

## 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

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

### EDUCATION

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**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

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**International Course on Legal Pluralism, Commission on Legal Pluralism** Jul 2022  
Selected for competitive 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** Summer 2016

**American Learning Institute for Muslims (ALIM) Summer Program Scholarship; Flint, MI** Summer 2015  
The summer program covered traditional subjects such as Fiqh, Tafsir, Sirah, as well as contemporary issues including Islam in America, Modernism, Sectarianism, and Liberalism. Received full scholarship to attend.

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 International Studies program with a focus on the Middle East.	Jan – May 2004

## TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

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**Primary Interests:** Islamic Law, Jewish Law, Contracts, Secured Transactions

**Additional Interests:** Alternative Dispute Resolution, International Business Transactions, Property, Middle East Law, Women and the Law

## PUBLICATIONS

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Rabea Benhalim, *Abortion in Islamic and American Law*, in ISLAMIC LAW IN THE CRUCIBLE OF THE MODERN STATE: PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES, (Bahman Khodadi, ed., forthcoming 2026).

Rabea Benhalim, *Abortion & Religious Law*, in CONCISE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RELIGION AND LAW (Elgar Publishing, forthcoming 2026).

Rabea Benhalim, *Religious Arbitration in Comparative Perspective*, in JOURNAL OF LAW AND RELIGION (forthcoming 2026).

Rabea Benhalim, *Legal Loopholes in Islamic Law*, 32 SOUTHWESTERN J.INT.L. L.J. \_ (forthcoming 2026).

Rabea Benhalim, *Religious Freedom & The Fertilized Egg*, 77 UC. L.J. 5 166 (2025) (forthcoming).

Rabea Benhalim, *Agreeing to Disagree: Abortion Jurisprudence in Jewish and Islamic Law*, 50 BYU L. Rev. 1217 (2025).

Rabea Benhalim, *Contract Customization, Sex, and Islamic 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](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](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/0122_guantanamo_wittes_chesney.pdf).

## WORKING PAPERS

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Rabea Benhalim & Michael Broyde, *Assisted Reproduction in Jewish & Islamic Law*, full length article, work-in-progress

## ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

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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

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CU Law Colloquium Committee Chair	Fall 2025 – present
CU Muslim Law Students Association Faculty Advisor	Aug 2022 – present
1L Faculty Advising Program	Fall 2021 – Oct 2024
CU Law School Public Service, Diversity, and Equity Committee Chair	Aug 2023 – Oct 2024
CU Law School Adjunct Committee	Aug 2021 – Jul 2022, Aug-Oct 2024
CU Law Juniors Group Co-Chair	Aug 2022 – Aug 2024
CU Law School Appointments Committee	Aug 2023 – May 2024
CU Law School Public Service, Diversity, and Equity Committee	Aug 2020 – 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

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<b>Senior Fellow, Emory Center for the Study of Law &amp; Religion</b> Fellows are recognized as faculty who have made substantial scholarly contributions in the field of law & religion	August 2025 – present
<b>Fellow, Templeton Pluralism Fellowship</b> Competitive fellowship supporting Muslim and Christian thought leaders focused on pluralism and public life Fellows prepare major pieces for publication and co-develop a creative project with a member of the other faith	Sept 2025 – Sept 2027
<b>Colorado Law School Excellence in Teaching Award</b> Student nominated and voted award recognizing excellence in teaching	Apr 2024
<b>Hazel Barnes Flat Research Award</b> University of Colorado travel award for research in the UK	Mar 2024
<b>National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity – Faculty Success Program</b> Awarded competitive grant from the University of Colorado to attend Faculty Success Program	Spring 2022
<b>Colorado Law School Outstanding New Faculty Award</b> Student nominated and voted award recognizing excellence in teaching	Apr 2020
<b>Law and Society Graduate Fellow, University of Wisconsin Law School; Madison, WI</b>	Aug 2018 – Aug 2019

### **Institute for Legal Studies**

Selective, interdisciplinary fellowship designed to promote innovative approaches to empirical legal research

**William H. Hastie Fellow, University of Wisconsin Law School; Madison, WI** Aug 2017 – Aug 2019

Competitive fellowship supporting aspiring legal scholars from under-represented communities

**Kathryn Davis Fellow, Middlebury College Arabic Language School; Oakland, CA** May – Aug 2013

Competitive fellowship fully covering attendance at Middlebury Summer Language Institute

