THEMES IN ISLAMIC LAW

# The Origins and Evolution of Islamic Law

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### Glossary of key terms

āḥād: solitary ḥadīths transmitted through fewer channels than mutawātir; as such, the knowledge of their contents is probable; see tawātur.

'ahd: a royal decree of judicial appointment; see also kitāb.

ahl al-ḥadīth: the traditionalists, those who held that the law must rest squarely on the Quran and Prophetic ḥadīth.

*ahl al-ra'y:* the rationalists, those who held that the law may be derived through human reason as guided by social and worldly experience.

akhbārī: one who collected reports of ancient events and recorded genealogies and poetry; see also quṣṣās.

amīn al-ḥukm (pl. umanā' al-ḥukm): trustee of the court who was in charge of the safekeeping of records, of confidential information and documents, and of property and cash.

aṣḥāb (sing. ṣāḥib): associates, colleagues or students; scholars who study and debate with each other, or students of a master; followers of a leading jurist without having studied under him or even having known him in person.

aṣḥāb al-masā'il (sg. ṣāḥib al-masā'il): court examiners who investigated the character of witnesses.

dīnār: a gold coin, equivalent to ten or twelve dirhams (q.v.).

*dirham*: a silver coin; see  $d\bar{\imath}n\bar{a}r$ .

dīwān (al-qāḍī): the court register in which the scribe recorded minutes of court sessions, judgments and a variety of documents, such as contracts, pledges and acknowledgments; see also maḥḍar, sijill.

 $faq\bar{\imath}h$  (pl.  $fuqah\bar{a}^{\imath}$ ): an expert in the law.

fatwā: a legal opinion issued by a muftī (q.v.); although formally non-binding, judges adhered to fatwās routinely.

*ḥadīth*: Prophetic traditions; reports of what the Prophet had said, done or tacitly approved; see also *sunan*, Sunna.

ḥakam (pl. ḥukkām): pre-Islamic arbiter whose decision, although non-binding, was usually accepted by the two parties.

ḥalaqa (or ḥalqa; pl. ḥalaqāt): scholarly or teaching circle.

Ḥanīf: pre-Islamic monotheistic religion that formed around the figure of Abraham.

ijmā': consensus of the scholars of a particular region as embodying their sunnaic practice, by definition exemplary; in later theory, consensus of

the *mujtahids* (q.v.) – as representatives of the community of Muslims – on a legal matter.

*ijtihād*: a process of legal reasoning and hermeneutics through which the juristmujtahid derives or rationalizes law on the basis of the Quran and the Sunna; during the early period, the exercise of one's discretionary opinion (ra'y) on the basis of 'ilm (q.v.).

ikhtilāf: juristic disagreement; the science of juristic disagreement (also 'ilm al-khilāf').

'illa (lit., cause): see ratio legis.

'ilm: knowledge of precedent, consisting, in the early period, of sunan (q.v.), but later of the Quran and Prophetic Sunna.

imam: generally, prayer leader; in the doctrinal schools, the eponym or master-jurist who is presumed to have constructed the methodological foundations and the positive and theoretical principles of the *madhhab* (q.v.).

istiḥṣān: juristic preference based, in the early period, upon practical considerations, and later, on a particularized textual ratio legis (q.v.).

istiṣlāḥ: legal reasoning dictated by considerations of public interest that are, in turn, grounded in universal legal principles.

jilwāz: court sheriff or bailiff.

kātib: court scribe.

khilāf: see ikhtilāf.

*kitāb*: generally, an epistle; juridically, a written instrument sent by one judge to another demanding the enforcement of a decision or a right; also, a letter of judicial appointment; see also 'ahd.

*madhhab*: legal opinion or legal doctrine espoused by a jurist; after the third/ninth century, it also referred to a doctrinal school.

*madhhab*-opinion: a legal opinion held to be the most authoritative by a doctrinal school.

madrasa: law college.

