



PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EXPERIENCE

2006-present **Pribanic & Pribanic** (White Oak, Pennsylvania)

- 2007-present
 - **Bar Admissions:** Bar of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania.
 - **Attorney Profile:** See <<http://www.startw.com/pribaniclaw/christopher.htm>>.
 - **Practice areas:** Medical malpractice, wrongful death, crashworthiness, products liability, personal injury, briefs on any legal issue, as needed.
 - **About the Firm:** Associate Attorney for Victor H. Pribanic, Esq., profiled in **The Best Lawyers in America** (2010): 1277. [Lawyer of the Year 2010](#) • Product Liability Litigation • Pittsburgh Area.

Associate Attorney

Representative Crashworthiness Case

See computer simulations of actual and virtual crash events.

- Berry:** Berry et al. v. General Motors et al. Case 2:07-cv-00258-TFM (W.D. Pa.).
 - **Overview:** Automotive design defect case involved inadequate protection against side-impact crash, fatally injuring nine-year-old boy and a two-year-old girl.
 - **Plaintiffs' Experts:** (1) Byron Bloch (Auto Safety Expert); (2) Richard M. Ziernicki, Ph.D., P.E. (Accident Reconstructionist/Mechanical Engineering Expert); (3) Mariusz Ziejewski, Ph.D., Inz. (Injury Biomechanics Expert); (4) Kenneth C. McCrory, CPA, CFE (Forensic Economist).
 - **Simulation of Crash Event:** 1993 Geo Prizm and 2003 Honda Pilot: <http://www.startw.com/pribaniclaw/video.mov>.
 - **Simulation of Safer Design:** Of crash event under safer, alternative design: http://www.startw.com/pribaniclaw/Berry_Animation_9.avi. Mediator praised 49-page mediation statement as "stellar."
 - **Settlement:** Case settled for confidential sum in February 2010.

Representative Product Liability Case

"Zippo analysis" in published decision, motions & briefs:

- Willyoung:** Willyoung v. Colorado Custom Hardware, Inc. et al., 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 91557 (W.D. Pa. 2009) (argued by J. Pribanic).
 - **Overview:** Design defect/manufacturing defect case involving 2007 "Alien" cam (rock-climbing anchor to safeguard against accidental falls), manufactured in March 2007. Testing revealed the cam joints were improperly brazed (high thermal stresses by rapid cooling), leading to premature failure.
 - **Briefs published:** Willyoung v. Colorado Custom Hardware, Inc. et al., 2009 U.S. Dist. Ct. Motions LEXIS 44038 (W.D. Pa. 2009); and 2009 U.S. Dist. Ct. Motions LEXIS 44039 (W.D. Pa. 2009).
 - **Settlement:** Case settled for confidential sum in 2010.

Representative Wrongful Death Case

CO poisoning of elderly victim, causing dementia & death by delayed neuropsychiatric syndrome.

- Hornfeck:** Victoria Hornfeck, Personal Representative of the Estate of Joseph Matta, Sr., and Margaret Matta, his wife and heir, Plaintiffs v. White Oak Village Apts. et al., Defendants. Case No. GD-08-009234 (Allegheny County).
 - **Overview:** Wrongful death action involving a carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning event due to faulty heat exchanger, triggering dementia, medical decline and the eventual death of an 83-year-old victim, as a result of "delayed neuropsychiatric syndrome" (DNS), also referred to as "delayed neuropsychiatric impairment."
 - **Plaintiffs' Experts:** (1) Richard J. Hallowell, Jr., PE, CFC (Forensic Engineering Expert); (2) Cyril Wecht, M.D., J.D. (Toxicology Expert).
 - **Settlement:** Case settled for confidential sum in 2011.



PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Representative Medical Malpractice Cases

*Chronic
Mesenteric
Ischemia case.*

Scobbie: Scott Scobbie and Kimberly Scobbie, Plaintiffs, v. UPMC Horizon, UPMC, University of Pittsburgh Physicians, and Murray Towle, M.D., Defendants, Case No. 2008-4049 (Mercer County).

