

**THE 2014 RUPERT AND TIMOTHY SMITH AWARD
FOR DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTIONS
TO PRO-LIFE SCHOLARSHIP**

Helen M. Alvaré, J.D.

**Professor of Law
Robert A. Levy Endowed
Chair in Law and Liberty,
Antonin Scalia Law School
George Mason University**

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Websites

https://www.law.gmu.edu/directory/profiles/alvare_helen

SSRN Profile

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/cf_dev/AbsByAuth.cfm?per_id=341976

**CURRICULUM VITAE
2026**

EMPLOYMENT:

Fall 2008 – Present

Professor of Law (since 2013)

The Robert A. Levy Endowed Chair in Law & Liberty (since 2021)

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (June 1, 2022 – May 31, 2023)

**ANTONIN SCALIA LAW SCHOOL, GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
ARLINGTON VA**

Teach: Law & Religion, Family Law, Property Law

Advisor: (changes from year to year) Latino & Latina Law Students Association, the Thomas More Society, the Family Law Society, the Civil Rights Law Journal, the Arab Women's Society, the Christian Legal Society, and the Space Law Society

Committees: Chaired Retention, Promotion and Tenure and the Admissions Committee. Have chaired or served upon other committees including Diversity Equity and Inclusion, Faculty Selection, Admissions; Retention, Promotion and Tenure; Re-accreditation; and Student Affairs

Fall 2000 – Summer 2008

Associate Professor of Law

COLUMBUS SCHOOL OF LAW, CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA, WASHINGTON DC

Taught Property, Family Law, Advanced Legislation

Tenured, June 2006

Faculty Representative to the University Board of Trustees

Spring 2018 – December 2023

Board Member

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES, BALTIMORE

Advise largest international Catholic charity delivering over one billion dollars of humanitarian services annually to the poorest human beings on the globe, regardless of creed. Assisted CRS in crafting employment nondiscrimination policies.

April 2008 - Present

Member (2018-present) or Consultor (2008-2018)

DICASTERY FOR LAITY, FAMILY AND LIFE, VATICAN CITY

Consult especially concerning Holy See initiatives about women and the family. Speak at conferences in Rome and around the world on subjects involving women in the world and in the Church. Formerly the Pontifical Council for the Laity, this Council ceased in 2016 and its work was brought into the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, of which I am now a member, appointed by Pope Francis.

2021 – Present

VOS ESTIS COMMISSION

Member of group appointed by Pope Francis to assist bishops' conferences in smaller nations to bring their practices for handling complaints of sexual abuse against bishops and cardinals into conformity with Pope Francis' Motu Proprio *Vos estis lux mundi*

2022 – 2025

THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER, PHILADELPHIA

Advisor and exhibit drafter for exhibit: The First Amendment – History and Meaning

2023 – Present

Of Counsel Scholar Advocate to law firm:

First and Fourteenth, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

Assist legal team with drafting litigation documents in institutional religious freedom suits

Spring 2007 – Present

Consultant

ABC NEWS, NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON DC

Assist ABC News with information, scholarship, likely sources, and interviews on Catholic subjects ranging from First Amendment law, to the family, to papal transitions and to the Vatican generally

2019 – Present

HOLY SEE DELEGATE ON WOMEN TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR AMERICAN STATES, WASHINGTON DC

Assist Vatican Permanent Observer to the OAS with writing and speaking at the OAS, particularly concerning women's rights

2018 – 2023

Member, AALS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON LAW AND RELIGION

2001-2003

Council Member

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF CHILD HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (NICHD) at the NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

BETHESDA MD

Presidential appointment to serve as lawyer-ethicist on Council overseeing NICHD grant making on projects concerning, among other issues, women's and children's health, stem cell research and gene therapy

2003

Chair

PHILADELPHIA ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION INVESTIGATING CLERGY SEXUAL ABUSE

Chaired commission including chief of police, head of sex crimes unit, victims and others, investigating the handling of sexual abuse cases by clergy

in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Issued lengthy report and recommendations

1990-2000

Communications Director

THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS, SECRETARIAT FOR PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES, WASHINGTON DC

Lobbied Congress and directed pro-life communications (re abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment) for all U.S. Catholic bishops before U.S. Congress, the media, university, Church audiences and the American public.

