



U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Hearing

Religious Freedom in Russia and Central Asia

Panelists



Elizabeth Clark is the Associate Director for the International Center for Law and Religion Studies at Brigham Young University's Reuben Clark Law School. Professor Clark has taken part in drafting commentaries and legal analyses of pending legislation and developments affecting religious freedom and has written an amicus brief on international religious freedom issues for the U.S. Supreme Court. Professor Clark has co-taught classes on Comparative Law, Comparative Constitutional Law, International Human Rights, and European Union law. She has published numerous articles and book chapters on church-state issues and has been an associate editor of three major books: *Facilitating Freedom of Religion and Belief: A Deskbook* and two books on law and religion in post-Communist Europe. Professor Clark has also testified before Congress on religious freedom issues.

Prior to joining the Law School, Professor Clark was an associate in the Washington, D.C. office of Mayer, Brown & Platt, where she was a member of the Appellate and Supreme Court Litigation Group. Professor Clark also clerked for Judge J. Clifford Wallace on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.



Emily B. Baran is an associate professor and interim chair of the History Department at Middle Tennessee State University.

Dr. Baran's research explores the relationship between minority religious communities and modern states in the Soviet Union and former Soviet states. Her monograph, *Dissent on the Margins* (Oxford University Press), examined the history of Jehovah's Witnesses in the postwar Soviet Union. She received her M.A. and Ph.D. in History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and her B.A. in History and Russian from Macalester College.



Maria Kravchenko is a researcher at SOVA Center for Information and Analysis, a Russian-based nonprofit organization founded in 2002 that focuses on monitoring and analysis in areas such as Russian nationalism, relations between religious organizations, the state and secular society in Russia, and misuse of anti-extremism policies by the authorities. Maria Kravchenko specializes in day-to-day monitoring, writing news, analytical commentary and reports for the SOVA Center website on Russian anti-extremism legislation and law enforcement practices. She is the author of *Inventing Extremists: The Impact of Russian Anti-Extremism Policies on Freedom of Religion or Belief*, a report released by USCIRF in 2018.



John E. Herbst is the Director of the Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center. Ambassador Herbst served for thirty-one years as a Foreign Service Officer in the US Department of State, retiring at the rank of career-minister. He was US ambassador to Ukraine from 2003 to 2006, when he worked to enhance US-Ukrainian relations, help ensure the conduct of a fair Ukrainian presidential election, and prevent violence during the Orange Revolution. Prior to that, he was ambassador to Uzbekistan (2000-03), where he played a critical role in the establishment of an American base to help conduct Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He also promoted improved US-Uzbek relations, in part by encouraging the government in Tashkent to improve its human rights record. Ambassador Herbst has written book chapters, articles, and op-eds on stability

operations in Central Asia, Ukraine, and Russia.

Ambassador Herbst earned a bachelor of science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, Phi Beta Kappa, and a master of law and diplomacy, with distinction, from the Fletcher School at Tufts University. He also attended the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies Bologna Center.