*majlis al-qāḍā*': the place where the activity of  $qad\bar{a}$ ', performed by the judge, takes place. By extension, it is any place where the judge sits to adjudicate cases.

maḥḍar (pl. maḥāḍir): records made by the court's scribe and signed by the judge, containing a summary of actions and claims adduced by litigating parties; also, records of statements made by court witnesses to the effect that a certain action, such as a sale or a pledge, had taken place; see also dīwān.

mansūkh (lit. abrogated): see naskh.

maṣlaḥa: public interest; see istiṣlāḥ.

mawlā: non-Arab convert to Islam who entered into legal patron-client relations that created an artificial kinship with the Arabs.

mazālim: extra-judicial tribunals held by the ruler but usually presided over by  $q\bar{a}d\bar{i}s$ .

Miḥna: the Inquisition, pursued by the caliphs and rationalists between 218/833 and 234/848; it revolved around the issue of whether or not the Quran was created.

muftī: jurisprudent who issues fatwās (q.v.); see also mujtahid.

*mujtahid*: often interchangeable with *muftī*, one who is competent to reason from the revealed texts, fashion new rules or justify and rationalize preexistent law; see also *ijtihād*.

mukharrijūn (sg. mukharrij): leading jurists who contributed to the formation of doctrinal schools; also independent and semi-independent mujtahids (q.v.) whose legal doctrine, or a part thereof, was appropriated by the doctrinal schools; see also takhrīj.

munādī: court official whose task, inter alia, was to call publicly on defendants or witnesses to appear before the court.

mugallid: a jurist or layman who follows a mujtahid (q.v.).

mushāwar: a jurist advising the court in Andalusia and the Maghrib.

mutawātir, see tawātur.

muwaththiq: private notary who drafted legal formulae; syn. shurūţī.

nā'ib: judge's deputy.

naskh: abrogation.

nass: unambiguous language of the Quran; language capable of yielding only one meaning.

qadā': judgeship, the entire range of the judge's judicial activities.

qādī al-qudāt: chief justice.

qāss: see qussās.

qimațr. a bookcase in which court documents are preserved; a court register in which documents are recorded.

qiyās: a collective name for a variety of legal arguments including, inter alia, analogy, argumentum a fortiori, reductio ad absurdum, or deductive arguments; see also ratio legis.

quṣṣās (sg. qāṣṣ): story-tellers.

ratio legis: "cause" or "factor" occasioning – in analogical qiyās (q.v.) – a rule in the original case; the presence of the same ratio in the new case requires the transfer of the rule from the original case to the new.

ra'y: discretionary opinion or reasoning based on precedent ('ilm, q.v.) or, at times, on subjective considerations.

ṣāḥib al-masā'il: see aṣḥāb al-masā'il.

 $sh\bar{a}hid$  (pl.  $shuh\bar{u}d$ ): witness.

Sharī'a: İslamic law, including legal doctrine and the judiciary.

shurūṭī: private notary who drafted legal formulae; syn. muwaththiq.

*sijill* (pl. *sijillāt*): witnessed record of the contents of mahdar(q.v.), together with the judge's decision on each case.

sīra: the Prophet's biography.

siyāsa shar iyya: law legislated and administered by the ruler.

sunan (sg. sunna): exemplary conduct of both groups and individuals that, over time, became a model to be emulated and followed by others.

sunna: see sunan.

Sunna: the Propher's conduct that had been established as a model for others to follow; this conduct may be expressed in the Propher's own practices, his utterances or his tacit approval of events or pronouncements made in his

presence; with the passage of time it became, after the Quran, the second source of Islamic law.

sunna māḍiya (pl. sunan māḍiya): established, continuous practice that had become a model to follow.

sunnaic practice: continuous practice based upon the sunan (q.v.).

tābūt al-ḥukm (also tābūt al-quḍāt): security box in which the judge kept cash and other valuables.

takhrīj: legal reasoning (ijtihād, q.v.) derived from, and based upon, earlier, authoritative law; see also mukharrijūn.

taqlīd: following the authority of a mujtahid (q.v.) or of one's school, with or without the ability to practice ijtihād.

tawātur. recurrent Prophetic traditions, transmitted through so many channels and by so many people that collusion upon forgery is inconceivable; as such, their contents are known with certainty.

traditionalist: a proponent of the view that law must squarely rest on the revealed sources.

tradition(al)ist: a legist who is both a traditionist and a traditionalist.

traditionist: a specialist in hadīth collection, transmission and authentication.

umanā' al-ḥukm: see amīn al-ḥukm.

