



IT'S NOT A MOMENT.

IT'S A REVOLUTION.

HONORING PROFESSOR HAMIDA BARMAKI AND MAHBOBA HOQOQMAL OF
AFGHANISTAN, THE WOMEN OF IRAN, AND WOMEN ACROSS THE WORLD

January 29, 2023

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. PT

McGeorge School of Law
Lecture Hall
3200 5th Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95817



UNIVERSITY OF THE
PACIFIC

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PROGRAM

- 11:00 – 11:05** **Introduction**
- Fahim Barmaki, Doctoral Student at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law
 - Mondis A. Vakili, Juris Doctor Candidate 2023 at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law. Mondis is the President of the Middle Eastern and South Asian Association and Women's Caucus at McGeorge School of Law.
- 11:05 – 11:17** Fahim Barmaki, Doctoral Student at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law
- 11:17 – 11:32** Dr. Sima Samar, Former Minister of Women's Affairs and Chairperson of (AIHRC) in Afghanistan
- 11:32 – 11:47** Nader Nadery, Former Chairman of the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission of Afghanistan
- 11:47 – 12:02** Dr. Tilmann Röder, Institute for Law and Society in Afghanistan (ILSAF)
- 12:02 – 12:12** **Break**
- 12:12 – 12:57** Iranian American Women Foundation speakers
- Gissou Nia, Director of Strategic Litigation Project at the Atlantic Council
 - Sepi Shyne, Mayor of West Hollywood, the first Iranian female Mayor in the State of California and the first LGBTQ+ Iranian Mayor in the world
 - Moderator: Shally Zomorodi, Fox 5 San Diego News Anchor
- 12:57 – 1:12** Dr. Omar Sadr, Senior Research Scholar, University of Pittsburgh, Former Assistant Professor at American University of Afghanistan
- 1:12 – 1:27** Ghizal Haress, Assistant Professor of Law at American University of Afghanistan
- 1:27 – 1:37** **Break**
- 1:37 – 1:52** Spojmie Stanekzai, Adjunct Professor at Chapman University, Fowler School of Law
- 1:52 – 2:07** Tarana Parshahri, First Secretary of Afghanistan Embassy in Ashgabat-Turkmenistan
- 2:07 – 2:22** Shamim Noori Joyaa, Afghanistan Airforce Fighter Pilot
- 2:22 – 2:32** Anisa Amani, Teacher and Educator
- 2:32 – 2:47** Fahim Barmaki, Doctoral Student at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law
- 2:47 – 2:52** Mondis A. Vakili, Juris Doctor Candidate 2023 at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law. Mondis is the President of the Middle Eastern and South Asian Association and Women's Caucus at McGeorge School of Law.

SPEAKERS



ANISA AMANI

Anisa Amani is a first-generation Afghan Muslim American. She has worked as an educator and community advocate for Afghan refugees for 6 years. Amani teaches 3rd grade in the Arden Arcade area of Sacramento, California. Her school has a student population of nearly 800, of which about 71% are newly settled Afghan refugees. She earned her BA in Child Development from California State University, Sacramento, and her credential and MEd from The University of California, Davis.



GHIZAAL HAREES

Ghizaal Harees was a member of the Afghanistan Independent Commission for Overseeing the Implementation of the Constitution. As a constitutional law expert, Ghizaal also writes academic articles on the constitutional matters in Afghanistan. She was also the Chair and Assistant Professor of Law at the American University of Afghanistan. She holds a Masters of Law (LLM) from the University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), United Kingdom, and a Bachelor of Law (LLB) from Kabul University.



NADER NADERY

Mr. Nadery is the former chairman of the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission of Afghanistan. Prior to joining the Commission he was senior advisor to the President on Public and Strategic Affairs. He also served as Ambassador At-large for Freedom of Expression and as a member of the government negotiation team at the peace talks in Doha. Mr. Nadery studied law and political sciences at Kabul University and earned his master's degree in International Relations from George Washington University. He also studied leadership at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Mr. Nadery has written extensively on politics, human rights, women's rights and democracy in Afghanistan. He taught constitutional law at the American University of Afghanistan in 2012.



