PEERS Invites You To:

“The Separation of Church and State in Three National Contexts: Russia, France, and Poland”

A Panel Discussion With:

Elizabeth K. Cassidy, Catherine Cosman, and Filip Mazurczak

Wednesday, November 28, 2012
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
the Elliott School, Room 505
1957 E Street NW
Please RSVP to peers@gwu.edu

Elizabeth K. Cassidy joined the Commission in 2007 as International Legal Specialist and became Deputy Director for Policy and Research in 2009. Previously, she was Assistant Executive Director of UN Watch, a non-governmental organization in Geneva, Switzerland, where she monitored and analyzed United Nations affairs, with a particular focus on the U.N.’s Geneva-based human rights bodies. Before UN Watch, Ms. Cassidy taught courses in constitutional law, comparative law, and international human rights law at Princeton University, Seton Hall University School of Law and the University of Namibia and worked as a legal consultant to several human rights NGOs in Windhoek, Namibia. She also has practiced law in the Washington, D.C. office of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld and worked as a judicial clerk to the Hon. Richard Nygaard of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and the Hon. William Bassler of the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey. Ms. Cassidy holds a B.A. in international politics from
Wesleyan University, a J.D. from American University’s Washington College of Law, and a LL.M in comparative constitutional law from the University of Stellenbosch.

**Catherine Cosman** joined the staff of the Commission as Senior Policy Analyst in November 2003. Her areas of responsibility include the countries of the former Soviet Union, East and Central Europe and Western Europe. She served on the staff of the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe as senior analyst on Soviet dissent (1976-1989). Cosman was also a commentator on Soviet society for a nationally syndicated U.S. radio program. She then joined Human Rights Watch (1989-1992) where she wrote several studies on ethnic conflicts in Central Asia and the Caucasus and the human rights in the then-USSR. Working with emerging independent labor unions for the Free Trade Union Institute (1992-1996), she focussed on Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. She lived in Estonia where she was the Senior Expert of the OSCE Mission, working on the integration of the Russian minority into Estonian society (1996-1998.) She managed the Central Asian and Caucasus grants program at the National Endowment for Democracy, before joining the Communications Division at RFE/RL in 1999 where she edited "Media Matters" and "(Un)Civil Societies." She has lived, worked and studied in Berlin, Germany; Moscow, then-USSR; and Prague, Czech Republic. She received a BA in History from Grinnell College and a MA and an ABD in Slavic Languages and Literatures from Brown University. She also has studied at the Free University of Berlin and the All-Union Institute of Cinematography in Moscow.

**Filip Mazurczak** is a graduate student in international affairs at the George Washington University. Born in Poland but raised in the United States, he has written about the role of religion in public life and civic in both countries in Catholic magazines such as *Tygodnik Powszechny*, *Kontakt*, and *Imago*. He has worked in the non-profit sector in both Poland and the United States.