Umma: the Muslim community.

uṣūl al-fiqh: legal theory that laid down the principles of linguistic–legal interpretation, theory of abrogation (naskh), consensus and juristic reasoning, among others.

waqf (pl. awqāf): a perpetual charitable trust or endowment for the benefit of family members or the public at large.

zakāt: alms-tax.

### Short biographies

'Abd Allah b. Nawfal: proto-judge in Medina during the late 60s/68os.

'Abd Allāh al-'Umarī: see 'Umarī.

'Abd Allāh b. 'Utba (d. 98/716): Medinan legal specialist.

'Abd al-Malik: Umayyad caliph (r. 65/685–86/705).

Abū Ayyūb al-Sakhtiyānī (d. 131/748): Baṣran jurist.

Abū Bakr (d. 13/634): the Prophet's Companion and the first caliph of Islam.

Abū Ḥanīfa (d. 150/767): leading Kūfan jurist and eponym of the Ḥanafite legal school.

Abū Hurayra: Companion of the Prophet.

Abū Ṭāhir Muḥammad b. Aḥmad: judge in Ikhshīdid Egypt around 348/959.

Abū Thawr, Ibrāhīm b. Khālid (d. 240/854): leading Iraqian jurist and founder of an extinct legal school.

Abū Yūsuf, Yaʻqūb (d. 182/798): leading Kūfan jurist, first chief justice in Islam and co-founder of the Ḥanafite legal school.

Abū Zur'a, Muḥammad b. 'Uthmān (d. 302/914): Shāfi'ite scholar, appointed in 284/897 as chief justice of both Syria and Egypt.

'Adī b. Ārṭa'a: Baṣran judge appointed by 'Umar II (r. 99/717–101/720).

'Alī b. Abī Tālib (d. 40/661): cousin of the Prophet and fourth caliph of Islam.

Amīn: 'Abbāsid caliph, the son of Hārūn al-Rashīd (r. 193/809–198/813).

'Āmir al-Sha'bī: see Sha'bī.

'Amr b. Dīnār (d. 126/743): Meccan legal specialist.

Anas b. Mālik: Companion of the Prophet.

'Anbarī, 'Ubayd Allāh b. al-Ḥasan: judge of Baṣra between 156/772 and 166/782.

Anmāṭī, Abū al-Qāsim (d. 288/900): leading Shāfi'ite jurist.

Anṣārī, Abū Bakr b. Ḥazm: judge of Medina in and after 94/712.

'Aṭā' b. Abī Rabāḥ (d. 105/723): Meccan/Medinan legal specialist.

Athram, Abū Bakr (d. 261/874): student of Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal.

'Aṭṭāf b. Ghazwān: maṣālim judge in Fusṭāṭ between 211/826 and 212/827.

Awzāʿī (d. 157/773): leading Syrian jurist and founder of the Awzāʿian legal school. Azdī: see ʿIyād.

Bakkār b. Qutayba: Kūfan Ḥanafite judge serving in Egypt between 246/860 and 270/883, when he died.

Baṣrī, al-Ḥasan (d. 110/728): Baṣran intellectual and proto-theologian.

Burnī, Aḥmad b. ʿĪsā: judge appointed to the east side of Baghdad around 170/786. Dāwūd b. Khalaf al-Ṣāhirī (d. 270/883): leading Baghdadian jurist and eponym of the Ṣāhirite legal school, later extinct.

