U of M Human Rights Center to Launch Islamic Law and Human Rights Program

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/24/2011) —The University of Minnesota Law School's Human Rights Center will launch its Islamic Law and Human Rights Program (IHRP) on Friday, Feb. 4. Opening ceremonies will be held from 3 to 4:40 p.m. in Room 25 of Mondale Hall, 229 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

The new program will focus on current issues and debates surrounding human rights and Islamic law and will encourage and facilitate new approaches to research and real-world application. It will engage students through teaching, publications, fellowships, internships, applied research, field work, conferences and other special events on current human rights and Islamic law issues.

IHRP will function as a think-tank for issues related to Islamic law, human rights, the rule of law and terrorism in the Muslim world. Through the Human Rights Center, students will have access to advice and resources involving diverse constituencies, including students and human rights workers in organizations in the United States and around the Middle East and the Muslim world.

The program will be housed in the Law School's Human Rights Center on the plaza level of Mondale Hall and will be directed by Abdulwahid Qalinle, an adjunct associate professor of law at the Law School since 2004.

The event will include remarks by Qalinle; Law School Dean David Wippman; U.S. Representative Keith Ellison ('90); co-director of the Human Rights Center and Law School Professor David Weissbrodt; Judge LaJune Lange ('78); dean of the Institute for Global Citizenship at Macalester College and Professor Ahmed Ismail Samatar; Minneapolis Foundation Program Officer Zaineb Hassan; and Director of the African Development Center Hussein Samatar.

Associate Vice President and Dean of the Office of International Programs Meredith McQuaid ('91) will formally inaugurate the new program at the conclusion of the speakers' remarks. Light refreshments will follow.

RSVP is requested by Feb. 1 to Vicky Nguyen at nguye386@umn.edu or (612) 626-0041.