

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Religion and Women's Rights

Does Religious Conservatism Diminish or Elevate Women?

Thursday, October 27, 2011, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

University of Richmond School of Law, Moot Court Room

Does conservatism in religion constrict or elevate the rights of women? The realities are complex, as in some circumstances, religion seemingly restricts, while in others, it seemingly enhances the rights of women. On the evening of October 27th, this compelling question will unfold in lively discussion at the second in a series of public forums addressing religion and women's rights. Panelists, with a pluralistic variety of viewpoints, will illustrate how these charged issues can be addressed in informed ways without reliance on stereotypes or generalizations.

Panelists will include:

- [Rabbi Dovid Asher](#), Keneseth Beth Israel
- [Dr. Michael P. Farris, Chancellor](#), Patrick Henry College
- Isabelle Richman, JD, PhD, Faculty Associate, Religious Studies Program, Virginia Commonwealth University
- [The Rev. Phoebe A. Roaf](#), Rector, St. Philip's Episcopal Church

The event will be moderated by [Dr. William L. Sachs](#), First Freedom Center Director of Education. Audience participation will follow.

This discussion will take place in the Moot Court Room at the University of Richmond School of Law from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

This series of public presentations is hosted by a partnership of the First Freedom Center, the University of Richmond School of Law, and the Religious Studies Program at Virginia Commonwealth University. It addresses the rights enshrined in American law and in the universally-binding instruments of international law, and then considers those human rights from the perspectives both of jurisprudence and of religious and philosophic communities. The purpose of the series is to inform and engage the public in important religion, human-rights and public-policy issues that are in the headlines nearly every day.

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About the First Freedom Center

The mission of the First Freedom Center is to advance the fundamental human rights of freedom of religion and freedom of conscience. The Center is a politically and religiously neutral 501(c)(3) organization. For more information, visit: www.firstfreedom.org.

About the University of Richmond School of Law

The University of Richmond School of Law educates students to become outstanding lawyers and positive leaders within their communities. The mission of the School of Law is to serve society and the legal profession by educating law students in the highest traditions of the profession, by contributing to the marketplace of ideas, and by service to the community and nation. For more information, visit: <http://www.law.richmond.edu>.

About the VCU Religious Studies Program

The Religious Studies Program in the School of World Studies is guided by the idea that becoming knowledgeable about humanity's Religious traditions is vital to promoting global understanding, cooperation, compassion, and community. Through academic teaching, scholarship, study abroad programs, and public engagement, Religious Studies faculty and students are building bridges to a socially just and sustainable world. For more information, visit: <http://www.has.vcu.edu/wld/academics/majors/relstudies>.