Dear Friends,

The past year has been a productive one at the Center for Law and Religion. We are pleased to share some highlights and achievements with you.

**CENTER NEWS**

Podcast

Listen to our podcast series on cases and issues in law and religion, continued to grow its listener base. Episodes this year covered church clauses during the pandemic, important Supreme Court decisions on law and religion, and other topics. We hosted a variety of guest speakers, from journalists to classics professors.

**Law & Religion Colloquium**

This Fall, we hosted the fifth annual Colloquium in Law and Religion, an innovative seminar that brings outside jurists and scholars to St. John’s to present papers to selected students and faculty. This year’s participants included Judge Steven Menashi of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit; Professor Joe Alkus (Duke University); Shlomo Barak (University of Notre Dame); Paul Horowitz (University of Alabama); Amy Sample (University of Pennsylvania); and Carter Slesser (University of Notre Dame).

Symposium on Catholic Legal Education

We co-sponsored a symposium in the Journal of Catholic Legal Studies on Professor John Bennett’s book, Law and Religion: A Foucauldian Reading. Another is clerking for Chief Judge Janet DiFiore of the New York State Court of Appeals from 2021-2022, and Dan is clerking for Judge Mary Kay Vyskocil of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York from 2020-2021 and for Judge Kyle Duncan of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit from 2021-2022.

**CLR Reading Society**

We inaugurated the CLR Reading Society, for students at the law School. The Society periodically meets to discuss works, both fiction and non-fiction, that raise themes of law and religion. For our first meeting this Fall, we read and discussed Sophocles's Antigone.

Blog

We gave our blog, the Law and Religion Forum, an updated new look. The blog, which provides commentary and a weekly "Around the Web" posts featuring the latest law-and-religion news, regularly draws media attention and has been cited in major law reviews.

**FACULTY NEWS**

**Co-Director Merc DeGraba**

Professors DeGraba spent the Spring 2020 semester at the University of Notre Dame Law School. While there, he taught a seminar with Professor Richard Garnett on constitutional traditions, and on "Constitutions, Peoples, and Sovereignty," co-sponsored by Notre Dame's Program on Constitutional Structure and the Oxford Programme for the History of Catholic Legal Education in the United States. Participants included Judge Steven Menashi of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit; and Professors Jed Atkins (Duke University); Stephanie Barclay (Georgetown); Paul Horwitz (University of Alabama); Amy Sample (University of Pennsylvania); and Robert Vischer (University of St. Thomas); and Professors John Breen and Lee Strang’s forthcoming book, A Light Unseen: A History of Catholic Legal Education in the United States.

**Co-Director Mark Morrison**

Professor Morrison wrote regularly on church-state issues for various opinion journals including First Things, Law & Liberty, and Public Religion Review. He was named a co-editor of the *Journal of Law and Religion*, a peer-reviewed journal published by Cambridge University Press. He appeared on several online panels and in media interviews on Covid-19 and the crisis in the South Carolina Baptist Church. In May, he appeared as a guest host on several radio programs discussing religion accommodations under the U.S. Constitution. In January, he published an essay in the *Journal of Catholic Legal Education*, a peer-reviewed journal published by Cambridge University Press, on Challenges to the Constitution in the Recent Supreme Court Term, and also at Lomornov. In November, he co-authored an essay on the Lomornov case for the Supreme Court. He was selected as a Northern Fellow at Pepperdine law School for the Spring 2021 semester. Professor Morrison continues to work at conferences on the Religion Clauses at Washington University School of Law and Pepperdine Law School’s Institute on Law, Religion, and Ethics. He presented work at conferences on the Religion Clauses at Washington University School of Law and Pepperdine Law School’s Institute on Law, Religion, and Ethics.

Thank you for being part of the Center community. We have much more planned for next year, so please follow us at the Law and Religion Forum, and on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions for future programs. If you would like to support us, please consider our online giving page, or clicking on our email list.

Happy Christmas, Happy Holidays, and See You Next Year!