

Melissa Rogers

Melissa Rogers is the executive director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, and a nationally known expert on religion in American public life. Her areas of expertise include the United States Constitution's religious liberty guarantees and the interplay of religion, law, policy, and politics. Professor Rogers currently serves as visiting professor at Wake Forest University School of Divinity and as a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

Professor Rogers previously served as special assistant to President Barack Obama, and was the executive director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships from 2013 to 2017. She was also the chair of President Obama's inaugural Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships from 2009 to 2010. Prior to this, Professor Rogers was director of the Center for Religion and Public Affairs at the Wake Forest University School of Divinity, executive director of the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, and associate counsel/general counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty.

Professor Rogers is author of *Faith in American Public Life* and co-author of *Religious Freedom and the Supreme Court*. She has received an honorary doctorate of divinity from both Wake Forest University and the John Leland Center for Theological Studies. In 2017, President Barack Obama appointed her to serve as a member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. Baylor University awarded her its Pro Texana Medal of Service and the First Freedom Center gave her its Virginia First Freedom Award.

Professor Rogers holds a JD from University of Pennsylvania Law School and a BA from Baylor University.