- **Overview:** Tragic case involving a patient who presented to the ER, time after time, with stabbing abdominal pain, severe loss of weight, and “fear of food” (sitophobia)—classic symptoms of chronic mesenteric ischemia (CMI), in which the patient’s intestines are dying inside his body. Undiagnosed for months, this CMI developed into acute mesenteric ischemia (AMI), an event that is life-threatening. Failure to appropriately test, diagnose, refer, or treat patient for CMI.
- **Plaintiffs’ Experts:** (1) Martin A. Fogle, MD (Vascular Surgeon); (2) Fred Berkowitz, MD (General Surgeon); (3) B.A. McGettigan, RN, MS, CCM, CPUR, CRRN, CNLCP, ABDA, LNCC (Life Care Planner); (4) Donal Kirwan, SPHR (Forensic Economist).
- **Settlement:** Case settled for confidential sum on July 12, 2011.

*Obstructed
ureter case.*

Clark: Darlene Clark et vir., Plaintiffs, v. Geisinger Health System et al., Defendants, Case No. 2008-3950 (Centre County).

- **Overview:** During a hysterectomy, failure to directly observe or locate the ureter—by direct observation, simple palpation, or tracing the ureter from the pelvic brim—before placing the figure-of-eight suture, which led to ureter obstruction.
- **Plaintiffs’ Experts:** (1) Bruce A. Rosenzweig, M.D. (OB/GYN); (2) Deborah Schultz, RN, CLCP, CCM, CDMS (Life Care Planner); (3) Donal F. Kirwan, SPHR (Forensic Economist).
- **Settlement:** Case settled for confidential sum in March 2011.

*Failure to
diagnose
emergent
urosepsis.*

Lockett: Linda Lockett, individually and as personal representative of the Estate of Gilbert W. Lockett v. Clearfield Hospital, Clearfield Area Health Services et al. Case No. 08-1691-CD (Clearfield County).

- **Overview:** Failure to diagnose emergent urosepsis, resulting in wrongful death of patient after discharge. Dead on arrival when brought back home by family.
- **Plaintiffs’ Experts:** (1) Joseph R. Yates, MD, FACEP (Emergency Care Expert); (2) John C. Schaefer, MD (Infectious Disease Expert); (3) Mehboob K. Chaudhry, MD (Critical Care/Sepsis Expert); (4) Joanne Mullin, RN, BSN, LNC (Nursing Negligence Expert).
- **Settlement:** Petition for settlement (for confidential sum) approved by The Hon. Fredric J. Ammerman, President Judge, on January 11, 2011.

*“Geographic
miss” in
craniospinal
radiation
treatment
planning for
adult medullo-
blastoma*

Devinney: Chad M. Devinney, et ux., Plaintiffs, v. Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital, et al., Defendants, Case No. 2008-2591 (Cambria County, PA).

- **Overview:** In craniospinal radiation treatment planning for adult medulloblastoma, Defendant radiation oncologist failed to ascertain and individualize the depth of his patient’s thecal sac and to set an appropriate 1-2 cm dosimetric margin to the caudalmost extent of the patient’s thecal sac — a “geographic miss” placing the patient at higher risk of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) seeding, resulting in recurrent medulloblastoma tumors in the dose fall-off region, and in terminal leptomeningeal metastasis to the brain.
- **Plaintiffs’ Experts:** (1) Santosh Yajnik, M.D. (Radiation Oncology Expert); (2) Michelle Whiteman, M.D. (Neuroradiology Expert); (3) David L. Hopkins, ASA, MAAA (Forensic Economist); (4) Deborah Schultz, RN, CLCP, CCM, CDMS (Life Care Planner).
- **Settlement:** Case settled for confidential sum on August 27, 2010.



PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Negligent aminolevulinic acid photodynamic therapy case.

