



CAIR
PHILADELPHIA

6th Annual Banquet **Saturday, March 10, 2012**



UNWAVERING ADVOCACY **OUR LEGACY, OUR PROMISE**

Featuring: Dr. Sherman Jackson
Imam Siraj Wahhaj
Entertainers: Michael Harrison
Kurt's Magic World

Time: 5:00 PM Registration & Reception
6:30 PM Dinner & Program

Venue: Springfield Country Club
400 W. Sproul Rd.
Springfield, PA 19064
<http://springfieldcc.net>

Tickets: \$60 per person
\$35 per student or young adult
\$15 per child (4-9 years)
\$600 for table of 10

RSVP: Phone: 215-592-0509
Online: <http://pa.cair.com/>

CAIR's mission is to enhance understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

WE ASKED, YOU ANSWERED INTRODUCING:

Amara Chaudhry, Esq. CIVIL RIGHTS DIRECTOR

From the last banquet our goal was to hire an experienced attorney ready to hit the ground running and establish free legal services for Muslims and others who have experienced religious discrimination in and around Philadelphia. Due to your unwavering support, we hired our first staff attorney in September!

Amara's extensive bio can be found at the staff section on our website, but here is some information on her education and professional background:

- 7 years as Criminal Defense Attorney in Pennsylvania and Virginia (Federal & State, Juvenile & Adult)
- 3 years as Legal Director of Philadelphia focused Civil Rights Non-profit
- J.D. from Washington and Lee University School of Law

CASE HIGHLIGHT *Fired Because He's Muslim*



CAIR-Philadelphia is providing legal counsel for Glenn Mack Jr., a young man that was unlawfully terminated from Whole Foods Market after experiencing pervasive harassment by his supervisors.

In November, CAIR-Philadelphia held a news conference to seek reinstatement and is representing Mack in EEOC proceedings.

Mack was subjected to harassment and retaliation once his supervisors found out about his Islamic faith. At some point he was even forced to pray by a trash dumpster. Moreover, he was unfairly terminated on his return from Hajj.

OUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE *Discrimination from Our Government*

After analyzing our 2011 intake data, one message is clear: most of the discrimination suffered by Pennsylvania Muslims comes from our own government.

In 2011, 56% of our requests for legal assistance involved claims of discrimination by governmental entities.

This statistic includes cases in every area of law in which we practice, including: discrimination by public employers, harassment and bullying in public schools, misconduct by law enforcement, and discrimination by governmental agencies which serve the public.

For this reason, we are placing a high priority on cases in which PA Muslims suffer discrimination at the hands of our own government.

CASE INTAKES 12/1/2010 - 12/1/2011

Employment Discrimination:	33
Racial Profiling/Law Enforcement:	29
Schools:	8
Public Accommodations:	7
Immigration:	5
Prison:	4
Other:	3
Hate Crimes:	2
Total Intakes:	91

CIVIL RIGHTS DEPARTMENT: ONGOING PRIORITIES

- Submitted "Right to Know" requests to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to investigate use of Islamophobic rhetoric in training programs for law enforcement personnel.
- Attended meeting between representatives of Philadelphia-area Muslim community and U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of PA.
- Submitted letter to U.S. Dept. of Defense challenging federal policy which denies Muslim federal employees security clearances needed for job security and advancement, due to fear of "foreign influence."
- Preparing materials to submit to the PA House Judiciary Committee in opposition to proposed anti-Sharia legislation.

CHALLENGING ISLAMOPHOBIA

ANTI-SHARIA LEGISLATION House Bill 2029

The organized network of anti-Muslim bigots came directly to our doorsteps late 2011.

David Yerushalmi, a staunch anti-Muslim activist, once proposed making Islam itself illegal across the United States. Unable to achieve such a preposterous goal, he has set out to ban sharia, the principles and guidelines of Islam such as halal foods and interest-free financing.

Through funding from top anti-Muslim organizations and the acceptance of Islamophobia among many in the Republican party, over 21 states have considered such a ban and 3 (Oklahoma, Texas and Tennessee) have passed such bills.

Pennsylvania is the latest state to have this bill in consideration, and CAIR-Philadelphia has all the infrastructure and tools ready to defeat it. We are currently building a multi-faith coalition and are shaping public opinion on the issue. For the first half of 2012, defeating this legislation will be a top priority.



CAIR staff, Rabbi Linda Holtzman, Dr. Khalid Blankinship,
Vic Compher, Marwan Kreidie

Supported by its interfaith partners, CAIR-Philadelphia challenges House Bill 2029 at Press Conference

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

In 2011, CAIR-Philadelphia staff and representatives appeared in over 40 unique media stories. Often, these stories were not reactions to events, but proactive efforts in writing op-eds, pitching stories to news desks and calling press conferences.

CAIR-PHILADELPHIA TOP 4 QUOTES OF THE YEAR



"We actually want to remind employers of their obligations under anti-discriminatory laws," Chaudhry said. "We want to make employers and employees aware that, not only do these laws exist, but there are people willing to stand up and enforce these laws."

-Amara Chaudhry, Civil Rights Director

"We're here to explain that we're Americans, too, and that Sept. 11 was a double whammy for us," said Selim. "It hit us as Americans and it hit our religion."

-Sally Selim, President

"All-American Muslim is a much needed counter-narrative to negative images of Muslims that seem to saturate the news."

-Rugiatu Conteh, Outreach & Communications Director

"Both the Ramadan fast and honest civic debate require abandoning our lower desires, temptations, fears, and suspicions, along with promoting the higher virtues of self-critique, dialogue, and mutual understanding."

-Moein Khawaja, Executive Director

MUSLIM YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (MYLP)

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE



Younger participants at Islamic Center of Reading Workshop

Simply put, the youth are our future. MYLP students are often asked at workshops: Your parents have worked hard to establish and maintain mosques and community centers. What will you do to take the community to a higher level? How will you contribute to society?

As a community we must provide the youth with tools to answer these questions, and follow-up with action. CAIR-Philadelphia has taken the lead by providing young Muslims with a program that develops leadership skills.

REQUEST A MYLP WORKSHOP
INFO@PHILADELPHIA.CAIR.COM

The MYLP:

Trains future Muslim activists and community leaders. It encourages youth to get involved in the community and to stand up against injustice.

Structure:

- 2-hour leadership workshops at mosques or community centers
- 2-day leadership conference for High School students

Workshops & Conferences Focus on:

- Building a positive American Muslim Identity
- Standing up against Bullying and Harassment
- Learning about Civil Rights
- Understanding and working with People of Other Faiths
- Getting involved in the Larger Community



High Schoolers engaged in a group activity at Islamic Society of West Chester

Participants are Saying...

"I like that fact that it [the workshop] was so interactive"

"It was very useful to learn what to do if someone tries to bully me"

"I liked the discussions. I really felt that I had a voice, and what I said was important"

Over 300 students have participated in the MYLP so far!

EDUCATION & INTERFAITH

HANDS ACROSS THE SQUARE



Photo taken from the Philadelphia Daily News

CAIR-Philadelphia, along with over 14 interfaith Center city Philadelphia congregations, co-sponsored the Hands Across the Square event to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of 9/11. Executive Committee Members Sally Selim and Fatin Guzman join hands with other participants during a moment of silence to remember all those who were affected by the terror attacks.

COURSES & PRESENTATIONS



Executive Committee Member Iftexhar Hussain conducts regular courses and presentations at churches and synagogues that teach about Muslims and Islamic practices.

Some Include:

- Understanding Islam and Muslims
- Jesus in the Christian and Muslim Traditions
- The Shema and Shahada
- Understanding Political Islam