

MATTHEW T HAWKINS.com

@mthawk

HIGHLIGHTS

- 20 years at the intersection of religion & politics; 8 years federal government relations; 6 years non-profit leadership
- 3rd year PhD student, Theology
- Master of Arts in Philosophy; Bachelor of Business & Administration
- Adjunct instructor of philosophy, teaching world religions, and introductions to philosophy and ethics
- Global network of religiously and politically diverse contacts in government & civil society
- Cross-trained career in government relations, communications, academics

PROFESSIONAL

Broadman & Holman Publishers, Senior Acquisitions Editor – Trade Book **Starting November 2022**
Fosters meaningful partnerships with new and existing authors and agents. Edits content to ensure biblical accuracy, brand alignment, and proper grammar and punctuation.

Columbia State Community College, Adjunct faculty – Philosophy **Aug 2020-Dec 2022**
Courses taught: Introduction to World Religions, Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Ethics

CrossingFaiths.com, Co-host and Senior Producer **Aug 2018-Present**
The Crossing Faiths Podcast: A Christian & a Muslim talk religion and politics. The weekly podcast features commentary on global news, politics, multifaith experiences, and includes expert guests. Host biographies and more are available at CrossingFaiths.com.

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) **2001–2018**
of the Southern Baptist Convention
The ERLC is the public policy entity of the largest network of Protestant churches (approximately 46,000) in the United States, with offices in Nashville, TN and Washington, D.C.

Career with ERLC spanned 17 years, multiple departments, several titles, and two cities. Experience includes two main spheres of work: government relations (8 years) and communications/broadcast media (9+ years). In reverse chronology:

Government Relations

Policy Director, 2017–2018 Washington, DC
Coalitions Director, 2013–2016 Washington, DC
Advanced the public policy interests of the ERLC constituency on Capitol Hill, collaborating with other groups in Washington, D.C., to achieve common objectives. Primary responsibilities included:

- Articulate the views of the institution and constituency in various policy contexts
- Cultivate relationships with Congressional staff, members of Congress, Executive Branch agencies
- Write & contribute advocacy content including sign-on letters that attract strategic lists of signatories
- Participate in public panel events on a variety of policy issues and advocacy best practices
- Train new staff, interns, and visiting groups on effective public policy advocacy

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International Religious Freedom Roundtable, 2011-2018 Washington, DC
Steering Committee, 2017-2018
Co-chair, Congressional Working Group, 2014-2016
Participant, 2011-2013
Provided leadership in an effective and diverse gathering of civil society organizations. Audience includes senior federal officials, members of Congress, diplomats, and key federal staff. Initiatives include direct advocacy, global network and leadership development, and issue-specific partnerships. Experience includes interaction with three consecutive ambassadors-at-large for religious freedom, Rev. Amb. Susan Johnson Cook, Rabbi Amb. David Saperstein, and Amb. Samuel Brownback.

Communications/Broadcast Media

Founding podcast host & producer, 2014-2018 Washington, DC
The *Capitol Conversations Podcast* features members of U.S. Congress, federal staff & leadership, scholars, attorneys, and policy advocates.

Research Assistant, 2010-2013 Washington, DC
Managing Editor, ERLC.com, 2010-2013 Washington, DC

Executive Producer, Producer, Audio Editor 2001-2010 Nashville, TN
Earlier career roles focused on communications and content strategy for radio and web, including two nationally syndicated talk radio programs. One program was a daily 30 minutes program, the other was a weekly, live, 3 hour program that was caller-driven. The daily program aired from 1998-2013. The weekly program aired from 2002-2012. This career phase began as audio engineer and editor, soon moving to producer, then ultimately to executive producer over both programs.

EDUCATION

January 2020-present
3rd year Ph.D student, Theology
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Wake Forest, NC
2024 *estimated graduation*

Prerequisites for Ph.D. program
24 credit hours of master level theology
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Wake Forest, NC

Master of Arts in Philosophy
Concentration: Ethics & Public Affairs
George Mason University • Fairfax, VA

Bachelor of Business Administration
Concentration: Music Business
Belmont University • Nashville, TN

AFFILIATIONS

- Chair (July 2021—present), Founding board member, [The One America Movement](#). OAM builds societal resilience to toxic polarization by bridging political, racial, and religious divides.
- Team Lead (2020-2022), [Faith In/And Democracy](#) (FIAD) initiative, Years 2 & 3; Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement (PACE). Initiative explores the ways faith and faith communities can support democracy and civic life. Matt participates on behalf of PACE grant recipient The One America Movement.
- Associate Fellow, [Research Institute](#) of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission
- Radio Contributor (weekly), *Mornings with Carmen LaBerge* on the Faith Radio Network, a broadcast of the University of Northwestern.

