IMAM ZAID SHAKIR

Imam Zaid Shakir is a co-founder and senior faculty member of Zaytuna College, the first accredited Islamic liberal arts college located in Berkeley, CA. He obtained a B.A., (summa cum laude), in International Relations at American University in Washington D.C. and later earned his MA in Political Science from Rutgers University. In 2001, he graduated from Syria's prestigious Abu Noor University with a BA in Islamic Studies. Over the years as a community activist, Imam Zaid co-founded the New Brunswick Islamic Center, formerly Masjid al-Huda in NJ., Masjid Al-Islam in New Haven, CT., and more recent the Lighthouse Mosque, in Oakland, CA.

Imam Zaid's literary works penned is an anthology of diverse essays, *Scattered Pictures: Reflections of An American Muslim,* an award- winning text, *Treatise for the Seekers of Guidance,* a translation and commentary on Imam Harith al-Muhasibi's work, *Risala al-Mustarshideen,* and *Where I'm Coming From: The Year In Review,* a collection of essays from an Islamic perspective on the events of the day.

As a compelling force for the improvement of race relations in America, and amongst the most respected global Islamic scholars, The New York Times describes him as a *"leading intellectual light"*. He has served as an advisor to many organizations and influential leaders. As a gifted author and lecturer, Imam Zaid recently was ranked as *"one of the western world's most influential*

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scholars"; by The 500 Most Influential Muslims, edited by John Esposito and Ibrahim Kalin, (2020). He is a signatory along with religious and spiritual Leaders from around the world who presented the UN Secretary General with a declaration in support of the Paris Climate Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, marking the largest number of nations ever signing an international agreement. In 2018, CNN listed Imam Zaid among 25 influential American Muslims.