

Religious Freedom in America

1813

2013

Bicentennial Reflections on *People v. Philips*

9am WELCOME Remarks: John Sexton, NYU & J.J. Lee, NYU

9:15-11:00am Postcolonial New York, a Catholic Minority
& Emerging Jurisprudence

People v. Philips in the context of 19th century constitutionalism,
religious exemption, evidentiary privilege, and Catholic history.



11:30am -12:30pm Walter J. Walsh, University of Washington Law

How William Sampson (1764-1836) came to be Amicus Curiae in *People v. Philips*, in the context of his interests in radical politics and human rights law.



2-3:30pm Religion, Rights and the State

People v. Philips in the context of 20th century constitutionalism and religious exemption, as well as in our current understanding of the relationship between religion, the law and human rights.



4:15-4:45pm Judge Bryan McMahon, Emeritus, Irish High Court

Evaluates *People v. Philips* in light of contemporary developments in Ireland, the United States and the European Union.



4:45-5:15 Roundtable Q&A

Moderated by Gráinne de Búrca, NYU Law

5:30-7:30pm Meet the Speakers Reception

Tickets \$25 in advance, space limited. Details at

<http://irelandhouse.fas.nyu.edu>

In the wake of a number of bias incidents, the Catholics of New York City, a small but growing minority, sought a judicial decision in 1813 that would protect their “free exercise and enjoyment of their religious profession and worship.” The case, *People v. Philips*, is the earliest known constitutional test of freedom of religion and the priest-penitent evidentiary privilege in American law. Based on the record of the trial by the Irish political exile and radical lawyer William Sampson, scholars from a wide variety of disciplines will consider the original arguments in relation to contemporary understanding of religious freedom over the past two centuries.

Saturday, April 13, 2013

Tishman Auditorium
New York University
School of Law



40 Washington Square South
between MacDougal & Sullivan Streets



FREE ADMISSION

Justice by John Dixey (d. 1820), designed for the cupola of New York's City Hall, 1812.
Courtesy of the New York Historical Society.

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