

**Muslim Bar Association
of New York**

MuBANY

Presents

**FIVE
YEARS
LATER**

Protecting
Civil Liberties
and National
Security After
9/11

Saturday, September 16, 2006
McNally Amphitheatre, Fordham Law School
140 West 62nd Street, New York, NY
1:00 PM – 6:00 PM
FREE ADMISSION

*This event is made possible by the generous support of the Muslim Consultative Network and The Fordham Law School Institute on Religion, Law & Lawyer's Work.

PROGRAM

1:00 pm *Opening Remarks*

Moushumi Khan
MuBANY President

1:15 pm *Civil Liberties: Rights and Responsibilities of the Citizen and the State*

Donna Lieberman
Executive Director of the NYCLU

Sohail Mohammed
New Jersey Immigration Attorney

Charles McKenna
Executive Assistant United States Attorney,
D.N.J.

3:30 pm Break for Refreshments

3:45 pm *Courtroom Perspectives on the War on Terror*

Amrit Singh
Attorney at the ACLU

Khurrum Wahid
Trial Attorney at Wahid, Vizcaino & Maher

Shams Mitha
Attorney at Allen & Overy

Engy Abdelkader
Attorney at Legal Services of New Jersey

5:30 pm *Closing Remarks*

PANELISTS

DONNA LIEBERMAN, ESQ.

Donna Lieberman has been Executive Director of the NYCLU since December 2001. She served as Interim Director for nearly one year and before that was Associate Director from the beginning of her tenure at the NYCLU in 1988. Under Lieberman's leadership, the organization has experienced resurgence in its role as the state's leading voice for freedom, justice, and equality, advocating for those whose rights and liberties have been denied. Currently, the NYCLU is pursuing an aggressive litigation agenda that includes:

- Undertaking and winning a lawsuit on behalf of a man who was arrested and held overnight for writing a letter of protest to the Staten Island Borough President;
- Prevailing in a suit that led the city to rescind its "demonstrator detention policy" under which individuals accused of minor offenses during political demonstrations were singled out from other minor offenders and forced to remain in detention until their arraignment.

CHARLES B. MCKENNA, ESQ.

Charles B. McKenna has been an assistant U.S. Attorney at the U.S. Attorney's New Jersey District since 1991, and the Executive Assistant since April 2002. In his current job, Charles:

- Functions as the District's Office Security Manager and National Terrorism Coordinator.
- Handles personnel issues and ensures proper administration of the office to maximize resources to effectively prosecute criminal matters in the District and defend the United States against civil lawsuits.

SOHAIL MOHAMMED, ESQ.

Sohail Mohammed is a sole general practitioner with a concentration in

Immigration and Naturalization law. He was recently selected by Law & Politics as a 2006 *New Jersey Super Lawyer*, and was included in the "Who's Who in America in Law." Sohail has served as a Public Defender for the City of Clifton, as a Trustee of St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Paterson, General Counsel to the AMU (American Muslim Union) and HELP, Inc. (Human Rights, Education and Law Project, Inc.), and is active in various civic and religious organizations. Sohail has represented over 29 INS detainees detained as during the FBI/INS dragnet after the 9/11 tragedy. He has made numerous appearances and is frequently interviewed by several leading news organizations and television stations. He has lectured on immigration and welfare laws.

ENGY ABDELKADER, ESQ.

Engy Abdelkader is a Staff Attorney on the Immigration Representation Project at the Legal Services of New Jersey. Engy previously served as the national director of Civil Rights at the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). In that role, Engy provided legal representation to Muslims in the United States, who were victims of hate crimes or who had suffered discrimination in employment or educational opportunities, at airports, or on airplanes. Before leaving to join CAIR, Engy served on the Muslim and Arab Advisory Committee to New Jersey Attorney General Peter C. Harvey. Engy also worked with the American Civil Liberties Union, the Arab-American Justice Project run by the American-Arab Anti Discrimination Committee in New York, and the Center for Constitutional Rights. She also has an extensive record of public speaking on Islam as well as civil liberties, Arab-American, and Muslim issues at law schools, universities, and community forums. She recently authored "A Muslim Woman's Guide to Her

Rights: When Faith Practices Trigger Discrimination in America.” Engy is currently a member of the steering committee for New Jersey Muslim Attorneys and a board member with Turning Point for Women and Families. She is a former board member with the Association of Muslim American Lawyers.

SHAMS MITHA, ESQ.

Shams Mitha is an associate in the New York office of Allen & Overy LLP. His experience includes working in the litigation and banking departments as well as international capital markets, mainly related to SEC-registered and Rule 144A/Reg. S debt offerings by sovereign issuers from the Caribbean and Latin America. Shams also serves as habeas counsel for Yemeni detainees at Guantánamo Bay. Shams is actively involved with the Aga Khan Development Network and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of New York.

AMRIT SINGH, ESQ.

Amrit Singh is a Staff Counsel at the ACLU’s Immigrants’ Rights Project, which is dedicated to defending and expanding constitutional and statutory protections for immigrants through a program of impact litigation, legislative action, and public education. Amrit has worked on litigation relating to the indefinite and mandatory detention of immigrants, the denial of immigrants’ right to judicial review, and discrimination against immigrants in the context of the federal government’s post 9/11 “special registration” program.

Amrit has also worked on issues concerning the treatment of post 9/11 detainees held in U.S. custody abroad. She is counsel in *ACLU v. Dept. of Defense*, a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit that has sought to uncover records related to the torture of detainees held in U.S. custody abroad; and *Ali v. Rumsfeld*, brought against senior U.S. government officials on

behalf of Iraqi and Afghan detainees tortured in U.S. custody.

KHURRUM B. WAHID, ESQ.

Khurrum Wahid is a criminal defense attorney and partner at Wahid, Vizcaino & Maher LLP. Among those he helped defend are three medical students falsely accused of terrorism in Florida on the first anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, an American citizen tortured in Saudi Arabia and charged with conspiring to commit domestic terrorism. Khurrum has appeared as a guest commentator on CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, National Public Radio and various other TV and radio shows and has testified on civil rights issues before government organizations, including the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Khurrum has extensive trial experience as a Public Defender. He is the former legal advisor to board of directors for the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

About MuBANY: The Muslim Bar Association of New York was created to serve the educational, professional, and social needs of Muslim legal professionals and law students living and working in the New York metropolitan area. Since drafting its bylaws this past spring, MuBANY has engaged in numerous activities and has provided various services to people interested in the law. MuBANY is excited about its work, its accomplishments, and the prospect of future accomplishments. To find out more about MuBANY, contact eventinfo@muslimbarny.org or visit our forthcoming Web site at www.muslimbarny.org.