

Haider Ala Hamoudi

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Executive Summary

Haider Ala Hamoudi became Dean of the University of Cincinnati College of Law in 2023. Since then, he has guided the College through a period of growth and transformation, marked by record enrollment, the establishment of numerous student support initiatives, and innovations in experiential learning, professionalism, and civil discourse. His leadership has focused on preparing students for success in a dynamic legal marketplace while deepening the College's engagement with the practicing community. Under his tenure, the *US News* ranking of the College has risen by 17 places in the aggregate.

Key Impact Areas:

- **Admissions and Enrollment Growth:** Increase in JD applications by over 50%. Doubling of enrollment in online MLS degree and establishment of four new online certificate and concentration programs.
- **Student Success and Wellness:** Implementation of a comprehensive academic success and wellness program. Rise of bar passage and employment rates to be among top Ohio Law Schools.
- **Curriculum Reform:** Introduction of curricular changes to include first year elective, mandatory first year professionalism and leadership training, and rigorous new writing requirement.
- **Experiential Education.** Expansion of offsite experiential opportunities and reinvigoration of offsite externship "co-op" program to serve as a bulwark in efforts to prepare students for the legal marketplace. Leveraging of our externship connections to drive up our employment outcomes.
- **Innovation and Engagement:** Advancement of initiatives to bolster our centers of excellence, positioning the College as a leader in notable spaces from corporate law to social justice, while at the same time deepening community impact.

Professional Experience

University of Cincinnati College of Law

Dean and Nippert Professor of Law (Aug. 1, 2023-Present)

Principal academic and executive officer of the College of Law, providing leadership to over 35 full-time faculty members, over 40 staff members, and approximately 500 students, with a total budget exceeding \$20M. Duties include the following:

- **Provide Leadership in Advancing Strategic Priorities of the College.** Worked closely with faculty, staff, students, and external stakeholders to identify five core strategic priorities; namely, (i) student success, (ii) experiential learning, (iii) investing in centers of excellence, (iv) developing international programming, and (v) expanding opportunities for online learning and degrees outside of the traditional JD

space. Advanced the five strategic priorities through the programs identified below, inter alia:

- *Academic Success and Wellness Program.* Led changes to our academic success program that prioritize academic advising over probation for struggling students in their first year. Instituted a comprehensive wellness campaign that includes extensive programming, substance abuse training, and an embedded counselor at the College. Results have proven enormously popular among students, and our bar passage and employment rates have climbed to the top of Ohio's law schools.
- *Data Driven Admissions.* Through targeted marketing and data driven admissions processes, oversaw a rise in JD admissions by over 50% since arrival, amply exceeding national trends.
- *Online Degree and Certificate Opportunities.* Managed an effort that has resulted in an increase in our enrollment in online degree and certificate programs by 50% year on year from my arrival. Added four new concentrations and four new standalone certificates to our slate of online educational programming.
- **Develop Resources Necessary to Advance Strategic Priorities.** Met annual fundraising targets in my first year as Dean. Actively seeking eight figure naming gift for the College and developed a strategy and vision respecting the same with the support of the University's Foundation.
- **Act as University Leader in Areas of Strategic Importance.**
 - Elected in my second year as Dean to be Chair Elect of Council of Deans.
 - Elected as Deans' Representative on Provost Search Committee, 2024-25 and 2025-26.
 - Served on President Pinto's Task Force on Building Community for Democracy and work with UC Portman Center for Policy Solutions on ways in which to encourage members of our University community to communicate across difference, build civil discourse, and reduce polarization.

University of Pittsburgh School of Law

Interim Dean (Jan. 1, 2023-June 30, 2023)

Vice Dean (2017-2023); Associate Dean of Research & Faculty Development (2013-2017)

Professor of Law (2016-July 31, 2023); Associate Professor of Law (2012-2016)

Assistant Professor of Law (2007-2012)

- **Administrative Duties:**
 - *Academic Success Program.* In response to falling bar numbers, created academic success program that tripled curricular offerings to at risk students, created the position of Associate Dean of Academic Success, and increased support from recent graduates to ensure that at risk students could succeed on the bar and in the profession.
 - *Competency Based Education.* Worked with a mobile based software developer to create and implement a platform for students to be able to measure, track, and assess their development of skills and competencies during their law school tenure.
 - *Scholarship.* Worked assiduously to prioritize and promote faculty scholarship, through increasing summer stipends, balancing curricular loads to manage teaching with scholarly production, and rewarding impactful scholarship.