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PUBLICATIONS, MEDIA, SPEAKING

Print

(Forthcoming 2022) Drafting author for a community engagement module for religious institutions. [Religious Freedom Institute](#), Washington, DC.

“Biden Gives Trump-Wary Pro-Lifers Nowhere to Hyde,” *The Wall Street Journal*, June 9, 2019. ([link](#))

(Contributor) “Persuasive Ambassadors: The Southern Baptist Commitment to Religious Freedom for All,” (Chapter 2) by Michael Strawser, Matthew Hawkins, and Joe C. Martin in *The Rhetoric of Religious Freedom in the United States*. Edited by Eric C. Miller. [Lexington Books](#). November 2017.

Essays (Selected)

“6 ideas for leading your church in pro-life ministry in light of Dobbs” | [ERLC.com](#) | June 2022

“Why we need the local church to disciple our Politics” | [The Gospel Coalition](#) | March 2021

“Racism is a sin. Here’s what we do about it.” | with Rev. Dr. Leslie Copeland-Tune | [One America Movement](#) | July 2020

“Six Reasons Why Christians Should Reject Anti-Semitism” | [ERLC.com](#) | September 2016

“Three Ways the 45th President Can Advance International Religious Freedom,” | with Travis Wussow | [Religious Freedom Institute](#) | November 2016

“Let’s demand honesty in refugee rhetoric” | [ERLC.com](#) | September 2016

“Religious freedom by the numbers” [ERLC.com](#) | April 2016

“5 reasons I studied philosophy” | [ERLC.com](#) | March 2016

Advocacy Materials (Selected)

COALITION LETTERS (Drafting author)

• “Evangelical Leader Statement of Principles on Dreamers,” [ERLC.com](#) | Oct 2017

Statement from evangelical leaders supporting principles intended to influence policy reform on behalf of immigrants who arrived in the United States as children.

• “Standing Together for Religious Freedom,” [USCCB.org](#) | July 2013

An open letter protested regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The letter attracted a non-partisan, multi-faith list of over 100 signatories. The administrative regulations were eventually overturned by the Supreme Court in multiple cases.

Podcast Episodes (Selected)

“Fake Muslim?” | [Crossing Faiths](#) | Sept 2019

“Netflix’s The Family” | [Crossing Faiths](#) | Sept 2019

“An evangelical walks into a wudu space” (Pilot) | [Crossing Faiths](#) | Aug 2019

“IRF Ambassador Brownback & USCIRF Commissioner Arriaga ” | [Capitol Conversations](#) | August 2018

“Former Canadian Ambassador for Religious Freedom” | [Capitol Conversations](#) | July 2018

“A conversation about Charlottesville” | [Capitol Conversations](#) | Aug 2017

“Senator James Lankford on assisted suicide” | [Capitol Conversations](#) | July 2017

“Congressman Chris Smith on global human dignity” | [Capitol Conversations](#) | May 2017

Speaking Engagements (Selected)

“The missing playbook for churches and politics” | Welch College | Jan 2020

Local churches need a new playbook for political engagement.

“Toward a Gospel-minded civic engagement” | Redlands Baptist Church, Rockville, MD | August 2018

Reimagining Christian political engagement.

“The policy and advocacy mechanisms of religious liberty” | Instructor | May 2018

A lecture in the course of a 2018 doctoral seminar, “Selected topics in Christian ethics.” Lecture provided an overview of the primary federal legislation governing religious freedom in the United States.

“What can I do; Confronting the evil of human trafficking around the world” | Moderator | Jan 2018 | [video](#)

At a conference in Washington, DC panelists discuss ways individuals can fight human trafficking in their communities.

Presentation of 2013 John Leland Award for Religious Freedom | Master of Ceremonies | Dec 2013

Presented to Robert P. George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence and Director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University. Responsibilities included introducing Congressman Frank Wolf of Virginia (now retired). Event was hosted in the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill.

(More past speaking engagements to be added...)

Additional work product available upon request. Please notify me of any broken links