

GEORGETOWN LAW

Faculty Bios

Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies and
Georgetown University Law Center
“The Moral Economy”
Wednesday, March 22, 2017

The Program:

The Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies and the Georgetown University Law Center are pleased to present a special one day academic program to address some of the compelling issues confronting society today concerning economic justice, with a special focus on the relationship between American law, and the world’s great religious traditions. Six panel discussions will be led by leading scholars, professors and bankruptcy judges.

Co-chairs:

Co-chairs for the program are Professor Sherman Cohn, Dr. Levi Cooper, and David Kuney.

Event sponsors:

Whiteford, Taylor & Preston, LLP, the Center for Jewish Civilization (Georgetown University); the Olender Foundation, the American Association of Jewish Lawyers, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Yeshivat Maharat and the Hebrew College.

The Faculty:

Dr. Deborah Barer, is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Towson University, where she also serves as faculty for the graduate program in Jewish Studies. She received her PhD. in Religious Studies from the University of Virginia in 2016, with a concentration in rabbinic literature and thought. Her research explores models of rabbinic decision-making, with an emphasis on the intersection of ethical and legal reasoning in Talmudic narratives.

Dr. Noah Benjamin Bickart holds a Ph.D. in Talmud and Rabbinics from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, with an M.T.S. in Hebrew Bible from Harvard Divinity School. He is currently a Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Postdoctoral Fellow in the Program of Judaic Studies at Yale University.

Judge Shelley Chapman is a sitting United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of New York, and is widely considered one of the leading bankruptcy judges in the United States. She has presided over some of the largest, most complex commercial cases in the past 10 years, and is a frequent speaker and writer at leading national seminars on bankruptcy law.

Professor Sherm Cohn, has been a professor at the Law Center since 1965. Professor Cohn specializes in the fields of civil procedure, professional responsibility, and legal issues of complementary, alternative & integrative medicine, on which he also lectures at the Georgetown Medical Center. In addition, he teaches Jewish Law. Before joining the Law Center faculty, he served as a clerk for Judge Charles Fahy of the D.C. Circuit and in the Appellate Section of the Civil Division of the Department of Justice.

Dr. Levi Cooper, teaches Bible, Hasidut, Maimonides and Midrash at Pardes. Originally from Australia, Dr. Cooper holds an LL.B., LL.M. and Ph.D. from the Law Faculty of Bar-Ilan University, and is a member of the Israel Bar Association. He is currently an adjunct professor in the Law Faculty of Bar-Ilan University and post-doctoral fellow in the Law Faculty of Tel Aviv University.

Rabba Yaffa Epstein serves as the Director of Education, North America for the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies. She received Rabbinic Ordination from Yeshivat Maharat and holds a Law Degree from Bar-Ilan University. She has studied at the Pardes Kollel, the Advanced Talmud Institute at Matan and the Talmud Department of Hebrew University. Yaffa has been a teacher of Talmud, Jewish law, and Liturgy at Pardes for over a decade, and has served as the Director of the Beit Midrash at the Dorot Fellowship in Israel.

Rabbi William Friedman is a Ph.D. candidate at Harvard University, in Near Eastern Languages and Civilization department. He concentrates on Jewish legal texts and the application of contemporary thinking to those texts.

Michael Goldman, is currently serving as Chaplain, Georgetown University Law Center. A Georgetown University Law Center graduate and a lawyer in a previous career, he has been the Jewish Chaplain for the Law and Medical Centers since August 2002. He has been a student

of Judaism for his adult life and has taught numerous courses on Judaica, including courses at Georgetown Law and Medical Centers.

David Kuney is an Adjunct Professor of Bankruptcy law at Georgetown University Law Center where he teaches a course entitled “The Bankruptcy Advocacy Practicum.” He is also Senior Counsel at Whiteford, Taylor & Preston in Washington, D.C. He has authored numerous amicus curia briefs before the U.S. Supreme Court on major issues in consumer law and is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy and the American College of Real Estate Lawyers.

Dr. Jenny Labendz holds a PhD in Talmud from the Jewish Theological Seminary, and has taught as a visiting assistant professor at Barnard College and at Drew University. She is the author of *Socratic Torah: Non-Jews in Rabbinic Intellectual Culture* (Oxford, 2013) and has a forthcoming article on rabbinic eschatology in the *Jewish Quarterly Review*. She was a student and faculty member at Pardes, and participated in the Graduate Fellowship for Jewish Law and Interdisciplinary Studies at Yeshiva University's Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization and in Oxford University's European Seminar on Advanced Jewish Studies. She now teaches at the Solomon Schechter Day School of Bergen County.

Rabbi Ariel Mayse was recently appointed as the Hasidic Jewish Law Scholar of Hebrew College of Newton Center. Dr. Mayse earned his PhD in Jewish studies from Harvard University and his rabbinic ordination from Beit Midrash Har’el. He taught in Yeshivat Oraya in Jerusalem for four years and most recently served as a Research Fellow at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan.

Mr. Irvin B. Nathan is currently the Chair of the Board of Directors of Tzedek DC. He is the former Attorney General of the District of Columbia and former senior counsel and partner at Arnold & Porter in Washington D.C. Tzedek DC is a non-profit organization with the mission of safeguarding the rights of low-income DC residents facing often unjust debt collection lawsuits and other predatory consumer crises, and is now a full-time public interest center at the University of the District of Columbia. Mr. Nathan is also the former General Counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Judge Eugene Wedoff (ret.), recently president of the American Bankruptcy Institute, served as a leading bankruptcy judge in Chicago, Illinois, where he authored many of the leading decision in both commercial and consumer cases. He earned his J.D. from the University of Chicago and was a law partner at Jenner & Block before taking the bench. Judge Wedoff now devotes his full-time efforts to doing only *pro bono* law work in consumer bankruptcy cases.

Professor Steven Wilf is the Anthony J. Smits Professor of Global Commerce & Director of the Intellectual Property & Information Governance Program at the University of Connecticut School of Law. He is a recognized expert on intellectual property law, historical jurisprudence, and legal history. Professor Steven Wilf is the author of *The Law Before the Law* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2008), *Law's Imagined Republic: Popular Politics and Criminal Justice in Revolutionary America* (Cambridge University Press, 2010), and numerous articles.