**Legal Fellow, University of Texas Center for Women in Law; Austin, TX** Jan – May 2008

Compiled comprehensive bibliography on women in law

**Democracy Program Fellow, The Carter Center; Atlanta, GA** May – Aug 2005

Monitored democratic developments in the Middle East and North Africa

Composed reports by country for President Carter's personal review

**Fellow, Institute for International Public Policy** May 2002 – May 2006

Trained at two summer policy intensives at HBCUs

Received study abroad and graduate school funding

**Archer Fellow, United Nations Information Center (UNIC); Washington, DC** Jan – May 2002

Fully funded semester in Washington, DC

Wrote reports for UN Headquarters on developments in DC related to the UN

**Academic Excellence Scholarship, University of Texas at Dallas; Richardson, TX** Aug 2001 – May 2004

Four years of fully funded tuition, fees, and on-campus housing

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**Associate Professor** Aug 2019 – present

**The University of Colorado Law School**

Courses Taught: Contracts (Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2025)

Secured Transactions (Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2025)

Intro to Islamic Law (Spring 2021, Spring 2023, Fall 2024)

Intro to Jewish Law (Fall 2021, Spring 2024)

Independent Study (Spring 2024, Summer 2024)

**Instructor, Course: Religious Arbitration** Jan 2019 – May 2019

**University of Wisconsin Law School**

**Supplemental Instructor/Teaching Assistant/Discussion Leader** Aug 2015 – May 2017

**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

**Teaching Assistant, Arabic Summer Institute, University of Texas at Austin** May – Aug 2018

Taught introductory Arabic, including grading and primary instruction daily

May – Aug 2017

### **LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS**

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**Panelist, Oxford Handbook of Jewish Law Launch, University of Pennsylvania Law School** Apr 2026

Invited panel discussant on Emerging Issues at the Interface of Religion and State

- Invited Guest Lecture, Chapman Law School** Apr 2026  
Invited Guest Speaker: Jewish & Islamic Law in Modernity
- Invited Guest Lecture, Cornell Law School** Mar 2026  
Invited Guest Speaker: “Women’s Rights, Abortion, & Islamic Law”
- Panelist, Jewish and International Law Book Launch, Emory Law School** Feb 2026  
Invited panel discussant at the Center for the Study of Law and Religion Book Event
- Panelist, Faith, Values, and the Rule of Law Conference, Seton Hall Law School** Feb 2026  
Invited panel discussant: “Upholding the Rule of Law through Loopholes”
- Moderator & Organizer, The American Association of Law Schools Islamic Law Panels** Jan 2026  
Moderated Islamic Law Works-in-Progress and Islamic Law & the Question of Palestine Panels
- Invited Guest Lecture, Pepperdine Law School** Nov 2025  
Invited Guest Speaker: “Religious Freedom & The Fertilized Egg”
- Invited Guest Lecture, Southwestern Law School** Nov 2025  
Invited Guest Speaker: “Legal Loopholes in Jewish and Islamic Law”
- Invited Guest Lecture, The Greater Washington Coalition for Jewish Life** Nov 2025  
Invited Guest Speaker: “The Relationship of Jewish and Islamic Legal Scholars”
- Panelist, Annual Meeting of Law and Society Association; Chicago, IL** Jun 2025  
Invited panel discussant: “Free Exercise & The Fertilized Egg”
- Co-Organizer and Discussant, Jewish and Islamic Law Scholars Workshop** May 2025  
Planned and served as a discussant for a two-day workshop at Villanova Law School on Islamic and Jewish Law in the Modern Economy
- Invited Presenter, West Coast Sexuality, Gender & Law Conference** Feb 2025  
Invited Presenter & Commentator: “The First Amendment & The Fertilized Egg”
- Panelist, Annual Meeting of Law and Society Association; Denver, CO** Jun 2024  
Invited panel discussant: “Abortion, Autonomy, and Rights in Islamic and American Law”
- Invited Guest Lecture, Congregation Bonai Shalom** Jun 2024  
Invited Guest Speaker: “Similar but Different: The path to becoming a scholar of Jewish and Islamic law”
- Invited Speaker, University of Bristol Religious Arbitration Symposium** May 2024  
Interviewed on American Muslim ADR for September symposium
- Invited Guest Lecture, Museum of Jewish Heritage** May 2024  
Invited Guest Speaker: “Comparing the Jewish and Islamic Legal Traditions”
- Invited Presenter, West Coast Sexuality, Gender & Law Conference** Mar 2024  
Invited Presenter & Commentator: “Agreeing to Disagree: Abortion Jurisprudence in Jewish & Islamic Law”
- Invited Guest Lecture, The University of Colorado Jewish Law Students Association** Jan 2024  
Invited Guest Speaker: “Abortion in Law”
- 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** **Jan 2022**  
Invited lecturer to present an introduction to Contracts to non-lawyers

