



# 2015 BRADLEY PRIZES

## NOMINATION FORM

Deadline for Submission:  
February 6, 2015

### Submitted by:

Name: *Heather R. Higgins*  
Title: *President*  
Phone: *212-752-7148*  
Facsimile:

Organization: *The Randolph Foundat.*  
Address: *255 E 4th St*  
*Suite 230*  
City, State, Zip: *New York, NY*  
*10017*  
E-mail: *HRH@HRHoffice.org*

### Submitted to:

Michael W. Grebe  
President and CEO  
The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, Inc.  
1241 North Franklin Place  
Milwaukee, WI 53202-2901

Nominations may be e-mailed to  
[rkrebs@bradleyfdn.org](mailto:rkrebs@bradleyfdn.org), provided all  
information requested on this form is included.

For additional information about the Bradley Prizes nominations contact Dianne Sehler at The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation. Mrs. Sehler can be reached at 414.291.9915 or via e-mail at [dsehler@bradleyfdn.org](mailto:dsehler@bradleyfdn.org).

**NOMINEE INFORMATION:**

Name: Rev. Robert Sirico

Organization: The Acton Institute

Title: President

Address: 161 Ottawa, NW Suite 301

Phone: 203-733-0309

City, State, Zip: Grand Rapids MI 49503

Facsimile: 616-454-9454

E-mail: rsirico@acton.org

**NOMINEE'S AREA OF EXPERTISE -- Select from the following list:**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Academia                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civic Renewal & Responsibility | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civil Rights & Society |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservative Thought | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Culture                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Defense and National Security     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economics            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education Reform               | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Values                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Affairs                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Journalism                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Law                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Philanthropy                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion and Society   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security Reform          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tax Reform                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Welfare Reform                    |

**PLEASE ATTACH A STATEMENT OF NOMINATION SUMMARIZING THE NOMINEE'S CREDENTIALS IN 250 WORDS OR LESS,** limiting your additional supporting documentation to a CV, resume or biographical sketch.

**REFERENCES:** Each nomination must be accompanied by two references able to speak on behalf of the nominee's credentials and background, if necessary. Please provide contact information here.

Name: Bill McGurn

Organization:

Title:

Address:

Phone: 202-456-2553

City, State, Zip:

Facsimile:

E-mail: William\_J.\_Mcgurn@who.eop.gov

Name: David Humphreys

Organization: The Acton Institute

Title: Chairman

Address:


Phone: 212-416-4236

City, State, Zip:

Facsimile:

E-mail: David\_humphreys@tamko.com

Robert Sirico is a rare, compelling voice arguing for the morality of free markets and the ways in which liberty is integral to the dignity of the human person. The Acton Institute, which is one of the most effective and innovative of the small public policy shops, is his vision and creation, and has had significant and notable effect on the principled discussions which touch on markets, morality, and liberty. Their work has also been instrumental in defining what constitutes good and effective charity, and is increasingly being used as a reference point for other organizations.



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FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION & LIBERTY

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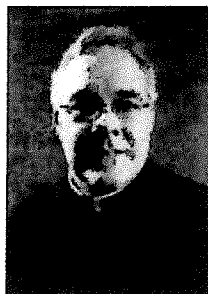
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## Staff Member

Executive



**Rev. Robert A. Sirico**  
President

[rsirico@acton.org](mailto:rsirico@acton.org)

Rev. Robert A. Sirico received his Master of Divinity degree from the Catholic University of America, following undergraduate study at the University of Southern California and the University of London. During his studies and early ministry, he experienced a growing concern over the lack of training religious studies students receive in fundamental economic principles, leaving them poorly equipped to understand and address today's social problems. As a result of these concerns, Fr. Sirico co-founded the Acton Institute with Kris Alan Mauren in 1990.

As president of the Acton Institute, Fr. Sirico lectures at colleges, universities, and business organizations throughout the U.S. and abroad. His writings on religious, political, economic, and social matters are published in a variety of journals, including: the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes*, the *London Financial Times*, the *Washington Times*, the *Detroit News*, and *National Review*. Father Sirico is often called upon by members of the broadcast media for statements regarding economics, civil rights, and issues of religious concern, and has provided commentary for CNN, ABC, the BBC, NPR, and CBS' *60 Minutes*, among others.

In April of 1999, Fr. Sirico was awarded an honorary doctorate in Christian Ethics from the Franciscan University of Steubenville, and in May of 2001, Universidad Francisco Marroquin awarded him an honorary doctorate in Social Sciences. He is a member of the prestigious Mont Pèlerin Society, the American Academy of Religion, and the Philadelphia Society, and is on the Board of Advisors of the Civic Institute in Prague. Father Sirico also served on the Michigan Civil Rights Commission from 1994 to 1998. He is also currently pastor of St. Mary Catholic Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Fr. Sirico's pastoral ministry has included a chaplaincy to AIDS patients at the National Institute's of Health and the recent founding of a new community, St. Philip Neri House in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

- Editorials by Rev. Robert A. Sirico  
The Acton Institute maintains a vigorous editorial outreach, especially through its president, Rev. Robert A. Sirico. This site maintains an archive of many of his essays and reviews.



