



NEWS RELEASE

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KARAMAH and the First Freedom Center Announce a Town Hall Meeting on *Islam, Shari'ah, and Religious Freedom in the U.S.*

Thursday, October 20, 2011, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

University of Richmond School of Law, Moot Court Room

KARAMAH: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights and the First Freedom Center announce a town hall meeting on *Islam, Shari'ah, and Religious Freedom in the U.S.* This event will take place in the Moot Court Room at the University of Richmond School of Law on Thursday, October 20, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., and will feature a panel of experts on Islam, religious freedom and civil rights, followed by an opportunity for attendees to discuss this issue.

KARAMAH and the First Freedom Center believe that the recent wave of anti-Shari'ah sentiment, marked by moves in several states to outlaw Shari'ah, is based on misinformation about Shari'ah in particular and Islam in general. Therefore, the event seeks to elevate the level of conversation around these issues through scholarship, education, and open discussion. During this town hall meeting, experts will explain what Shari'ah is, how it is practiced in the United States, in addition to the limits of such practice. The speakers will also address constitutional issues surrounding a potential ban, and the effects a ban would have on religious freedom in America. After a brief introduction from experts, a town hall meeting will be held where attendees can speak freely with the experts and each other.

The October 20th meeting will feature:

- [Tommy P. Baer](#): Partner, Canfield, Baer & Heller, LLP and former President, B'nai B'rith International
- [Ambassador Randolph Bell](#): President, First Freedom Center and former Ambassador at Large and Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues
- [Dr. Azizah al-Hibri](#): Founder and Chair of KARAMAH: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights, Commissioner on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, and professor at the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond (Please note that during this event, Dr. al-Hibri will be speaking in her personal capacity as the Founder and Chair of KARAMAH, and not as a representative of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.)

This event is sponsored by [KARAMAH](#), the [First Freedom Center](#), and the [University of Richmond's Muslim Law Students Association](#). It is the fourth town hall meeting in a series. Previous town hall meetings were held at the Church of the Savior in Knoxville, Tennessee, the Islamic Center of Long Island, New York, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, New York.

For media inquiries or questions regarding this event, please contact the First Freedom Center at 804-643-1786 or caff@firstfreedom.org or contact Karamah at 202-234-7302 or LectureRSVP@karamah.org.