- **Teaching Subjects:** Islamic Law, Contracts, Commercial Transactions in Goods.
- **Areas of Research:** Islamic Law, Islamic Finance, Islamic Jurisprudence, Middle Eastern Law, Middle Eastern Commercial Law, Middle Eastern Civil Law, Shi'ism, Iraqi Civil Law, Iraqi Commercial Law, Iraqi Constitutional Law, Arab Legal Pluralism, Commercial Law.
- **University Committees:**
 - Academic Probation and Suspension Subcommittee (Chair, 2023).
 - Search Committee for Inaugural Associate Provost for Digital Education Member 2022-23).
- **AALS (American Association of Law Schools) Sections:**
 - Islamic Law Section: Executive Committee (2017-Present); Chair (2020-21); Chair Elect (2019-20); Secretary (2017-18); Chair (2014-15); Chair Elect (2013-14)
 - Law and Religion Section: Member of Prize Committee (2022-23; 2018-19)

University of Utah SJ Quinney School of Law/U.S. Embassy, Baghdad

Visiting Professor and Deputy Chief of Party (April 6, 2009 – December 31, 2009)

Based primarily in Baghdad working on a rule of law grant funded by the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. Primary responsibilities included assisting Iraqi legislature in enactment of critical commercial and financial legislation, supervising effort to provide recommendations to the Higher Judicial Council of Iraq on amendments to the Iraqi Criminal Procedure Code and attending all meetings of the Constitutional Review Committee of the Iraqi legislature and participating in all discussions related to a critical series of constitutional amendments.

Columbia Law School

Associate in Law (July 1, 2005-June 30, 2007)

DePaul University, International Human Rights Law Institute

Project Manager (January 1, 2004-June 30, 2005)

Iraq Based Manager of a USAID funded rule of law project to reform legal education in Iraq, with particular emphasis on clinical legal education.

Iraq Governing Council

Legal Advisor, Finance Committee (December 7, 2003-June 28, 2004)

Engaged in legal review of all commercial and financial legislation presented to the Iraqi Governing Council for its approval.

Debevoise & Plimpton

Associate (December 8, 1997 – August 31, 2003)

United States District Court for the Southern District of New York

Law Clerk to Hon. Constance Baker Motley (August 18, 1996 – August 14, 1997)

Awards and Service Activities

Arab Law Quarterly

Editor in Chief (September 1, 2018-Present)

Retained to help revitalize the scholarly reputation of the *ALQ*—the most highly regarded and widely distributed law journal addressing matters of Arab law in the English language. Led the effort to revamp the peer review process, instigate and implement significant structural change to improve the quality of submissions, recompose the Board of Editors entirely, and undertake aggressive measures to increase the *ALQ*'s commitment to expanding opportunities to authors from the Arab region itself.

American Bar Foundation

Fellow (November 1, 2023-Present)

Member of global honorary society of attorneys, judges, law faculty, and legal scholars whose public and private careers have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the highest principles of the legal profession.

University of Pittsburgh School of Law

Robert W. Harper Excellence in Teaching Award (2014 and 2022)

Awarded annually by vote of the graduating JD students to the best teacher on the faculty.

Association of American Law Schools (AALS)

Pro Bono Honor Roll (2022)

Awarded annually to acknowledge the work of individuals engaging in, expanding, and/or supporting their law school community in providing pro bono legal services.

Saudi Arabia Ministry of Commerce

Legislative Consultant (2015- 2021)

Retained by Saudi Arabian Ministry of Commerce and Industry to advise from time to time on content of, and offer expert advice on, potential reforms to Saudi commercial and business law.

American Branch of the International Law Association (ABILA)

Member, Board of Directors (2016- 2018)

Chair, Islamic Law Committee (2015- 2018)

College of William and Mary

Kraemer Middle East Distinguished Scholar in Residence (March 2014)

The Kraemer Middle East Distinguished Scholar-In-Residence program provides the opportunity for a renowned scholar and leading specialist in the area of law and governance in Islamic states to spend a short period of time at William & Mary sharing their expertise with the community.

Boston University Institute for Iraq Studies

Senior Nonresident Fellow (2011- 2019)

American Society of Comparative Law

Hessel Yntema Prize (May 14, 2009)

Awarded annually to the best article published in the *American Journal of Comparative Law* by a scholar under 40.

