

## Law School Notes

## Loyola combines law and religion

By Jerry Crimmins  
Law Bulletin staff writer

With a \$1 million gift, Loyola University Chicago School of Law said it is launching a new program on Law and Religion “to explore the rich and complex relationship between law and the three Abrahamic faiths, Judaism, Christianity and Islam.”

Attorney Barry C. McCabe, a member of Loyola Chicago’s board of trustees, made the million-dollar contribution to Loyola specifically for this program, the university said.

McCabe is a former Chicagoan who lives in California but still spends time in Chicago. He is president emeritus of the real estate company, Hometown America.

This semester, the Law and Religion program will stage its first event with a debate at noon, Feb. 13, in the law school, 25 E. Pearson St. The debate will be on the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church and School v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission et al.* No. 10-553.

The speakers will be professor Richard W. Garnett of the University of Notre Dame Law School and professor Paul Secunda of Marquette University Law School. Garnett has been publicly in favor of the high court’s decision.

McCabe has said he wants the program to support private scholarship as well as “public outreach that shares the fruits of the scholarly dialogue beyond the academic community.”

The program’s public debates, panel discussions and lectures will offer lawyers Continuing Legal Education credit, said Nora O’Callaghan, who is now the executive director of the Law and Religion program at Loyola.

The program grew out of conversations between McCabe and John J. Hardt, assistant to the president of Loyola Chicago for mission and identity. Hardt also teaches medical ethics in Loyola Chicago’s Stritch School of Medicine.

“Barry was really taken by the question of contemporary Islam and how it would be in conversation with the West in a post 9/11 world,” Hardt said.

“He and I started batting around this idea of what kind of program you could launch in a law school that would take up these questions in a scholarly way, but also reach audiences beyond the academy. And that’s how it happened.”



Barry C. McCabe



Nora O’Callaghan

Although an attorney and businessman, McCabe has degrees in philosophy, clinical psychology and theology from the Catholic University of America.

“Here you have a man with these deep theological, cultural and religious interests who’s leveraging his success as a businessman toward the unpacking of a set of questions that are of critical importance to our future as a global society,” Hardt said.

McCabe has traveled through the Middle East and Turkey. He told Loyola law school's alumni magazine, *Loyola Law*, in the fall 2010 edition, "The more I study Judaic, Islamic and Christian values by actually being in these countries, the more I see similarities among the three and the more I want to help others understand that too."

O'Callaghan was recently a Myser Fellow at the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture.

A Roman Catholic, she said Western legal systems "really grew out of the Catholic intellectual tradition that tried to synthesize Roman law, Greek philosophy and Christian ideals. There's a lot of scholarship about how those three things kind of gave birth to our Western legal tradition."

Judaism is "also extremely influential in the way the West has thought about what is

the common good; what are our duties to each other," O'Callaghan said.

"The Ten Commandments are foundational. We see them carved on the front of the Supreme Court (in Washington, D.C.)," she said.

O'Callaghan also pointed to a website, called "The Ten Commandments in the Supreme Court building." The building, which opened in 1935, shows the many representations of the Ten Commandments and Moses inside and outside.

"So now we are expanding the view, especially in light of the Arab Spring," O'Callaghan said. "How does Islam and its philosophy and understanding of human nature express itself in its political and legal structures" and how should it do so?

"By having a sort of interfaith dialogue, maybe we can contribute to their progress

in thinking through those problems," she said, and they can contribute to the West.

The other events of the Law and Religion program at Loyola this semester will be:

- A panel discussion on "Religious Law in Civil Courts: The Implications of the 'Anti-Sharia' Law Movement in the United States," from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., March 22, at the law school; and

- A lecture by Rabbi Jacob Neusner on "How Judaism Exemplifies a Relationship Between Law and Religion" at 5:30 p.m., April 17, at the law school.

For the panel discussion on the "anti-Sharia" movement, the panelists will be professor Michael J. Broyde of Emory University School of Law; professor Asifa Quraishi-Landes of the University of Wisconsin Law School; and Marion Boyd, former attorney general of Ontario, Canada.