Burns: Burns v. J. Rice Oral Maxillofacial and Aesthetic Facial Surgery, P.C. et al., Case No. 08-146-2008-CD (Jefferson County, PA).

- **Overview:** Plaintiff suffered severe facial bruising, erythema and petechie in a profound phototoxic adverse reaction to aminolevulinic acid photodynamic therapy (ALA-PDT), which, even after extensive corrective treatments, resulted in permanent facial hypopigmentation.
- **Plaintiffs' Expert:** Jon D. Wagner, M.D., D.D.S. (Photodynamic Therapy Expert).
- **Settlement:** Case settled for confidential sum in February 2010.

Letter of Appreciation

"Our litigation required an attorney with a deep research background and we found that Dr. Buck was the individual for the job."

July 12, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written on behalf of Dr. Christopher Buck, an attorney with the law firm of Pribanic & Pribanic, whom my husband and I had the privilege of working with during the years on 2008/09. Our litigation required an attorney with a deep research background and we found that Dr. Buck was the individual for the job.

Over the course of the two years our ongoing case benefited from Dr. Buck's efficient, effective, diligent, and determined methods of providing background knowledge and research relevant to our case. He consistently met time lines and took time to explain our legal issues in such a way that we understood the events of the complicated situation. It appeared that he was never too busy to respond to our questions.

Based upon his deep knowledge base, his dedication to his clients, and his outstanding ability to "get the job done," we would highly recommend his expertise to anyone in need.

Sincerely,

Susan E. Burns

Crashworthiness Treatise

Wrote treatise on Pennsylvania crash-worthiness law.

- Wrote 275-page treatise: **Injury & Jury: Pennsylvania's Unique Crashworthiness Law** (unpublished). Positively evaluated by leading products liability scholar:
- **Endorsement:** "First, let me congratulate you on your enormous accomplishment in writing such a thorough, well written, insightful, and sensitive examination of the law of crashworthiness. It undoubtedly stands alone in quality, and comprehensiveness, in this field." — David G. Owen, University of South Carolina Law School, Columbia, SC. (Email dated August 5, 2007.)



PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

2010-present Cases involving Prisoners' Religious Rights

Assistant United States Attorney

- **Client:** Megan E. Farrell, Esq., Assistant United States Attorney, Western District of Pennsylvania.
- **Expertise:** Religion (Islamic Law).
- **Case 1:** Rogers, et al. v. United States of America, et al., Civil Action No. 08-149E, Erie. Expert report submitted. Summary judgment for Defendants (06/17/2011).
- **Case 2:** Keith Eliis, Plaintiff v. United States of America, et al., Defendants. Civil Action No. 08-160 Erie. Expert report submitted. Report cited, in part, in Magistrate's Judge's Report and Recommendation (06/17/2011), p. 26. Anticipated expert testimony at trial in Case 2.



