

## ABED AWAD, ESQ.

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### **EDUCATION**

**Pace University School of Law**, White Plains, NY  
Juris Doctorate, May 1998

- Honors: New York State Bar Association Law Student Ethics Essay Award, 1997
- Activities: Managing Editor, *Pace International Law Review*, 1997-98

**School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London**, England  
Masters, Near and Middle East Studies, June 1995  
Certificate, Comparative Law, June 1994

- Honors: Granted a Distinction for my Masters thesis

**Columbia University**, New York, NY

Completed Graduate-level coursework in: Islamic Revivalist Movement, Islamic Legal Texts, Arabic Composition and Modern Arabic Poetry, 1992-93

**Saint Peter's College**, Jersey City, NJ  
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, May 1991

### **LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

**Awad & Khoury, Attorneys at Law**, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ Aug. 2010-present  
*Partner*

- Legal Practice Areas: complex civil litigation, matrimonial, commercial, international & Islamic law;
- Admitted in New York State Court & New York Federal Court (Southern & Eastern Districts);
- Admitted in New Jersey State Court, New Jersey Federal District Court & Third Circuit.

**Shari'a Expert**, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 2000-present  
*Islamic Law and Law of Arab Countries Expert Witness*

- Provide services as an expert witness in Islamic Law & Middle Eastern Law;
- Qualified & recognized by American courts as an expert in Islamic law, Islamic family law, Muslim culture, Jordanian law, Egyptian law, Syrian law, UAE & Dubai law, Qatari law, Moroccan law, to name a few.

**Law Offices of Abed Awad**, Clifton, NJ Sept. 1999-Aug. 2010  
*Principal*

- Legal Practice Areas: complex civil litigation, matrimonial, commercial, international & Islamic law.

**City of Paterson**, Paterson, NJ Sept. 2003-Mar. 2004  
*Assistant Corporation Counsel* (part-time)

- Assigned to litigation section;
- Handled labor arbitrations & labor-related matters for the City, among other civil litigation matters;
- Advised the City on various legal matters, from the constitutionality of local enactments to structuring public bids.

**New Jersey Superior Court**, Paterson, NJ Sept. 1998-Sept. 1999  
*Law Clerk to the Honorable George E. Sabbath*

- Drafted opinions; Wrote legal memoranda; Prepared cases for trials & hearings.

**New York Supreme Court 9th District**, White Plains, NY Jan. 1998-May 1998  
*Judicial Intern to the Honorable Francis A. Nicolai*

- Conducted legal research regarding cases pending before the court; Attended trials & hearings.

**Inter-University Associates, Inc.**, Hastings on Hudson, NY June 1996-Aug. 1997  
*Research Associate*

- Translated & reviewed translations of Arabic legal texts;
- Conducted legal research relating to Arab countries' press & constitutional laws.

#### **COUNSEL OF RECORD IN THE FOLLOWING PUBLISHED DECISIONS**

***Shenouda v. Samira Said, et al.*, 203 F.R.D. 166 (D.N.J. 2001)**

- Represented the defendant in this matter & vacated a five-year default judgment against my client;
- Argued successfully that the Hague Convention on Service of Process mandated this result.

***Saadeh v. Odatalla*, 355 N.J. Super. 305 (Ch. Div. 2002)**

- Represented the plaintiff/wife in this case of first impression in NJ where the Court agreed to enforce the *mahr* provision in a Muslim marriage contract under NJ law.

#### **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

**Rutgers University School of Law**, Newark, NJ Jan. 2003-present  
*Adjunct Professor*

- Courses taught: Islamic Jurisprudence; Matrimonial Litigation; Islamic Banking and Finance.

**Pace University School of Law**, White Plains, NY Jan. 2009-present  
*Adjunct Professor*

- Course taught: Islamic Jurisprudence.

**Seton Hall Law Study Abroad Program**, Amman, Jordan July 2011-Aug. 2011  
*Adjunct Professor*

- Course taught: Islamic Banking and Finance.

#### **MEDIA COMMENTATOR - POLITICAL & LEGAL**

**Al-Jazeera** Jan. 2004-Nov. 2004 (weekly);  
*Political and Legal Commentator* Dec. 2004-present (regularly)

Over 200 television and radio appearances as a political and legal commentator for various television and radio networks, including but not limited to ABC, CNN, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, CNNfn, BBC World Service Radio, BBC World Service Arabic Television, ART, NPR, LBC, Al-Rafidain TV, Al-Qataria, Al-Saah TV, Al-Arabia, Channel 4 (England), Shams Radio, Vatican-Arabic Radio, Monte Carlo Radio & The Voice of Arabs Radio (Cairo).

Quoted in numerous American newspapers, including The New York Times (video interview), Washington Post, Boston Globe, Chicago Tribune, Salon.com, American Prospect, Star Ledger, Herald News, Bergen Record, Village Voice, New Jersey Law Journal, Chicago Lawyer, ABA Law Student Magazine, Hollywood Reports, Variety & Screen International, among others.

**AWARDS**

- Fellow, International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers 2010-present
- AV Rating, Martindale-Hubbell 2009-present
- Avenue Magazine’s Legal Elite 2010
- Vision and Achievement Award, Mental Health Association in Passaic County 2009
- Community Activism Award, Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee 2007
- National Lawyers Weekly Magazine’s Lawyer of the Year 2002

**MEMBERSHIPS**

- NJ Supreme Court District XI Ethics Committee of Passaic County, *Member* 2009-present
- Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights (Karamah), *Member, Board of Directors* 2003-2010
- Alphabet Kids, Inc., *Member, Advisory Board, Co-author of Umar’s Magic Oven* 2009-present
- Rutgers University Contemporary Arab Studies Program, *Member, Steering Committee* 2005
- New Jersey Electoral College, *Member* 2004
- NJ State Democratic Committee-Affirmative Action Delegate Selection Committee, *Member* 2004
- Passaic County Improvement Authority, *Member, Board of Directors* 2007-2010

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- New Jersey State Bar Association
- New York State Bar Association
- American Bar Association - Middle East Law Committee
- International Law Association
- American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee

**SELECTED LECTURES ON COMMERCIAL LAW**

- New York City Bar Association, Panelist, New York Nov. 29, 2011  
“Shariah Law and Islamic Finance – A Threat to America?”
- U.S. Department of State Training of Iraqi Judges, Lecturer, Washington, D.C. Sept. 28, 2010  
“Recognition & Enforcement of Foreign Money Judgment by American Courts”
- New York City Bar Association, CLE Panelist, New York Feb. 2010  
“Islamic Capital Markets: Past, Present & Future”
- Journal of Law & Religion Symposium, Panelist, Hamline University Law School Oct. 16, 2009  
“Food, Clothing & Shelter – An Economic Human Right: Islamic Law of Bankruptcy”
- American Bar Association, Panelist, Chicago, Illinois Aug. 2009  
“Islamic Financial Products”
- New York City Bar Association, CLE Panelist, New York June 2009  
“Structuring a Shariah Compliant Transaction”
- New York City Bar Association, CLE Panelist Sept. 2008;  
“Business & Commercial Entities Approved Under Classical Shariah Doctrine” March 2007
- New York City Bar Association, CLE Panelist Jan. 2008

“Fatwas to Solve Commercial Disputes”

- Rutgers Law School-Newark, Lecturer 2006  
“Islamic Commercial Law in Comparative Context”

**SELECTED LECTURES ON SHARI'A GENERALLY**

- Illinois Law School, Jewish Law Students Association, Panelist, Illinois Nov. 8, 2011  
“Religions in the Courtroom”
- International Law Weekend, Panelist, ABILA & ILSA, New York Oct. 21, 2011  
“The Anti-Shari'a Movement-Unconstitutional Discrimination or Homeland Security?”
- Gender Equity Conference, Panelist, U.S. Military Academy, New York April 7, 2011  
“Women and Islam”
- Murray State University, Lecturer, Kentucky March 25, 2011  
“Muslim America, Sharia & the Constitution”
- New York University, Panelist, New York April 13, 2011  
“Constitutionality of the Anti-Sharia Legislation”
- New York City Bar Association, Panelist, New York Dec. 9, 2010  
“Sharia in American Courts & the Oklahoma Ban on Sharia”
- New York County Lawyer Association, Panelist, New York May 2010  
“Islamic Law 101”
- New York City Bar Association, Panelist, New York April 2010  
“What You Need to Know about Islamic Law”
- Seton Hall School of Law, Panelist, New Jersey March 25, 2010  
“Religion and Law: Cannon law, Jewish law & Islamic law”
- New York City Bar Association, Panelist, New York July 2009  
“Capital Punishment & Islamic Law”
- New York City Bar Association, Panelist, New York May 2009  
“Honor Killing” & Islamic Law: Two Recent Fatwas
- Channel 4 (UK), Expert June 2008  
“The Future of Islam in America”
- SilverDocs, Panelist, Maryland June 2007  
“Beyond Belief: Religion In Film”
- New York University, Guest Lecturer, New York April 2007  
“The Evolution of Gender Relations in the Cultures of the Near East from Assyria to Islam”
- New Jersey Bar Association Annual Convention, Panelist, New Jersey May 2006  
“Arab & Muslim Cultural Issues in New Jersey Courts”
- Youth for Understanding Host Families and Staff Retreat, Lecturer April 2006;