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## NOMINEE INFORMATION:

Name: Kevin J. "Seamus" Hasson

Title: Founder

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## NOMINEE'S AREA OF EXPERTISE

*Select from the following list:*

- ☐ Academia
- ☐ Civic Renewal & Responsibility
- ☒ Civil Rights & Society
- ☐ Conservative Thought
- ☒ Culture
- ☐ Defense & National Security
- ☐ Economics
- ☐ Education Reform
- ☐ Family Values
- ☐ Foreign Affairs
- ☒ Human Rights
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- ☒ Law
- ☐ Philanthropy
- ☒ Religion & Society
- ☐ Social Security Reform
- ☐ Tax Reform
- ☐ Welfare Reform

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**REFERENCES:** Each nomination must be accompanied by two references able to speak on behalf of the nominee's credentials and background, if necessary. Please provide contact information here.

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## Bradley Nomination:

Kevin J. "Seamus" Hasson, founder of the Becket Fund

You've been kind enough to solicit my input over the years for nominees, and occasionally to accept my suggestions. I'd like to make a particularly impassioned plea for the only nomination I'm going to make this year: Seamus Hasson.

I first met Seamus when my then-counsel at Williams & Connelly came to tell me they had a particularly bright and creative associate there who was passionate about the constitution and religious liberty, and to that end was willing to give up a promising law career to follow his mission of establishing a public interest law firm dedicated to defending religious liberty if he could just find the funding.

Seamus went on to build the Becket Fund, and to do so spectacularly. He has a gift for finding the compelling analogy, and a nose for the innovative understanding of an old argument at the right time. Combine that with a strategic sense of which cases will create precedent, and you have the Becket Fund's remarkable track record.

Becket hasn't just had PR victories, but a recurring history of finding the cases that alter the trajectory of the law. Some examples include The Supreme Court's recent unanimous decision in *Hosanna-Tabor v. EEOC* (Becket's case, not just an amicus filing) upholding right of religious employers to hire/fire key religious personnel free from government interference, which is the most significant religious liberty decision in 20 years and major rebuke to Obama administration, or the ongoing challenges to ObamaCare's contraceptive mandate, or the pledge of allegiance cases in 9th Cir, 1st Cir. which he argued and won.

What I cannot tell you is whether Seamus belongs in the "thinker" or the "doer" category, because he clearly has done both, to stupendous effect.

I also do not know to what degree timeliness plays a role in Bradley's decision, but given the advance of his Parkinson's disease, Seamus has had to leave his employment at Becket this year. While he can still give a wonderful speech, with the vagaries and advance of the disease one does not know how much longer that will be the case. On top of the burdens of the disease and loss of income, he has enough children -- one almost runs out of fingers to count them -- to support that it's fair to say there are surely few nominees who manage to be both as compellingly deserving on the merits as well as in a position in life where the award would be truly meaningful, timely, and life-altering.

I strongly urge that this be the year you recognize Seamus' tremendous intellectual and practical contributions.

Many thanks —  
Heather Higgins

Kevin J. "Seamus" Hasson

The Becket Fund is the brainchild of Kevin J. "Seamus" Hasson. Since 1994, Hasson and the Becket Fund have successfully represented clients ranging literally from Anglicans to Zoroastrians, winning kudos from thinkers such as Pope John Paul II and Elie Wiesel along the way.

Hasson enjoys broad credibility in the national media, having been quoted in Newsweek, US News and World Report, The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, The Christian Science Monitor and USA Today, as well as in regional media from The L.A. Times to The Chicago Tribune to The Philadelphia Enquirer. He has appeared on broadcast news programs including The Today Show, Dateline NBC, McLaughlin One on One, NPR's Talk of the Nation, and CNN Talkback Live. He's also appeared twice on Al-Jazeera, debating Saudi clerics.

Hasson is the author of *The Right to be Wrong: Ending the Culture War over Religion in America*. He is currently working on his next book, *The Philosopher's God*, which will hit the press later this year. Among other publications, Hasson also authored "Religious Liberty and Human Dignity: A Tale of Two Declarations" for the Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy and "The Myth: Is There Religious Liberty in America?" for The American Spectator.

Hasson lectures and debates frequently, in venues ranging from Oxford to the Vatican. He has also addressed graduate and law students at BYU, Columbia, Georgetown, George Washington, Northwestern, NYU, the Pontifical Gregorian University, Princeton, Stanford and Yale.

Before founding the Becket Fund in 1994, Hasson was an attorney at Williams & Connolly in Washington, D.C., where he focused on religious liberty litigation. From 1986 to 1987, he served in the Office of Legal Counsel at the U.S. Department of Justice, advising the White House and cabinet departments on church-state relations and other constitutional issues under then-Deputy Assistant Attorney General Samuel Alito. After graduating magna cum laude from Notre Dame Law School, he joined Kirkland & Ellis as an Associate.

Hasson also earned two Bachelors degrees in Theology and Economics and a Masters degree in Theology from Notre Dame.

Hasson also serves on the Board of Directors for the Bible Literacy Project. Bar Memberships: District of Columbia; Illinois; United States Supreme Court; United States Courts of Appeals for the First, Third, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Circuits.