LEGAL EDUCATION

- 01/22/2006 **Thomas M. Cooley Law School** (Lansing, Michigan)
- Juris Doctor*
- Attended law school part-time 2002–2004 while teaching full-time at Michigan State University.
 - Took seven courses during summer 2004 term, earning two “book awards” (certificates of merit) as the top student in each class. Completed course work in December 2005.
- Academic Honors*
- **Dean’s List:** Spring 2004 • Summer 2004 • Fall 2004.
 - **Certificates of Merit:** Constitutional Law Seminar (Summer 2004) • Collective Bargaining (Summer 2004) • Federal Indian Law (Fall 2004).
 - **25% Honors Scholarship:** Winter 2004 • Summer 2005.
- “Best paper I have seen”*
- **Best Paper:** **“Frankly, I have been teaching at this law school for 20 years, and I have supervised countless papers, but this is definitely the best paper I have seen.”**
– **Prof. Maurice Munroe** (Constitutional Law), Cooley Law School.
- “Best presentation I have ever seen”*
- **Best Presentation:** **“In the Indian law class, Dr. Buck basically taught the entire two-hour class, complete with the best PowerPoint presentation I have ever seen.”**
– **Prof. Philip Prygoski** (Constitutional Law), author, **Sum & Substance Quick Review on Constitutional Law.**
- Published Indian Law paper:*
- **Published “Indian Law” Paper:** Published research paper written for Federal Indian Law course: **“Never Again”: Kevin Gover’s Apology for the Bureau of Indian Affairs,** 21 **Wicazo Sa Review** 97 (2006) (peer-reviewed academic journal).
- Published Directed Study paper—\$1,000 honorarium.*
- **Published Directed Study Paper:** Published research paper written for Independent Study course in Constitutional Law (Professor Maurice Munroe, supervisor):
 - **The Constitutionality of Teaching Islam: The University of North Carolina Qur’an Controversy.** Chapter 7. **The State of Islamic Studies in American Universities.** Edited by Sulayman S. Nyang, Mumtaz Ahmad, and Zahid H. Bukhari (Herndon, VA: International Institute of Islamic Thought, 2010, in press). (Discussing **Yacovelli v. Moeser**, 324 F. Supp. 2d 760 (M.D.N.C. 2004).)
 - **\$1,000 Honorarium:** Accepted for publication with a \$1,000 honorarium.
 - Draft online at <http://iiit.org/iiitftp/PDF's/Islamic-Studies.pdf>.
 - **Related Publication: Discovering. The Blackwell Companion to the Qur’an.** Edited by Andrew Rippin. Oxford: Blackwell, 2006. Pp. 18–35.



GRADUATE EDUCATION

- 11/12/1996 **University of Toronto** (Toronto, Canada)
- Doctor of Philosophy*
- **Discipline:** Academic Study of Religion.
 - **Major:** Phenomenology of Religion and the Comparative Method.
 - **Supervisor:** Willard G. Oxtoby, PhD (1933–2003), founder, Centre for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto.
- GPA 3.9*



GRADUATE EDUCATION

Dissertation
“one of the two
or three best.”

- **External Examiner:** Jonathan Z. Smith, Robert O. Anderson Distinguished Service Professor of the Humanities, University of Chicago.
- **Best Dissertation:** “Of the nearly one hundred dissertations I have served as director or reader for, in the fields of history of religions and early Christianities, this is, without question, one of the two or three best.” — **Jonathan Z. Smith.**
- **Published Dissertation: Paradise and Paradigm** (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1999). Download: [Dissertation](#).
- **Contribution to scholarship:** “This is an extremely powerful contribution to an important part of comparative religions, and will establish its author as a major academic scholar... Both in its methodology and its scholarly treatments of Persian Christianity and Baha’i Faith, the book is insightful. It gives its subjects allure.” — Robert Cummings Neville, author of **The Truth of Broken Symbols**.

06/1991

University of Calgary (Calgary, Canada)

Master of Arts

- **Supervisor:** Andrew Rippin, PhD (now Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, University of Victoria).
- **Discipline:** Academic Study of Religion.
- **Published Thesis: Symbol and Secret**. Los Angeles: Kalimát Press, 1995. Reprinted 2004.
- **Contribution to scholarship:** First academic monograph on a major Bahá’í text published in a Western language.

GPA 3.73



ACADEMIC HONORS & AWARDS

- 2009 **Author profile:** Christopher Buck. **Contemporary Authors**, vol. 285. Florence, KY: Gale-Cengage Learning, Inc., 2009; **Contemporary Authors Online**; **Scribner Writers Series**; **Literature Resource Center**; **Biography Resource Center** (Gale-Cengage online databases).
- 2001 **Who’s Who in America. 55th edition**, 2001. New Providence, NJ: Marquis Who’s Who, 2000.
- 2000 **Who’s Who in America. 54th edition**, 2000. New Providence, NJ: Marquis Who’s Who, 1999.
- 1991–1996 **Open Doctoral Fellowships** (University of Toronto).
- 1989–1991 **Graduate Assistantships for Research** (University of Calgary).



LEGAL PUBLICATIONS

- 2011 • **The Constitutionality of Teaching Islam: The University of North Carolina Qur’an Controversy**. Chapter 7. **The State of Islamic Studies in American Universities**. Edited by Sulayman S. Nyang, Mumtaz Ahmad, and Zahid H. Bukhari (Herndon, VA: International Institute of Islamic Thought, 2011, in press). (First Amendment Establishment Clause analysis, discussing **Yacovelli v. Moeser**, 324 F. Supp. 2d 760 (M.D.N.C. 2004).) (Publication of directed study paper in Constitutional Law, supervised by Professor Maurice Munroe, Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Trinity Term, 2004.)
- 2010 • **Plessy v. Ferguson**. **Encyclopedia of African American History**. Edited by Leslie Alexander & Walter Rucker. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2010. Pp. 959–963 (Vol. 3).



LEGAL PUBLICATIONS

- 2010 • [Thirteenth Amendment](#). [Encyclopedia of African American History](#), 2010. Pp. 549–550 (Vol. 2).
- 2010 • [Fifteenth Amendment](#). [Encyclopedia of African American History](#), 2010. Pp. 768–770 (Vol. 3).
- 2010 • [The Trial of the Yaran under the Iranian “Citizens’ Rights” and “Legal Procedures for Revolutionary Courts” Standards](#).
- 2010 • [The Trial of the Yaran under Iranian Criminal Procedure: “The Justice of God” or Procedural Injustice?](#) [Iran Press Watch](#) (February 6, 2010).
- 2010 • [Iranian Islam, not the Yaran, on trial in the court of international opinion](#). [Iran Press Watch](#) (January 12, 2010).
- 2009 • [Criminalizing the Baha’i Religion](#). [Iran Press Watch](#) (March 15, 2009).
- 2009 • [Willyoung v. Colorado Custom Hardware, Inc.](#), 2008 U.S. Dist. Ct. Motions 480617; 2009 U.S. Dist. Ct. Motions LEXIS 44038 (W.D. Pa. 2009); 2008 U.S. Dist. Ct. Motions 480617; 2009 U.S. Dist. Ct. Motions LEXIS 44039 (W.D. Pa. 2009).
- 2008 • [Religious Minority Rights](#). [The Islamic World](#). Edited by Andrew Rippin. London/New York: Routledge, 2008. Pp. 638–655. [Final chapter.] **Libraries:** 158 [WorldCat].
- 2008 • [Plessy v. Ferguson](#). [Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity, and Society](#). Edited by Richard T. Schaefer. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2008. Pp. 1048–1051.
- 2008 • [Bureau of Indian Affairs](#). [Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity, and Society](#). Pp. 215–220.
- 2007 • [Judicial Activism](#). [Encyclopedia of Activism and Social Justice](#). Edited by Gary L. Anderson & Kathryn G. Herr. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2007. Vol. 2, 785–789.
- 2007 • [“Never Again”: Kevin Gover’s Apology for the Bureau of Indian Affairs](#). [Wicazo Sa Review: A Journal of Native American Studies](#) 21.1 (2006): 97–126. Online database: Project Muse. (Publication of Federal Indian Law paper, supervised by Professor Philip Prygoski (Constitutional Law); author, [Sum & Substance Quick Review on Constitutional Law](#)), Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Michermas Term, 2004. Received certificate of Merit (Book Award).)
- 2006 • [Discovering](#) [the Qur’an]. [The Blackwell Companion to the Qur’an](#). Edited by Andrew Rippin. Oxford: Blackwell, 2006. Pp. 18–35. [Lead chapter.] **Libraries:** 521 [WorldCat]. (Brief First Amendment Establishment Clause analysis, discussing [Yacovelli v. Moeser](#), 324 F. Supp. 2d 760 (M.D.N.C. 2004).) (Partial publication of directed study paper in Constitutional Law, supervised by Professor Maurice Munroe, Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Trinity Term, 2004.)
- 2005 • [Islam and Minorities: The Case of the Bahá’ís](#). [Studies in Contemporary Islam](#) 5.1–2 (Spring/Fall 2003): 83–106. Proceedings of the Twentieth Annual Conference of the American Council for the Study of Islamic Societies (ACSIS), University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia, 2–3 May 2003. (Published June 2005.) Persian (Farsi) translation.

