

## JOHN E. CARTER

Wake Forest University  
1965 Wake Forest Road  
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### EDUCATION

- Boston College**, Chestnut Hill, Mass. 2015–2022  
Ph.D. in theology (area: theological ethics)  
• Graduate Fellow, Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy  
• Certificate in Human Rights and International Justice  
• Certificate in College Teaching
- Boston College**, Chestnut Hill, Mass. 2014–2015  
Th.M. in moral theology
- Wake Forest University**, Winston-Salem, N.C. 2007–2010  
M.Div.  
• Moyers Scholar, Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty (Fall 2008)  
• Wait Fellow
- Duke University**, Durham, N.C. 1993–1996  
J.D.  
• Death Penalty Clinic
- Samford University**, Birmingham, Ala. 1989–1993  
B.A., *cum laude*; English major, biology minor  
• Omicron Delta Kappa

### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- “Lot’s Daughters and Naomi and Ruth: Of ‘Moral Love’ and National Myths.” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 52, no. 1 (2024): 50–70.
- “Natural Law’s Return: Uncovering the Roots of Intractability on Gun Laws as a Prelude to New Growth.” *Journal of Moral Theology* 12, special issue no. 2 (2023): 33–57.
- “Reconsidering the Relationship Between Vitoria and Grotius’s Contributions to the International Law and Natural Law Traditions.” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 49, no. 1 (2021): 159–87.

“Treading Water at the Cliff’s Edge: The Dilemma Posed by Federal Money for Southern Baptist Colleges and Universities, 1958-1969,” *Perspectives in Religious Studies* 45, no. 3 (2018): 277–97.

“Whose Conscience? Which Religious Liberty? Rhetoric of Conscience and the Unfinished Baptist Doctrine of Soul Competency.” *American Baptist Quarterly* 34, nos. 3–4 (2015): 271–88.

### **ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“Baptist Contributions to a Communitarian Conscience,” National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion (NABPR) Annual Meeting, Gardner-Webb University, Boiling Springs, N.C., May 2023.

“The Future of Church-State Relations: Problems and Possibilities,” Ethics and Law Working Group (panel), Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting, online, January 2022.

“Lot’s Daughters, Ruth and Naomi, and the ‘1619 Project’: Lessons for Contemporary Reparations Discourse,” Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting, online, January 2021.

“Perspectives on the Communitarian Conscience” (poster), A Critical Time for Bridge-Building: Catholic Theological Ethics Today, Catholic Theological Ethics in the World Church (CTEWC), Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, July 2018.

“Separation of Church and State: A Renewed Case for an Historic Baptist Witness,” Theologians Conference, in conjunction with the American Baptist Churches-USA Biennial Mission Summit, Portland, Ore., June 2017.

“Distinct Bases, Crossing Paths: Rights of Internal and External Dissent in the Baptist and Catholic Traditions,” College Theology Society Annual Conference, in conjunction with National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion (NABPR) Region-at-Large, Salve Regina University, Newport, R.I., June 2017.

“Finding a Basis for ‘Burden Sharing’ in a Communitarian Conception of Human Rights,” Public Theology and the Global Common Good: The Contribution of David Hollenbach, S.J., Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Mass., October 2016.

“Commitmentarian Biblical Ethics: A Legal Text-Based Approach,” Biblical Ethics in the 21st Century, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wis., April 2016.

“The Rise and Fall of Kentucky Southern College: A Case Study,” Baptist History and Heritage Society Annual Conference, Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky., June 2010.

## **TEACHING POSITIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Wake Forest University**, Winston-Salem, N.C. 2023–  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Law at the School of Law and in the Program for Leadership and Character, and Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion, Law, and Public Life at the School of Divinity  
Co-faculty director, Pro Bono Program (2023–2024)  
Graduate courses taught:
- Conscience, Religious Freedom, and the Law (new course in the law school, cross-listed in the divinity school)
  - Christian Theology (redesigned course in the divinity school)
- Boston College**, Chestnut Hill, Mass. 2016–2022  
Undergraduate course taught:
- God, Self, and Society (5 sections over 3 years)
- Undergraduate courses served as teaching assistant:
- Perspectives on Western Culture I & II
  - Biblical Heritage I & II

## **ARTICLES FOR A GENERAL AUDIENCE**

- “The Desire for Retaliation is a Fool’s Errand,” *Baptist News Global*, November 22, 2023.
- “Revisiting ‘Natural Law’ and Gun Rights,” *Baptist News Global*, November 8, 2023.
- “Republicans, Democrats, PHNs and Cutting the Baby in Half,” *Baptist News Global*, October 16, 2023.
- “This More Appropriate Stephen Foster Song Can Replace ‘My Old Kentucky Home,’” *Courier-Journal* (Louisville, Ky.), September 9, 2020.
- “How Hard It Is to Enter the Kingdom of God,” *Baptist News Global*, February 19, 2015.
- “Zimmerman Case Law: A Ruler or A Mirror,” *Baptist News Global*, July 16, 2013.
- “Am I Emergent-Baptist?,” *Baptist News Global*, January 21, 2013.
- “What Jesus Really Meant,” *LEO Weekly* (Louisville, Ky.), August 15, 2005.

## **LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

<b>Farrar &amp; Bates, LLP</b> , Nashville, Tenn.	February 2012 – August 2014
<b>Carter Law Firm, PLLC</b> , Owenton, Ky.	February 2002 – June 2007
<b>Assistant Owen County Attorney</b> , Owenton, Ky.	February 2002 – June 2007
<b>Contract Attorney</b> , Nashville, Tenn.	November 2000 – January 2002
<b>Farrar &amp; Bates, LLP</b> , Nashville, Tenn.	August 1997 – October 2000

## **BAR ADMISSIONS**

State courts: Kentucky (1996) and Tennessee (1996)

Federal courts: United States Supreme Court (2000); Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals; Eastern and Western District Courts of Kentucky; Eastern, Middle, and Western District Courts of Tennessee

## **ORDINATION AND CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION**

Ordained Baptist minister, Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky. (2010), recognized by American Baptist Churches USA (2017).

Clinical Pastoral Education, 4 units total, including 3 units at Cone Health, Greensboro, N.C. (2010–2011) and 1 unit at Wake Forest Health, Winston-Salem, N.C. (2008).

## **DOCTORAL EXAMS**

1. Scripture
2. Systematic Theology
3. Ancient and Medieval Ethics
4. Reformation and Modern Ethics
5. Contemporary Theological and Philosophical Ethics
6. Applied Ethics/Special Topic: Conscience and Religious Liberty