

PANEL 2: THE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE AND CONSTITUTIONAL INTERPRETATION

ROBERT DESTRO, SPEAKER



Robert A. Destro is Professor of Law at The Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law in Washington, D.C. He has been a member of the CUA Law faculty since 1982, served as Interim Dean from 1999-2001, and as Director of the University's Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies from 2017-2019. In the domestic sphere, Professor Destro has been an advisor to churches and religious organizations from a variety of religious traditions, and is regularly involved in cases raising civil rights issues from free speech and free exercise, to employment law and tax policy. From 2004-2006, he served as Special Counsel to then-Ohio Secretary of State, Ken Blackwell, on voting rights and election security issues. From 1983 to 1989, he served as a Commissioner on the United States Commission on Civil Rights, where he led the Commission's discussions in the areas of discrimination on the basis of disability, national origin and religion. From 1977-1982, he served as General Counsel to the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, and from 1975-1977, was an associate at Squire, Sanders & Dempsey in Cleveland. With Michael S. Ariens, he was co-author of *RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY* (2d ed. 2001), and is a prolific writer on legal issues.

IRA LUPU, SPEAKER



Professor Ira "Chip" Lupu is the F. Elwood & Eleanor Davis Professor of Law Emeritus at George Washington University. After graduating from Cornell University and Harvard Law School, Lupu practiced law with the firm of Hill & Barlow and then joined the law faculty at Boston University, where he taught from 1973 to 1989. During that time, he also served as a visiting professor at Northeastern University and at the University of California, Berkeley. In 1989-90, he was the professor-in-residence on the Appellate Staff of the Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Professor Lupu is a nationally recognized scholar in constitutional law, with an emphasis in his writings on the religion clauses of the First Amendment. Together with his colleague Professor Robert Tuttle, Professor Lupu is the co-author of *Secular Government, Religious People* (Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2014), and the author or co-author of many other scholarly works.

ELIZABETH REINER PLATT, MODERATOR



Liz Reiner Platt is the director of the Law, Rights, and Religion Project at Columbia Law School, a law and policy think tank that advocates for religious liberty, pluralism, and gender justice. She publishes widely on the intersection of religious freedom and other fundamental rights. Her recent work includes the Southern Hospitals Report, which examines religious restrictions on medical care at Protestant-affiliated hospitals, *All Faiths and None*, a roadmap for protecting religious freedom and pluralism coc-authored with Auburn Seminary, and *Whose Faith Matters?*, an exploration of religious freedom movements outside the Christian Right.