

BARBRA BARNETT

bbarnett@uchicago.edu

EDUCATION

University of Chicago, Divinity School, Chicago, IL
Ph.D., Religious Ethics, expected August 2009
MA., Religious Studies, June 2002

The George Washington University Law School, Washington, DC
J.D., With Honors, May 1996

New York University, New York, NY
B.A., Religious Studies, May 1991

DISSERTATION

“Religious Arguments in the Public Square:
An Examination of Religious Freedom in Discourse Theory of Law and Democracy”

I appropriate the political theory of Jürgen Habermas to show how religious freedom is consistent with a discourse theory of democracy. Arguing for the political importance of religious freedom, I discuss what this approach would mean in terms of understanding and interpreting the Religion Clauses of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE:

Franklin I. Gamwell University of Chicago Divinity School (Committee Chair)

Jean Bethke Elshtain University of Chicago Divinity School, Department of Political Science and the Committee on International Relations (Reader)

David A. Strauss University of Chicago Law School (Reader)

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Lilly Border Crossing Student Teaching Fellow, University of Chicago, 2008-2009

Martin Marty Center Dissertation Fellow, University of Chicago, 2007-2008

Human Rights Program Teaching Fellow, University of Chicago, Winter 2008

Corpus Juris Secundum Award for Excellence in Civil Procedure,
The George Washington University Law School, 1993-1994

Founders' Day Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement,
New York University, May 1991

QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS

Philosophical Ethics

Theological Ethics

Moral Problems: The Ethics of Democracy

History of Christianity Modern Period (1600-present)

PAPERS & PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Co-editor and Introduction, with Elizabeth M. Bucar, *Does Human Rights Need God?* (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2005)

Articles:

“Twentieth Century Approaches to Defining Religion: Clifford Geertz and the First Amendment,” *The University of Maryland Law Journal of Race, Religion, Gender and Class*, Volume 7, Issue Number 1, 2007, pp. 95-139

Electronic Publications:

“Public Wrongs and Rites,” *Sightings*, Martin Marty Center at the University of Chicago Divinity School, November 8, 2007

<http://divinity.uchicago.edu/martycenter/publications/sightings/>

Conference Papers:

“When Discourse Theory Meets the First Amendment: Religious Arguments in the Public Square,” Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Religion and the State Working Group, River Forest, IL, April 2008

“The Science Fiction Dystopia: *Battlestar Galactica*’s Contributions to Contemporary Discussions of Human Dignity,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Ethics Section, San Diego, CA, November 2007

“The Problem of Civic Virtue and Religious Freedom in Pluralistic Democratic Society,” University of Chicago, Divinity School, Martin Marty Center Working Group on Religion and the Democratic Prospect, Chicago, IL, October 2004

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Chicago, Divinity School

Lilly Teaching Fellow, M.Div. Senior Thesis Seminar (2008-09)

Advise graduating ministry students on the development of their final research projects and presentations, as a part of the Border Crossing Initiative exploring the relationship between the professions of teaching and ministry.

Elmhurst College, Theology and Religion Department

Adjunct Professor (2007-present)

“Christian Ethics and Human Sexuality” and
“Religion in America”

Teach two courses, responsibilities include selecting texts and developing syllabi, lectures, assignments and exams to meet the college’s general education requirements.

University of Chicago, Human Rights Program

Graduate Teaching Fellow (Winter 2007)

“Does Human Rights Need God?”

Developed and taught undergraduate course that qualifies for elective credits towards a minor in human rights.

University of Chicago, Human Rights Program

Course Assistant to S. Gzesh (Spring 2006 – Fall 2006)

“HR3: Contemporary Issues in Human Rights”

Led a weekly discussion section of undergraduate students, met with students about their final research proposals and responsible for all grading for my section. Also delivered a lecture on religious freedom as a human right to the entire class.

University of Chicago, Divinity School

Course Assistant to F. I. Gamwell (Winter 2006)

“Introduction to Constructive Studies of Religion”

Led a weekly discussion section of graduate students in this portion of the required year-long sequence for a master’s degree in religious studies. Readings in theology, ethics, and philosophy of religion revolved around the theme of God and the good.

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, Chicago, IL (2003)

Part-time Research Associate

LEGAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP, Chicago, IL (2006-08):

Part-time Marketing Liaison to the Corporate Reorganization & Bankruptcy Practice

Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP, Chicago, IL (2003-04):

Part-time Staff Associate, Corporate Reorganization & Bankruptcy Practice

City of Chicago, Board of Ethics, Chicago, IL (2001- 2002):

Part-time Research Analyst

Bingham McCutchen LLP, Los Angeles, CA (1997-2000):

(formerly McCutchen, Doyle, Brown & Enersen, LLP)

Associate, Corporate Transactional Practice and Healthcare Practice

Member of the firm’s Pro Bono Committee (1998-2000)

Barger & Wolen LLP, Los Angeles, CA (1996-1997):

Litigation Associate

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Junior Fellow Representative, Advisory Board, The Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion at the University of Chicago (2007 – 2008)

Student Member, American Academy of Religion (since 2004)

Member, State Bar of California (since 1996) (currently inactive status)

LANGUAGE COMPETENCIES

French and German Written Translation

REFERENCES

Franklin I. Gamwell (figamwel@uchicago.edu), University of Chicago Divinity School

Jean Bethke Elsthain (jbelshta@uchicago.edu), University of Chicago Divinity School, Department of Political Science and Committee on International Relations

David A. Strauss (d-strauss@uchicago.edu), University of Chicago, Law School

Susan Gzesh, Director (sgzesh@uchicago.edu), University of Chicago, Human Rights Program

Paul Parker (paulp@elmhurst.edu), Chair, Elmhurst College, Theology and Religion Department

William Schweiker (w-schweiker@uchicago.edu), University of Chicago Divinity School and Director, Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion