



2008 First Freedom Award Recipients Biographies

2008 INTERNATIONAL RECIPIENT

JAKOB FINCI is the President of the Jewish Community of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the President of La Benevolencija, the Jewish cultural, educational and humanitarian society of Bosnia and Herzegovina. La Benevolencija currently provides aid to all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina regardless of religion. Finci was elected the first deputy to the president of La Benevolencija in 1991 and has performed the duty of president since 1993.

In 1997, Jakob Finci became a founding member and President of the Inter-Religious Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2000, Finci was elected Chairman of the National Coordinating Committee for Establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in 2001 Finci was appointed Chair of the Constitutional Commission of the Federal Parliament. In May 2002 Jakob Finci was appointed and confirmed as the first Director of the State Agency for Civil Service.

Finci is Vice-President of FONEKO Association, a foundation for sustainable development in Sarajevo, and a member of the Association of Independent Intellectuals - Circle 99. Finci taught at the UN University on ECMIRP from 1988-1990 and since 2001 has been lecturing in interdisciplinary postgraduate studies at Sarajevo University. Finci has been decorated several times for his public service, including the German Grand Cross of the Order of Merit and as a Knight of the French Legion of Honor.

2008 NATIONAL RECIPIENT

JOHN WITTE, JR. is the Jonas Robitscher Professor of Law, and Director of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory University. He is a specialist in legal history, marriage law, and religious liberty.

Witte holds a law degree from Harvard University and has published 150 articles, 10 journal symposia, and 22 books. Recent books titles include: *Law and Protestantism: The Legal Teachings of the Lutheran Reformation*; *Religion and the American Constitutional Experiment*; *Modern Christian Teachings on Law, Politics, and Human Nature*; and *the Reformation of Rights: Law, Religion, and Human Rights in Early Modern Calvinism*. Witte's writings have appeared in ten languages, and he has lectured and convened conferences throughout North America, Western Europe, Israel, Japan, and South Africa. With major funding from the Ford, Luce, Lilly, McDonald, Pew foundations, Witte has directed two dozen major projects on issues of democracy, human rights, and religious freedom; sex, marriage, family, and children; and

Christian Jurisprudence; and Jewish, Christian, and Islamic law. These projects have collectively yielded 150 volumes of new scholarships and more than 250 public forums. Witte also edits two book series for Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.: Emory University Studies in Law and Religion and the Religion, Marriage and Family Series.

Witte has been selected ten times by the students at Emory University School of Law as the "Most Outstanding Professor" and has won dozens of other major awards for his teaching and research for universities and learned societies in North America, Western Europe, and Japan.

2008 VIRGINIA RECIPIENT

CHARLES C. HAYNES is senior scholar at the First Amendment Center in Washington, D.C. Haynes is best known for his work on religious-liberty issues in public schools. Over the past two decades, he has helped local schools and communities across the nation find common ground on conflicts involving religion and values.

At the national level, Haynes is the principal organizer and drafter of nine consensus guides on religious liberty in public schools endorsed by a broad range of religious, civil liberties and educational organizations. In 2000, the U.S. Department of Education distributed three of these guides to every public school in the nation. In 2001, Haynes launched "First Amendment Schools: Educating for Freedom and Responsibility," a joint project of the First Amendment Center and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD). Haynes is a founding board member of the Character Education Partnership and serves on the Steering Committee of the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools and on the American Bar Association Advisory Commission on Public Education. He chairs the Committee on Religious Liberty of the National Council of Churches.

Haynes is author or co-author of six books, including *First Freedoms: A Documentary History of First Amendment Rights in America* (2006) and *Finding Common Ground: A First Amendment Guide to Religion and Public Schools* (1994, 1998, 2000, 2002, and 2007). His bi-monthly column, "Inside the First Amendment," appears in newspapers nationwide. Widely quoted in major news magazines newspapers, Haynes is also a frequent guest on television and radio. He has been profiled in *The Wall Street Journal* and on ABC's "Evening News."

Haynes is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Emory University Medal in 2005 and the Associated Baptist Press Religious Freedom Award in 2004. In 2003, the State of Tennessee Legislature passed a Joint Resolution honoring his "outstanding work in educating the American public on civic responsibility and First Amendment principles." Haynes holds a master's degree from Harvard Divinity School and a doctorate from Emory University.