

# ADNAN A. ZULFIQAR

Boston College Law School | adnan.zulfiqar@bc.edu

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

### **Boston College Law School**, Newton, MA

Associate Professor of Law (w/ tenure)

2024 - present

Courtesy Appointments in the Department of Theology and the program in Islamic Civilization and Societies at the Morrissey College of Arts & Sciences

**Courses:** Criminal Law; Criminal Procedure-Investigations; Islamic Law; Police, Prisons & Protest

### **University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, PA

2021 - present

Regional Scholar, Middle East Center

### **Rutgers Law School**, Camden, NJ

Associate Professor of Law (w/ tenure)

2023 - 2024

Associate Professor of Law (w/out tenure)

2020 - 2023

Assistant Professor of Law

2017 - 2020

**Courses:** Criminal Law; Criminal Procedure-Investigations; Islamic Law; Police, Prisons & Protest

**Committees:** Academic Policy (2023-24), Appointments (2018-20), Faculty Colloquium (2018-22), Non-JD Programs (2017-18), Diversity & Inclusion Working Group (2018-19), Chancellor's Diversity Strategic Planning Committee (2021)

**Service:** Mary Philbrook Selection Committee, Social Justice Mentor

**Leadership:** Chair, Islamic Law Section-AALS (2019-20, 2023-24) and Vice-Chair (2018-2019)

Member, Annual Meeting Committee of the American Society of Int'l Law (ASIL)(2020-2021)

**Awards:** Professor of the Year (2020 and 2021), Grand Marshall (2019), Reader (2022)

Wallace Johnson Fellowship for First Book Authors, *American Society for Legal History* (2019-2020)

### **Stanford Humanities Center – Stanford University**, Stanford, CA

External Faculty Fellow

2022-2023

One of nine fellows selected from 260 applicants to work on book about collective duties in Islamic law.

### **University of Pennsylvania Law School**, Philadelphia, PA

George Sharswood Faculty Fellow

2015-2017

**Courses:** Federal Criminal Law, Jihad and the Law of Armed Conflict, National Security Law

## ***Research & Teaching Interests***

### PRIMARY

Islamic Law & Legal History

Criminal Law

Constitutional Criminal Procedure

### SECONDARY

Human Rights

Law in the Global South

International Humanitarian Law

## EDUCATION

**University of Pennsylvania (Graduate School of Arts & Sciences)**, Philadelphia, PA

Ph.D. (Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations) 2018

M.A. (Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations) 2011

*Dissertation: Collective Duties (farḍ kifāya) in Islamic Law: The Moral Community, State Authority and Ethical Speculation in the Premodern Period*

*M.A. Thesis: The Qurʾān and its Stylistics: An Annotated Translation of Muḥāsibī's Fahm al-Qurʾān*

**Awards:** Harry F. Guggenheim Foundation Dissertation Fellowship  
J.R. Khoury Fellowship  
Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship  
Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) Fellowship (Damascus, Syria)  
Janet Lee Stevens Award in Arabic & Islamic Studies

**Georgetown University**, Washington, DC

M.A. (Liberal Studies/International Affairs) 2009

*Thesis: Jihād of the Wretched: Examining Islamic Militancy through the Thought of Frantz Fanon*

**University of Pennsylvania Law School**, Philadelphia, PA

Juris Doctor (J.D.) 2008

Team Leader, Criminal Law Research Group (Maldivian Penal Code)  
Presidential Fellow, Salzburg Global Seminar (Salzburg, Austria)  
Associate Editor, *Journal of Labor and Employment Law*  
Visiting Scholar, Center for Excellence in Public Law & Human Rights (Tehran, Iran)

**Emory University**, Atlanta, GA

B.A. (Religion & Anthropology) 2000

### **Non-Degree Certificate Programs**

Damascus University, Damascus, Syria	2002, 2007-2008
Qasid Institute for Classical Arabic, Amman, Jordan (summer)	2006
Sana'a Institute for Arabic Language, Sana'a, Yemen (summer)	2005
Al-Mawrid Institute, Lahore, Pakistan	2002-2003
Arabic Language Institute of Fez, Fez, Morocco (summer)	2000

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books, Articles and Chapters

*Duties to the Collective: Islamic Law, Jurists and the Search for Cohesion, 945 to 1258 CE* (book project)

*The Reasonableness of Fleeing* (work-in-progress)

*Magical Crimes* (work-in-progress)

*Crime and Punishment*, CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO THE SHARI'A, eds. Khaled Abou El Fadl and Rami Koujah (Cambridge University Press)(forthcoming 2024)