1987-1990

Attorney

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS/U.S. BISHOPS CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON DC

Staff attorney in the Office of General Counsel

1983 (Summer) and 1984-87

Attorney

STRADLEY, RONON, STEVENS & YOUNG, PHILADELPHIA

Litigation associate for law firm

EDUCATION:

M.A. THEOLOGY, CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA, 1989

(Additional 2.5 years of study toward Ph.D, Systematic Theology)

J.D. CORNELL UNIVERSITY, 1984

B.S. ECONOMICS, VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY, 1981 summa cum laude

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

Helen M. Alvaré, *Religious Freedom After the Sexual Revolution: A Catholic Guide* (Washington DC: Catholic University of American Press, 2022)

Helen M. Alvaré and Jeff Hammond, eds. (and Helen Alvaré, contributor) *Christianity and the Laws of Conscience: An Introduction* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2021)

Helen M. Alvaré, *Putting Children's Interests First in American Family Law and Policy: With Power Comes Responsibility* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2017)

Helen M. Alvaré & Steven Lopes (eds.), *Not Just Good, but Beautiful: The Complementary Relationship Between Man and Woman* (Walden, NY: Plough Publishing, 2015)

Helen M. Alvaré, ed. and author, *The Conscience of the Institution* (South Bend, IN: St. Augustine Press, 2014)

Helen M. Alvaré, ed. and author, *Breaking Through: Catholic Women Speak for Themselves* (Fort Wayne, IN: Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, 2012)

Selected Law Review Articles:

Religious Freedom as Freedom, *Brigham Young University L. Rev.* (2024)

Religious Freedom and Nondiscrimination: The Status/Conduct Problem, *Villanova Law Review* (2024)

Denying *Dobbs*, Dodging the *Demos*, 60 *Houston L. Rev.* 865 (2023)

Families, Schools and Religious Freedom, 54 *Loyola Univ. Chic. L. Rev.* 579 (2023)

Nearly 50 Years Post-*Roe v. Wade* and Nearing its End? What's the Evidence About Abortion's Effects on Women's Health and Equality? 34 *Regent Univ. L. Rev.* 165 (2021-22)

Church Autonomy After Our Lady of Guadalupe: Too Broad or Broad as it Needs to Be? 25 *Tex. Rev. of L. and Pols.* 319 (2021)

Gender Mistrust as a Public Health Crisis: A Preliminary Proposal, 108 *Georgetown L. Rev.* 1401 (2020)

Personhood: Law, Common Sense and Humane Opportunities, 76 *Wash. & Lee L. Rev. Online* 99 (2020), <https://scholarlycommons.law.wlu.edu/wlulr-online/vol76/iss2/3>

Beyond Moralism: A Critique and a Proposal for Catholic Institutional Religious Freedom, 19 *Conn. Pub. Int. L. J.* 149 (2020)

A Perfect Storm: Religion, Sex and the Administrative State, 92 St. John's L. Rev (2019)

Is This Any Way to Make Civil Rights Law? Judicial Extension of "Marital Status" Nondiscrimination to Protect Cohabitants, 17 Geo. J. of L. & Pub. Pol'y (2019)

Now We Know Better: A New Legal Framework on Sex to Better Promote Autonomy, Equality, Diversity and Care for the Poor, 66 Buffalo L. Rev. 669 (2018)

The Opposite of Anarchy and the Transmission of Faith: The Freedom to Teach after *Smith*, *Hosanna-Tabor*, and *Obergefell*, 53 San Diego L. Rev. 1 (2016)

Religious Freedom versus Sexual Expression: A Guide, 30 The Journal of Law and Religion (Cambridge Univ.) 475 (2015)

Marriage and the Family as the New Property: *Obergefell*, Marriage and the Hand of the State, 28 Regent U. L. Rev. 49 (2015-16)

Same-Sex Marriage and the Reconceiving of Children, 64 Case W. L. Rev. 829 (2014)

No Compelling Interest: The "Birth Control Mandate" and Religious Freedom, 58 Villanova L. Rev. 379 (2013)

A Response to Professor I. Glenn Cohen's Regulating Reproduction: The Problem with Best Interests, 96 Minnesota Law Review Headnotes (no. 1 May 2012) at <http://www.minnesotalawreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/AlvareFinal.pdf>.

