book Universal Jurists (2004) and his Cambridge University Press title The New Global Law (2011) opened the door to the Strauss and Emile Noel Fellowship at NYU School of Law. Domingo decided to explore the field of law and religion, joining the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory University. Domingo has retained his tenure at the University of Navarra as well as his position of research professor at the Institute of Culture and Society.

Domingo has published more than 25 books and 80 articles, and his writings have appeared in 10 languages. His articles on global law appeared in relevant journals such as European Journal of International Law, International Journal of Constitutional Law, Chicago Journal of International Law, and Vindobolit Journal of International Law. In demand as a lecturer and a public commentator, Domingo has given talks throughout North America, Europe, Latin America, and Japan. His recent books include God and the Legal System (Cambridge University Press, 2016); Roman Law: An Introduction (Routledge, 2018); Great Christian Jurists in Spanish History (Cambridge University Press, 2018); and Great Christian Jurists in French History (Cambridge University Press, 2019).

Specialties: Comparative law, European legal history, legal theory, canon law, and ancient Roman Law
ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

Amy Wheeler
Director of Business, Finance, and Development, CSLR

With more than 28 years of service to Emory School of Law, Wheeler manages the office of Professor John Witte Jr. and assists with his scholarship, lectures, and coursework. With an undergraduate degree from Emory, Wheeler is pursuing advanced studies at Candler School of Theology with a focus on religion, music, and liturgy. She is coeditor of The Equal-Regard Family and Its Friendly Critics (with John Witte Jr., Eerdmans, 2007) and The Reformation of the Church and World (with John Witte Jr., Westminster John Knox Press, 2018).

Anita W. Mann
Director of Business, Finance, and Development, CSLR

Mann is responsible for all aspects of business and financial management of the CSLR, including grant and contract development and management. She has more than 30 years of financial and general administrative experience with Emory University.

Justin Latterell
Research Director, Law and Christianity CSLR

Latterell completed his doctoral studies at Emory University. He has taught courses at Emory College and Candler School of Theology, is book review editor for the Journal of Law and Religion, and director of the Lilly Grant for Financial Literacy. His work focuses on the intersections of religion, ethics, and law, and he currently has a book in progress on constitutional secularism.

Specialties: Sociology of religion, ethics, American constitutional history

Gary S. Hauk
University Historian, Emory University
Editorial Director, CSLR

Hauk served for 30 years in senior administrative positions at Emory, including a secretary of the university and a senior advisor to Presidents Laney, Frye, Chace, Wagner, and Sterk. In 2015, he was named the university’s official historian, formalizing a role that he had filled unofficially for many years. He joined the center in 2017 to be part of editing the Cambridge Law and Christianity series, assist with center communications, and update the center’s history. He is coeditor of Christianity and Family Law: An Introduction (Cambridge University Press, 2017). His most recent books include Religion and Reason: A Guide (Candler at 100, commissioned for the centennial of Emory University’s Candler School of Theology, and Emory in Place: Meaning in a University Landscape (University of Georgia Press, 2019).

Specialties: Theology, ethics, and history of education

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Specialties: History and theology of the Reformation, intersection of law, theology, and social culture; interrelationship between church and state

Gordon Govens
Research Fellow in Law and Christianity
Adjunct Professor of Law, CSLR


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Latterell completed his doctoral studies at Emory University. He has taught courses at Emory College and Candler School of Theology, is book review editor for the Journal of Law and Religion, and director of the Lilly Grant for Financial Literacy. His work focuses on the intersections of religion, ethics, and law, and he currently has a book in progress on constitutional secularism.

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Fifty-five faculty members from Emory and other universities participate in the center’s work in Law and Christianity. Here are a few of the faculty involved in our current projects.

Mark Hill, QC
Inner Temple, London / Cardiff University Fellow, CSLR

Hill is recognized as the UK’s leading practitioner in ecclesiastical law and counsels regularly on faculty jurisdiction, clergy discipline, faith schools and academies, employment, trusts, and property matters. He is also an expert in the religion and belief provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights. He writes for a variety of journals in the UK and abroad and regularly speaks at international conferences. With Richard Helmholz, he edited Great Christian Jurists in English History (Cambridge University Press, 2017), part of the Cambridge Law and Christianity series, and was founding editor of the Ecclesiastical Law Journal, a Cambridge imprint published for the Ecclesiastical Law Society.

Specialties: Ecclesiastical law, religious liberty, and human rights.