*Territory and Jurisdiction in the Medieval Islamic World*, CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF INT'L LAW, VOL. 8, INT'L LAW IN THE MEDIEVAL ISLAMIC WORLD, eds. Intisar Rabb and Umut Özsu (Cambridge University Press) (forthcoming 2024)

*Belief as Status: Islamic Law and the Martyr Quandary*, 63 AM. J. LEGAL HISTORY 115 (2023)

*Human Rights Norms from Below*, 48 YALE J. INT'L L. 55 (2023)

*The Immorality of Incarceration: Between Javed Ghāmidī and Angela Davis*, 3 J. ISLAMIC L. [Harvard] 1 (2022)

*Claiming Jurisdiction over Jihad: Islamic Law & Its Duty to Fight*, 120 W. VA. L. REV. 427 (2017)

*Revolutionary Islamic Jurisprudence: A Restatement of the Arab Spring*, 49 N.Y.U.J. INT'L L. & POL. 43 (2017)

*Codifying Shari'a: International Norms, Legality & Freedom to Invent New Forms*, 2 J. COMP. L. 1 (2007) (Co-authored with Paul H. Robinson et. al)

*Of Neocolonialism, Common Law and Uncodifiable Shari'a: A Reply to Professor An-Na'im*, 2 J. COMP. L. 61 (2007) (Co-authored with Paul H. Robinson)

*Religious Sanctification of Labor Law: Islamic Labor Principles and Model Provisions*, 9 J. BUS. L. 421 (2007)

### Editorials & Essays

*The Dominion of Rights, the Resistance of Duties*, 22 RUTGERS J. L. & REL. 3 (2022)

*Pursuing Over-Criminalization at the Expense of Islamic law*, 1 J. ISLAMIC L. [Harvard] 1, 189-93 (2020)

*Prisons, Abolition & Islamic Thought*, HARVARD ISLAMIC LAW BLOG (Oct. 29, 2020)

*Islamic Jurisprudence for Revolution*, HARVARD ISLAMIC LAW BLOG (Oct. 22, 2020)

*The Modern Transformation of the Duty to Fight*, HARVARD ISLAMIC LAW BLOG (Oct. 15, 2020)

*Collective Duties (farḍ kifāya) in Islamic Law*, HARVARD ISLAMIC LAW BLOG (Oct. 8, 2020)

*Ghāmidī, Jāved Aḥmad*, in OXFORD ENCY. OF ISLAM & L., Oxford Islamic Studies Online (Jonathan Brown et al.)

*Syria's Next Problem*, THE DIPLOMAT (Dec. 22, 2012)

*Which Islamists: Religion and the Syrian Civil War*, RELIGION DISPATCHES (Dec. 19, 2012)

*India Must Be Included*, THE WASHINGTON TIMES (Nov. 13, 2009)

*Debate Afghan War Goals, Then Select Strategy*, THE JAPAN TIMES (Nov. 7, 2009)

### PRESENTATIONS (select)

"At the Edge of Empire: Islamic Law, Duties and the Quest for Cohesion," Faculty Workshop, Colorado Law, Boulder, CO, March 4, 2024

"The Credibility of Human Rights," Human Rights and Genocide Symposium, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY, Feb. 22, 2024

“Collective Duties, Cohesion, and the Edges of Empire in Medieval Islamic Law,” Faculty Workshop, University of California Law – San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, November 7, 2023.

“Human Rights Norms from Below,” North South University Dept. of Law, Dhaka, BANGLADESH [virtual], Oct. 19, 2023

“Islamic Law: An Introduction,” Centro de Estudos Legais Asiáticos (CELA - Asian Legal Studies Center), University of São Paulo Law School, São Paulo, BRAZIL [virtual], Oct. 11, 2023.

“Collective Duties, Cohesion, and the Edges of Empire in Medieval Islamic Law,” Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, April 26, 2023

“Duties to the Collective: Islamic Law, Jurists and the Search for Cohesion, 945 to 1258 CE,” Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, March 21, 2023

“Rethinking America's Carceral State: Observations from Islamic Law,” Stanford Law, Stanford, CA, Feb. 14, 2023

“The Caliph’s *Jihād*,” Stanford Center for Law and History, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, Oct. 11, 2023

“Human Rights Norms from Below,” Law & Society Association Conference, Lisbon, PORTUGAL, July 15, 2022

“Post-Colonial Iterations of Law and Religion in the Global South,” Donald C. Clark, Jr. Keynote Lecture, Rutgers Journal of Law & Religion Annual Symposium, Camden, NJ, March 25, 2022

“Human Rights Norms from Below,” Faculty Workshop, Northeastern School of Law, Boston, MA, March 2, 2022

