This symposium on gender-relevant legislative change invites explicit comparisons of the position of women in Muslim and non-Muslim countries. The easing of patriarchal norms as well as the formal commitment to equality has been relatively recent everywhere. So-called “second-wave” feminism and the associated gains in women’s employment and political and educational achievement are the accomplishment of a single generation, still very much alive and active. Thus, the comparative endeavor need not begin with an assumption of positional superiority but may be a discourse about the concrete and particular legal manifestations of how gender is lived and how women struggle and advance. A distinguished multidisciplinary group of international scholars and activists will address this comparison including:

**PARTICIPANTS:**

- **MICHELE ALEXANDRE**
  Assistant Professor of Law, University of Memphis School of Law
- **ZAINAH ANWAR**
  Executive Director of Sisters in Islam, Selangor, Malaysia
- **MARK CAMMACK**
  Professor of Law, Southwestern Law School, Los Angeles
- **VARSHA CHITNIS**
  Visiting Scholar, University of Florida Levin College of Law
- **MOUMIRA MAYS CHARRAD**
  Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology, University of Texas, Austin
- **MARThA ALBERTSON FINEMAN**
  Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law, Emory University Law School
- **MARIE-CLÆIRE FOBLETS**
  Professor Ordinarius of Law and Anthropology, Louvain University, Belgium
- **LOUISE HALPER**
  Professor of Law, Washington and Lee University School of Law
- **MARTIN LAU**
  Islamic Legal Studies Program, Harvard Law School and Chair, Department of Law SOAS, London
- **RUTH MILLER**
  Assistant Professor of History, University of Massachusetts, Boston
- **ZIBA MIR-HOSSEINI**
  Global Visiting Professor of Law, New York University Law School and SOAS, London
- **AMIRA SONBOUL**
  Professor of Islamic History, Law and Society, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
- **ADRIEN WING**
  Bessie Dutton Murray Professor, University of Iowa School of Law
- **DANAYA WRIGHT**
  Professor of Law, University of Florida Levin College of Law
- **PANEL CHAIRS:**
  - **PENNY ANDREWS**
    Professor of Law, CUNY Law School
  - **MARK DRUMBL**
    Professor of Law, Washington and Lee School of Law
  - **FRANK YOGEL**
    Founding Director, Islamic Legal Studies, Harvard Law School
  - **ROBIN F. WILSON**
    Visiting Professor of Law, Washington and Lee School of Law

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**LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA**

**SYMPHOSIUM**

**Gender-Relevant Legislative Change in Muslim and Non-Muslim Countries**

**March 30-31, 2007**

**Lexington, Virginia**
SYMPOSIUM
Gender-Relevant Legislative Change in Muslim and Non-Muslim Countries

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2007
8:15-9:00 REGISTRATION
9:00 WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS
9:15 PANEL ONE: The Particularity of the Past
Panel Chair: MARK DRUMBL
MARTIN LAU
The Zina Ordinance of Pakistan—A Review of the First 25 Years

DANAVA WRIGHT and VARSHA CHITnis
The Legacy of Colonialism: Religion, Law and Women’s Rights in India

LOUISE HALPER
Comparing Modernities: Nationalism and Gender Law in Turkey and Iran

10:45 BREAK

11:00 PANEL TWO: Changing Families, Changing Family Law
Panel Chair: ROBIN E WILSON

MARIAN FINEMAN
The Competing Paradigms of Religion and Rights: Authority within the Family

12:30-1:45 LUNCH

1:00 PANEL THREE: Marriage Across Continents
Panel Chair: PENNY ANDREWS

MEHRISE BAHCHIYAN
Islamic Marriages: Legal Councils and Mediation in Iran

ADRIEN WING
Nationality and Citizenship: Women’s Fight for Basic Freedoms

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2007
8:15-9:15 BREAKFAST
9:15 WELCOME REMARKS
9:30 PANEL FOUR: Gender Legislation and Social Contest
Panel Chair: FRANK VOGEL

MOUNIRA MAYA CHARRAD
Steady Reforms: Path Dependency Theory and Gender Legislation in Tunisia

10:45-12:30 DISCUSSIONS AND REFLECTIONS
A special thank you to:
BARR JOHANSON, Acting Director, Islamic Legal Studies Program of Harvard Law School
FRANK VOGEL, Founding Director, Islamic Legal Studies Program of Harvard Law School
PEER BEARMAN, Associate Director, Islamic Legal Studies Program of Harvard Law School
DOROTHY BROWN, Director, Frances Lewis Law Center, Washington and Lee University School of Law

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Applying for CLE credit: Yes No

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