Faḍāla b. 'Ubayd al-Ānṣārī: proto-*qāḍī* and governor of Syria in or around 38/658.

Fadl b. Ghānim: judge of Fustāt between 198/813 and 199/814.

Fārisī, Abū Bakr (fl. ca. 350/960): leading Shāfi'ite jurist and student of Ibn Surayj. Ghawth b. Sulaymān: appointed twice as judge in Egypt between 135/752 and 144/761.

Habīb b. Thābit (d. 119/737): weak traditionist.

Hādī: 'Abbāsid caliph (r. 169/785-170/786).

Ḥammād b. Isḥāq (d. 267/880): leading Mālikite jurist and judge in Baghdad.

Ḥammād b. Abī Sulaymān (d. 120/737): distinguished Kūfan jurist.

Harbī, Ibrāhīm b. Ishāq (d. 285/898): follower of Ibn Ḥanbal and a proto-Ḥanbalite.

Ḥārith b. Miskīn: judge in Egypt between 237/851 and 245/859.

Ḥārithī, Khālid b. Ḥusayn: Baṣran judge between 158/774 and 169/785.

Harmala (d. 243/857): student of Shāfi<sup>c</sup>ī and a leading jurist whose own nascent school did not survive.

Hārūn b. 'Abd Allāh: judge in Egypt between 216/831 and 226/840.

Hārūn al-Rashīd: 'Abbāsid caliph (r. 170/786–193/809).

Hasan b. Ziy $\overline{a}$ d (d. 204/819): leading K $\overline{u}$ fan jurist, judge and traditionist, and Ab $\overline{u}$  Han $\overline{u}$ fa's student.

Hāshim al-Bakrī: Iraqian Ḥanafite judge appointed in Egypt between 194/809 and 196/811.

Ḥazmī, 'Abd Allāh b. Ṭāhir: judge in Egypt between 169/785 and 174/790.

Ibn 'Abbād, Muḥammad: *mazālim* judge in Egypt between 215/830 and 216/831.

Ibn 'Abbas: Companion of the Prophet.

Ibn 'Abd al-Ḥakam, 'Abd Allāh (d. 214/829): Egyptian judge and witness examiner.

Ibn Abī Dāwūd (d. 240/854): chief justice and chief inquisitor during the Miḥna.

Ibn Abī Laylā (d. 148/765): distinguished Kūfan judge and jurist.

Ibn Burayda, 'Abd Allāh: judge in Khurāsān (probably early second/eighth century).

Ibn al-Furāt, Isḥāq: judge in Egypt between 184/800 and 185/801.

Ibn Ḥafṣ, Ḥusayn (d. 212/827): Hanafite jurist who operated in Iṣfahān.

Ibn Ḥanbal, Aḥmad (d. 241/855): distinguished traditionist and traditionalist, and the eponym of the Ḥanbalite school of law.

Ibn Harbawayh, Ab $\overline{u}$  'Ubayd (d. 319/931): leading Thawrian jurist. See Ab $\overline{u}$  Thawr.

Ibn Ḥaykawayh (d. 318/930): Shāfi'ite jurist and student of Ibn Surayj.

Ibn Hujayra, 'Abd al-Raḥmān: Egyptian judge between 70/689 or 71/690 and 83/702, when he died.

Ibn Jarrāḥ, Ibrāhīm: Ḥanafite judge, served in Egypt between 205/820 and 211/826. Ibn Jubayr, Saʻīd: judge in Kūfa after 105/723.

Ibn Khadīj, 'Abd al-Rahmān: judge serving in Egypt for six months during 86/705–87/706.

Ibn Khayrān, Abū 'Alī (d. 320/932): Shāfi'ite jurist and student of Anmātī.

Ibn Mas'ūd (d. 32/652): Companion of the Prophet.

Ibn Maymūn, Yaḥyā: judge serving in Egypt between 105/723 and 115/733.

Ibn al-Mu'adhdhil (d. ca. 240/854): leading Mālikite jurist in Baṣra.

