

Rabea Benhalim, J.D., L.L.M., M.P.P., M.A.

University of Colorado Law School | 2450 Kittredge Loop Dr. | Boulder, CO 80309
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CURRENT POSITION

Associate Professor, University of Colorado Law School **Aug 2019 – present**
Courses taught include: Contracts, Secured Transactions, Islamic Law, & Jewish Law

EDUCATION

MA, Islamic Studies; University of Texas; Austin, TX **Dec 2021**
Thesis: *Receptivity to Socio-Legal Pressure in Jewish and Islamic Law*

LLM, University of Wisconsin Law School; Madison, WI **May 2019**
William H. Hastie Fellow
Institute for Legal Studies Law and Society Graduate Fellow

JD, University of Texas Law School; Austin, TX **May 2009**
Team Member, Jessup International Moot Court
Member, Texas International Law Journal

MPP, University of Michigan Gerald Ford School of Public Policy; Ann Arbor, MI **Dec 2005**
Graduate Student Chair, Michigan Student Assembly

BA, Literary Studies, *Magna Cum Laude*; University of Texas at Dallas; Richardson, TX **May 2004**
Vice President, Student Government
Senior Honors Thesis: *An Analysis of "The Other" in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Scripture* (Highest Honors)
Academic Excellence Scholar

SUPPLEMENTARY EDUCATION

International Course on Legal Pluralism, Commission on Legal Pluralism **Jul 2022**
International course of academics and practitioners who deal with issues related to legal pluralism, informal justice systems and social justice. The courses focused on current international debates and insights on socio-legal studies, theories, knowledge, and methodologies of legal pluralism.

University of Texas Law School, Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution, Mediation Training **Jun 2021**
Intensive five-day program designed to provide individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to mediate a variety of everyday disputes. During frequent role-plays, each participant mediated a variety of disputes with expert feedback. The course concluded with mediation certification.

Graduate Fellowship in Jewish Studies and Legal Theory **Summer 2020**
Interdisciplinary program focused on bringing legal theory into the disciplines of Jewish history and Jewish law. The Fellowship Seminar is a project of the Consortium on Jewish Studies and Legal Theory, a partnership among Cardozo Law School, Columbia University, The Jewish Theological Seminary, NYU, Princeton, and Yale.

Nishma Summer Program, The Jewish Theological Seminary **Summer 2019**
Program to cultivate the skills to learn classical Jewish sources: Talmud, Midrash, halakhah, and parshanut.

University of Texas Flagship Arabic Summer Institute **Jun – Aug 2016**

Middlebury College Arabic Language School; Oakland, CA **May – Aug 2013**
May – Aug 2010

Qasid Arabic Institute; Amman, Jordan**Aug – Dec 2010****Study Abroad Program, University of London School of Oriental & African Studies****Jan – May 2004**

International Studies program with a focus on the Middle East.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary Interests: Islamic Law, Jewish Law, Contracts, Secured Transactions**Additional Interests:** Alternative Dispute Resolution, International Business Transactions, Women and the Law, National Security

PUBLICATIONS

Rabea Benhalim, *Abortion under Jewish and Islamic Law*, B.Y.U. L. REV. _ (2025) (forthcoming).Rabea Benhalim, *Islamic Sexual Ethics & Contract Law*, 108 MINN. L. REV. 1861 (2024).Rabea Benhalim, *Oppression in Islamic, Jewish and American Private Law*, 94 COLO. L. REV. 1 (2023).Rabea Benhalim, *The Case for American Muslim Arbitration*, 2019 WIS. L. REV. 3, 531 (2019).Rabea Benhalim, *Religious Courts in Secular Jurisdictions: How Jewish and Islamic Courts Adapt to Societal and Legal Norms*, 84 BROOK. L. REV. 3, 745 (2019).

Rabea Benhalim, Book Review, 33 J. OF L. AND RELIGION 3, 508 (2018) (reviewing FAREDA BANDA & LISA FISHBAYN JOFFE EDS., WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND RELIGIOUS LAW: DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES (2016)).