Education

Columbia Law School

Doctor of Juridical Science (J.S.D.) (2008)

Juris Doctor (1996)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Bachelor of Science, Physics w. Electrical Engineering Minor (1993)

Harvard University Graduate School of Education

Management Development Program Certificate (June 2019)

Languages and Bar Admission

Fluent in Arabic, proficient in Bahasa Indonesia, mid-novice proficiency in German.

Admitted to practice in New York State and the Southern District of New York.

Publications

Books, Dissertations

[ISLAMIC LAW IN A NUTSHELL](#) (West 2020)

[ISLAMIC LAW IN MODERN COURTS: CASES AND MATERIALS](#) (Aspen 2018)

[NEGOTIATING IN CIVIL CONFLICT: CONSTITUTIONAL CONSTRUCTION AND IMPERFECT BARGAINING IN IRAQ](#) (U. Chi. Press 2013)

TOWARD A LEGAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE SHARI'A (Columbia University Dissertation, 2009)

[HOWLING IN MESOPOTAMIA: AN IRAQI AMERICAN MEMOIR](#) (Beaufort Books 2008)

Law Review Articles, Book Chapters

Between Islamic Ideals and Regulatory Realities: Navigating Insider Trading Regimes Within the Arab World in RESEARCH HANDBOOK ON INSIDER TRADING (Stephen M. Bainbridge, ed., 2d ed., Elgar 2025).

Juristic and Legislative Rulemaking: A History of the Personal Status Code of Iraq, 1959-2022 in FAMILY LAW & GENDER IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA: CHANGE AND STASIS SINCE THE ARAB SPRING (Cambridge 2023)

Uniform Law in a Divided Society: A Closer Look at the Iraqi Personal Status Code in NORMATIVITY AND DIVERSITY IN FAMILY LAW (Springer 2022).

Sex Policing in the Arab World in UNDERSTANDING GLOBAL LEGAL PLURALISM: FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL, FROM DESCRIPTIVE TO NORMATIVE 929-50 (Oxford 2020)(Berman, P., ed.)

Engagements and Entanglements: The Contemporary Waqf and the Fragility of Shi'i Quietism, 35 J. L. & REL. 215 (2020).

Strategic Juristic Omission And The Non-Muslim Blood Price: An Examination Of Shi'i Fiqh And Practice in VISIONS OF SHARI'A: CONTEMPORARY DISCUSSIONS ON SHI'I LEGAL THEORY (Brill 2019)

Beyond the Hawza: Legal Pluralism and the Ironies of Shi'i Law in REGULATING RELIGION IN ASIA 298-312 (Cambridge University Press 2019)

Book Review: Arguing Islam After the Revival of Arab Politics, by Nathan J. Brown, 32 J. L. & RELIGION 527 (2017).

[Resurrecting Islam or Cementing Social Hierarchy?: Reexamining the Codification of "Islamic" Personal Status Law](#), 33 AZ. J. INT. & COMP. L. 329 (2016).

[Lone Wolf Terrorism and the Classical Jihad: On the Contingencies of Modern Islamic Extremism](#), 11 FLA. INT'L L. REV. 19 (2015).

[Sex and the Shari'a: Defining Gender Norms and Sexual Deviancy in Shi'i Islam](#), 39 FORDHAM INT. L. J. 25 (2015).

[The Resolution of Disputes in State and Tribal Law in the South of Iraq: Toward a Cooperative Model of Pluralism](#) in NEGOTIATING STATE AND NON-STATE LAW: CHALLENGES OF GLOBAL AND LOCAL PLURALISM (Cambridge University Press 2015)(coauthored with Wasfi H. Al-Sharaa and Aqeel Al-Dahhan).

[The Impossible, Highly Desired Islamic Bank](#), 5 WM. & MARY BUS. L. REV. 105 (2014)

[Decolonizing the Centralist Mind: Legal Pluralism and the Rule of Law](#), in THE INTERNATIONAL RULE OF LAW MOVEMENT: A CRISIS OF LEGITIMACY AND THE WAY FORWARD (Harvard University Press 2014)

Transparency and the Shi'i Clerical Elite, in INTERNATIONAL TRANSPARENCY HANDBOOK (E.Elgar 2014)

[Book Review: Islamic Law in Action: Authority, Discretion, and Everyday Experiences in Mamluk Egypt](#), 28 J.L. & RELIGION 555 (2013)

