

(June 26, 2026)

John Witte, Jr.

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Personal

Born: August 14, 1959, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada

Married to Eliza Ellison; Two Daughters and Five Grandchildren

Education

Harvard Law School (JD, 1985)

Calvin College (BA, 1982)

Books

1. Editor, Herman Dooyeweerd, *A Christian Theory of Social Institutions*, Magnus Verbrugge, trans. (Paideia Press, 1986)
2. Co-Editor, *The Weightier Matters of the Law: Essays on Law and Religion* (Scholars Press, 1988) (with Frank S. Alexander)
3. Editor, *Christianity and Democracy in Global Context* (Westview Press, 1993)
 - 3(a). Reprinted (Routledge, 2018)
4. Co-Editor, *Religious Human Rights in Global Perspective: Legal Perspectives* (Martinus Nijhoff, 1996) (with Johan D. van der Vyver)
5. Co-Editor, *Religious Human Rights in Global Perspective: Religious Perspectives* (Martinus Nijhoff, 1996) (with Johan D. van der Vyver) (Abridged Chinese translation by Paul Liu, 2013)
6. *From Sacrament to Contract: Marriage, Religion and Law in the Western Tradition* (Westminster John Knox Press, 1997) (Korean translation, 2006; German translation, 2008)
 - 6(a). *From Sacrament to Contract: Marriage, Religion and Law in the Western Tradition*, 2d ed. (Westminster John Knox Press, 2012) (Chinese translation, 2015, revised 2025)

7. Co-Editor, *Human Rights in Judaism: Cultural, Religious and Political Perspectives* (Jason Aronson Publishers, 1998) (with Michael J. Broyde)
8. Co-Editor, *Proselytism and Orthodoxy in Russia: The New War for Souls* (Orbis Books, 1999) (with Michael Bourdeaux) (Chinese translation, 2013)
- 8(a). Reprinted as *Proselytism and Orthodoxy in Russia: The New War for Souls* (Wipf & Stock, 2009)
9. Co-Editor, *Sharing the Book: Religious Perspectives on the Rights and Wrongs of Proselytism* (Orbis Books, 1999) (with Richard C. Martin)
10. *Religion and the American Constitutional Experiment: Essential Rights and Liberties* (Westview Press, 2000)
- 10(a). *Religion and the American Constitutional Experiment*, 2d ed. (Westview Press, 2005) (Chinese translation, 2011)
 - 10(b). *Religion and the American Constitutional Experiment*, 3d ed. (Westview Press, 2011) (with Joel A. Nichols) (Chinese translation, 2012)
 - 10(c). *Religion and the American Constitutional Experiment*, 4th ed. (Oxford University Press, 2016) (with Joel A. Nichols) (Spanish translation, 2018; Ecuadorian edition, 2020; Peruvian edition, 2021)
 - 10(d). *Religion and the American Constitutional Experiment*, 5th ed. (Oxford University Press, 2022) (with Joel Nichols and Richard W. Garnett) (Georgian translation, 2023; Arabic translation, 2025)
 - 10(e). *Religion and the American Constitutional Experiment*, 6th ed. (Oxford University Press, in production) (with Joel Nichols and Richard W. Garnett)
11. *Law and Protestantism: The Legal Teachings of the Lutheran Reformation* (Cambridge University Press, 2002) (Chinese translation, 2011, revised 2024; German translation, 2012; Italian translation, 2013)
12. *Sex, Marriage and Family in John Calvin's Geneva 1: Courtship, Engagement and Marriage* (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2005) (with Robert M. Kingdon)
13. Co-Editor, *Covenant Marriage in Comparative Perspective* (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2005) (with Eliza Ellison)
14. Co-Editor, *Family Transformed: Religion, Values, and Family Life in Interdisciplinary Perspective* (Georgetown University Press, 2005) (with Steven M. Tipton)

