

# INTISAR A. RABB

DEPT. NEAR EASTERN STUDIES • PRINCETON UNIVERSITY • PRINCETON, NJ 08544  
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## EDUCATION

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**Yale Law School**  
**J.D., 2006**

New Haven, CT

**Journals:** *Yale Journal of International Law*, Development Editor; *Yale Human Rights and Development Law Journal*, Editor

**Activities:** Middle East Legal Studies Seminar (ongoing annually), Islamic Law/Middle East Law Forum Coordinator, Elected Class Representative, Black Law Students Association Board Member, Criminal Defense Clinic, Katrina Project (pro bono work for the Louisiana Capital Assistance Center)

**Research:** Research Assistant to Professor Anthony Kronman (2005)

**Princeton University, Department of Near Eastern Studies**  
**Ph.D. Candidate, expected completion June 2009**  
**M.A., 2005**

Princeton, NJ

**Dissertation:** *Doubt's Benefit: Legal Maxims in American and Islamic Law*

**Activities:** Program in Law and Public Affairs Graduate Associate

**Research:** Research Fellowship, Mofid University, Iran (2004)

**Awards:** Mrs. Giles C. Whiting Fellowship (2008-2009), University Center for Human Values Prize Fellowship (2007-2008), Center for the Study of Religion Fellowship (2007-2009), Ladilas Pathy Merit Scholarship (2004-2005), Perkins Prize (2003-2005)

**Abu Nour Institute**  
**Islamic Law Program, 1999-2000**

Damascus, Syria

**Georgetown University, College of Arts and Sciences**  
**B.S. magna cum laude (Arabic & Government), 1999**

Washington, DC

**Honors:** Phi Alpha Theta, Outstanding Achievement in Major Award, Dean's List

**Research:** Study Abroad, American University in Cairo (1997-1998)

## CLERKSHIP & BAR ADMISSIONS

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**Clerk, Hon. Thomas L. Ambro, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, 2006-2007**

Wilmington, DE

**Bar Admissions:** New Jersey (2007); New York (2008)

## TEACHING & RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Criminal Law & Criminal Procedure	Islamic Law
Legislation & Statutory Interpretation	Islamic Constitutionalism
Administrative Law	Legal Systems of the Modern Middle East
Evidence	International Law
Topics in Constitutional Law: Religion & the Law, Equal Protection, Fourth Amendment	Comparative Law: Criminal law, Issues in Statutory and Constitutional Interpretation

## PUBLICATIONS

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"We the Jurists": *Islamic Constitutionalism in Iraq*, 10 U. PA. J. CONST. L. 527-79 (2008).

*Courts, Civil Law, Fiqh* [Positive Law], and *Ijtihād* [Islamic Legal Reasoning], in OXFORD ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD (John Esposito ed. 2007).

*Non-Canonical Readings of the Qur'ān: Recognition & Authenticity*, 8 J. QUR'ĀNIC STUDIES 84-127 (2006).

Book Review, 30 YALE J. INT'L L. 343-46 (2005) (reviewing MUHAMMAD BAQIR AŞ-ŞADR, LESSONS IN ISLAMIC JURISPRUDENCE (Roy Mottahedeh trans. 2003)).

*Marriage: Islamic*, in ROUTLEDGE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MEDIEVAL ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION (Josef Meri ed. 2005).

Book Review, 27 YALE J. INT'L L. 233-36 (2002) (reviewing GIVING MEANING TO ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (Isfahan Merali & Valerie Oosterveld eds. 2001)).

*Qānūn* [Secular Law of Muslim States], in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LEGAL HISTORY (Stanley Katz *et al.* eds., forthcoming).

*Police and al-Siyāsa al-Sharʿiyya* [Islamic Political Theory], in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ISLAMIC POLITICAL THOUGHT (Gerhard Böwering *et al.*, forthcoming).

*The Evolving Rule of Lenity: From the Marshall Court to the Rehnquist Court* (submitted for publication).

*Islamic Legal Maxims as Substantive Canons of Construction* (submitted for publication).

## PRESENTATIONS

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“Religion as Democratic Constituent,” invited paper presentation at the Yale Law School Middle East Legal Studies Seminar on *The State and Legitimacy in the Middle East* in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. (upcoming, January 2009).

“Muslim Historiography in Islamic Legal Reasoning,” accepted paper presentation at the American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting in Québec, Canada (upcoming, November 2008).

“The Role of Religion (in Emerging Democratic Constitutions),” invited presentation at the IDEA (Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance)-Interpeace Constitution Building Consultative Workshop in Cyberjaya, Malaysia (June 2008).

“Reasonable Doubt and *Hudūd* Jurisprudence: Limits of Criminal Sanctions in American and Islamic Law,” paper presentation at the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting in Montréal, Canada (May 2008).

