



**FIRST ANNUAL
DFW SUMMIT ON
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**
OCTOBER 25TH, 2018
SMU PROTHRO HALL

MORNING AGENDA

9:00 – 10:30am FIRST PLENARY SESSION

Moderator: Dr. Robert Hunt, Director of Global Theological Education SMU Perkins School

Blessing on the day: **Rickie Rush**, Pastor The Inspiring Body of Christ Church

Welcome: **William Benac**, President DFW Alliance for Religious Freedom

Why Religious Freedom and Fairness for All Matters / Current Events and Judicial Implications

Moderator Michelle Reed, Partner Akin Gump, Chairman DFW J Reuben Clark Law Society

Emilie Kao, Director of DeVos Center for Religion & Civil Society at The Heritage Foundation

Brett Scharffs, Director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies

Tyler Deaton, President, Allegiance Strategies

Andrew Graham, Executive Director Policy and Education, First Liberty Institute

The Earthly Good of Being Heavenly Minded – The Economic and Social Impact of Religion on Society

Brian Grim, President Religious Freedom and Business Foundation

10:45 – 11:00am BREAK

11:00am – 12:00pm MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

(See attached for Breakout session details)

- A. Securing 1st Amendment Rights for All in the Public Square**
- B. Freedom of Religion in Business**
- C. Nuts and Bolts of Facilitating Institutional Interfaith Conversations and Understanding**
- D. Supporting Religious Freedom and Understanding in One's Daily Walk**
- E. Voices Advocating Civil Discourse in a Time of Discord**

AFTERNOON AGENDA

12:15 – 1:15pm LUNCH & KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Moderator: Robert Hunt, Director of Global Theological Education SMU Perkins School

Blessing on the food: Dr Harbans Lal, Sikh faith leader

Musical number: Ruth Ashurst W/ Daryl Fletcher, Dallas Millennial Choir

Introduction: Melissa McKneely, Founding Member DFW Alliance for Religious Freedom

“Reflections on Masterpiece Cakeshop and the Future of America’s First Freedoms”

Key Note Speaker: Kenneth Starr, US Circuit Judge and former US Solicitor General

1:30 – 1:45pm BREAK

1:45 – 2:45pm AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

(See attached for Breakout session details)

A. Securing 1st Amendment Rights for All in the Public Square

B. Freedom of Religion in Business

C. Nuts and Bolts of Facilitating Institutional Interfaith Conversations and Understanding

D. Supporting Religious Freedom and Understanding in One’s Daily Walk

E. Voices Advocating Civil Discourse in a Time of Discord

2:45 – 3:00pm BREAK

3:00 – 4:30pm SECOND PLENARY SESSION & CLOSING

Moderator Dr. Robert Hunt, Director of Global Theological Education SMU Perkins School

Working Together to Secure Religious Freedom in DFW – Action items from DFW faith leaders

Moderator: Jay Jones, Area Authority 70 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Ariel Rackovsky, Senior Rabbi Shaare Tefilla Congregation

Samina Hooda, Ismaili Muslim faith leader

Karen Hollie Thibodaux, Oak Cliff Lifeway Church of Dallas

The Role of Faith and Prayer in Securing God’s Blessing of Religious Freedom

Gordon Wright, Lay faith leader The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Closing Comments:

Dr. Robert Hunt Director of Global Theological Education SMU Perkins School

Second Annual DFW Summit on Religious Freedom: Thursday October 24th 2019

Closing Prayer: Almas Muscatwalla, Muslim faith leader, Chair of Dallas Interfaith Council



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

FOR MORNING & AFTERNOON

OCTOBER 25TH, 2018

A. Securing 1st Amendment Rights for All in the Public Square:

Moderator: Matt Richards, Shareholder Kirton McConkie First Amendment Section.
Emilie Kao, Director of DeVos Center for Religion & Civil Society at The Heritage Foundation
Tyler Deaton, President, Allegiance Strategies
Andrew Graham, Executive Director Policy and Education, First Liberty Institute
Stuart Adams, State Senator and sponsor of the 2015 Utah Rights Legislation
TOPICS MIGHT INCLUDE: religious exercise, parental rights, gender identity and sexual preference, adoption and foster care, participation in public life, proselyting, judicial nominations, public and religious schools and employer and employee rights.

B. Freedom of Religion in Business:

Brian Grim, President Religious Freedom and Business Foundation
Kent Johnson, Senior Corporate Advisor, Religious Freedom and Business Foundation
TOPICS MIGHT INCLUDE: the business case for exercise of religious freedom, best practices and accommodation policies, practical aspects of nondiscrimination, navigating issues and avoiding suits, getting employees and employers engaged and specific company's issues.

C. Nuts and Bolts of Facilitating Institutional Interfaith Conversations and Understanding:

Moderator Robert Hunt, Director of Global Theological Education SMU Perkins School
Blake Schwarz, Pastor Park Cities Presbyterian Church,
Ariel Rackovsky, Senior Rabbi Shaare Tefilla Congregation
Osama Bahloul, Resident Scholar and former Imam of the Islamic Center of Nashville,
Sheri Lancaster, Representative Custer Road United Methodist Church.

D. Supporting Religious Freedom and Understanding in One's Daily Walk – Brain Storming:

Moderator Mark Romney, Founding Member, The Romney Law Firm
Facilitator: Joel Schwitzer, Regional Director American Jewish Committee,
Facilitator: Scott Venable, Pastor Northwood Church,
Facilitator: Emrah Aktpe, Dialogue Institute of Dallas
TOPICS INCLUDE: rights in the workplace, teacher and student rights in school and activities, religions rights in the public square, zoning, clothing, and facilitated discussion groups for brain storming session, actionable "takeaways" from each group.

E. Voices Advocating Civil Discourse in a Time of Discord:

Moderator: William McKenzie, Editorial Director Bush Institute
Brent Scharffs, Director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies
Steven Long, SMU Maguire Professor of Ethics
Peggy Wehmeyer, Religion Correspondent and Anchor for ABC News
TOPICS INCLUDE: when and why did civility come off the tracks, the Importance of avoiding contention no matter the disagreement, strategies and tactics for fostering civility when under attack, forging agreements through civil discourse.