

MELISSA ROGERS

CURRENT POSITION

Nonresident Senior Fellow, Governance Studies, Brookings Institution, January 2017-present; 2009-2013

Develop research and analysis regarding religion's role in policy, law, and politics and organized related events. Past projects include:

- In partnership with Wake Forest University, released February 2012 report entitled *Health Care Providers' Consciences and Patients' Needs: The Quest for Balance*. William Galston and Melissa Rogers co-authored the report.
- In partnership with Wake Forest University, released December 2008 report entitled *Serving People in Need, Safeguarding Religious Freedom: Recommendations for the New Administration on Partnerships with Faith-Based Organizations*. E.J. Dionne and Melissa Rogers co-authored the report.

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Special Assistant to the President and Executive Director of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, March 11, 2013-January 20, 2017

Served as advisor to President Obama on policy issues related to religion and directed partnerships with faith-based and secular organizations to serve people in need.

Accomplishments include:

- Chaired interagency working group that produced final rule by nine federal agencies implementing Executive Order 13559, *Fundamental Principles and Policymaking Criteria for Partnerships with Faith-based and Other Neighborhood Organizations*.
- Co-chaired policy aspects of the visit of His Holiness Pope Francis to the White House in September 2015.
- With the Department of Justice, led interagency initiative, *Combating Religious Discrimination*, aimed at protecting Americans from discrimination on the basis of religion or belief.
- Advised on the development of domestic policy on a wide range of church-state issues and worked with the National Security Council on religion-related foreign policy and engagement.
- Coordinated the work of Centers for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships at twelve federal agencies.

Special Assistant to the President and Executive Director of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, March 11, 2013-January 20, 2017 (cont.)

- Coordinated the President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge and the President's Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships.
- Served as a member of the Presidential Delegation to the Federal Republic of Germany to attend the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Berlin Conference on Anti-Semitism Tenth Anniversary Commemoration.
- Assisted on the development of presidential speeches and engagement on religion-related issues.

Director, Center for Religion and Public Affairs, Wake Forest University Divinity School, 2003-2013

Directed research regarding the interplay of religion and public affairs and taught related graduate courses. Projects included:

- In partnership with The Brookings Institution, released February 2012 report entitled *Health Care Providers' Consciences and Patients' Needs: The Quest for Balance*. William Galston and Melissa Rogers co-authored the report.
- Production of *Religious Expression in American Public Life: A Joint Statement of Current Law*, a consensus statement drafted by diverse group of religious and civil liberties leaders on the state of current law. The Center released the statement in January 2010.
- In partnership with The Brookings Institution, released December 2008 report entitled *Serving People in Need, Safeguarding Religious Freedom: Recommendations for the New Administration on Partnerships with Faith-Based Organizations*. E.J. Dionne and Melissa Rogers co-authored the report.

Executive Director, Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, Washington, D.C., 2000-2003

Served as executive director of project supported by The Pew Charitable Trusts that explores religion's role in public life. Responsibilities as executive director included initiating and directing events and publications, serving as lead spokesperson, hiring and managing staff, and working with project co-chairs E.J. Dionne of The Brookings Institution and Jean Bethke Elshtain of the University of Chicago.

General Counsel, Baptist Joint Committee on Religious Liberty, Washington, D.C., 1999-2000; Associate General Counsel, 1994-1999

Served as lead attorney for Baptist body dedicated to promoting religious freedom. Led coalition urging enactment of the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000 ("RLUIPA"), 42 U.S.C. Sections 2000cc *et seq.* and served as counsel on *amicus curiae* briefs filed on behalf of the agency, including briefs filed in *Rosenberger v. Rector and Visitors of the Univ. of Virginia*, *Doe v. Santa Fe Indep. Sch. Dist.*, and *Mitchell v. Helms*, church-state cases heard by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Associate Attorney, Dow, Lohnes & Albertson, Washington, D.C., 1991-1993

Drafted briefs and submitted comments to the Federal Communications Commission regarding emerging telecommunications technologies and performed due diligence for mergers of telecommunications companies.

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania School of Law, Philadelphia, PA, *J.D.* 1991

Honors and Activities: National Moot Court Team, Legal Writing and Research Instructor, Associate Editor of Comparative Labor Law Journal

Baylor University, Waco, TX, *B.A.*, History 1988

Honors and Activities: Phi Beta Kappa, Vice President of Baylor Habitat for Humanity (established first college chapter), co-chair of Freshman Leadership Organization

BOOK

Religious Freedom and the Supreme Court with Steven K. Green and Ronald B. Flowers (Baylor University Press)(2008)

CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

Testimony before the House Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties on *Faith-Based Initiatives: Recommendations of the President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Community Partnerships and Other Current Issues*, Washington, D.C. (November 18, 2010)

Testimony before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights on the *Public Expression of Religion Act*, Washington, D.C. (August 2, 2006)

CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY (cont.)

Testimony before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights on religious expression and the public square, Washington, D.C. (June 8, 2004)

OTHER PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS

Member, United States Holocaust Memorial Council, January 2017-present

Appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as a member of United States Holocaust Memorial Council.

Chair, White House Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, 2009-2010

Appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as chair of his inaugural Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

OTHER ACADEMIC COURSES TAUGHT

Transformational Leadership, Yale University Divinity School, March-April 2017

SELECTED AWARDS

Pro Texana Medal of Service, Baylor University (2016)

J.M. Dawson Religious Liberty Award, Baptist Joint Committee (2014)

The President's Service Award, Progressive National Baptist Convention (2014)

Religious Freedom Award, Associated Baptist Press (2011)

Virginia First Freedom Award, First Freedom Center (2010)

Abner V. McCall Religious Liberty Award, Baylor University Alumni Association (2009)

BAR ADMISSIONS

Member of the bars of the U.S. Supreme Court, Maryland, and the District of Columbia