Ibn al-Mubārak, 'Abd Allāh (d. ca. 185/801): leading Khurāsānian, and later Iraqian, jurist, and student of Sufyān al-Thawrī and Mālik.

Ibn al-Munkadir, 'Īsā: judge of Fusṭāṭ between 212/827 and 214/829.

Ibn al-Muqaffa' (d. ca. 139/756): Persian secretary during the first years of the 'Abbāsids.

Ibn al-Qāsim, Abū ʿAbd Allāh (d. 191/806): leading Medinan jurist and student of Mālik.

Ibn al-Qāṣṣ al-Ṭabarī (d. 336/947): leading Shāfi'ite jurist and student of Ibn Surayj.

Ibn Ṣayfī, Yaḥyā b. Aktham (d. 242/856): Shāfi'ite jurist and confidant of the caliph Ma'mūn.

Ibn Shabṭūn, Abū 'Abd Allāh (d. 193/808 or 199/814): Medinan Mālikite jurist who, among others, introduced Mālikism to Andalusia.

Ibn Shayba, Yaʻqūb (d. 262/875): leading Mālikite jurist in Baṣra and later in Baghdad.

Ibn Shubruma: Kūfan judge during the 130s/750s.

Ibn Surayj, Abū al-'Abbās (d. 306/918): Baghdadian Shāfi'ite jurist, one of the most important contributors to the formation of Shāfi'ism.

Ibn 'Umar, 'Âbd Allāh (d. 73/692 or 74/693): Companion of the Prophet and Medinan authority.

Ibn 'Utba, 'Abd Allāh: judge serving in Kufa around 95/713.

Ibn 'Uyayna: see Sufyan.

Ibn Yasār, Abū ʿAbd Allāh Muslim (d. ca. 110/728): leading Baṣran legal specialist. Ibn Yasār, Sulaymān: see Sulaymān.

Ibrāhīm b. Isḥāq: judge of Fusṭāṭ between 204/819 and 205/820, when he died.

'Ikrima (d. 107/725 or 115/733): Meccan legal specialist.

'Imrān b. 'Abd Allāh al-Ḥasanī: appointed as judge of Fusṭāṭ in 86/705.

'Īsā b. Dīnār (d. 212/827): leading Mālikite jurist who introduced Mālikism to Andalusia.

Isḥāq b. Mūsā (d. ca. 290/902): Egyptian Shāfi'ite scholar who introduced Shāfi'ism to Astrabādh.

Ismā'īl b. Isḥāq: appointed as judge to the west side of Baghdad around 170/786.

Ismā'īl b. Isḥāq (d. 282/895): distinguished Mālikite judge and jurist in Baghdad.

Ismā'īl b. Yasa': Iraqian Ḥanafite judge serving in Egypt between 164/780 and 167/783. Istakhrī, Abū Sa'īd (d. 328/939): Shāfi'ite jurist and student of Anmātī.

'Iyāḍ al-Azdī: judge in Egypt around 98/716.

Iyās b. Mu'āwiya: judge of Baṣra (d. 122/739).

Jayshānī, 'Abd al-Raḥmān: judge and tax-collector in Fusṭāṭ during the 130s/750s. Ka'b b. Suwar al-Azdī: proto-*qāḍī* of Baṣra in around 14/635.

Khallāl, Abū Bakr (d. 311/923): one of the chief founders of the Ḥanbalite legal school.

Khārija b. Zayd (d. 99/717): distinguished Medinan jurist.

Khayr b. Nu'aym: judge and story-teller serving twice in Egypt, first between 120/737 and 127/744, and second between 133/750 and 135/752.

Khuwārizmī, Muḥammad: Iraqian copyist, appointed as a judge in Egypt in 205/820.

Khuzayma b. Ibrāhīm: served as judge in Egypt around 135/752.

Lahī'a b. 'Īsā: judge serving twice in Egypt, first between 196/811 and 198/813, and second between 199/814 and 204/819.

