



NAME OF EVENT: ACS San Diego: First Amendment in Flux

DATE | TIME | LOCATION: June 23, 2026 | 5:00 PM - 7 PM PT | California Western School of Law at 350 Cedar Street, Room LH2, San Diego, CA 92101 and/or Zoom

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

We are having a moderated panel discussion regarding the First Amendment and recent US Supreme Court decisions. This discussion will discuss the structural observations of having a more active “shadow” docket and a conservative super majority. We will discuss cases related to the free speech clause and the religious clauses. We will end with final thoughts on how the current court compares to earlier iterations and put things in context.

SPEAKERS' NAMES AND BIOS:

- **Lisa Shaw Roy, Professor of Law at California Western School of Law**

Lisa Shaw Roy joined the California Western School of Law faculty in 2023 as a Professor of Law. Professor Roy comes to California Western after having been a member of the faculty at the University of Mississippi School of Law, where Roy taught courses in Constitutional Law, Law and Religion, Contracts, Remedies, and Professional Responsibility. In 2023, Roy received the Ben A. Hardy Faculty Excellence Award for outstanding teaching, scholarship and service.

Professor Roy’s scholarly work focuses on the First Amendment and in particular, the interaction between religion and law. Roy is a member of the Law and Religion Section of the Association of American Law Schools, and she is a past Co-Chair of that section. Roy was also a member of the Mississippi Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (2017-2021). Roy is the author of numerous articles on the First Amendment’s Speech and Religion Clauses.

Before joining academia, Roy practiced business litigation and public entity representation with a law firm in Los Angeles. Prior to practicing law Roy was a judicial clerk for the Honorable Henry Lee Adams, Jr., United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida. Professor Roy received her B.A. from the University of California, Riverside, and her J.D. from the University of Southern California.

- **William J. Aceves, Chief Justice Roger Traynor Professor of Law**

Professor Aceves graduated from the University of Southern California with a JD and MA in international relations. After practicing law for two years, Aceves returned to academia to earn an MA in government at Harvard University and an LLM in international law at the UCLA School of Law. He also served as the Ford Foundation Fellow in International Law at the UCLA School of Law. In 1998, he joined the faculty at California Western, and was promoted to professor of law in 2001. He served as the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs from 2007-2014.



Aceves frequently works with Amnesty International, the Center for Justice & Accountability, the Center for Constitutional Rights, and the American Civil Liberties Union on projects involving the domestic application of international law. He has also represented several human rights and civil liberties organizations as amicus curiae counsel in cases before the federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. Aceves is the author of *The Anatomy of Torture* and coauthor of *The Law of Consular Access*. He co-edited *Lessons and Legacies of the War on Terror*. He is also the principal author of the influential Amnesty International USA Safe Haven report. He has published numerous articles on human rights and international law. Aceves served as co-chair for the 101st Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law, and the 2016, 2019, 2022, and 2025 International Law Weekend Conferences of the American Branch of the International Law Association.

Aceves is a member of the American Law Institute. He has served on the National Boards of Amnesty International USA and the International Law Students Association. He currently serves as the AIUSA Ombudsperson. He also serves on the Boards of the Center for Justice & Accountability and the American Civil Liberties Union. Aceves is a Vice President and a member of the Executive Committee of the American Branch of the International Law Association. Aceves has appeared before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Migrants, and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

Aceves is admitted to the State Bar of California, the U.S. District Courts for the Central and Southern District of California, the U.S. Courts of Appeal for the First Circuit, Second Circuit, Fifth Circuit, Ninth Circuit, D.C. Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Moderator:

- **Eric Isaacson, Law Office of Eric Alan Isaacson, ACS San Diego Board of Directors Member**

For more than two decades my legal practice has focused on federal civil appeals. Much of my work has been devoted to representing plaintiffs in complex securities and consumer class actions. I've also filed amicus curiae briefs on behalf of religious organizations and faith leaders in high-profile cases, consistently supporting religious freedom and equal rights for all. For more than a decade, I worked with the California Council of Churches, Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry California, Unitarian Universalist Association, and many other religious movements and faith leaders, writing and filing amicus curiae briefs supporting the right of same-sex couples to marry. In May 2022 I completed my post-graduate studies at the Harvard Divinity School, earning a Master of Religion and Public Life.

AGENDA OF PROGRAM (1.00 hour of CLE):

- 5:30 PM - 5:40 PM: – Welcome audience and introduce speakers: Professor Lisa S. Roy and Professor William J. Aceves
- 5:40 PM – 6:20 PM: Moderated panel discussion led by Eric Isaacson
- 6:20 PM – 6:30 PM: Q and A
- 6:30 PM – 7 PM: Mix and mingle



READING MATERIALS:

- *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District*, 597 U.S. 507 (2022), available at [Supreme Court Opinion PDF](#).
- *Mahmoud v. Taylor*, 606 U.S. 522 (2025), available at [Supreme Court Opinion PDF](#).
- *Chiles v. Salazar*, 607 U.S. ____ (2026), available at [Supreme Court Opinion PDF](#).
- *303 Creative LLC v. Elenis*, 600 U.S. 570 (2023), available at [Supreme Court Opinion PDF](#).
- *American Constitution Society, First Amendment in Flux: 2025 Program Guide* (2025), available at [American Constitution Society Program Guide PDF](#).