

# SHARI'A LAW AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN PALESTINE



TUESDAY, 26 FEBRUARY  
2:00 P.M.  
238 HRCB



**Kholoud Al-Faqih**  
JUDGE, RAMALLAH SHARI'A COURT

In 2009, Kholoud Al-Faqih made history by becoming the Middle East's first and only female judge in the Ramallah Shari'a Court in the West Bank, Palestinian Territories, having passed two competitive judicial exams in Palestine and excelling in the Islamic law portions in 2008. Since then, Al-Faqih has been ranked as the world's 10th most powerful Arab woman (*Arab Business*) and one of the world's most influential Muslims (Esposito). From 2003 to 2008, she worked for the Defense of Battered Women,

where she gained extensive litigation experience. In 2001, she received her license to practice law and worked as a lawyer at the Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counseling, an organization dedicated to assisting battered women. She received a law degree with honors (1999) and a master's degree in private law (2005) from the University of Jerusalem.

Co-sponsored by Middle East Studies/Arabic Students organization (MESAS).