Benjamin Wittes, Rabea Benhalim & Wells C. Bennett, *Rationalizing Government Collection Authorities: A Proposal for Radical Simplification*, GOVERNANCE STUDIES AT BROOKINGS (Jan. 7, 2011), https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/0107_rationalizing_surveillance.pdf.Benjamin Wittes, Rabea Benhalim & Robert M. Chesney, *The Emerging Law of Detention: The Guantánamo Habeas Cases as Lawmaking*, GOVERNANCE STUDIES AT BROOKINGS (Jan. 22, 2010), https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/0122_guantanamo_wittes_chesney.pdf.

WORKING PAPERS

Rabea Benhalim, *The Fertilized Egg: IVF Embryos, Religion, & Contract Law*, work in progress for submission in August 2024.Rabea Benhalim, *The First 40-Days: The Legal Treatment of Embryos in Jewish & Islamic Law*, 46 NASHIM (Spring/Summer 2025) (under peer review).Rabea Benhalim, *Abortion in Islamic and American Law*, in ISLAMIC LAW IN THE CRUCIBLE OF THE MODERN STATE: PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES, (Bahman Khodadi, ed., Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2025).Rabea Benhalim, *Abortion & Religious Law*, in CONCISE ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF RELIGION AND LAW (Elgar Publishing, forthcoming 2025).

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

Rabea Benhalim, *Limiting Oppression: Duress and Unconscionability in Islamic Law*, CANOPY FORUM (Apr. 2022), <https://canopyforum.org/tag/rabea-benhalim/>.

Rabea Benhalim, *Islamic Finance and Sukuk in Africa*, AR3: RESILIENCE, RISK, AND RECONSTRUCTION MAG. (Jan. 2016), <http://africar3.com/africas-sukuk-market/>.

Rabea Benhalim, Book Review, LawFare (June 22, 2012) (reviewing DANA PRIEST & WILLIAM ARKIN, TOP SECRET AMERICA: THE RISE OF THE NEW AMERICAN SECURITY STATE (2011)). <https://www.lawfareblog.com/top-secret-america-rise-new-american-security-state-dana-priest-and-william-arkin>.

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO LAW SCHOOL SERVICE

CU Law School Appointments Committee	Aug 2023 – present
CU Law School Public Service, Diversity, and Equity Committee Chair	Aug 2023 – present
CU Law Juniors Group Co-Chair	Aug 2022 – present
CU Muslim Law Students Association Faculty Advisor	Aug 2022 – present
1L Faculty Advising Program	Fall 2021-present
CU Law School Public Service, Diversity, and Equity Committee	Aug 2020 – Jul 2022
CU Law School Adjunct Committee	Aug 2021 – Jul 2022
CU Law School Peer Review Committee	Aug 2020 – Jul 2022
CU Law School Faculty Director of the Anti-Racism and Representation Initiative	Oct 2020 – Sept 2021
CU Law School Admissions Committee	Aug 2019 – Jul 2020

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Colorado Law School Excellence in Teaching Award Student nominated and voted award recognizing excellence in teaching	Apr 2024
Hazel Barnes Flat Research Award University of Colorado travel award for research in the UK	Mar 2024
National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity – Faculty Success Program Awarded competitive grant from the University of Colorado to attend Faculty Success Program	Spring 2022
Colorado Law School Outstanding New Faculty Award Student nominated and voted award recognizing excellence in teaching	Apr 2020
Law and Society Graduate Fellow, University of Wisconsin Law School; Madison, WI Institute for Legal Studies Selective, interdisciplinary fellowship designed to promote innovative approaches to empirical legal research	Aug 2018 – Aug 2019
William H. Hastie Fellow, University of Wisconsin Law School; Madison, WI Competitive fellowship supporting aspiring legal scholars from under-represented communities Fellows prepare two major pieces for publication and receive mentoring on scholarship and teaching	Aug 2017 – Aug 2019
Kathryn Davis Fellow, Middlebury College Arabic Language School; Oakland, CA Competitive fellowship fully covering attendance at Middlebury Summer Language Institute	May – Aug 2013
Legal Fellow, University of Texas Center for Women in Law; Austin, TX Compiled comprehensive bibliography on women in law	Jan – May 2008