GISSOU NIA

Gissou Nia is the director of the Strategic Litigation Project at the Atlantic Council. The Strategic Litigation Project works on prevention and accountability efforts for atrocity crimes, human rights violations, terrorism and corruption offenses around the world. Nia is a human rights lawyer and non-profit leader. She serves as board chair of the Iran Human Rights Documentation Center where she is helping develop and oversee the group's human rights advocacy and legal programs, which seek to promote accountability, respect for human rights and the rule of law in Iran. She previously served as the Executive Director for the group, and as the Deputy Director of the Center for Human Rights in Iran. Nia started her career in The Hague, where she worked on war crimes and crimes against humanity trials at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Court. She lectures and publishes widely on human rights developments in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as the rule of law in post-conflict and transitional societies.



SHAMIM NOORI JOYAA

Shamim Noori Joyaa was a female fixed wing Afghanistan Airforce aviator. She was also the second female fighter pilot in the Afghanistan Airforce. She has done her Bachelor of Arts in Sharia and Islamic Law.



TARANA PARSHAHRI

Tarana Parshahri joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan in 2008. She has been an active advocate of women's rights and empowerment. She worked as the Deputy of the Afghanistan Diplomat's Association from 2018 to 2019. She has served two terms in Vancouver and in Ashgabat as Afghanistan Political and Counselor Representative.



DR. TILMANN RÖDER

Dr. Tilmann Röder was the director of Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law and headed the activities in Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. He is also the founder of Hamida Barmaki Organization for Rule of Law (HBORL) in Afghanistan and the Director of Institute for Law and Society in Afghanistan (ILSAF). Additionally, he is an academic and author whose focus lies in peacebuilding, rule of law, intersections of law, conflict transformation, and human security societies.



DR. OMAR SADR

Dr. Omar Sadr is a Research Fellow at the Center for Governance and Markets (CGM) in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) at the University of Pittsburgh. Previously, he worked as an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF) in 2021. Dr. Sadr holds a Ph.D. (2018) and an MA (2013) from South Asian University (SAU), a university established by the SAARC nations. Dr. Sadr is an author of numerous books, chapters, book reviews, papers and articles.



DR. SIMA SAMAR

Dr. Sima Samar is a human rights advocate, activist and social worker within national and international forums, who served as Minister of Women's Affairs of Afghanistan from December 2001 to 2003. She is the former Chairperson of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) and, from 2005 to 2009, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Sudan. In 2011, she was part of the newly founded Truth and Justice party. In 2012, she was awarded the Right Livelihood Award for "her long-standing and courageous dedication to human rights, especially the rights of women, in one of the most complex and dangerous regions in the world."



SPOJMAI STANAKZAI

Spozhmai Salma Stanakzai worked as the Deputy Consul General in Afghanistan's Consulate General – Los Angeles. Ms. Stanakzai has extensive experience in teaching Public and Private International Law, Diplomatic and Consular Law, and International Trade Law at different private universities in Kabul, Afghanistan. She is doing her second LLM at the Loyola Law School.



SHALLY ZOMORODI

FOX 5 Morning News Anchor Shally Zomorodi has been waking up San Diego for more than a decade. A dedicated journalist, Zomorodi launched her news career as an assistant for KTTV FOX 11 in Los Angeles. Quickly advancing into an on-air reporting position in Beaumont, Texas. Shally's embracing personality and dedicated reporting returned her to the Southland and family she loves dearly in Orange County. She reported for LA City View in Los Angeles and then became the anchor of DAYBREAK OC, a two hour live morning show broadcasting from the heart of Orange County for all of Southern California. Fluent in Farsi and versed in international broadcasting as the reporter for Voice of America, Shally now brings her global skills, diversity, and Southland knowledge to FOX 5.



