Rabbi David Ellenson, Ph.D., President of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR), presented the Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, to Dr. Mohamed Fathi Osman, Scholar in Residence, Omar Ibn al-Khattab Foundation. The degree was granted at HUC-JIR’s Los Angeles Graduation Ceremony on Monday, May 18, 2009 at HUC-JIR/LA, 3077 University Avenue in Los Angeles.

The Omar Ibn al-Khattab Foundation provides Islamic education, Islamic youth leadership training programs, and Islamic outreach activities in Los Angeles.

Rabbi Ellenson said, “Dr. Osman is a leading Muslim religious scholar whose voice on university campuses has contributed to the progressive education of countless Muslims through his extensive publications in Arabic and English. His astute and compelling reading of the Qur’an and Islamic tradition has demonstrated how Islam is a religion that can extol the virtues of pluralism and the love of all humanity and his contextual understanding of Islamic authority takes into consideration the needs of a modern multi-religious and multi-ethnic world. Dr. Osman's participation in the Center for Muslim-Jewish Engagement creates a platform for authentic and honest expression.”
Dr. Osman received his Ph.D. in Islamic Economical & Juristic History at Princeton. He received his B.A. and M.A. from Cairo University in Egypt, and his J.D. from Alexandria University in Egypt.

He has been a Visiting Professor at Loyola Law School, Georgetown University, International Islamic University, and the University of Southern California.

For more information on the HUC-JIR Graduation, Investiture, and Ordination ceremonies in New York, Los Angeles, and Cincinnati, please visit http://www.huc.edu/newspubs/pressroom/article.php?pressroomid=271.

For more information, contact Jean Rosensaft, 212-824-2209 or jrosensaft@huc.edu.

View the national invitation for event details: http://www.huc.edu/external/email/09/03/graduation/

Founded in 1875, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion is the nation's oldest institution of higher Jewish education and the academic, spiritual, and professional leadership development center of Reform Judaism. HUC-JIR educates men and women for service to American and world Jewry as rabbis, cantors, educators, and communal service professionals, and offers graduate and post-graduate programs to scholars of all faiths. With centers of learning in Cincinnati, Jerusalem, Los Angeles, and New York, HUC-JIR's scholarly resources comprise renowned library and museum collections, the American Jewish Archives, biblical archaeology excavations, research institutes and centers, and academic publications. HUC-JIR invites the community to an array of cultural and educational programs which illuminate Jewish history, identity, and contemporary creativity and which foster interfaith and multiethnic understanding. Visit us at www.huc.edu.