Curbing its Enthusiasm, U.S. Federal Policy and the Unitary Family, 2 Int'l J. of the Jurisprudence of the Family 108 (2012)

Bishops versus "Nuns in Jeeps," Why a Facially Intra-Catholic Health Care Dispute Matters, 25 Notre Dame J. L. & Pub. Pol'y 563 (2011)

Beyond the Sex-Ed Wars: Addressing Disadvantaged Single Mothers' Search for Community, 44 Akron L. Rev. 167 (2011)

Father Absence, Social Equality and Social Progress, 29 Quinnipiac L. Rev. 123 (2011)

Foreword: Symposium on Youth and the Law, 22 Notre Dame J. of L. Ethics & Pub. Pol'y 1 (2008)

Gonzales v. Carhart: Bringing Abortion Law Back into the Family Law Fold, 69 Montana L. Rev. 409 (2008)

The Moral Reasoning of Family Law: The Case of Same-Sex Marriage, 38 Loyola U. Chi. L. Rev 349 (2006)

An Anthropology for the Family Law of Indis/solubility, 4 Ave Maria L. Rev. 497 (2006)

The Consistent Ethic of Life: A Proposal for Improving its Legislative Grasp, 2 University of St. Thomas L. J. 326 (2005)

The Turn Toward the Self in Marriage: Same-Sex Marriage and its Predecessors in Family Law, 16 Stanford L. & Pol'y Rev. 101 (2005)

Saying "Yes" Before Saying "I Do," Cohabitation and Premarital Sex as a Piece of the Divorce Puzzle, 18 Notre Dame J. of Law, Ethics & Pub. Pol'y 7 (2004)

The Case for Regulating Collaborative Reproduction: A Children's Rights Perspective, 40 Harvard J. on Legis. 1 (2003)

Selected Book Chapters:

To the Study of Sex, Marriage and Family Law, *Faith in Law, Law in Faith: Reflecting on the Work of John Witte, Jr.*, eds. Rafael Domingo, Gary S. Hauk, and Timothy P. Jackson (Leiden: Netherlands, Brill Publisher, *forthcoming* 2024).

Parenting and Women's Contribution to the Church and the World, *More Women's Leadership for a Better World: Care as a Driver for Our Common Home*, with an Introduction by Pope Francis, ed., Anna Maria Tarantola (Rome: Vita et Pensiero, 2023)

La famiglia nella Trilogia di Giussani, in *Introduzione alla Realtà Totale: Saggi sul Pensiero Pedagogico e Sociale de Luigi Giussani*, ed. Carmine di Martino (Milan: BUR, Rizzoli, 2023)

Christianity and the Law on Contraception, in *The Palgrave Handbook of Religion and State in the Western Hemisphere*, Vol. 1, ed., Shannon Holzer (Springer Nature, 2023)

Christianity and Family Law, in eds., John Witte and Gary Hauk, *The Oxford Handbook of Christianity and Law* (Oxford University Press, *forthcoming* November 2023)

The Family and the Melting Pot, in Michael Welker and John Witte, eds., *The Impact of the Family on Character Formation, Ethical Education, and the Communication of Values in Late Modern Pluralistic Societies* (Leipzig: Evangelische Verlagsanstalt GmbH, 2022).

Domestic Violence Law: A Perpetual Search for the Best Legal Solutions, Chapter 4 in Grzegorz Blicharz, ed., *Marriage, Children and Family: Modern Challenges and Comparative Law Perspective* (Poland: Prawo Publiczne, 2019), https://books.google.com/books/about/Marriage_Children_and_Family_Modern_Challenges_and_Comparative_Law_Perspective.html?id=UmroDwAAQBAJ

The Sexualization of Children: A Massive Problem with Insufficient Solutions, Chapter 6 in Grzegorz Blicharz, ed., *Marriage, Children and Family: Modern Challenges and Comparative Law Perspective* (Poland: Prawo Publiczne, 2019), https://books.google.com/books/about/Marriage_Children_and_Family_Modern_Challenges_and_Comparative_Law_Perspective.html?id=UmroDwAAQBAJ

The Struggle for Conscience Protection in an Increasingly Secularized Context, Chapter 7 in Grzegorz Blicharz, ed., *Freedom of Conscience: A Comparative Law Perspective* (Poland: Prawo Publiczne, 2019), <http://wydawnictwo.iws.gov.pl/produkt/freedom-of-conscience-a-comparative-law-perspective/>

Hate Crimes: A Delicate Balancing of Speech and Harm Prevention, Chapter 11 in Grzegorz Blicharz, ed., *Freedom of Speech: A Comparative Law Perspective* (Poland: Prawo Publiczne, 2019), <http://wydawnictwo.iws.gov.pl/produkt/freedom-of-speech-a-comparative-law-perspective/>

Religious Displays: The Interplay of Free Speech and the Nonestablishment of Religion, Chapter 4 in Grzegorz Blicharz, ed., *Freedom of Religion: A Comparative Law Perspective* (Poland: Prawo Publiczne, 2019), <http://wydawnictwo.iws.gov.pl/produkt/freedom-of-religion-a-comparative-law-perspective/>

Abortion, Sexual Markets and the Law, in Stephen Napier, ed. *Persons, Moral Worth, and Embryos: A Critical Analysis of Pro-Choice Arguments* (Vol. 11 Philosophy and Medicine) (Springer Pub. 2011)