M. Christian Green
Fellow, CSLR
Coeditor, Journal of Law and Religion

Trained in law and theology at Emory and in theological ethics at the University of Chicago, Green has been a researcher at the Religion, Culture, and Family Project at the University of Chicago; the Park Ridge Center for the Study of Health, Faith, and Ethics in Chicago; and Emory’s Center for the Study of Law and Religion. At the latter, she directed research on Africa and Europe for the Law, Religion, and Human Rights Project and was the principal investigator for the project Sharia, Family, and Democracy: Religious Norms and Family Law in Pluralistic Democratic States. She has taught at DePaul University, Harvard Divinity School, and Candler School of Theology at Emory.

Specialties: Law and religion, human rights, religious freedom, religion and world affairs, and global ethics.

Philip L. Reynolds
Charles Howard Candler Professor of Medieval Christianity Aquinas Professor of Historical Theology Candler School of Theology

A leading scholar of patristic and medieval thought, Reynolds directed “The Pursuit of Happiness” project at the Center for the Study of Law and Religion from 2005 to 2010 and participated in several of its projects on Christianity and law. He was appointed a Henry Luce III Fellow in Theology in 2013. Reynolds has published several pathbreaking volumes, including most recently How Marriage Became One of the Sacraments: The Sacramental Theology of Marriage from Its Medieval Origins to the Council of Trent (Cambridge University Press, 2016).

Specialties: Medieval scholastic theology and philosophy, mystical theology, the history, theology, and canon law of marriage.
Audra Savage
Postdoctoral Fellow in Law, Religion, and Human Rights
Emory University School of Law

An honors graduate of Columbia Law School, Savage left a high-level corporate law practice to return to the academy to study law and religion. Her work examines the law’s effect on the rights of racial and religious minorities, engaging several different fields of study. She completed her SJD with honors at Emory Law in 2018 with a dissertation focused on the manner in which the founding fathers implanted racism into American society and law by compromising on the issue of slavery in the US Constitution. She interrogates the role Christianity played in creating the concept of race and maintaining a racist system.

Specialties: law and religion, race and law, religious freedom, and corporate theory

Brent A. Strawn
William Ragsdale Cannon Distinguished Professor of Old Testament
Candler School of Theology
Emory University

Strawn was named Distinguished Teaching Scholar by the Emory Center for Faculty Development and Excellence in 2009–2010; the following year, Candler School of Theology awarded him the On Eagle’s Wings Excellence in Teaching Award/Faculty Person of the Year. His work as editor-in-chief of the two-volume Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Law (Oxford University Press, 2015) earned him the American Library Association’s Dartmouth Medal for Excellence in Reference in 2016.

Specialties: Ancient Near Eastern iconography, the Dead Sea Scrolls, Israelite religion, legal traditions of the Old Testament, and Old Testament theology

Johan D. van der Vyver
I. T. Cohen Professor of International Law and Human Rights
Emory University School of Law

Van der Vyver is a distinguished former professor of law at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, where he was deeply involved in the promotion of human rights and the abolition of apartheid. He first came to Emory in 1990–1991 as a visiting professor and in 1995 received a permanent appointment as I. T. Cohen Professor of International Law and Human Rights. He also served as senior fellow in the human rights program of The Carter Center from 1995 to 1998. Van der Vyver is the author of 20 books and more than 200 articles on human rights, church-state relations, jurisprudence, and international criminal law.

Specialties: Law and religion, international criminal law, international human rights law, and public international law

Michael Welker
Senior Professor, University of Heidelberg
Executive Director of the Research Center for International and Interdisciplinary Theology

Welker is one of the world’s leading Protestant theologians, working through biblical traditions and philosophical and sociological theories to address central theological topics and questions of contemporary culture. He focuses on the interplay among religious, legal, moral, scientific, and other cultural codes that shape the ethos of the postmodern world. He has published some 350 articles and 55 books. He has lectured around the world and organized many projects of international and interdisciplinary cooperation.

Specialties: Christology, doctrine of creation, anthropology, and eschatology, theology and science, interdisciplinary biblical theology
More than 400 scholars have lectured in our center over the years, including luminaries like President Jimmy Carter, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama, Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, Bishop Gene Robinson, the Honorable John T. Noonan Jr., Ambassador Mary Ann Glendon, and others.
The series publishes cutting-edge work on Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox Christian contributions to public, private, penal, and procedural law and legal theory. The aims of the series are threefold: to promote deep Christian reflection by leading scholars on the fundamentals of law and politics, to build further ecumenical legal understanding across Christian denominations, and to link and amplify the diverse and sometimes isolated Christian legal voices at work in the academy.

