

Special Adviser on Islamic Law

Short Bio. | Prof. Intisar A. Rabb



Prof. Intisar A. Rabb is Professor of Law and History at Harvard University and serves as the director of the Program in Islamic Law at Harvard Law School. In addition, she has held appointments as a Susan S. and Kenneth L. Wallach Professor at the *Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study*, as an Associate Professor at NYU Department of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies and at NYU Law School, and as an Assistant Professor at Boston College Law School. She previously served as a law clerk for Judge Thomas L. Ambro of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, as a Temple Bar Fellow in London with the American Inns of Court, and as a Carnegie Scholar for her work on contemporary Islamic law.

She also serves as an adviser and as counsel for cases involving fundamental issues of criminal justice. Most recently, she successfully represented former Buffalo police officer Cariol Horne, who was wrongfully fired and lost her pension when she intervened to stop a fellow officer's chokehold on an unarmed civilian, as part of a legal team that won her back pay and wages after 15 years.

Prof. Rabb's research centers on methods of interpretation in Islamic, American, and comparative law. She has published on Islamic law in historical and modern contexts, including the monograph, *Doubt in Islamic Law* (Cambridge University Press 2015), the edited volumes, *Justice and Leadership in Early Islamic Courts* (with Abigail Ballbale, Harvard University Press, 2017) and *Law and Tradition in Classical Islamic Thought* (with Michael Cook et al., Palgrave 2013),

and numerous articles on Islamic constitutionalism, on Islamic legal canons as tools for interpretation, and on the early history of the Qur'an text. At Harvard, she launched [SHARIAsource](#) – an online portal combining historical Arabic texts and data science tools to facilitate research and new insights on Islamic law, with the help of AI and machine learning.

Prof. Rabb is editor-in-chief of the *Islamic Law Blog*, the *Journal of Islamic Law*, and the *Harvard Book Series in Islamic Law* (published with Harvard University Press). She received a BA from Georgetown University, a JD from Yale Law School, and an MA and PhD from Princeton University. She speaks Arabic and Persian, and has conducted research in Egypt, Iran, Syria, and elsewhere.

