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## Fall Newsletter 2019

# 17th annual KARAMAH'S Law and Leadership Summer Program

KARAMAH hosted our annual Law and Leadership Summer Program (LLSP) from June 17 – July 5<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC. LLSP is KARAMAH's annual flagship program that seeks to bring together a select group of Muslim women from around the world to study and learn from each other as well as top professors specializing in an array of fields. The program's objective is to empower and promote women and their rights through education and research. It



focuses on three core areas: Islamic jurisprudence, conflict resolution, and developing leadership skills.

KARAMAH hosted 36 Muslim women who attended the program. These women got to hear lectures from speakers such as: Dr. Al-Hibri, Dean Okianer, Sara Omar, Saleema Snow, Farhan Latif, Brenda Abdelall Esq., and many more. They covered a variety of topics including: "The Islamic Worldview", "Leadership Theory and Leadership Style", Islamic Jurisprudence, Leadership Skills, "Law of Divorce" and many more.

The LLSP program consists of two sessions: the Executive and the General. The Executive session is only a week which consists of intensive lectures and training. It is geared towards mid-career professionals who are unable to take as much time away from their home and work lives but would still like to take part in the program. The participants embodied diversity in every sense of the word, in terms of race, nationality, regional, academic and career background as well as age.

For some, this program aided in reinforcing their faith in the beauty of Islam, for others, rediscovering it. The religion of Islam has been persistently hijacked by a variety of its adversaries including terrorists and misogynists and LLSP helps to reclaim it. There was substantial knowledge delivered by the lawyers, professors, deans, Imams and Islamic scholars debunking myths about Islam and Sharia, and educating these women on their rights. LLSP successfully cultivated an environment where Muslim women could feel safe and express their beliefs and ideas freely.







#### KARAMAH at the Religious Freedom Center

Rahmah Abdulaleem, Karamah's Executive Director, presenting on the Community Talkback Panel at the Disrupt the Narrative: Centering African American Voices on Religious Freedom at the Religious Freedom Center in June.

This was the second program in a series for the "Religious Freedom: African American Perspectives" project, which



consisted of public events that explore the politics of religious freedom. There was small discussions, a community talkback session, which KARAMAH took part, and to explore opportunities to think about the future exploring this idea.

Participants for this program heard from many scholars, practitioner and community leaders. The program asked participants to think through practical ways to take actions around religious freedom issues in their community.



#### Congratulations to our President!

Congratulations to Karamah's President Saleema Snow who received the Impact Award from the Capital Area Muslim Bar Association in May. Some of her students from the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law were in attendance to support their professor.

### Faith and Race Dialogue

Rahmah A. Abdulaleem, Esq. Executive Director and two interns went to the Newsuem on September 18th to participate in a discussion of Faith and Race. This seminar was held by Baha'is of the United States entitled Dialogue on Faith and Race. The seminar was an open session where participants were asked to discuss topics based on race within the United States and how religion influences it.

The participants started in a large group discussing personal experiences or topics that relate to race within the United States and religion has influenced it. The group was then broke into two smaller groups and read a paper about how race is discussed in history in America. This was then discussed within the two smaller groups. After this was discussed the participants were then brought back together to discuss it as a group.

KARAMAH plans to continue to be apart of these seminars and continue to explore the Dialogue of Faith and Race.

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