MAYOR SEPI SHYNE

Mayor Sepi Shyne made history in November 2020 when she was elected to the West Hollywood City Council. Mayor Shyne is the first Iranian female mayor in the State of California and the first LGBTQ+ Iranian mayor in the world. She was also the first Woman of Color elected to West Hollywood's City Council. Her election also ushered in West Hollywood's first female-majority City Council. Mayor Shyne's priorities include advocating for affordable housing, protecting renters and social service programs, social justice, small business revival, and bringing the people's voices to City Hall.

Mayor Shyne currently serves on the following City Council Subcommittees: Homelessness Subcommittee, West Hollywood Pride Subcommittee, Finance & Budget Subcommittee, Events Ad Hoc Subcommittee, and the 1343 Laurel Avenue Ad Hoc Subcommittee. She also represents the City of West Hollywood on the Westside Cities Council of Governments and is currently serving as its Chair.

Mayor Shyne received her Bachelor of Science from San Jose State University with a double concentration in Accounting and Management Information Systems and a Minor in Drama with an emphasis in Directing. She received her Juris Doctorate with a specialization certificate in litigation from Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco.

As an LGBTQ+ and civil rights leader for more than 20 years, her leadership has helped secure equal rights for all. Before her election to the West Hollywood City Council, Mayor Shyne served on the City of West Hollywood's Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board (now LGBTQ+ Advisory Board), on the City of West Hollywood's Business License Commission, and on the Los Angeles County Assessor's Advisory Council on which she continues to serve. Additionally, she has led many boards and organizations, including the LGBT Bar Association of Los Angeles and as a Board of Governor and Steering Committee leader with the Human Rights Campaign Los Angeles. Mayor Shyne is a Co-Organizer of WeHo Neighbors Helping Neighbors, a community group created during the pandemic to help get resources to seniors, people with disabilities, and people in immunosuppressed households via social media and volunteer check-in calls. In every board and organization she has led, she has recruited and elevated women and people of color to leadership positions to create more diversity, inclusion, and equity.

Mayor Shyne lives in the Mid-City area of the City of West Hollywood with her fur-babies.

SYMPOSIUM CHAIRS



FAHIM BARMAKI

Fahim Barmaki is a doctoral student at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law. His areas of focus are International Comparative Constitutional Law and Comparative Political Theory. He is also the brother of the late Professor Hamida Barmaki.



MONDIS VAKILI

Mondis Vakili is a 2023 Juris Doctor Candidate at McGeorge School of Law with a concentration in Trial & Appellate Advocacy. She is the President of the Middle Eastern and South Asian Association and President of McGeorge Women's Caucus.



MUSTAFA KARIM

Mustafa Karim is a third-year law student at McGeorge School of Law. He is the Vice President of the Middle Eastern and South Asian Association. After he graduates law school, he will work as an associate at a civil litigation and business law firm here in Sacramento.

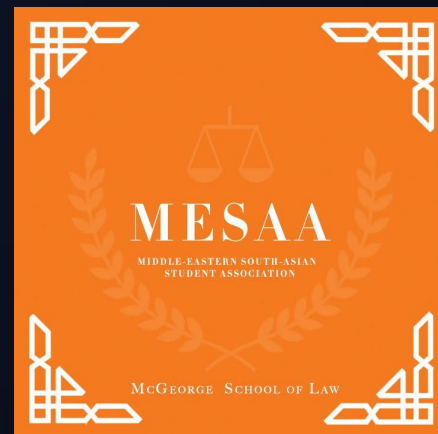
ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

On January 29, 2023, the Middle Eastern & South Asian Association (MESAA) at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law convened a symposium to discuss women's rights in Afghanistan, Iran, and other parts of the world. We examined the legacies left behind by renowned human rights activists, Professor Hamida Barmaki and Mahboba Hoqoqmal. We also discussed the current women's rights revolution happening in both Afghanistan and Iran.

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