**AUTHOR**

Release Date:
April 30, 2009

**Religious Myths and Visions of America:
How Minority Faiths Redefined America's World Role**
by **Christopher Buck** (Santa Barbara, CA/Westport, CT: ABC-CLIO/Praeger, 2009).

Available in
Amazon's
Kindle Edition

- **Available in Amazon's Kindle Edition:**
- <http://www.amazon.com/Religious-Myths-Visions-America-ebook/dp/B0020SXM24>
- **Libraries Worldwide: 183** [WorldCat].
- **Electronic Editions: 85** [ABC-CLIO eBook Collection; Android Market (eBooks); NetLibrary; Google eBooks; Gale Virtual Reference Library; MyiLibrary (Ingram Digital); ebrary].

"An original
contribution to
American
studies."

- **Journal of American History** 98.1 (June 2011): 279–280. Review by Richard Kyle (Tabor College):
"Religious Myths and Visions of America has many strengths. The author has defended his thesis with solid research. He has also made an original contribution to American studies."

"A welcome
addition to the
topic of
racial, cultural
and ethnic
studies."

- **Multicultural Review** 18.4 (Winter 2009): 66. Review by Vladimir F. Wertsman (New York Public Library):
"This interesting, thoroughly researched scholarly study examines how ten minor religions interpreted America's reality ("nation and notion") and generated numerous religious myths and visions of America. ... [T]his volume is certainly a welcome addition to the topic of racial, cultural, and ethnic studies. ... Recommended for comparative ethnic and religion collections."

Release date:
August 31,
2011

Religious Celebrations: An Encyclopedia of Holidays, Festivals, Solemn Observances, and Spiritual Commemorations. By J. Gordon Melton, with James A. Beverley, **Christopher Buck**, and Constance A. Jones (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2011).

Other
publications.

For Christopher Buck's other books, book chapters, journal articles, encyclopedia articles, book reviews, editorials, etc, see "Academic CV."

**PERSONAL**

- American citizen • Born: Quantico, Virginia.
- 1994 • Canadian citizen (29 June 1994 / Citizen ID: 5700087).

**REFERENCES****LETTERS OF REFERENCE**

- 1 **Suheil Bushrui, PhD, Hon. LHD**
Research Professor Emeritus, The University of Maryland
Professor and Director, **Kahlil Gibran Chair for Values and Peace**
Senior Scholar, James MacGregor Burns Academy of Leadership
Senior Scholar (Peace Studies),
Center for International Development and Conflict Management
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REFERENCES
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- 2 **Andrew Rippin, PhD**
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Tel: 250-472-4677 • Fax: 250-721-7059 • Email: arippin@uvic.ca
- 3 **B. Todd Lawson, PhD**
Associate Professor • University of Toronto
Dept. of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations
4 Bancroft Avenue • 2nd floor • Toronto, Ontario • Canada M5S 1C1
Tel: 416-978-3080 • Fax: 416-978-3305 • Email: todd.lawson@utoronto.ca
- 4 **Michael Penn, PhD**
Professor of Psychology • Franklin & Marshall College
P. O. Box 3003 • Lancaster, PA 17604-3003
Tel: 717-291-4202 • Email: michael.penn@fandm.edu
- 5 **Richard W. Thomas, PhD**
Professor of History (Emeritus) • Michigan State University
6 Westbury Court • Ann Arbor, MI 48105
Tel: 517-214-3513 • Email: thomasrr@msu.edu

Letters of reference available upon request.

