

Haider Ala Hamoudi

University of Pittsburgh School of Law
3900 Forbes Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Professional Experience

University of Pittsburgh School of Law

Interim Dean (2023-Present)

Professor of Law (2016-Present)

Vice Dean (2017-2023)

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

Associate Professor of Law (2012-2016)

Assistant Professor of Law (2007-2012)

Principal academic and chief executive officer of the Law School, providing leadership to over 35 full time faculty members, over 40 staff members, and approximately 500 students. Oversee all operations of the Law School, including the budget. Work closely with the Vice Dean of Academic Affairs, the Associate Dean of Research and Faculty Development, and the Associate Dean of Equity and Inclusive Excellence on matters of strategic priority to the school, including without limitation curricular innovation, growing academic and scholarly excellence, and continually expanding our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, within our law school community and across the legal system. Serve as primary external face of the Law School, including with respect to alumni and development, as well as bench, bar, and government leaders.

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 to the Provost's Advisory Committee on Undergraduate Programs and the University Council on Graduate Studies (Member, 2022 and 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 management and implementation of the project, 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 designed to ensure Sunni support of the Constitution.

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 and restore the scholarly reputation of the *ALQ*—the most highly regarded and widely distributed law journal addressing matters of Arab law in the English language. To this end, I have led the effort to revamp thoroughly 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 diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Center for Security, Race, and Rights, Rutgers Law School

Affiliated Faculty (February 1, 2021-Present)

CSSR's mission is to research, educate, and publicly engage on civil rights law and policy as it relates to Muslim, Arab, and South Asian communities in the United States.

University of Pittsburgh School of Law

Robert W. Harper Excellence in Teaching Award (April 2014 and April 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 (December 7, 2015-January 1, 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 (November 1, 2016-July 31, 2018)

Chair, Islamic Law Committee (October 1, 2015-July 31, 2018)

Member, Islamic Law and Society Committee (Jan. 1, 2021-Present)

College of William and Mary

Kraemer Middle East Distinguished Scholar in Residence (March 2014)

The Kraemer Middle East Distinguished Scholar-In-Residence 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 (October 3, 2011-June 30, 2019)

The Institute is part of Boston University's College of Arts and Sciences. Senior Fellows of the Institute are "established scholars whose work contributes significantly to understanding Iraq."

American Society of Comparative Law

Hessel Yntema Prize (May 14, 2009)

Awarded annually to a scholar under the age of 40 for a comparative law article published in the American Journal of Comparative Law.

Select Expert Testimony

United States Federal District Court, District of Arizona

Fall 2021. Expert witness in extradition case involving a U.S. Citizen being deported to Iraq in connection with the alleged killing of two police officers in Falluja fifteen years earlier.

United States Federal District Court, Eastern District of California

Fall 2019. Expert witness in extradition case of Omar Ameen, an Iraqi citizen resident in the United States accused of killing a police officer in Iraq five years earlier.

District Court of the Hague

Fall 2012. Court appointed expert witness to District Court of the Hague in the tort case against Frans Van Anraat, the Dutch citizen convicted of selling material to Saddam Hussein used to manufacture chemical weapons.

Royal Courts of Justice, United Kingdom and Federal Court, Canada

Fall 2012. Expert witness in multibillion dollar suits filed against the Iraqi Airways Corporation by Kuwaiti Airlines Corporation in courts in both the United Kingdom and Canada.

United States Federal District Court, Northern District of Illinois

Summer 2008-September 2010. Expert witness for Guantanamo Bay detainee on issues concerning Iraqi and Islamic law and culture.

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 (June 2019)

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

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 Shī'ī Fiqh And Practice in *VISIONS OF SHARĪ'A: CONTEMPORARY DISCUSSIONS ON SHĪ'Ī 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)

Presentations (2014-2023)

American Constitutionalism and the Islamic Experience, University of Pennsylvania (April 26, 2023)

Occupation and Constitution Making: Reflections of Iraq Twenty Years On, Boston University (March 4, 2023)

The Failures of Islamic Constitutionalism in Iraq, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies (Feb. 20, 2023)

On Moral Rights and Maqasid: Animal Rights and the Tragedy of Contemporary Shi'i Jurisprudence, University of Birmingham (March 9, 2022).

Shi'i Rationalism and the Law of Slavery, 2021 Annual Conference of the American Society of Comparative Law (October 22, 2021).

Islamic Law in United States Courts: A Critical Reexamination, Eckert Seamans (May 10, 2021).

