

James Madison Program
in American Ideals and Institutions

NATURAL LAW: A JEWISH, CHRISTIAN, AND ISLAMIC TRIALOGUE

A BOOK PANEL DISCUSSION WITH THE AUTHORS

Funded by the Bouton Law Lecture Fund

DAVID NOVAK

J. Richard and Dorothy Shiff Chair of
Jewish Studies and Professor of Religion
and Philosophy, University of Toronto

MATTHEW LEVERING

Perry Family Foundation Professor of Theology,
Mundelein Seminary; Co-Director, The Chicago
Theological Initiative

ANVER M. EMON

Professor and Canada Research Chair in
Religion, Pluralism and the Rule of Law,
University of Toronto

Sponsored by the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions
Cosponsored by the Center for Jewish Life, the Aquinas Institute,
and the Muslim Life Program

609-258-5107

<http://princeton.edu/sites/jmadison>

 PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Sunday,
OCTOBER 18, 2015

3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

McCormick Hall 101

ANVER M. EMON is Professor and Canada Research Chair in Religion, Pluralism, and the Rule of Law at the University of Toronto, where he teaches and researches in the areas of Islamic law and legal theory, statutory interpretation, and Common Law Torts. He is the author of *Islamic Natural Law Theories* (Oxford, 2010) and *Religious Pluralism and Islamic Law: Dhimmis and Others in the Empire of Law* (Oxford, 2012), and co-editor of *Islamic Law and International Human Rights Law: Searching for Common Ground?* (Oxford, 2012). He is the editor in chief of *Middle East Law and Governance*, a peer reviewed journal, and a general editor of the *Oxford Islamic Legal Studies Series*. In addition to his academic work, he regularly consults with government agencies and NGOs on issues of law, governance, and development in legally pluralist countries. A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, UCLA School of Law, and University of Texas, Austin, he also received his PhD in history from UCLA and his LLM and JSD from Yale Law School.

MATTHEW LEVERING is Perry Family Foundation Professor of Theology at Mundelein Seminary, and Co-Director of the Chicago Theological Initiative. He is the author or editor of over thirty books, and the translator of Gilles Emery's *The Trinity* (Oxford, 2011). His books include *Biblical Natural Law: A Theocentric and Teleological Approach* (Oxford, 2008) and *Jewish-Christian Dialogue and the Life of Wisdom: Engagements with the Theology of David Novak* (Continuum, 2010). His interests include dogmatic and historical Catholic theology, biblical theology, philosophical reflection on God, and Vatican II. Most recently he has published *Paul in the Summa Theologiae; Engaging the Doctrine of Revelation; Mary's Bodily Assumption;* and *The Oxford Handbook of Sacramental Theology* (co-edited with Hans Boersma). He is the co-editor of two quarterly journals, *Nova et Vetera* and *International Journal of Systematic Theology*. He serves as Chair of the Board of the Academy of Catholic Theology. He received his BA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, his MTS from Duke University, and his PhD from Boston College.

DAVID NOVAK holds the J. Richard and Dorothy Shiff Chair in Jewish Studies as Professor of Religion and Philosophy at the University of Toronto. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and of the American Academy for Jewish Research. He is a Consulting Scholar and a member of the Board of Advisors of the James Madison Program at Princeton University. He has taught at the University of Virginia, City University of New York, and Jewish Theological Seminary of America. He is the author of eighteen books, including *Tradition in the Public Square: A David Novak Reader*, ed. Randi Rashkover and Martin Kavka (Eerdmans, 2008), and *In Defense of Religious Liberty* (ISI Books, 2009). His latest book is *Zionism and Judaism: A New Theory* (Cambridge, 2015). He has served as a consultant to the governments of Canada, the United States, Israel, and Poland. He received his AB from the University of Chicago, his Master of Hebrew Literature and rabbinical diploma from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and his PhD in philosophy from Georgetown University.

According to natural law legal theory, the authority of legal standards necessarily derives, at least in part, from considerations having to do with the moral merit of those standards. There are a number of different kinds of natural law legal theories, differing from each other with respect to the role that morality plays in determining the authority of legal norms. Similarly, the neo-naturalism of John Finnis is a development of classical natural law theory. Natural law. Quite the same Wikipedia. Just better. Natural law (Latin: ius naturale, lex naturalis) is a philosophy asserting that certain rights are inherent by virtue of human nature endowed by nature; traditionally God or a transcendent source, and can be understood universally through human reason. As determined by nature, the law of nature is implied to be universal,[1] existing independently of the positive law of a given state, political order, legislature or society at large.