



THE TIKVAH FUND
165 E. 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Religious Freedom in America

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Participant Biographies

Sarit Abadian-Rubinshtain

Israel

Sarit Abadian-Rubinshtain has been a Senior Law Clerk for the honorable Justice Daphne Barak-Erez at the Supreme Court of Israel since 2012. She practiced commercial litigation at Fischer Bachar Hen Well Orion, and Associates from 2007 to 2012. She graduated with a B.A in Government, Diplomacy & Strategy and an LL.B from the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya. She is currently studying for her Masters in Commercial Law (LL.M.) at the Tel-Aviv University in collaboration with the University Of California Berkeley Boalt Hall School Of Law. Additionally, she studied at Midreshet Lindenbaum in Jerusalem.



Bruce Abramson

United States of America

Bruce D. Abramson is a Senior Expert at Keystone Strategy, LLC and the President of Informationism, Inc. He holds a B.A., an M.S., and a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Columbia University and a J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center. He is a member of the Bars of New York, California, and the District of Columbia, and a Registered Patent Attorney. Dr. Abramson has served on the faculties of the Computer Science Department and the Social Science Research Institute of the University of Southern California, as a research adjunct to the Department of Engineering and Public Policy of Carnegie Mellon University, and as a law clerk to the Hon. Arthur Gajarsa of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. He has published over forty articles in the scholarly journals of Computer Science, Business, and Law, and has worked as a technologist, an economic analyst, and a lawyer. His books include *Digital Phoenix: Why the Information Economy Collapsed and How it Will Rise Again*. (MIT Press, 2005) (Simplified Chinese version, ShangHai Yuandong Press, 2008) and *The Secret Circuit: The Little-Known Court Where the Rules of the Information Age Unfold* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2007). In his current practice, he provides litigation and strategic counsel to clients operating at the intersection of technology, business, and law.



Michael Buschbacher

United States of America

Michael Buschbacher is a law clerk for the Honorable Paul R. Cherry of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana. He holds a B.A. from Indiana University, where he double majored in Music and Germanic Studies (2010), and a J.D., *magna cum laude*, from Notre Dame Law School (2013). While in law school, Mr. Buschbacher served as an Article Editor of the *Notre Dame Journal of Law, Ethics & Public Policy*, as a National Symposium Editor of the *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy*, and as President of the Notre Dame Christian Legal Society. In 2013, he was elected to the Claremont Institute's John Marshall Fellowship.



Dovid Cohen

United States of America

Rabbi Dovid M. Cohen has served as Rabbi of the Young Israel of the West Side since 2006. Rabbi Cohen received his B.A. from Yeshiva University in 1994, graduating with honors in History. He was ordained by the Rabbi Isaac Elchanon Theological Seminary in 1997 and holds a law degree from Columbia University and a Masters in counseling from University of North Texas. He has published many articles on contemporary issues and is a frequent contributor to the *Mishpacha* magazine, *Hamodia*, the *Jewish Press* and the *Jewish Week* and often serves as scholar-in-residence in communities throughout North America. He is completing his first book on the vicissitudes of life which will be ready in early 2015. Rabbi Cohen was invited this past year to President Obama's Chanuka reception at the White House, and to offer the opening prayer in the House of Representatives by former House Majority Leader Eric Cantor.



Yair Fraiman

Israel

Yair Eddie Fraiman is the Director of Public Diplomacy Organizations and Interactive Media at the National Information Directorate of the Israeli Prime Minister's Office. He also serves as a City Councilman for the city of Yokne'am in the north of Israel. Previously he served as the Social Media Director for the Israel Ministry of Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs, in which he launched and managed the Ministry's official operations room during the 2012 Operation Pillar of Defense, and established the *Israel Under Fire* campaign. During the recent Operation Protective Edge, he directed additional national social media campaign using student volunteer centers, as well as continuing to manage the *Israel Under Fire* campaign. Mr. Fraiman currently serves as a Captain in the IDF Spokesman's Interactive Media Unit of the Israel Defense Force Reserves. Mr. Fraiman previously worked in several government positions both in Israel and as an Emissary for the Jewish Agency for Israel. Born in 1984 in the former USSR Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Fraiman immigrated to Israel in 1990. He holds a B.A. in Political Science and International Relations from the Hebrew University of



Jerusalem (2010). He is currently pursuing an M.A. in Diplomacy and Political Science in Tel Aviv University.