“Caught Between Two Worlds: Islamic & American Family Laws Regarding Marriage, Divorce & Child Custody”

- Muslim Women Leadership Conference, Karamah, Lecturer 2004-06 (Summer);  
“American Muslim Divorce Litigation: A Practitioner’s Perspective from the Trenches” 2008-09 (Summer)

**LECTURES – OTHER**

- Saint Joseph’s University, Guest Lecturer, Philadelphia Oct. 31, 2009  
“Effective Long-Term Strategies To Understand and To Prevent Terrorism”
- National Democratic Institute (NDI), Two-Day Workshop Trainer, Rabat, Morocco Feb. 2009  
“Election Campaign Financing: An American Perspective with Skills & Strategies to Raise Money for Candidates”
- NDI, American GOTV, Two-Day Workshop Trainer, Casablanca, Morocco Feb. 2007  
“Skills & Strategies to Increase Voter Turnout”
- Rutgers University School of Law, Lecturer, New Jersey Nov. 2006  
“Sovereignty & Terrorism”

**PUBLISHED MATERIAL**

- *Q & A: What Sharia Law Actually Means*, Salon.com (Feb. 28, 2011).
- *Iflas & Chapter 11: Classical Islamic Law and Modern Bankruptcy Law*, 44 Int’l Law. 975 (2010).
- *Oklahoma Amendment is Unconstitutional: Barring Court from Considering Sharia Law Violated the Supremacy Clause & the First Amendment*, Nat’l L.J. (Nov. 15, 2010).
- *Religion-Based Claim in Abuse Case Wisely Pierced by Appeals Court*, N.J. L.J. (Sept. 17, 2010).
- *Remove Remarriage Barriers for Muslim, Jewish Women*, N.J. L.J. (April 13, 2009).
- *Declaring Muslim Marriages Void Will Have Ruinous Effect on Wives*, N.J. L.J. (Nov. 20, 2006).
- *Abu Zahar v. Abu Zahar: Appellate Court Declines to Adopt a Bright-Line Rule Prohibiting Out-of-Country Visitation*, N.J.L.J. (Sept. 22, 2003).
- *Court Enforces Mahr Provision in Muslim Marriage Contract*, N.J. L.J. (Sept. 9, 2002).
- *Beware of International Service of Process*, N.J. L.J. (March 13, 2002).
- *When Custody Disputes Go Global*, N.J. L.J. (Aug. 7, 2000).
- *Attorney Client Sex Should Always Be Off Limits*, N.J. L.J. (March 13, 2000).
- *Attorney-Client Sexual Relations*, 22J. Legal Prof. 131 (1998).
- *The Concept of Defect in American & English Products Liability Discourse: Despite Strict Liability Linguistics, Negligence is Back With A Vengeance!*, 10(1) Pace Int’l L. Rev. (1998).
- *U.S. Claims Against Iraq Outside UNCC Jurisdiction: Focus on Letters of Credit*, 22(2) Middle East Exec. Rep. 9 (Feb. 1999).

- Enforcement & Setting Aside of Arbitral Awards in Egypt (forthcoming).
- Chapter on Bankruptcy in Ibn Qudama's Al-Mughni: Translation with Commentary (forthcoming).

**ARTICLES CITED IN PUBLISHED DECISIONS**

***U.S. v. Cain*, 59 M.J. 285 (2004)**

- Cites my *Attorney-Client Sexual Relations* law review as a comprehensive survey on the civilian jurisdictions on the subject of attorney client sexual relations.

***Bezold v. Kentucky Bar Ass'n*, 134 S.W.3d 556 (Ky. 2004)**

- Cites my *Attorney-Client Sexual Relations* law review as a survey of the jurisdictions on this issue.

**OCBA Formal Opinion 2003-02 (Attorney-Client Sexual Relations)**

- Cites my *Attorney-Client Sexual Relations* law review article as authority for the Formal Opinion's conclusion that the existing California limited ban on attorney-client sexual relations does not go far enough and recommending a *per se* prohibition on attorney client sexual relations.

***The Florida Bar v. Bryant*, 813 So.2d 38 (2002)**

- Concurring opinion extensively quotes from my *Attorney-Client Sexual Relations* law review article as authority supporting the suspension of an attorney who had sex with his existing client.

**CERTIFICATES**

- Certificate, National Institute of Trial Advocacy 2000
- Certificate, Film Commission Fundamentals 2000
- Certified Mediator, New Jersey Superior Court 1999
- Certificate International Law, Pace University School of Law 1998

**LANGUAGES**

- Modern Standard Arabic (native fluency in reading, writing, speaking)
- Colloquial Arabic (fluent in various dialects)
- English (native fluency in reading, writing, speaking)