

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:

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## CENTER NEWS

### Podcasts

[Legal Spirits](#), our podcast series on cases and issues in law and religion, continued to grow its listener base. Episodes this year covered church closures during the epidemic; 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 biennial 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; and Professors Jed Atkins (Duke University); Stephanie Barclay (University of Notre Dame); Paul Horwitz (University of Alabama); Amy Sepinwall (University of Pennsylvania); and Carter Snead (University of Notre Dame).

### Symposium on Catholic Legal Education

We co-sponsored [a symposium](#) in the *Journal of Catholic Legal Studies* on Professors John Breen and Lee Strang's forthcoming book, *A Light Unseen: A History of Catholic Legal Education in the United States*. Participants included Deans Kathleen Boozang (Seton Hall), Marcus Cole (Notre Dame), Vincent Rougeau (Boston College), Michael Simons (St. John's), William Treanor (Georgetown), and Robert Vischer (University of St. Thomas); and Professors Angela Carmella (Seton Hall), Teresa Collett (University of St. Thomas), Richard Garnett (Notre Dame), Jeff Pojanowski (Notre Dame), and Amy Uelman (Georgetown). Center Board Member Judge Richard Sullivan (U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit) and St. John's Professor Margaret Turano moderated panels.

### Clerkships for CLR Fellows

Our two graduating Student Fellows, **Anthony Nania '20** and **Daniel Vitagliano '20**, [each earned prestigious judicial clerkships](#). Anthony is clerking for Chief Judge Janet DiFiore of the New York State Court of Appeals from 2020-2022 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 features commentary and weekly "Around the Web" posts featuring the latest law-and-religion news, regularly draws media attention and has been cited in major law reviews.

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## FACULTY NEWS

### Co-Director Marc DeGirolami

Professor DeGirolami spent the Spring 2020 semester at the University of Notre Dame Law School. While there, he taught a seminar with Professor Richard Garnett in Notre Dame's program on "Church, State, and Society" and Professional Responsibility, working on scholarly projects involving the concept of malice in tort law and the idea of tradition in constitutional interpretation. He published three papers this year, two on constitutional traditionalism (in the [Notre Dame Law Review](#) and the [Washington University Law Review](#)) and a [book chapter](#) on church-state separation in the [Cambridge Companion to the First Amendment and Religious Liberty](#). He was selected as a [Nootbaar Fellow](#) at 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 on "Constitutions, Peoples, and Sovereignty," co-sponsored by Notre Dame's Program on Constitutional Structure and the Oxford Programme for the Foundations of Law and Constitutional Government. He continues to write regularly for various journals including [Law & Liberty](#) and [First Things](#).

### Co-Director Mark Movsesian

Professor Movsesian wrote regularly on church-state issues for various opinion journals including [First Things](#), [Law & Liberty](#), and [Public Discourse](#). He was named a co-editor of the [Journal of Law and Religion](#), a peer-review journal published by Cambridge University Press. He appeared on several online panels and in media interviews on the Covid epidemic and the crisis in the South Caucasus. In May, he appeared as a [guest lecturer](#) on religious accommodations under the U.S. Constitution at Lomonosov Moscow State University's Law Faculty and presented a paper, "Church-State Issues in the Recent Supreme Court Term," also at Lomonosov, in November. His article, *Severability in Statutes and Contracts*, 30 Ga. L. Rev. 31 (1994), was cited by Justice Neil Gorsuch in his opinion in *Barr v. American Association of Political Consultants*, which the Supreme Court decided last summer. He joined [The Volokh Conspiracy](#) blog as a contributor.

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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 our ongoing research, programs and student fellowships, please send a gift to the Law School's [online giving page](#) and click on Centers and Programs and highlight the Center for Law and Religion.

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

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