Laythī, Yaḥyā b. Yaḥyā (d. 234/849): Medinan Mālikite jurist who, among others, introduced Mālikism to Andalusia.

Mahdī: the third 'Abbāsid caliph (r. 158/775–169/785).

Makḥūl, Abū 'Abd Allāh (d. 113/731 or 118/736): Syrian legal specialist.

Makhzumī, Muḥammad b. 'Abd Allāh: judge in Baghdad during Ma'mun's reign.

Mālik b. Anas (d. 179/795): leading Medinan jurist and eponym of the Mālikite school of law.

Ma'mūn: 'Abbāsid caliph between 198/813 and 218/833, and son of caliph Hārūn al-Rashīd.

Mansūr, Abū Ja'far: the second 'Abbāsid caliph (r. 136/754–158/775).

Manṣūr b. Ismā'īl (d. 306/918): leading Thawrian jurist. See Abū Thawr.

Marwān: Umayyad caliph (r. 64/683-65/684).

Marwazī, Muḥammad b. Naṣr (d. 294/906): prominent Baghdadian/Samarqandian jurist and traditionist.

Maydanī, Husayn Abū Ja'far (d. 212/827): Hanafite jurist in Isfahān.

Maymūnī, 'Abd Allāh (d. 274/887): student of Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal.

Muʿādh b. Jabal: governor/commander/proto-qāḍī of Yemen during the Prophet's lifetime.

Muʿāwiya b. Abī Sufyān: the first Umayyad caliph (r. 41/661–60/680).

Mufaḍḍal b. Faḍāla: appointed judge of Fusṭāṭ twice, first between 168/784 and 169/785, and second between 174/790 and 177/793.

Muḥammad b. Abī al-Layth: judge in Fusṭāṭ between 226/840 and 235/849.

Muḥammad b. Sīrīn (d. 110/728): Kūfan legal specialist.

Muḥammad b. Yūsuf: judge of Baghdad around 301/913.

Mujāhid b. Jabr (d. between 100/718 and 104/722): Meccan legal specialist.

Murādī, 'Ābis b. Sa'īd: proto-qādī of Fusṭāṭ around 65/684.

Murādī, al-Rabī' b. Sulaymān (d. 270/884): leading Shāfi'ite jurist in Egypt.

Muslim b. Yasār, Abū 'Abd Allāh (d. 101/719): distinguished Baṣran jurist.

Muzanī, Ibrāhīm (d. 264/877): Egyptian Shāfi'ite jurist.

Nāfi' (d. 118/736): Medinan legal specialist.

Nakha'ī, Ibrāhīm (d. 96/714): proto-Ḥanafite Kūfan jurist.

Nawfal b. Musāḥiq: Medinan judge around 76/695.

Nīsābūrī, Muḥammad b. al-Mundhir (d. 318/930): leading, semi-independent jurist, later claimed by the Shāfiʿite school.

Nīsābūrī, Yaʻqūb b. Ishāq (d. 313/925 or 316/928): Egyptian Shāfiʻite jurist who introduced his school to Isfarā'īn.

Qabīṣa b. Dhuʾayb, Abū Saʿīd (d. 86/705 or 87/706): prominent Medinan legal specialist.

Qaffāl al-Shāshī (d. 336/947): leading Shāfi'ite jurist and student of Ibn Surayj.

Qāsim b. Muḥammad (d. 110/728): Medinan legal specialist.

Qatāda b. Di'āma al-Sadūsī (d. 117/735): leading Baṣran legal specialist.

Rabī' b. Sulaymān: see Murādī.

Rabī'a (Rabī'at al-Ra'y) b. Abī 'Abd al-Rahmān (d. 136/753): Medinan legal authority.

Ru'aynī, Abū Khuzayma: judge in Egypt between 144/761 and 154/770.

Sa'īd b. Jubayr (d. 95/713): Kufan legal specialist.