Works in the series include groundbreaking monographs, a number of “introductions” to Christianity and legal topics, studies of “Great Christian Jurists in World History,” and translations by leading scholars around the globe.

Eighteen titles have been released since 2015, and the series will continue to publish several titles each year.

Visit Cambridge.org/LAC for more information.
Christian Jurisprudence Project
Building on three prior multiyear projects, the center aims to establish another major new research project involving emerging Christian jurists, legal theorists, and political theologians from across the global Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox traditions. The project will develop a new generation of leading thinkers on Christian jurisprudence and produce two dozen new monographs and other media that deeply probe the pressing questions of legal history, legal theory, legal ethics, and the relationship between Christianity and law.

Digital Forum on Law and Christianity
The center is developing a new digital forum for creating, catalyzing, and capturing the best advanced work on law and Christianity. The new forum will include digital audio and video, interactive online seminars and web pages, social media, and searchable databases within a well-designed, user-friendly portal. It will catalyze new research initiatives and enhance ongoing projects by providing a digital framework for networking, collaborating, and sharing ideas faster than traditional academic conferences allow. It also will provide multimedia learning resources designed for the educated public—churches, college and high school classrooms, and more.

Character Formation Project
Michael Welker and John Witte Jr. have developed a major new joint venture on “Character Formation in Late-Modern Societies.” In a series of 10 conferences and volumes, the project will study the shifting and competing roles of law, religion, politics, economics, family, medicine, the academy, the military, and other institutions in shaping morality, character, and virtue. Each of these social systems and institutions has heavy normative codes that shape our individual and collective values and morals, preferences, and prejudices, for better or worse. The empirical forms of each of these powerful social systems can and do vary greatly even in the relatively homogeneous societies of the late-modern West. However, these deeper social systems in one form or another are structurally essential and often normatively decisive in individual and communal lives. This project will draw in experts from all these disciplines to unpack these normative codes and develop a major new study of their collective and colliding influences.

The Spirit of the Law Project
The center is embarking on a major new research project, led by Rafael Domingo, designed to explore the interreligious and interdisciplinary power and promise of the ancient metaphor that every law and legal system has not only a “body” but also a “spirit.” This innovative and multidisciplinary project will explore the deep interconnection between law and spirituality, and its implications in the different legal disciplines: constitutional law, criminal law, contract law, environmental law, animal law, and global law, among others. The increasing human aspiration for protecting the environment and animals, for penalizing gender-based violence, for avoiding the death penalty and wars, or for developing a common law for humanity are some expressions of how human spiritual development affects the law at its heart. The project will bring together leading religious and legal scholars and produce a series of new publications and public forums.

Emory Studies in Law and Religion
edited by John Witte Jr.
This series, published in association with William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, fosters exploration of the religious dimensions of law, the legal dimensions of religion, and the interaction of legal and religious ideas, institutions, and methods. Written by leading scholars of law, political science, and related fields, this collection includes the five-volume collected works of Douglas Laycock on Religious Liberty and major titles by Harold Berman, Brian Tierney, and Martin Marty, among others.

Journal of Law and Religion
The flagship periodical in the field, now published in collaboration with Cambridge University Press, the Journal of Law and Religion (JLR) publishes cutting-edge research on religion, human rights, and religious freedom; religion-state relations; religion sources and dimensions of public, private, penal, and procedural law; religious legal systems and their place in secular law; theological jurisprudence; political theology; legal and religious ethics; and more.
The JLR provides a distinguished forum for deep dialogue among Buddhist, Confucian, Christian, Hindu, Indigenous, Jewish, Muslim, and other faith traditions about fundamental questions of law, society, and politics.

Coeditors:
Silas W. Allard  Michael J. Perry
Michael Broyde  John Witte Jr.
M. Christian Green

MAJOR INITIATIVES
Caroline E. Magee  
Assistant Rector, St. Bede’s Episcopal Church  
Attorney, Corporate, Finance, and Investments, King & Spalding  
JD MDiv, 2007, Emory University  
Magee served as a surface warfare officer in the United States Navy before assuming her present roles as a corporate finance attorney at King & Spalding and a priest. She is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy and St. John’s College prior to her student days at Emory. At St. Bede’s Episcopal Church, Magee focuses on community building among the parish’s English- and Spanish-speaking worshippers, immigration issues, care for creation, and nurturing daily habits of faith. At King & Spalding, Magee specializes in alternative debt finance and legal process management.