Democracy Program Fellow, The Carter Center; Atlanta, GA Monitored democratic developments in the Middle East and North Africa Composed reports by country for President Carter's personal review	May – Aug 2005
Fellow, Institute for International Public Policy Trained at two summer policy intensives at HBCUs Received study abroad and graduate school funding	May 2002 – May 2006
Archer Fellow, United Nations Information Center (UNIC); Washington, DC Fully funded semester in Washington, DC Wrote reports for UN Headquarters on developments in DC related to the UN	Jan – May 2002
Academic Excellence Scholarship, University of Texas at Dallas; Richardson, TX Four years of fully funded tuition, fees, and on-campus housing	Aug 2001 – May 2004

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor The University of Colorado Law School Courses Taught: Contracts (Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023); Secured Transactions (Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023); Islamic Law (Spring 2021, Spring 2023); Jewish Law (Fall 2021, Spring 2024)	Aug 2019 – present
Instructor, Course: Religious Arbitration University of Wisconsin Law School	Jan 2019 – May 2019
Supplemental Instructor/Teaching Assistant/Discussion Leader University of Texas at Austin, International Relations and Global Studies Program Taught sixty students twice a week for four semesters, including grading and lecturing Promoted to Supplemental Instructor after receiving exceptional student reviews	Aug 2015 – May 2017
Teaching Assistant, Arabic Summer Institute, University of Texas at Austin Taught introductory Arabic, including grading and primary instruction daily	May – Aug 2018 May – Aug 2017

LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS

Invited Guest Lecture, The Greater Washington Coalition for Jewish Life Invited Guest Speaker: "The Relationship of Jewish and Islamic Legal Scholars"	Apr 2025
Panelist, Annual Meeting of Law and Society Association; Denver, CO Invited panel discussant: "Abortion, Autonomy, and Rights in Islamic and American Law"	Jun 2024
Invited Guest Lecture, Congregation Bonai Shalom Invited Guest Speaker: "Similar but Different: The path to becoming a scholar of Jewish and Islamic law"	Jun 2024
Invited Speaker, University of Bristol Religious Arbitration Symposium Interview on American Muslim ADR for September symposium	May 2024
Invited Guest Lecture, Museum of Jewish Heritage Invited Guest Speaker: "Comparing the Jewish and Islamic Legal Traditions"	May 2024

