

AUB Chairman Emeritus releases new book on Islamic law

Thursday, July 15, 2010

Chairman emeritus of AUB's Board of Trustees Dr. Richard A. Debs has authored a book entitled: "Islamic Law and Civil Code - The Law of Property in Egypt".

In this 216-page reference work, Debs analyzes the classical Islamic law of property based on the Islamic Shari'ah, traces its historic development in Egypt, and describes its integration as a source of law within the modern format of a civil code.

A trained lawyer, Debs focuses specifically on Egypt. Its traditional law, the Shari'ah, is the fundamental law of all Islamic societies, and Debs demonstrates how Islamic jurisprudence can be sophisticated, coherent, rational and effective, developed over centuries to serve the needs of its societies.

Vartan Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation. of New York, described the book as "indispensable" for those "studying or working in fields requiring an understanding of Islamic and Middle Eastern law relating to landed property".

Rashid Khalidi, Edward Said Professor of Arab Studies, Columbia University, called the book a remarkably clear "analytical exposition of how Islamic law and civil law have operated together in the Egyptian context and by extension in much of the Arab world."

He added that the book is a rare work, which is easily accessible to the non-specialist.

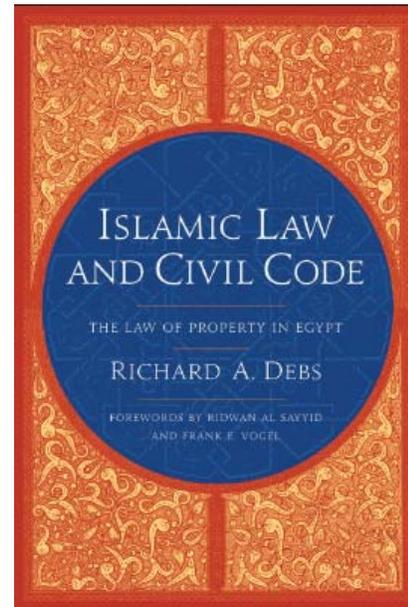
Hikmat--NB correction to come in the final flier: Frank Vogel is the founding director of Harvard University's Islamic Legal Studies Program, and no longer professor.

The author

Richard A. Debs served as chairman of AUB's Board of Trustees before he was elected as chairman emeritus. He is also an advisory director of Morgan Stanley and a member of its International Advisory Board, and the former president of Morgan Stanley International.

Previously he had served as the chief operating officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and as an alternate member of the Federal Open Market Committee. He is the US chairman of the Bretton Woods Commission, past chairman and a member of the New York Stock Exchange International Committee, vice chairman of the US Saudi Arabian Business Council, a member of the Group of Thirty and chairman of its Study Group on Eastern Europe.

Debs's many other duties have included serving as an advisor to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and on the Russian American Bankers Forum.. He is also chairman emeritus of Carnegie Hall. He is a trustee and chairman emeritus of Carnegie Hall and



a trustee of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the Institute of International Education, the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, and the Barenboim-Said Foundation. Richard Debs was a Fulbright Scholar and a Ford Foundation Fellow in Egypt, and holds a PhD from Princeton and a JD from Harvard Law School as well as an Honorary Doctorate from AUB. He has been decorated by the government of Saudi Arabia and Lebanon.

Islamic Law and Civil Code - The Law of Property in Egypt is available at:
www.cup.columbia.edu and www.amazon.com