Terri Montague  
Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
JD MTS, 2014, Emory University  
Montague was the first president and CEO of Atlanta’s $3 billion BeltLine Project from 2006 to 2009. While a student at Emory, she was deeply involved in work on church, state, and social justice. Montague’s experience involves the real estate, community development, and finance sectors, gained within for-profit, nonprofit, faith-based, and government settings. She has led and managed people and processes in a diversified, global company; a national nonprofit with local offices and business affiliates; a local, quasi-public startup with recognized national significance; and a federal, grant-making regulatory agency.

Joel A. Nichols  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor, University of St. Thomas School of Law  
Senior Fellow, CSLR  
JD MDiv, Emory University, 2000  
From 2003 to 2007, Nichols taught at Pepperdine Law School. Prior to that, he practiced complex civil litigation in Washington, D.C., at Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering (now WilmerHale). He is chair of the AALS Section on Associate Deans. Nichols is also involved in human rights, serving as a member of the Board of Directors of Viva North America. His writing focuses on the intersection of law and religion, especially in family law, First Amendment law, and human rights. His books include Religion and the American Constitutional Experiment (with John Witte Jr.), 4th ed. (Oxford University Press, 2016) and Marriage and Divorce in a Multicultural Context (Cambridge University Press, 2012). He has also authored two dozen publications, including articles in NYU Law Review, Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law, Journal of Law and Religion, and Family Court Review.

Matthew J. Tuininga  
Assistant Professor of Moral Theology, Calvin Theological Seminary  
PhD, Emory University, 2014  
Tuininga joined Calvin Theological Seminary in 2016. He previously taught at Emory University, Oglethorpe University, and Sewanee, The University of the South. He preaches regularly and widely in Reformed and Presbyterian churches throughout North America and also speaks on Christian ethics and Christian cultural and political engagement. His first book, Calvin’s Political Theology and the Public Engagement of the Church: Christ’s Two Kingdoms was published with Cambridge University Press in 2017. He has written numerous articles and reviews for academic publications and also writes regularly in popular magazines and online.

The center faculty teaches hundreds of students each year in courses in Canon Law, Religious Freedom, Church-State Relations, and other topics. It also offers joint-degree and advanced-degree programs in law and religion. Graduates pursue a range of vocations, as illustrated by these four alumni.
Foundational Support
The CSLR has been blessed with some $25 million of support from scores of individuals and from the Ford Foundation, the Lilly Endowment, Inc., the McDonald Agape Foundation, the Pew Charitable Trusts, Inc., the Henry Luce Foundation, and the John Templeton Foundation.

Generous Benefactors

Ambassador Alonzo L. McDonald
The Honorable Alonzo L. McDonald is an alumnus and trustee emeritus of Emory University and has been a distinguished leader of business, government, and the academy for more than six decades. He has served as deputy chief of staff and ambassador for trade in President Carter’s White House, professor at Harvard Business School, president of Bendix Corporation, and head of McKinsey & Company. He and his wife, Suzie, established the McDonald Agape Foundation to support distinguished Christian scholars at top-flight universities. The foundation has provided more than $3 million of funding to support the center’s work in law and Christianity. Ambassador McDonald writes: “The Center for the Study of Law and Religion, under John Witte’s direction, has done outstanding work to foster Christian scholarship across the global academy, and encourage global understanding of law and morality as foundation blocks of civilization. Our great hope is that this ongoing work will contribute significantly to advance the cause of Christian scholarship at its best.”

The Honorable Dorothy Toth Beasley
“As a lawyer, judge, and citizen, my gratitude for the center grows because, through its publications and programs, it embraces the two seemingly disparate disciplines of law and religion, bringing them together so that there is in each discipline a broader knowledge of the other and a deeper understanding of each. These two spheres inform and enrich each other in ways that benefit humankind’s experience of life. The current series of books focuses on a variety of subjects that touch all lives and will be of wide interest: justice, public engagement, climate crisis, family law, freedoms, and the relationship of nature/culture to Christianity.”

Gonzalo Rodriguez-Fraile
Leading entrepreneur and visionary philanthropist Gonzalo Rodriguez-Fraile has been a generous supporter of the work of Rafael Domingo on global law, Catholic canon law, legal philosophy, and law and spirituality.

“In my visits to the Center for the Study of Law and Religion, I have always found a fresh, friendly, and dynamic university environment, able to generate a truly stimulating intellectual debate. This unique environment explains its abundant and high-quality scholarship, as well as its leadership in the field.”
Mark Hill, QC
Inner Temple, London / Cardiff University

Under John Witte’s charismatic and strategic leadership, the center is not merely the leader in its field; it dominates the law and religion academic landscape to the distant horizon.