

# Steven Goldberg

## DEGREES

B.A. 1969, Harvard

J.D. 1973, Yale

## EXPERIENCE AND AFFILIATIONS

Law Clerk, Justice William Brennan Jr.,  
U.S. Supreme Court

Attorney, Office of the General Counsel,  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Member, American Association for the  
Advancement of Science

## COURSES

Constitutional Law; Jurisprudence;  
Law and Religion; Law and Science

## REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

*Bleached Faith: The Tragic Cost When  
Religion is Forced into the Public Square*,  
Stanford (2008)

*Seduced by Science: How American  
Religion Has Lost its Way*, NYU (1999)

*Culture Clash: Law and Science in America*,  
NYU (1994)

A CHAPTER THAT PROFESSOR STEVEN GOLDBERG WROTE FOR THE TEXT *LAW, SCIENCE AND MEDICINE BEGINS* with an account of the reasoning process that Albert Einstein used in developing the special theory of relativity. The text then asks the reader to compare Einstein's reasoning to the reasoning that appellate judges use to decide cases. In teaching this material in his law and science seminar, Professor Goldberg strives to ensure that class discussion extends to a comparison of the ultimate value systems used by lawyers and scientists.

The intersection of law, science and values has shaped Professor Goldberg's intellectual life and professional career. Because his father headed a government research laboratory, Professor Goldberg saw first hand that science involved not only empirical testing, but questions of government funding and policy as well. During his undergraduate years at Harvard, Professor Goldberg combined the study of mathematics with the history of science. At Yale Law School, as a research assistant to Professor Joseph Goldstein, he helped shape an early course on law and science. After a clerkship with Justice Brennan, Professor Goldberg chose to work at a then-new federal agency — the Nuclear Regulatory Commission — where science, law and policy intersect every day.

During his years of teaching at Georgetown, Professor Goldberg's interests have expanded to include explicit consideration of morality in addition to scientific research and legal process. These concerns have led him to teach a seminar in law and religion, where students consider not only the legal relationship between church and state, but also the appropriate role of moral and religious decision-making in the lives of lawyers. Professor Goldberg's books reflect his intellectual concerns.

In *Culture Clash: Law and Science in America*, he contrasts the process orientation of law with the love of progress that is at the heart of science. He maintains that in supporting basic research, our society defers to the scientific point of view. However, in regulating the technology that results from that research, we shift gears and demand an extraordinary attention to process. The result is a regulatory gap in which the promise of science is not fully realized.

In *Seduced By Science: How American Religion Has Lost Its Way*, Professor Goldberg argues that religious leaders sometimes reflexively adopt the scientific perspective. This is particularly ironic because of the constitutional protections that our legal system extends to religious leaders in the hope that they will speak candidly about matters of ultimate values. Professor Goldberg illustrates this thesis by noting how clergy have been too quick to say that genetic research tells us something vital about what it is to be human, that prayer is important for its medical benefits and that scientific research can validate the Bible.

In the end, Professor Goldberg reflects on a number of factors, including personal experiences with his father and his rabbi, in an effort to make sense of the proper relation of science to religion in our legal culture.

Professor Goldberg's scholarly concerns remain close to the interests that he first developed in his youth. He has remained close to his youth in geographic terms as well. Professor Goldberg was born in Washington, D.C. He and his wife, Miriam, live in Maryland just a few miles from where they grew up and from the high school where they first met. Their children, Joseph and Rebecca, attended some of the same schools Professor Goldberg and his wife attended. Professor Goldberg regards himself as remarkably lucky to have the opportunity to teach at an outstanding national law school located right here in his own hometown.

By Girardeau Spann