“You Can’t Get There from Here,” A Reply to Proposals to Disestablish Marriage as the Path to Care, in Scott FitzGibbon, ed., *The Jurisprudence of Marriage and Other Intimate Relationships* (William S. Hein and Co., 2010)

Christian Feminism and Family Life: a new feminism fit for a new family? in Francis Eigo, ed., *Themes in Feminist Theology for the New Millennium II: Proceedings of the Theology Institute of Villanova University* (Villanova University Press, 2003)

Selected Additional Writings:

I also write from time to time for *Scotusblog* on Supreme Court opinions touching religious freedom or the family, and for the family law and empirics blog: *Institute for Family Studies*, where I have been a contributor from 2015 to the present. I also regularly cover Supreme Court abortion cases and religious freedom cases for the Catholic press, including the *National Catholic Register* and *Our Sunday Visitor*.

Divergent Opinions in *Dobbs* Provide a Way Forward for State Family Policy, *Institute for Family Studies Blog*, July 7, 2022

Dobbs Decision Shows US Can be Both Powerful and Humane, *The Hill*, June 26, 2022

Book Review: *What it Means to be Human: The Case for the Body in Public Bioethics* by O. Carter Snead, 86 *The Thomist* 148-52 (2022)

The Endless War on the Little Sisters of the Poor, *The Wall Street Journal*, May 5, 2020

America Magazine, columnist at Catholic Jesuit magazine (2014 to 2018)

Constitutional Abortion and Culture, 2 *Christian Bioethics* (Oxford Univ.) 133 (2013)

Human Rights v. Religious Freedom? in Room for Debate, *The New York Times*, Dec. 22, 2011, at <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2011/12/22/is-americans-religious-freedom-under-threat/human-rights-vs-religious-freedom>

PRESENTATIONS:

I travel the United States, Europe, South America and Oceania approximately 10 times per year for the last 30 years, making presentations on law and religion or family law to a wide variety of universities, religious groups, media, United Nations and European Parliamentary bodies, and various bodies of the Holy See.

A representative sampling of more recent events includes:

Fall 2023 - Present

I traveled this fall to various gatherings of religious institutions to present my newest (2022) book on the free exercise rights of religious institutions, including to a gathering of Catholic elementary and high schools at the Catholic University of America, to a gathering of the Catholic social service providers in Colorado, and to the Catholic health care providers of Illinois.

I will deliver the annual Magnificat lecture on “Man and Woman He Created Them,” in the Archdiocese of New York, April 20, 2024

I delivered the annual Brigham Young University Law and Religion lecture at the J. Reuben Clarke School of Law, March 6, 2024

I also presented my 2022 book at a Catholic university bioethics conference at the University of Mary (North Dakota) in December 2023, at the Catholic University of America (Washington, DC) President’s Series in February 2024, and at St. Thomas University (Minneapolis, MN) in March of 2024

Delivered the 46th Donald Gianella Memorial Lecture (a law and religion lecture) at Villanova University Law School, November 7, 2023

(<https://www1.villanova.edu/university/law/about/news-events/events/2023/1010.html>)

I lecture annually on Catholic Social Teaching and the Family for the Holy See’s Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice program for Catholic leadership from around the world (October, 2023 and the prior 10 Octobers)

Fall 2022

Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Center, **Respondent to the Frankel Lecture**, University of Houston School of Law, November 2022

Plenary Speaker, State Catholic Conference Directors, on *Religious Freedom after the Sexual Revolution*, December 2022

Plenary Speaker, Napa Legal Washington DC Conference, on *Religious Freedom after the Sexual Revolution*, December 2022

Summer 2022

Plenary Speaker for the Alliance Defending Freedom’s (a religious liberty law firm and student mentoring program) Blackstone Fellowship Program (annual event).

Spring 2022

Host and Presenter at Antonin Scalia Law School Templeton Fund-Sponsored Conference on Religious Freedom (secured a \$225,000.00 grant from the Templeton Fund for the conference)

Keynote Speaker on the History of Women and the Church for the Women's Commission of the Diocese of Fargo, North Dakota

Invited Panelist at the Law Review Forum of Loyola University (Chicago) on the Current State of Religious Liberty Law

Fall 2021

Keynote Presenter at Notre Dame University's Colloquy on the Church's Sexual Abuse Crisis, and the Future of a Truth and Reconciliation Process

Plenary Presenter for the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at Catholic University of America

Summer 2021

Plenary Presenter for the Archdiocese of Minneapolis/St. Paul Lecture Series on Women and Church