On the Political Appeal of Islamic Finance, 2013 SARAJEVO CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS, BUSINESS IN BETWEEN CULTURES (European Association of Banking and Financial History)

[Religious Minorities and Shari'a in Iraqi Courts](#), 31 B.U. INT. L. J. 387 (2013)

[Arab Spring, Libyan Liberation and the Externally Imposed Democratic Revolution](#), 89 DENV. U. L. REV. 699 (2012)

[Repugnancy in the Arab World](#), 48 WILLAMETTE L. REV. 427 (2012)

[The Surprising Irrelevance of Islamic Bankruptcy](#), 19 AM. BANKR. INST. L. REV. 505 (2011)

[The American Commercial Religion](#), 10 DEPAUL BUS. & COM. L. J. 107 (2012)

[Notes in Defense of the Iraqi Constitution](#), 14 U. PA. J. L. & SOC. CHANGE 395 (2011), *republished in* 33 U. PA. J. INT'L L. 1117 (2012)

[The Arabs in the \(Inter\)national](#), 10 SANTA CLARA J. INT'L L. 187 (2012)

[International Law and Iraqi Courts](#), in INTERNATIONAL LAW IN DOMESTIC COURTS: RULE OF LAW REFORM IN POST-CONFLICT STATES (Intersentia 2012)

[Thinking Beyond the Original Bargain: Post Ratification Constitution Making and the Case of Iraq](#), APSA ANNUAL MEETING PAPER (2012).

[The Will of the \(Iraqi\) People](#), 2011 UTAH L. REV. 45 (2011)

[Present at the Resurrection: Islamic Finance and Islamic Law](#), 26 AM. J. INT. L. 1107 (2011)

[Book Review: Constitutional Theocracy](#), 49 OSGOODE HALL L. J. 151 (2011)

[*Ornamental Repugnancy: Identitarian Islam and the Iraq Constitution*](#), 7 U. ST. THOM. L. REV. 692 (2010)

[*Book Review: Islam and Liberal Citizenship*](#), 26 J. L. & REL. 387 (2011)

[*Identitarian Violence and Identitarian Politics: Elections and Governance in Iraq*](#), 51 HARVARD INT'L L.J. ONLINE 82 (2010)

[*The Death of Islamic Law*](#), 38 GA. J. INT'L & COMP. L. 293 (2010)

[*Between Realism and Resistance: Shi'i Islam and the Contemporary Liberal State*](#), 11 J. ISLAMIC L. & CULTURE 107 (2009)

[*Book Review: The Crisis of Islamic Civilization*](#), 47 OSGOODE HALL L. J. 159 (2009)

[*Dream Palaces of Law: Western Constructions of the Muslim Legal World*](#), 32 HASTINGS INT'L & COMP. L. REV. 803 (2009)

[*Between Symbiosis and Schizophrenia: The Rights of Iraqi Refugees under Iraqi Law*](#), 34 RUTGERS L. REC. 31 (2009)

Book Review: Orientalism and The Fall and The Rise of the Islamic State, 2 MID. E. L. & GOV. 81 (2009)

[*The Muezzin's Call and the Dow Jones Bell: On the Necessity of Realism in the Study of Islamic Law*](#), 56 AM. J. COMP. L. 423 (2008) (Winner of the Hessel Yntema Prize Awarded by the American Society of Comparative Law to the Best Article in the AJCL by a Scholar Under the Age of 40)

[*You Say You Want a Revolution: Interpretive Communities and the Origins of Islamic Finance*](#), 48 VA. J. INT'L L. 249 (2008)

[*Baghdad Booksellers, Basra Carpet Merchants, and the Law of God and Man: Legal Pluralism and the Contemporary Muslim Experience*](#), 1 BERK. J. MIDDLE E. & ISLAMIC L. 83 (2008)

[*Muhammad's Social Justice or Muslim Cant?: Langdellianism and the Failures of Islamic Finance*](#), 40 CORNELL INT'L L. REV. 89 (2007)

[*Money Laundering Amidst Mortars: Legislative Process and State Authority in Post-Invasion Iraq*](#), 16 TRANS. L. & CONTEMP. PROB. 523 (2007)

[*Jurisprudential Schizophrenia: On Form and Function in Islamic Finance*](#), 7 CHI. J. INT'L L. 605 (2007)

[*Toward a Rule of Law Society in Iraq: Introducing Clinical Legal Education into Iraqi Law Schools*](#), 23 BERKELEY J. INT'L L. 112 (2005)