“Magical Crimes,” Virtual Criminal Law Workshop, January 2, 2022

“Digital Islamic Law: Fatwas in the Age of Covid,” The World Muslim Communities Council (TWMCC), Abu Dhabi (UAE) [Virtual], March 13, 2021

“The Caliph’s *Jihād*,” International and Comparative Law Workshop, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA, Nov 2, 2020

“Mapping Legal Responses to Covid-19: The Case of Islamic Law,” Ali Vural AK Center for Global Islamic Studies, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, August 7, 2020

“Rules of Resistance: Jihad, Colonialism and the Revolutionary Order,” Law & Society Association Conference [Virtual], May 30, 2020

“Necessarily Abolitionist? Prison and Punishment in Contemporary Islamic Legal Discourse,” Islamic Law and the Idea of Mass Incarceration, AALS Conference, Washington, DC, Jan. 5, 2020

“Belief as Status: Legal Obligation, Blasphemy and the Boundaries of Moral Community,” Status and Justice in Law, Religion and Society Conference, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA, November 3, 2019

“The Reasonableness of Fleeing,” CrimFest 2019, Brooklyn Law School, Brooklyn, NY, July 16, 2019

“Indigenizing Human Rights,” Religion & Public Life in Africa and the Americas Symposium, Weatherhead Center for Int’l Affairs. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, April 18, 2019

“Socializing Societies: Indigenizing Human Rights,” International Law Symposium, Temple University Beasley School of Law, Philadelphia, PA, April 2, 2019

“Socializing Societies: Indigenizing Human Rights,” Faculty Workshop. University of Arizona Law School, Tuscon, AZ, March 28, 2019

“Islamic Law, Refugees and Asylum,” AALS Conference, New Orleans, LA, January 5, 2019

“Collective Obligations in Premodern Islamic Law,” Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations Fall Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, October 19, 2018

“Before Violence: Jihad and the Question of Competent Authority,” Governance and Violence in Islamic Law Workshop, USPPIP Project, University of Exeter, Exeter, U.K., Nov. 24, 2017

“The Arab Autumn: Shi’i Jurists, Revolution and the Discourse on Rights,” Law & Society Association Conference, Mexico City, MEXICO, January 20, 2017

“Modern Constitutionalism and ‘Islamic’ Penal Codes: A Case Study of the Maldives,” AALS Joint Program Panel on Comparative Constitutional Law in South Asia, San Francisco, CA, January 6, 2017

“Islamic Law’s Duty to Fight: Claiming Jurisdiction over Jihād,” International and Comparative Law Workshop, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA, September 21, 2016

“Revolutionary Jurisprudence: Islamic Legal Reasoning in the Arab Spring,” Faculty Workshop, University of Pennsylvania Law School, Philadelphia, PA, March 1, 2016

“The Free Exercise of Faith: American Courts, Secular Constitutions and the Shari’a,” Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Lahore, PAKISTAN, March 3, 2014

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations**, Philadelphia, PA

*Commissioner* (mayoral appointment), 2021-2023

**International Development Law Organization (IDLO)**, Philadelphia, PA

*Consultant* (Somali Penal Code), 2016-2017

**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, Malé, Maldives

*International Legal Consultant* (Maldivian Penal Code), 2014-2015

**Truman National Security Project**, Washington, DC and Turkey/Syria

*Research Fellow* (Democracy & Human Rights Initiative), 2012-2013

**Hogan Lovells, LLP**, Washington, DC

*Associate* (Investigations, White Collar & Fraud), 2012-2014; *Summer Associate*, 2009

**Kirkland & Ellis, LLP**, New York, NY

*Summer Associate*, 2005

**Hon. Ivan L. R. Lemelle, U.S. District Court, E. D. of LA**, New Orleans, LA

*Judicial Extern*, 2004

**Legal Resources Centre**, Pretoria, South Africa

*Summer Associate*, 2004

**United States Senate, Office of U.S. Senator Max Cleland (D-GA)**, Washington, DC

*Legislative Staffer & Personal Aide*, 2000-2002

## **LANGUAGES**

*Fluent in Arabic, Urdu | Proficient in Persian, Punjabi | Reading knowledge of French, German & Spanish*

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

**Bar Admission:** Maryland and the District of Columbia (D.C.)

*Steering Committee, Muslim American Judicial Appointments Committee*

*Editor, SHARIASource (Harvard Law School)*

*Editorial Board, Arab Law Quarterly, 2017-2021*

*Legal Advisory Committee, ACLU-PA (Philadelphia Office), 2017-2020*

*Board of Directors, The Merchant's Fund*

*Board of Directors, Interfaith Philadelphia*

*Board of Directors, Millions of Conversations*

*Fellow, Truman National Security Project*