Fall 2019

Constitution Day Speaker at Louisiana State University on religion clauses

Federalist Society Presentations at Fordham University and Temple Law School on religion clauses

Spring 2019

Conference at the United Nations in Geneva – speaker on behalf of the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations on the rights of women and families

Federalist Society Presentation at Columbia University on my book, *Putting Children's Interests First in US Family Law and Policy*

Fall 2018

Lectures for the Archdiocese of Edinburgh, Scotland – Spoke at several lectures for the public, for Catholic Church leaders, and for women, on the subjects of the freedom of the church, and on the sex abuse scandals

Summer 2018

Appearance in the RBG movie, a documentary about the life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg that appeared widely in US theaters

April 2018

C-SPAN Landmark Cases, Washington DC – One of two guests for C-SPAN series discussing the Landmark Cases of the US Supreme Court for a two-hour special

March 2018,

Oklahoma Legislature – address to the members of the Oklahoma Legislature on the relationship between family law, social justice, and religious freedom.

Harvard University Thomistic Institute, Cambridge, MA – plenary address on the family, liberalism and Christianity

January 2018

Stanford University – address to university-wide community on current challenges to religious freedom at the US Supreme Court

December 2017

Vatican City - plenary speaker at international conference of NGOs, assembled by the Secretariat of State of the Holy See, regarding cooperation between humanitarian agencies assisting women and families, among others

SELECTED ASSISTANCE TO THE HOLY SEE

In addition to my roles at the OAS for the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See, and at the *Vos estis* Taskforce and the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life:

March 2020: Presenter at the Permanent Observer Mission to the Organization of American States, Washington DC

Addressing OAS diplomats on behalf of the Holy See, regarding the empirical economic and legal materials supporting the Holy See's positions on women, marriage and the family

September 2016: Invited presenter at Women's Meeting, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Vatican City

Invited to speak on the subject of women in Catholic communications offices

2013 – 15: President of the Catholic Women's Forum

Co-founded group of Catholic women lawyers, economists and other professionals with expertise in matters pertaining to women, family, and human sexuality, in order to assist the work of the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations

2015: Presentation at World Meeting of Families, Philadelphia, PA

Only female solo plenary speaker

2015: Co-organizer, *Humanum* Conference, Vatican City
Opened by Pope Francis and Co-sponsored by Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Pontifical Council for the Family, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity

Meeting of 23 inter-religious leaders, led by Pope Francis, to address marriage and family leaders gathered from around the world, on the subject of complementarity between man and woman across world religions. Edited all papers and introduced with essay by the Holy Father. Published as: Helen M. Alvarez & Steven Lopes (eds.), *Not Just Good, but Beautiful: The Complementary Relationship Between Man and Woman* (Plough Publishing, 2015)

2008 – 2016: Regular speaker on behalf of the Women’s Section of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, Vatican City

2011: Presentations at Pope Benedict XVI’s World Youth Day in Madrid Spain

Spoke to tens of thousands of English-speaking pilgrims regarding Religious Freedom and the Theology of the Body

2011 – 2014: Presentations for the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations

Spoke on behalf of delegation, and at Side Events for the Meeting on the Commission on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women

2012-11: Drafted themes and analysis for a new papal “Letter to Women”

Contributed to a white paper on women solicited by the Pontifical Council for the Laity

2009: Plenary Address: The Family is a School of Love, Pope Benedict XVI’s Sixth World Meeting of Families, Mexico City

Sponsored by the Pontifical Council for the Family

2008: Plenary Address, Pontifical Council for the Laity, Office for Women, Vatican City

The Objectification of Women, 20 Years After *Mulieris Dignitatem*

2007: Speaker, World Youth Day, Sydney Australia

Addressed English-language pilgrims daily on subject of marriage and family and the New Evangelization

2005: Plenary Address: Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Vatican City

At a conference entitled: The Legacy of *Gaudium et Spes*: 40 Years Later

1999: Delegate and Plenary Speaker on Behalf of the Archdiocese of Havana

Address at conference entitled, *Exhortation Apostolica: Ecclesia in America, Implicaciones Antropologicas, Economicas Y Sociales en Cuba* (Havana, Cuba 1999)

1998: Address for the Pontifical Academy for Human Life, Vatican City
Plenary address: *The Healthy Family: What is it?* International Conference
on Women's

1996-99: Consultant to the Pontifical Academy for Life, Vatican City

**1995: Holy See Delegation to the United Nations Conference on Women,
Beijing**

Press representative of the Holy See to the United States

**1994: Holy See Delegation to the United Nations Conference on Population
and Development, Cairo**

Press representative of the Holy See to the United States