15. Co-Editor, *Modern Christian Teachings on Law, Politics, and Human Nature* (Columbia University Press, 2005; 3 vols. pbk. ed. 2007) (with Frank S. Alexander) (partial Ukrainian translation, 2006)
16. Co-Editor, *Modern Christian Teachings on Law, Politics, and Human Nature: Primary Sources* (Columbia University Press, 2005) (with Frank S. Alexander)
17. Co-Editor, *Sex, Marriage, and Family in the World Religions* (Columbia University Press, 2006) (with Don S. Browning and M. Christian Green)
18. *God's Joust, God's Justice: Law and Religion in the Western Tradition* (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2006) (partial Japanese translation, 2008; Chinese translation, 2026)
19. Co-Editor, *To Have and to Hold: Marrying and its Documentation in Western Christendom, 400-1600* (Cambridge University Press, 2007) (with Philip L. Reynolds)
20. Co-Editor, *The Equal Regard Family and its Friendly Critics* (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2007) (with M. Christian Green and Amy Wheeler)
21. *The Reformation of Rights: Law, Religion, and Human Rights in Early Modern Calvinism* (Cambridge University Press, 2007) (Chinese translation, 2011, revised 2024; partial Italian translation, 2011; German translation, 2015; Korean translation, 2015; Polish translation, 2017)
22. Co-Editor, *Christianity and Law: An Introduction* (Cambridge University Press, 2008) (with Frank S. Alexander) (Chinese translation, 2015)
23. *The Sins of the Fathers: The Law and Theology of Illegitimacy Reconsidered* (Cambridge University Press, 2009) (Chinese translation, 2011, revised, 2025; Korean translation, 2025)
24. Coeditor, *Christianity and Human Rights: An Introduction* (Cambridge University Press, 2010) (with Frank S. Alexander)
25. Coeditor, *Religion and Human Rights: An Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2012) (with M. Christian Green)
26. Coeditor, *No Establishment of Religion: America's Original Contribution to Religious Liberty* (Oxford University Press, 2012) (with T. Jeremy Gunn)
27. Editor, Harold J. Berman, *Law and Language: Effective Symbols of Community* (Cambridge University Press, 2013)
28. *The Western Case for Monogamy over Polygamy* (Cambridge University Press, 2015) (Italian translation, 2018; Hungarian translation, 2022; Chinese translation, 2025)

29. Coeditor, *Texts and Contents in Legal History: Essays in Honor of Charles Donahue* (Robbins Collection, 2016) (with Sarah McDougall and Anna di Robilant)

30. Coeditor, *Christianity and Family Law: An Introduction* (Cambridge University Press, 2017) (with Gary S. Hauk)

31. Coeditor, *The Protestant Reformation of the Church and the World* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2018) (with Amy Wheeler)

32. *Church, State, and Family: Reconciling Traditional Teachings and Modern Liberties* (Cambridge University Press, 2019)

- 32(a). Abridged as *In Defense of the Marital Family* (Brill, 2023) (Chinese translation, 2026) (Italian translation forthcoming)

33. Coeditor, *Christianity and Global Law* (Routledge, 2020) (with Rafael Domingo)

34. Coeditor, *Great Christian Jurists in German History* (Mohr Siebeck, 2020) (with Mathias Schmoeckel)

35. Coeditor, *Christianity and Criminal Law* (Routledge, 2020) (with Mark Hill, Norman Doe, and R.H. Helmholz)

36-45. Coeditor, *Character Formation, Ethical Education and the Communication of Values in Late Modern Pluralistic Societies* (Evangelische Verlagsanstalt GmbH / Wipf & Stock, 2020-23), 10 vols.

- 36. *The Impact of the Market on ...* (2020) (with Jürgen von Hagen and Michael Welker)
- 37. *The Impact of Religion on...* (2020) (with Michael Welker and Stephen Pickard)
- 38. *The Impact of the Law on ...* (2021) (with Michael Welker)
- 39. *The Impact of Academic Research on ...* (2021) (with William Schweiker, Michael Welker, and Stephen Pickard)
- 40. *The Impact of Education on ...* (2021) (with Michael Welker and Stephen Pickard)
- 41. *The Impact of the Family on ...* (2022) (with Michael Welker and Stephen Pickard)
- 42. *The Impact of the Military on ...* (2022) (with Michael Welker and Stephen Pickard)
- 43. *The Impact of the Media on ...* (2022) (with Michael Welker, Jürgen von Hagen, and Stephen Pickard)
- 44. *The Impact of Health Care on...* (2023) (with Michael Welker, Eva Winkler, and Stephen Pickard)
- 45. *The Impact of Political Economy on ...* (2023) (with Piet Naude and Michael Welker)

46. *Faith, Freedom, and Family: New Essays in Law and Religion*, eds. Norman Doe and Gary S. Hauk (Mohr Siebeck, 2021)
47. *The Blessings of Liberty: Human Rights and Religious Freedom in the Western Legal Tradition* (Cambridge University Press, 2021)
48. *Raíces protestantes del derecho*, trans. and ed. Rafael Domingo (Aranzadi, 2023)
49. *Table Talk: Short Talks on the Weightier Matters of Life and Law* (Brill, 2023) (Chinese translation, 2025)
50. Coeditor, *Oxford Handbook on Christianity and Law* (Oxford University Press, 2024) (with Rafael Domingo)
51. *What Makes Life Better / Was fördert ein besseres Leben?* (Evangelische Verlagsanstalt GmbH / Wipf & Stock, 2024) (with Michael Welker)
52. *Le origini e il futuro della libertà religiosa in Europa e negli Stati Uniti* (Il Mulino, 2024) (with Andrea Pin)
 - 52a. Revised and translated as *The Legal Foundations of Religious Freedom: Human Rights in the United States and Europe* (Notre Dame Press, 2026) (with Andrea Pin) (Russian translation, forthcoming)

Forthcoming Books

The Generous Calvinist Founder: Elias Boudinot and the Rights of the Least of Society (Cambridge University Press)

A New Reformation of Rights: Calvinist Contributions to Modern Human Rights (Cambridge University Press)

The New Great Awakening of American Religious Freedom (Notre Dame Press) (with Eric Wang)

Sex, Marriage & Family in John Calvin's Geneva 2: The Christian Household (Wm. B. Eerdmans) (with Robert M. Kingdon)

John Calvin the Lawyer

The Religious Vindication of Law: The Uses of Laws in Modern Society

Journal Symposia Edited

1. "Religious Dimensions of American Constitutionalism," 39 *Emory Law Journal* 1-266 (1990)
2. "International Conference on Christianity and Democracy," 6 *Emory International Law Review* 19-70 (1992)
3. "A Conference on the Work of Harold J. Berman," 42 *Emory Law Journal* 419-589 (1993)
4. "The State of Religious Human Rights in the World Today," 10 *Emory International Law Review* 52-186 (1996), translated as "Les Droits de l'homme et la liberte religieuse dans le monde," 51 *Conscience et liberte*, 18-120 (Spring, 1996); "I Diritto dell'uomo e la liberta religiosa nel mondo, 27 *Coscienza e Liberta* 47-191 (Spring, 1996); "Religiose Menschenrechte heute," 46/47 *Gewissen und Freiheit* 24-176 (1996) (Chinese translation, Shanghai Sanlian Publishing House, 2013)
5. "Soul Wars: The Problem of Proselytism in Russia," 12 *Emory International Law Review* 1-738 (1998)
6. "Pluralism, Proselytism, and Nationalism in Eastern Europe," 36 *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 1-286 (1999)
7. "The Foundations of Law," 54 *Emory Law Journal* 1-375 (2005)
8. "What's Wrong with Rights for Children?" 20 *Emory International Law Review* 1-239 (2006)
9. "The Foundations and Frontiers of Religious Liberty: A 25th Anniversary Celebration of the 1981 Declaration on Religious Tolerance," 21 *Emory International Law Review* 1-276 (2007) (Chinese translation by Paul Lui, 2018)
10. "In Praise of a Legal Polymath: A Special Issue Dedicated to the Memory of Harold J. Berman (1918-2007)," 57 *Emory Law Journal* 1393-1643 (2007)
11. "The Future of Law, Religion, and the Family," 58 *Emory Law Journal* 1-102 (2009)
12. "Religion, Human Rights, and Religious Freedom: A Symposium Issue," *Fides et Libertas* 13-173 (2010) (also published in French, German, Romanian, Spanish, Portuguese, and Chinese translation)
13. "Religious Symbols on Government Property," 25 *Emory International Law Review* 5-150 (2011)

14. "Sharia, Family, and Democracy: Religious Norms and Family law in Pluralistic Democratic States," 25 *Emory International Law Review* 779-1059 (2011)
15. "The Pursuit of Happiness in Interreligious Perspective," 29 *Journal of Law and Religion* 1-216 (2014)
16. "Christianity and Human Rights," 30 *Journal of Law and Religion* 353-495 (2015)
17. "What Christianity Offers to the World of Law," 32 *Journal of Law and Religion* 4-97 (2017)
18. "Festschrift for Michael J. Perry," 70 *Emory Law Journal* i-xxxii, 1365-1685 (2022)
19. "What Role Should Religion Play in a Democratic Society?" *Daedalus: Journal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences* (forthcoming)

Articles and Book Chapters

350 plus articles, book chapters, and reviews in the fields of marriage and family law; religion, human rights, and religious freedom; law and religion; legal history; and legal and political theory in English, German, French, Italian, Dutch, Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian, Romanian, Chinese, Korean, Urdu, Hebrew, and Arabic translations. Sample articles here: <https://www.johnwittejr.com/publications.html>

Lectures

450 plus major public lectures at numerous schools, research institutes, and academic conferences in North America, Europe, Israel, Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, and South Africa. List of lectures available upon request.

Selected Endowed Lectures

Jerald Brauer Lectures, University of Chicago (1995); Andrew R. Cecil Lectures, University of Texas at Dallas (1995); Encounter Lecture in Human Rights, McGill University (1996); Whiteside Lecture, Candler School of Theology, Emory University (1997); Abraham Kuyper Lecture, Center for Theological Inquiry, Princeton Theological Seminary (1999); Gould Lectures, University of Vermont (2000); John Courtney Murray Lecture, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC (2000); Daniel J. Meador Lectures on Law and Religion, University of Virginia School of Law (2001); Richard A. Kessler Reformation Lectures, Emory University (2002, 2008, 2015); Donald Gianella Memorial Lecture, Villanova Law School (2002); Parliament Hill Lecture, Ottawa (2003); Lane Lecture, Creighton University School of Law (2004); John Paul II Lecture, Catholic University of America (2004); John Witherspoon Lecture, Capitol Hill, Washington, DC (2004); Alonzo L. McDonald Family Foundation Lectures, Emory University (2005, 2006, 2009, 2012); Snuggs Lectures, University of Tulsa (2005); Geneva Lectures, University of Iowa (2005); Geneva Lectures, Queens University, Kingston (2005); Timbers Lectures, Dartmouth College (2005); Bradley Lectures, Boston College (2005); Beatty Memorial Lecture, McGill University (2007); Franke Lectures in the Humanities, Yale University

(2008); Kamm Memorial Lectures, Wheaton College (2008); Randall Chair Lectures, Providence College (2008); Philip Pro Lectures in Legal History, University of Nevada at Las Vegas (2009); Tikvah Lecture, Princeton University (2009); John Calvin 500th Anniversary Lecture, St. Pierre Cathedral, Geneva (2009); McElroy Lectures in Law and Religion, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law (2010); Thomas Jefferson Memorial Lectures, University of California at Berkeley (2011); Sir James Lofton Lecture, University of Hong Kong (2011); Sir George Turner Lecture, University of Melbourne (2011); Henry Stobs Lectures, Calvin College and Seminary (2011); Don S. Browning Memorial Lecture, Emory University (2012); David Steinmetz Lecture, Duke University (2012); INTAMS Lecture, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (2012); Brahms Lectures, Case Western Reserve University Law School (2012); Cary and Ann Maguire Lectures, Library of Congress (2012-2013); Kluge Chair in Cultures of the North Lecture, Library of Congress (2015); James W.C. Pennington Lectures, University of Heidelberg and Yale Divinity School (2016); Cunningham Lectures, New College, University of Edinburgh (2016); Emory Williams Lecture, Emory University (2017); McDonald Distinguished Scholar Lectures, Emory University (2017) and Christ Church, Oxford (2018); Gifford Lectures, University of Aberdeen (2022); True Family Lectures, University of Notre Dame (2024); John Witte, Jr. Lecture, National Press Club (2024)

Editorial Appointments

- Series Co-Editor, Cambridge Elements in Law and Religion, Cambridge University Press (2025-)
- Series Co-Editor, Series on Law, Religion, and Culture in Chinese, Bouden House (2024-)
- Series Co-Editor, Colección Raíces del Derecho, Thomson Reuter/Aranzadi (2022-)
- Series Co-Editor, Brill Research Perspectives on Law and Religion, Brill (2021-)
- Series Editor, Cambridge Studies in Law and Christianity, Cambridge University Press (2014-)
- Coeditor, *Journal of Law and Religion*, Cambridge University Press (2013-)
- Editorial Board, *Ecclesiastical Law Journal*, Cambridge University Press (2006-)
- Editorial Board, *Journal of Church and State*, Oxford University Press (1999-)
- Series Editor, Emory Studies in Law and Religion, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. (1989-)

Selected Awards

- Most Outstanding Professor, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2002-03, 2004-05, 2006-2007, 2011-12, Student Bar Association, Emory Law School
- Emory University Scholar/Teacher Award, 1994
- Most Outstanding Educator Award, United Methodist Foundation for Christian Higher Education, Nashville, 1994
- Max Rheinstein Fellowship and Research Prize, Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung, Bonn, 1995
- Professor of the Year Award, Black Law Students Association, Emory Law School, 1998

- Abraham Kuyper Prize for Excellence in Theology and Public Life, Princeton Theological Seminary, 1999
- Distinguished Faculty Award and Lecture, Emory University, 2001
- Choice Outstanding Academic Title Awards, 2002, 2007, 2009, 2013, 2016
- Emory Williams Distinguished Teaching Award, Emory University, 2002
- Crystal Apple Award for Excellence in Professional School Teaching, Emory University, 2007 and 2008
- National Religious Freedom Award, Council for America's First Freedom, 2008
- James W.C. Pennington Award, University of Heidelberg, 2016
- Harry Krause Lifetime Achievement Award in Family Law, University of Illinois, 2016
- Honorary Doctorate in Theology (Dr. Theol. h.c.), University of Heidelberg, 2017
- Creation of John Witte, Jr. Annual Lectureship in Law and Christianity, Christian Legal Society, 2024
- Elected Member of American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2024
- Creation of John Witte, Jr. Triennial Prize for Best Book in Law and Religion, International Consortium of Law and Religion Studies, 2024
- Elected Member of Royal Academy of Jurisprudence and Legislation of Spain, 2024
- Presented with a Festschrift: *Faith in Law, Law in Faith: Reflecting and Building on the Work of John Witte, Jr.*, ed. Rafael Domingo, Gary S. Hauk, and Timothy P. Jackson (Brill, 2024)
- Creation of John Witte, Jr. Annual Workshop on the Vocation of Law, 2025-
- Lifetime Achievement Award for Religious Freedom Scholarship, University of Notre Dame, 2026

Major Grants Raised for Research Projects

- Anonymous: \$500,000 (2012-2016); \$350,000 (2012); \$1,000,000 (2015); \$250,000 (2016); \$125,000 (2025)
- Ford Foundation: \$897,000 (1995-1999)
- Henry Luce Foundation: \$480,000 (2006)
- Jag and Madhuri Sheth: \$250,000 (2026)
- Johan van der Vyver Living Trust: \$1.8 million (2023)
- John Templeton Foundation: \$192,000 (2005); \$750,000 (2006)
- Lilly Endowment, Inc.: \$549,000 (1999); \$50,000 (2004); \$400,000 (2007); \$50,000 (2017); \$360,000 (2020)
- Maguire Oil Company: \$90,000 (2016-2017)
- McDonald Agape Foundation: \$500,000 (2004); \$750,000 (2007); \$575,000 (2010); \$250,000 (2012); \$1,000,000 (2016); \$250,000 (2019); \$750,000 (2020); \$1,870,000 (2023); \$30,000 (2023); \$200,000 (2023)
- The Pew Charitable Trusts: \$140,000 (1989); \$105,000 (1992); \$490,000 (1995); \$300,000 (1998); \$3.2 million (2000) with matching \$10 million endowment (2006); \$245,000 (2001)
- Social Science Research Network: \$100,000 (2010)