- Invited Guest Lecture, The University of Michigan Frankel Center for Judaic Studies** Jan 2024
Invited Guest Speaker: “Abortion in Jewish and Islamic Law”
- Lecturer, University of Colorado Real Estate for Non-Lawyers** Oct & Nov 2023
Taught two classes for the real estate professionals program: 1) “Principles of Contract, Lease Law and Mortgages” and 2) “Closings, Quiet Title Actions, Deeds and Conveyances.”
- Moderator, Silicon Flatirons Investment Crowdfunding Symposium** Sept 2023
Moderated panel on Finance and Investment Crowdfunding
- Selected Speaker, Conference on Islamic Law in the Crucible of the Modern State** July 2023
Selected as 1 of 7 selected speakers out of 112 international applicants to present in Munster, Germany.
Presented paper on *Abortion Autonomy & Rights in Islamic and Jewish Law*. Paper to be included as a chapter in a published book.
- Organizer and Speaker, University of Colorado Jewish and Islamic Law Scholars Workshop** May 2023
Planned and hosted a two-day workshop at Colorado Law for fourteen scholars of Jewish and Islamic Law on Legal Diversity and Controversy in Islamic and Jewish Law
- Lecturer, University of Colorado Real Estate for Non-Lawyers** Jan & Feb 2023
Taught two classes for the real estate professionals program: 1) “Principles of Contract, Lease Law and Mortgages” and 2) “Closings, Quiet Title Actions, Deeds and Conveyances.”
- Panelist, Rocky Mountain Junior Scholars Conference** Dec 2022
Invited panel discussant: *Islamic Sexual Ethics & Contract Law*
- Panelist, National Association of Muslim Lawyers** Nov 2022
Invited panel discussant: *Mediating, Arbitrating & Settling Intra-Community Disputes*
- Panelist, Annual Meeting of Law and Society Association; Lisbon, Portugal** July 2022
Invited panel discussant: *A Proposal for American Muslim Sexual Freedom*
- Presenter, International Course on Legal Pluralism; Lisbon, Portugal** July 2022
Invited presenter: *A Proposal for American Muslim Sexual Freedom*
- Lecturer, Colorado Law Talks** May 2022
Invited lecturer to present on Oppression in American, Islamic, and Jewish Private Law
- Panelist, Islamic-Jewish Law Workshop, The University of Texas at Austin Law School** Mar 2022
Invited panelist to present on Comparing the Islamic and Jewish Legal Traditions
- Presenter, The Promises and Perils of Religious Arbitration, Emory University Canopy Forum** Mar 2022
Invited presenter on Duress and Unconscionability in Islamic Law
- Moderator & Organizer, The American Association of Law Schools Islamic Law Panel** Jan 2022
Organized co-sponsorship of panel with Jewish Law Section, *Agreeing to Disagree: Difference of Opinion in Islamic and Jewish Law*
- Panelist, The Federalist Society Works in Progress Panel** Jan 2022
Invited panel discussant: *Oppression in Islamic, Jewish, & American Law*

Guest Lecturer, The University of Colorado Mini Law School Invited lecturer to present an introduction to Contracts to non-lawyers	Jan 2022
Guest Lecturer, The University of Colorado Mini Law School Invited lecturer to present an introduction to Secured Transactions to non-lawyers	Feb 2021
Panelist, Rocky Mountain Junior Scholars Conference Invited panel discussant: <i>Religious Limits on Duress in American Muslim and Jewish Arbitration</i>	Nov 2020
Panelist, Annual Meeting of Law and Society Association; Toronto, Canada Invited panel discussant: <i>Constitutional Sanction and State Oversight of Religious Courts in Israel & the United States: Balancing Legal Pluralism and Civil Rights</i>	July 2018
Guest Lecturer, University of Wisconsin Law School; Madison, WI Invited lecturer: <i>Legal Pluralism and Muslims in the Western World</i> for <i>Legal Studies</i> undergraduate course	May 2018
Panelist, Qatar Institute Arab Graduate Student Conference; Doha, Qatar Invited panel discussant: <i>Religious Courts in a Secular State</i>	Mar 2018
Panelist, Annual Meeting of American Association of Law Schools; San Diego, CA Invited panel discussant: <i>Sharia Courts in Secular Jurisdictions</i>	Jan 2018
Guest Lecturer, University of Texas at Austin Invited lecturer: <i>Gender, Love, and Relationships in Islam</i> for <i>Social Transformation of Love</i> undergraduate course	Apr 2017
Guest Lecturer, Texas State University; San Marcos, TX Invited lecturer: <i>The Rising Tide of Islamophobia: Navigating Hate, Stereotypes, and Prejudice</i>	Apr 2017
Guest Lecturer, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of Texas at Austin Invited lecturer: <i>Islam in America</i> for <i>There's More to the Story: Islam and the World Today</i> continuing education course	Oct 2016

MEDIA

[Religious views on abortion more diverse than they may appear in U.S. political debate](#), Elisha Brown, STATES NEWSROOM, May 6, 2024 (quoted extensively).

[The Debate Over Muslim College Students Getting Secret Marriages](#), Emma Green, THE NEW YORKER MAGAZINE, Sept. 9, 2022 (quoted extensively).

[How divorced Muslim women in the US are fighting for what they're owed](#), Zainab Iqbal, MIDDLE EAST EYE, Aug. 3, 2022 (quoted extensively).

