

Call for Submissions:

Submit by August 28th, 2023

Canopy Forum is a digital scholarship and public education platform of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory University. Since its founding in 2019, *Canopy Forum* has published hundreds of engaging and accessible articles and multimedia resources by [top scholars](#) on topics in the field of law and religion. This summer, in addition to our [ongoing calls](#), we are pleased to announce two new Calls for Submissions.

We are currently seeking submissions on the following topics:

- **The Religious Freedom Restoration Act at Thirty Essay Series and Online Symposium**
- **Free Speech, Religious Accommodation, and Affirmative Action in the U.S Supreme Court**

Please read below for more information. To see all of our calls for submissions, please check our [Current Calls for Submissions](#) page.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act at Thirty

The Center for the Study of Law and Religion and Canopy Forum are inviting contributions to “The Religious Freedom Restoration Act at Thirty,” an essay series and accompanying online symposium to take place on Thursday, October 19, 9:00am-5:00pm EST.

Thirty years ago this November, President Bill Clinton signed into law the [Religious Freedom Restoration Act \(RFRA\)](#). RFRA was birthed from a popular bipartisan effort in Congress to respond to [Employment Division v. Smith](#), a 1990 U.S. Supreme Court decision that upheld as constitutional under the Free Exercise Clause facially neutral and generally applicable laws. Soon after its enactment, RFRA’s scope came under dispute. Today, the contours of the federal statute—and its state law progeny—continue to be a source of litigation and scholarly discussion. This one-day symposium will look back at RFRA’s origins and evolution and look forward to its new frontiers.

We invite essay contributions that:

- Shed light on the circumstances surrounding the passage of RFRA, including (but not limited to) the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Employment Division v. Smith*, civic activity for and against RFRA’s adoption, and Congressional debates about the proposed legislation;
- Discuss the evolution of RFRA and its scope, including (but not limited to), U.S. Supreme Court decisions interpreting RFRA, conceptions of RFRA as a “super statute,” legislative and executive responses to RFRA, and efforts to pass state RFRA’s;
- Examine the impact of RFRA on different areas of law, public policy, and/or jurisdictions, including (but not limited to) First Amendment (Free Exercise and/or Establishment Clause) jurisprudence, healthcare, employment, administrative law, international law, and influence on the laws of other nation-states, among others; and
- Offer any additional scholarly insights into RFRA’s past, present, and future.

We are accepting submissions until August 28th. If selected, essays will be published as part of this series on *Canopy Forum* (www.canopyforum.org). In addition, some contributors will be invited to participate in panel discussions during the symposium to take place on October 19, 2023. Please indicate in your submission that you are responding to this call for papers, and whether or not you would like to be considered for participation in the accompanying symposium.

Free Speech, Religious Accommodation, and Affirmative Action in the U.S Supreme Court.

The Center for the Study of Law and Religion and *Canopy Forum* are inviting contributions to our series, “Free Speech, Religious Accommodation, and Affirmative Action in the U.S Supreme Court.”

The nation kept a trained eye on the U.S. Supreme Court during its most recent term as it released decisions on cases with potential far-reaching implications for religious, public, and private life. Among these decisions were [*303 Creative LLC v. Elenis*](#), case in which the court ruled that the First Amendment prohibits the state of Colorado from enforcing a state public accommodations law against a designer who refused to create a website conveying a message with which she disagrees, [*Groff v. DeJoy*](#), weighing in on Title VII religious accommodations the workplace, and [*Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard College*](#) and [*Students for Fair Admissions v. University of North Carolina*](#), a ruling that race-conscious admissions in private and public institutions are unlawful. We are inviting scholars and researchers to submit essays responding to these latest decisions and exploring their potential impact on the field of law and religion. For an example of last year’s series on important U.S. Supreme Court decisions, check out our 2022 series [*Kennedy, Carson, and Dobbs: Law and Religion in Pressing Supreme Court Cases*](#).

Submissions should address legal and/or religious issues, cases, laws, or other phenomena related to one or multiple recent Supreme Court cases as related to law and religion. We invite essay contributions that:

- Shed light on the arguments put forth by both parties in each case, the outcome, and/or the consequences of the recent rulings pertaining to free speech, religious accommodation, and affirmative action.
- Explore tensions and/or intersections between the First Amendment’s Free Speech and Religion Clauses, public accommodations laws, and/or protections for the rights of LGBTQ persons raised by *303 Creative*
- Engage with the history of religious accommodations and/or contemporary issues affecting law and policy relating to employment and religious accommodations as related to *Groff*
- Examine religious perspectives on the Harvard and North Carolina affirmative action cases and their potential impact including on private religious universities where commitment to racial diversity may be part of their institutional mission
- Other matters – historical or contemporary – that shed light on the intersections of law and religion as related to these recent Supreme Court decisions

We will accept submissions on a rolling basis, with submissions received before August 28, 2023 preferred. Essays can be submitted to canopyforum@emory.edu or through the “[Submissions](#)” page on *Canopy Forum*. Please indicate in your submission that you are responding to this call for papers, either in the subject line of the submission form, or in the document you submit. If you have any questions, you can reach out to canopyforum@emory.edu.

Submission Guidelines

Submissions to *Canopy Forum* should be 1,500-2,500 words in length, written in a style that is accessible to the educated public rather than specialists or scholars alone. Our goal is to make the best scholarship in our field more accessible and engaging for a broad audience. We encourage contributors to present their work in lucid, non-technical prose with minimal notes, using hyperlinks to online resources, e.g. book publisher pages, academic journal abstracts, and other online sources in lieu of standard footnotes or endnotes wherever possible. Additionally, court decisions should be linked once to the first reference to that case, using the full case name (i.e., “In its recent ruling in [Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue](#), the Supreme Court held ...”), and, whenever possible, link to the case’s page on the [SCOTUS Religion Cases](#) database. Academic papers and presentations should be adapted or rewritten accordingly.

Above all, we look for essays that are not merely descriptive reports, but which offer compelling and unique arguments that frame a topic—whether historical or current—in a way that grabs the attention of readers and offers them a new way to think about the topic at hand and its relevance to the field of law and religion.

Please contact us if you are interested in writing for *Canopy Forum* on these or other topics in the area of law and religion. We also accept submissions (including unsolicited submissions) on diverse law and religion themes on a rolling basis. You can review [publication guidelines](#) on our website and email your submission to us directly at canopyforum@emory.edu. For more information, visit the submissions page on the *Canopy Forum* website.