“The Islamic Rule of Lenity,” workshop presentation at a seminar organized by Princeton University’s Program in Law and Public Affairs in Princeton, NJ (May 2008).

“Islamic Legal Maxims and *Hudūd* Aversion in Cases of Doubt,” invited workshop presentation at *Schacht Revisited*, sponsored by the Harvard Law School Islamic Legal Studies Program in Cambridge, MA (April 2008).

“Islam, Constitutions & Durable Democracy,” invited panel-lecture, organized by the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Georgetown University (September 2007).

“Underpinnings of Islamic Law: Impact and Relevance,” invited conference presentation at *Islamic Law and the West: Theory, Doctrine, Practice*, sponsored by American University Washington College of Law (February 2007).

“Legal Maxims and *Hudūd* Jurisprudence: The Limits of Fixed Criminal Sanctions?,” invited presentation at the International Society for Islamic Legal Studies Vth Annual Conference: *Lawful and Unlawful Violence in Islamic Law and History*, in Cambridge, MA (September 2006).

“Necessity Knows No Law but is Familiar with Andalusian Judicial Practice,” paper presentation on the panel *Muftis and Their Fatwas: Text and Context*, organized by Professor David Powers, Cornell University, at the Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting in Washington DC (November 2005).

## SELECTED HONORS

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**World Justice Forum, Rule of Law Project – Vienna, Austria (2008).** Participant in an invitation-only conference bringing world leaders and advocates together to discuss the rule of law and its importance globally, sponsored by the ABA and other law and human rights associations.

**Temple Bar Scholarship, American Inns of Court Foundation – London, England (2007).** Selected from a pool of leading U.S. appellate and Supreme Court law clerks for a month-long immersion program in the English legal system with leading members of the bench and bar, including observation in the House of Lords under The Right Hon. Lord Richard Scott of Foscote, Lord of Appeal in Ordinary.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### **Yale Law School**

New Haven, CT

#### ***Coker Fellow/Assistant Instructor: Contracts, Fall 2005***

Assisted Professor Daniel Markovits in teaching the first-term contracts small-group, providing an introduction to law (taught by the professor) and legal writing (taught by two Assistant Instructors). Designed legal research assignments, trained students in library and online legal research, coordinated writing workshops, provided detailed feedback on student briefs and memoranda, mooted students for oral argument.

### **Princeton University, Department of Near Eastern Studies**

Princeton, NJ

#### ***Assistant Instructor – NES 339: Introduction to Islamic Theology, Spring 2008***

#### ***Assistant Instructor – NES 345: Introduction to Islamic Law, Fall 2004***

Assisted Professor Hossein Modarressi in teaching undergraduate classes on Islamic law and Islamic theology with a team-teaching format. Prepared reading assignments and exams; gave lectures and led discussions. Guided students and answered questions outside of class during regular office hours and informal meetings.

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

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### **Steptoe & Johnson, LLP**

Washington, DC

#### ***Summer Associate, Summers 2003 & 2005***

Drafted portions of briefs and memoranda for fast-track appellate case concerning executive wartime powers, participated in strategy sessions, prepared for trial, and reported on related congressional proceedings. Researched and wrote on various Islamic law, international trade, and discrimination cases.

### **Connecticut Public Defender's Office, Capital Punishment Unit**

Waterbury, Connecticut

#### ***Extern, 2002- 2003***

In preparation for hearings and trials for two major death penalty cases, researched and wrote memoranda on a range of issues, including theories of principal and accessory liability for determining criminal culpability, evidentiary standards, and criminal trial procedure; summarized transcripts of court proceedings from the underlying trials. Accompanied attorneys during client visits, mitigation interviews, and preliminary hearings.

### **National Democratic Institute for International Affairs**

Rabat, Morocco

#### ***Yale Schell Human Rights Center Summer Fellow, Summer 2002***

Composed report explaining provisions of new Moroccan Electoral Code in preparation for September 2002 parliamentary elections. Assisted in training members of local non-governmental organizations and women candidates on campaign regulations, ethics rules, and elections monitoring.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & ASSOCIATIONS

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**Editorships** (outside reader for submissions relating to Islamic law): *Journal of Law and Religion* (Hamline University School of Law); *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* (University of Chicago)

**Boards and Committees:** Yale Law School Association Executive Committee (member-elect, 2008-2010); Georgetown University Alumni Association Admissions Program (ongoing)

**Associations:** American Bar Association, American Constitution Society, American Society for International Law, American Society for Legal History, International Society for Islamic Legal Studies, Law and Society Association, Middle East Studies Association

## LANGUAGES & PERSONAL INTERESTS

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Fluent written and spoken Arabic; proficient Persian; reading knowledge of French, German, and Spanish. Tae Kwon Do (black belt candidate), calligraphy, painting. Traveled for research and lectures to Austria, Egypt, England, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Senegal, Spain, Syria, and Turkey.