RESEARCH & LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Legal Consultant and Counsel, DiversityWealth; Dallas, TX In-house counsel and advisor for development of diversity and inclusion training programs	Aug 2015 – present
William H. Hastie Fellow, University of Wisconsin Law School; Madison, WI Conducted research and wrote academic articles on religious courts Contracted to teach <i>Religious Arbitration</i> JD Course in Spring 2019	Aug 2017 – Aug 2019

Part-Time Associate, Braumiller Law Group; Dallas, TX International trade law litigation and compliance assistance	May 2016 – May 2017
Legal Advisor, Maersk Oil; Houston, TX Drafted and negotiated large-scale, international oil and gas contracts Conducted compliance analysis for sub-contractors	Feb 2014 – Apr 2015
Consultant, Brookings Doha Center; Doha, Qatar Conducted research and analysis of Middle East conflict resolution in post-Arab Spring	Apr 2013 – Feb 2014
Associate, Mayer Brown, LLP; Houston, TX Represented lenders and borrows in structuring oil and gas credit facilities Provided <i>pro bono</i> representation of clients seeking asylum in collaboration with the Tahirih Justice Center Served as Chair of the Houston office Diversity Committee, member of Mayer Brown Women's Forum	Jan 2011 – Apr 2013
Legal Fellow, The Brookings Institution; Washington, DC Met with members of Congress to discuss recommendations for detention legislation Researched and published articles on Guantanamo cases, detention law trends, government collection authorities	Sep 2009 – Jun 2010
Student Attorney, National Security and Human Rights Clinic; Austin, TX Represented Guantanamo detainees in federal district courts Conducted research and analysis leading to co-authorship of model brief on Extraordinary Rendition	Jan – May 2008
Research Assistant, Emory Center for the Study of Law and Religion; Atlanta, GA Identified major developments in international religious freedom laws from 1998-2007	May 2007 – May 2008

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Member, State Bar of Texas	Nov 2009 – present
Executive Committee Member, AALS Islamic Law Section	Jan 2019 – present
Co-Founder & Organizer, Jewish and Islamic Law Scholars Consortium Organizing annual workshop, "Religious Law in the Modern Economy" Developing Jewish and Islamic Law Journal	Fall 2023 – present
Co-Chair, Law and Society Association Islamic Law and Society CRN	Jun 2024 – present
Chair, AALS Islamic Law Section Organized and moderated panel titled <i>Agreeing to Disagree: Difference of Opinion in Islamic and Jewish Law</i> Organized author presentation with Simonetta Calderini on her book: <i>Women as Imams: Classical Islamic Sources and Modern Debates on Leading Prayer</i> Organized works in Progress Session for AALS Islamic Law Section Members Organized and moderated 2022 Section Planning Meeting	Jan 2021 – Jan 2022
Co-Founder & Co-Director, Grassroots Islam Co-established virtual, inclusive, and spiritual organization dedicated to Muslim Americans Executed three month-long Ramadan programs to engage isolated Muslims during the holy month Planned and hosted seventy-two events including discussion series, Quran studies, public sector Q&A, and retreats Established 501-c3 status in 2022	Mar 2020 – present

Volunteer Mediator, City of Boulder Community Mediation and Resolution Center Serve as a mediator for the City of Boulder, facilitating the resolution of community disputes	Jan 2024 – present
American Branch of the International Law Association Islamic Law and Society Committee Board Member	Oct 2020 – present
Member, Law and Society Association	Jun 2018 – present
Member, The National Association of Muslim Lawyers	Sept 2017 – present
Advisor, Muslim Connection Austin	Jul 2017 – Jul 2019
Board Member, Ibrahim Islamic Center	Aug 2013 – Aug 2015
Pro Bono Attorney, Tahirih Justice Center	May 2011 – Mar 2013

LANGUAGES

Advanced knowledge of Classical and Modern Standard Arabic

Intermediate knowledge of Biblical Hebrew and Modern Hebrew