Sa'īd b. al-Musayyab (d. 94/712): Medinan legal authority.

Sakhtiyānī: see Abū Ayyūb.

Ṣāliḥ b. Kaysān: Medinan traditionist (fl. ca. 100/718–120/737).

Sawwār b. 'Abd Allāh: Baṣran judge serving during the late 130s/750s.

Şayrafī, Abū Bakr (d. 330/942): leading Shāfi'ite jurist and student of Ibn Surayj. Sha'bī, 'Āmir (d. 110/728): distinguished Kūfan legal specialist.

Shāfi'ī, Muḥammad b. Idrīs (d. 204/819): leading jurist and eponym of the Shāfi'ite legal school.

Sharīk b. 'Abd Allāh: Kūfan judge during the 160s/780s.

Shāshī: see Qaffāl.

Shāshī, Abū ʿAlī (d. 344/955): Ḥanafite jurist and legal theoretician.

Shaybānī, Muḥammad b. al-Ḥasan (d. 189/804): leading Kūfan jurist and co-founder of the Ḥanafite legal school.

Shurayḥ: proto-qāḍī of Kūfa (d. sometime between 63/682 and 78/705).

Sufyān b. 'Uyayna (d. 198/814): distinguished traditionist and teacher of Shāfi'ī.

Sulamī, 'Umar b. 'Āmir: Baṣran judge during the 130s/750s.

Sulaym b. Itr: Egyptian proto- $q\bar{a}d\bar{i}$  between 40/660 and 60/680.

Sulaymān b. Yasār (d. 110/728): Medinan legal specialist.

Țabarī, Muḥammad b. Jarīr (d. 310/922): leading Baghdadian jurist whose nascent school did not survive.

Talḥa b. 'Abd Allāh b. 'Awf: proto-qāḍī of Medina between 60/679 and 72/691.

Tamīmī, Manṣūr (d. before 320/932): Shāfi'ite jurist and student of Anmāṭī.

Tāwūs (d. 106/724): Yemenite legal specialist.

Thaljī, Muḥammad b. Shujā' (d. 267/880): leading Iraqian Ḥanafite jurist.

Thawrī, Sufyān (d. 161/777): leading Kūfan jurist and an eponym of an extinct legal school.

'Ubayd Allāh b. Bakara: commander and proto-qādī of nascent Baṣra.

'Udharī, 'Abd al-Raḥmān: military commander and *qāḍī* of Damascus around 100/718.

'Umar I, b. al-Khaṭṭāb: the second caliph after the Prophet (r. 13/632–23/644) and one of his Companions.

'Umar II, b. 'Abd al-'Azīz: Ummayad caliph (r. 99/717–101/720).

'Umarī, 'Abd Allāh: judge in Egypt between 185/801 and 194/809.

'Urwa b. al-Zubayr (d. 94/712): Medinan legal specialist.

'Uthman b. 'Affan: the third caliph of Islam (r. 23/644–35/655) and a Companion of the Prophet.

Yahyā b. Sa'īd: judge of Baghdad during Manṣūr's reign (136/754–158/775).

Yaḥyā b. Yaḥyā: see Laythī.

Yazīd b. 'Abd al-Malik: Umayyad caliph (r. 101/718–105/723).

Yazīd b. Bilāl (d. 140/757): Egyptian judge.

Zayd b. Thabit: the Prophet's scribe.

Ziyād b. 'Abd al-Raḥmān (d. ca. 200/815): Medinan Mālikite jurist who introduced Mālikism to Andalusia.

Zufar b. Hudhayl (d. 158/774): leading Kūfan jurist and student of Abū Ḥanīfa.

Zuhrī, Abū Muṣʿab (d. 242/857): Medinan jurist.

Zuhrī, Ibn Shihāb al-Dīn (d. 124/742): leading Medinan jurist.

Zuraqī, 'Umar b. Khalda: judge of Medina around 80/699.

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In classifying entries no account is taken of the letter 'ayn or the Arabic definite article al-.

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