Public Order And State Skepticism: Shi'ism and the Scriptural Crime of Banditry, Catholic Theological Union (March 24, 2021).

Islamic Law from the Internal Perspective, Roundtable: Islamic Legal History and Historiography, Program in Islamic Law at Harvard Law School (March 5, 2021).

University Support for Legal Scholarship: Challenges and Opportunities in the American Experience, Virtual Lecture at the University of Baghdad College of Law (Jan. 21, 2021)(in Arabic).

The Restoration of the Arab Law Quarterly, Virtual Lecture at Baghdad's Iraqia Law School (June 8, 2020) (963 attendees, in Arabic)

Commentary on Prof. Freamon's "Possessed by the Right Hand," Islamic Law Section, AALS Annual Meeting, (January 5, 2020)

Instrumental Engagement: Shi'i Jurists and the Waqf in Contemporary Iraq, Wayne State University School of Law (March 25, 2019)

Islamic Law in the Modern State, Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law (Feb. 15, 2019)

Commentary on Leonard Wood Book, Islamic Legal Revival in 20th Century Egypt, AALS Annual Meeting (Jan. 5, 2019)

Justice in the Islamic Tradition, Duquesne University School of Law (April 25, 2018)

Islamic Finance and the Clash of Faiths, Annual Meeting of the American Society of Comparative Law (October 27, 2017)

On the Quietist Myth, Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law (June 14, 2017)

Teaching Islamic Law, AALS Islamic Law Section, at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Schools (Jan. 6, 2017)

Islamic Law in the American Legal System, AALS Jewish Law Section, at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Schools (Jan. 4, 2017)

Judicial Power and Democratic Transformation in Iraq, Texas A&M Political Science Dept. (Doha Branch) (December 4, 2016)

Sex and the Sharia, Hartford Seminary (October 19, 2016)

Religious Conversion and Iraqi Courts: Promises and Perils, Bayan Claremont Islamic University (April 23, 2016)

Real Estate and Islamic Finance, American Bar Association Professors' Corner (April 12, 2016) (via video)

Islam and the Modern State, Buffett Institute for Global Studies, Northwestern University (April 7-8, 2016)(commenter for papers by junior faculty)

Iraqi Law and the Protection of Antiquities, Proceedings for the American Society of International Law (March 31, 2016)

Abrahamic Religions & The Middle East, Duquesne University (Symposium on Inter-Religious Dialogue) (March 9, 2016)

Islamic Law Pedagogy, University of California, Santa Barbara (February 20, 2016)

Islamic Law and Estate Planning for Muslim Clients, American Bar Association Professors' Corner (February 9, 2016)(via video)

The Ironies of Shi'i Law, National University of Singapore (December 11, 2015)

Lone Wolf Terrorism and the Classical Jihad: On the Contingencies of Violent Islamic Extremism, Florida International University College of Law (October 22, 2015) (via videoconference)

Islamic Law in Modern Courts: Introduction to a Casebook, Center for International Legal Education Twentieth Anniversary Conference (September 11, 2015)

Mediating Modern Law and Medieval Fiqh: On the Strategic Juristic Omission of the Najaf Jurists, Center of Islam, Law and Modernity, Durham University (United Kingdom) (August 18, 2015)

Strategic Juristic Omission: On the Non-Muslim Bloodprice in Shi'i Islam, Global Islamic Criminal Law Conference (May 1, 2015)

The Caliphate in Historical Context, University of Pittsburgh (Conference on Countering Extremism) (April 10, 2015)

The State of the Iraqi Judiciary, Rand Corporation (Arlington. VA) (April 2, 2015)

Iraq and Imperfect Constitution Making, Indiana University Maurer School of Law (February 26, 2015)

Islamic Legal Realism, Harvard Law School (June 2, 2014)

Conceptions of Maturity in Islamic and State Law, Al Mahdi Institute (April 4, 2014)

Book Presentation on Negotiating in Civil Conflict, Allegheny Harvard, Yale, Princeton Club (March 27, 2014)

Understanding the Shi'a Sunni Split, Kraemer Distinguished Scholar Address, College of William and Mary (March 13, 2014)

Islam in the Iraq Constitution, William and Mary Law School (March 12, 2014)

Commentary on The Struggle for Iraq's Future, New York University School of Law (March 5, 2014)

Negotiating in Civil Conflict, University of Pittsburgh School of Law (Jan. 23, 2014)

Other

- 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.