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

## MEDIA

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[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

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- William H. Hastie Fellow, University of Wisconsin Law School; Madison, WI** Aug 2017 – Aug 2019  
Conducted research and wrote academic articles on religious courts  
Contracted to teach *Religious Arbitration* JD Course in Spring 2019
- Part-Time Associate, Braumiller Law Group; Dallas, TX** May 2016 – May 2017  
International trade law litigation and compliance assistance
- Legal Advisor, Maersk Oil; Houston, TX** Feb 2014 – Apr 2015  
Drafted and negotiated large-scale, international oil and gas contracts  
Conducted compliance analysis for sub-contractors

- Consultant, Brookings Doha Center; Doha, Qatar** Apr 2013 – Feb 2014  
Conducted research and analysis of Middle East conflict resolution in post-Arab Spring
- Associate, Mayer Brown, LLP; Houston, TX** Jan 2011 – Apr 2013  
Represented lenders and borrows in structuring oil and gas credit facilities  
Provided *pro bono* 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
- Legal Fellow, The Brookings Institution; Washington, DC** Sep 2009 – Jun 2010  
Met with members of Congress to discuss recommendations for detention legislation  
Researched and published articles on Guantanamo cases, detention law trends, government collection authorities
- Student Attorney, National Security and Human Rights Clinic; Austin, TX** Jan – May 2008  
Represented Guantanamo detainees in federal district courts  
Conducted research and analysis leading to co-authorship of model brief on Extraordinary Rendition
- Research Assistant, Emory Center for the Study of Law and Religion; Atlanta, GA** May 2007 – May 2008  
Identified major developments in international religious freedom laws from 1998-2007

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & COMMUNITY SERVICE**

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- Member, State Bar of Texas** Nov 2009 – present
- Executive Committee Member, AALS Islamic Law Section** Jan 2019 – present
- Executive Committee Member, AALS Jewish Law Section** Jan 2024 – present
- Co-Founder & Co-Organizer, Jewish and Islamic Law Scholars Consortium** Fall 2023 – present  
Organized 2023 workshop, “Legal Diversity and Controversy in Islamic and Jewish Law”  
Co-organized 2025 workshop, “Islamic and Jewish Law in the Modern Economy”
- Co-Chair, Law and Society Association Islamic Law and Society CRN** Jun 2024 – present  
Co-organized 2025 panel, “Negotiating Muslim Identity, Law, and Power: Individuals in Legal, Political, and Institutional contexts.
- Chair, AALS Islamic Law Section** Jan 2025 – present  
Jan 2021 – Jan 2022  
Organized and moderated panel titled “Agreeing to Disagree: Difference of Opinion in Islamic and Jewish Law”  
Organized author presentation with Simonetta Calderini on her book: “Women as Imams: Classical Islamic Sources and Modern Debates on Leading Prayer”  
Organized works in Progress Session for AALS Islamic Law Section Members  
Organized and moderated 2022 Section Planning Meeting
- Co-Founder & Co-Director, Grassroots Islam** Mar 2020 – present  
Co-established virtual, inclusive, and spiritual organization dedicated to Muslim Americans  
Executed four 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

<b>Volunteer Mediator, City of Boulder Community Mediation and Resolution Center</b> Serve as a mediator for the City of Boulder, facilitating the resolution of community disputes	<b>Jan 2024 – present</b>
<b>American Branch of the International Law Association</b> Islamic Law and Society Committee Board Member	<b>Oct 2020 – present</b>
<b>Member, Law and Society Association</b>	<b>Jun 2018 – present</b>
<b>Member, The National Association of Muslim Lawyers</b>	<b>Sept 2017 – present</b>
<b>Advisor, Muslim Connection Austin</b>	<b>Jul 2017 – Jul 2019</b>
<b>Board Member, Ta'leef Collective</b>	<b>Mar 2021 – Sept 2021</b>
<b>Board Member, Ibrahim Islamic Center</b>	<b>Aug 2013 – Aug 2015</b>
<b>Pro Bono Attorney, Tahirih Justice Center</b>	<b>May 2011 – Mar 2013</b>

**LANGUAGES**

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**Advanced knowledge of Classical and Modern Standard Arabic**

**Intermediate knowledge of Biblical Hebrew and Modern Hebrew**