

Prof. W. Cole Durham, Jr.

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A graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, where he was a Note Editor of the Harvard Law Review and Managing Editor of the Harvard International Law Journal, Professor Cole Durham has been heavily involved in comparative law scholarship, with a special emphasis on comparative constitutional law. Currently he serves as President of the G20 Interfaith Forum Association. He is the immediate past President of the International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies based in Milan, Italy, and a Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Oxford Journal of Law and Religion. From 1989 to 1994, he served as the Secretary of the American Society of Comparative Law, and he is also an Associate Member of the International Academy of Comparative Law in Paris. He served as a General Rapporteur for the topic “Religion and the Secular State” at the 18th International Congress of Comparative Law held in July 2010. He has also served as Chair both of the Comparative Law Section and the Law and Religion Section of the American Association of Law Schools in earlier years. He has taught at the Brigham Young University Law School from 1976 until 2019 and was awarded the honorary designation of University Professor there in the fall of 1999. As of January 1, 2000, he was appointed to be the Director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies at BYU and served in that capacity until May 2016. From 1994 until 2020, he has also been a Recurring Visiting Professor of Law at Central European University in Budapest, where he teaches comparative constitutional law to students from throughout Eastern Europe, and increasingly from Asia and Africa as well. He has also been a guest professor in Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany and at the University of Vienna. In January 2009, he was awarded the International First Freedom Award by the First Freedom Center in Richmond, Virginia. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by Ovidius University in Constanța, Romania in June 2013. He is currently the President of the G20 Interfaith Forum Association.

Professor Durham has been involved in constitutional drafting projects in Nepal (2011 and 2009), Thailand (2007), and Iraq (2005-06). He has worked on constitutional and statutory drafting projects throughout Eastern Europe and in most former Soviet bloc countries. He has been particularly active in matters involving relations between religion and the state, though he also has extensive experience with comparative criminal law and non-profit law. He served from 1997 until February 2013 as a member of the OSCE/ODIHR’s Advisory Council on Freedom of Religion or Belief. He serves as a board member of the International Religious Liberty Association, and of the International Advisory Board of the Oslo Coalition on Freedom of Religion or Belief. He has also been active in work on laws governing the civil society sector, having served as Chairman of the Board of the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law in Washington, D.C. (and as a member of its board for many years). Professor Durham’s involvement in similar organizations globally has enabled him to play an active role in advising governments throughout the world on constitutional provisions and legislation dealing with criminal law and procedure, court structure, general constitutional issues, and the law of associations, including particularly religious associations. He has helped organize technical assistance to law reform projects and comparative law conferences in over fifty countries—typically involving academics, government officials, and other opinion leaders. This has included consultations on constitutional and law and religion issues in Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Georgia, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Samoa, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Ukraine, and Vietnam. He has co-organized several conferences over the past several years in India. He has also helped organize training programs on freedom of religion or belief in China, Indonesia, Myanmar, United Kingdom (Oxford), Vietnam, and Central Asia.

In the U.S., Professor Durham has organized a series of conferences on comparative law issues at Brigham Young University and at other institutions in the United States which have brought over 1000 scholars and experts dealing with comparative constitutional law themes from over 100 countries to the United States. He is a co-author with Brett Scharffs of *Religion and the Law: National, International and Comparative Perspectives* (Aspen 2010; 2d ed. 2019), and with William Bassett, Robert Smith, and Mark Goldfeder of *Religious Organizations and the Law*, an annually updated treatise published by Thompson Reuters/West. He is the editor (with Noel Reynolds) of *Religious Liberty in Western Thought*, and (with Silvio Ferrari) *Law and Religion in Post-Communist Europe*. He is also a co-editor of *Facilitating Freedom of Religion or Belief: A Deskbook*, which was published in 2004 by Brill under the Martinus Nijhoff imprint, and *Religious Organizations in the United States*, published in 2006 by Carolina Academic Press. He is the co-editor (with Gerhard Robbers and Donlu Thayer) of the *Encyclopedia of Law and Religion* (Brill 2016). He has authored numerous law review articles dealing with religious liberty and other comparative law themes. Over the past several years, he has testified before the U.S. Congress on religious intolerance in Europe and the Religious Liberty Protection Act.