

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

CHURCH AND STATE: 60 YEARS AFTER EVERSON V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE: Friday, February 9, 2007

TIMES: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Detailed Discussion Agenda Below)

LOCATION:

Princeton Theological Seminary
Center of Continuing Education, 20 Library Place Princeton, NJ, 08542

PRESS CHECK-IN:

Please RSVP by Thursday, February 8, 2007. Please bring media credentials and sign in at Media Check In at the entrance of the building upon arrival.

DETAILS:

In commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in the case of *Everson v. Board of Education*, which supported the use of public funding to provide bus transportation for parochial school children, Princeton Theological Seminary (PTS) will host a provocative symposium to examine the current and future state of relationships between government and religion.

This unparalleled symposium will begin with a presentation summarizing the *Everson* case and the issues it catalyzed. To follow, a panel of prominent legal, political, ethical, and theological leaders will openly discuss the current challenges faced by the judiciary system echoing this significant court decision. They will also address new questions that have emerged with the establishment of the Bush Administration's Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, issues that have recently challenged the "Blaine" Amendment, and predictions on the future of church and state law. Also attending the symposium will be the current Ewing Township School District Superintendent Raymond Broach, as well as Thomas Fisher, son of the Ewing Township School District Superintendent during the time of the *Everson* case, who can speak on his memory of the case during the time that it first transpired. To find out more about PTS, please visit their website: www.ptsem.edu/ce

DISCUSSION AGENDA:

8:30 - 9:00am: Registration

9:00 - 9:15am: Welcome and introduction (Hui Chen, Dean, Center for Continuing Education)

9:15 - 10:15am: Everson in Its Historical Context (Larry Stratton)

10:15 - 10:30am: Break

10:30 - noon: Perspectives on Faith-Based Initiatives (Holly Hollman and Carl Esbeck)

- 30 minutes per speaker
- 30 minutes Q&A

Noon - 1:00pm: Lunch

1:00 - 2:30pm: Perspectives on the Blaine Amendments (Jeremy Gunn and Joseph Viteritti) • 30 minutes per speaker • 30 minutes Q&A

2:30 - 2:45pm: Break

2:45 - 4:00pm: The Future of Church and State Relations (Marci Hamilton and Nancy Duff) • 25 minutes per speaker • 25 minutes Q&A

4:00pm: Press Interviews

THE PANEL:

T. Jeremy Gunn: Director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Program on Freedom of Religion and Belief, founded in 2005 to help promote the American constitutional value of freedom of religion. He publishes and teaches widely on constitutional and religion issues, and oversees ACLU's litigation and advocacy efforts on these issues.

Carl H. Esbeck: Isabelle Wade and Paul C. Lyda Professor of Law at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law. As senior counsel to the deputy attorney general at the U.S. Department of Justice, he helped initiate the Bush Administration's Faith-Based and Community Initiative program.

Marci A. Hamilton: Paul R. Verkuil Professor of Public Law at the Benjamin N.

Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University. A former clerk to Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, she is involved in cutting-edge First Amendment litigation. Her book, *God vs. the Gavel: Religion and the Rule of Law* (Cambridge University Press 2005), is a widely acclaimed study of the First Amendment's Free Exercise Clause.

Lawrence M. Stratton: Ph.D. candidate in Christian ethics at PTS A graduate and former adjunct professor of Georgetown University Law Center, he currently examines the phenomenon of the government funding of religion from the standpoint of both law and ethics.

K. Hollyn Hollman: General Counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a 70-year-old religious liberty education and advocacy group that seeks to bring a uniquely Baptist witness to the principle that religion must be freely exercised, and neither advanced nor inhibited by government.

Joseph P. Viteritti: Blanche D. Blank Professor of Public Policy at Hunter College, CUNY, and author of *Can Religion and Democracy Coexist?*

American Discord from the Public School to the Public Square (Princeton University Press, 2007), as well as other publications on religion, law, and education. He served as advisor to the city school superintendents in New York, Boston, and San Francisco, and gave expert testimony in the Zelman v. Simmons-Harris school voucher case decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2002.

Nancy J. Duff: Stephen Colwell Associate Professor of Christian Ethics at Princeton Theological Seminary. An ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA), she teaches on the ethics of the Ten Commandments, as well as on the theology and ethics of German anti-Hitler theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer and liberation theorist James Cone.

PRESS CONTACT

If you plan to attend and cover the Church and State: 60 Years after Everson v. Board of Education conference, please contact Carli Smith at Sharp Communications at (212) 829-0002 x110 / cs@sharpthink.com or Elizabeth Hewitt at (212) 829-0002 x107 / eh@sharpthink.com, and provide the names and contact information for all staff that will be present. If you will require any special accommodations or would like to arrange for interviews with any of the expert panelists, please also make those requests at this time.

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