Shuki Friedman

Israel

Shuki Friedman is a professor of law at the Peres Academic Center in Rehovot, Israel and the secretary for the public committee for Israel defense budget. He earned an LL.B. in economics and Middle East studies and an LL.M. and Ph.D. in Islamic and constitutional law from Bar Ilan University. Before joining the Peres Center, Dr. Friedman served for eight years in the legal division of the Israeli Prime Minister's Office, as the head of international and foreign law department. During that time he also taught Jewish and Islamic law at Bar Ilan University. From 2011 to 2013 he was head of the Israeli government's committee on sanctions against Iran. Dr. Friedman has written numerous articles and book chapters, many on the role of Jewish law in Israeli law and public policy. With Nahum Langental, he co-edited *The Conflict: State and Religion in Israel* and with Yedidia Stern, he co-edited *Rabbinet: The Challenge*. He was ordained as a rabbi by the Chief Rabbinate of Israel.



Devorah Goldman

United States of America

Devorah Goldman is a licensed social worker who chose to pursue a career in policy shortly after her graduation in 2011, largely because of political issues she saw affecting the lives of her clients. Since then, she has worked in a congressional office, the Israeli Knesset, political campaigns, and the NGO Monitor. Devorah recently completed a year-long legislative fellowship at the Orthodox Union Advocacy Center in Washington, DC, during which she researched and lobbied for bills and regulations concerning Orthodox Jewish communities in the United States. Her work has been published by the NGO Monitor and *The Algemeiner*, and has been accepted for publication by the *Weekly Standard*.



Aviad HaCohen

Israel

Professor Aviad HaCohen is the Dean of the Sha'arei Mishpat Academic Center and its law school, Senior Lecturer of Constitutional Law and Jewish Law at Sha'arei Mishpat and at the Faculty of Law of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; and a research fellow at the Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem. After completing his LL.B. and LL.M (*cum laude*) at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, he was awarded his Ph.D. in Law from the Hebrew University in 2003 (*magna cum laude*), under the instruction of Professor Menachem Elon. Professor HaCohen previously served as the chief editor of the official Israel Supreme Court Judgments (PDI). Prof. HaCohen also serves on the editorial board of several

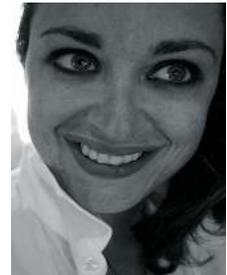


publications, among them: the *Yearbook of Jewish Law*, *Machanayim*, *Sha'arei Mishpat*, and *Masechet*. He is also an accomplished author of several books published in 2004 and 2011. He has also published extensive articles and research studies both in the legal and political spheres. Professor HaCohen served as a consultant to the Codification Commission of the Ministry of Justice in Israel; a member of the committee on legal terms at the Academy of the Hebrew Language. He founded and heads Mosaica – the Institute for the Study of Religion Society and State. He has served on multiple committees, also serving as a consultant in education. He would also function as a prominent consultant in the Prime Minister's Office as well as for other Ministers. His work would bring him recognition in the form of prizes for excellence. In the sphere of legal work Professor HaCohen would serve as director of its institute at Israel Bar Association in further training of lawyers. He would also work within several legal committees as well as others spanning different areas, referring to Higher Ethics Committee for Non-Medical Research in which Humans are Involved of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. In 2007 and 2011 HaCohen's name was on the list of candidates submitted to the Commission for the Appointment of Justices to the Supreme Court. As a prominent lawyer he has represented in a wide range of issues, such as cases involving human rights. Further, the Professor has represented applicants in the High Court. One such case is HCJ 1067/08 Noar K'Halakha v. The Ministry of Education (Aug. 6, 2009).

Annika Hernroth-Rothstein

Sweden

Annika Hernroth-Rothstein is a political advisor and writer, based in Stockholm, Sweden. Annika has a B.A.-degree in Media and Communication as well as in Middle Eastern Studies, and she currently works as an advisor for the ruling conservative coalition in Sweden. Annika Hernroth-Rothstein has contributed to various international publications, such as *Commentary Magazine* and *Mosaic Magazine*, and she is a permanent contributor to *The Jerusalem Post* and *Ricochet*. Ms. Rothstein also teaches Jewish youth-groups and does public speaking engagements on the topic of European Jewry and religious rights for such groups as Bnei Akiva and Limmud, and she is a board member of her synagogue, Adat Jeschurun, in Stockholm, Sweden. A year ago, Ms. Rothstein made international headlines when she filed for asylum in her own country on the basis of religious persecution, in order to force her government to protect the Jewish minority and acknowledge the growing Anti-Semitism in the country.



Tziona Koenig-Yair

Israel

Tziona Koenig-Yair is the National Commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission in Israel. She holds an LLB degree from the Faculty of Law at Hebrew University and an MPA degree from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University (Wexner Fellow). Ms. Koenig-Yair passed the Israeli Bar Exam in 1996 and for the past 16 years, has spent the better part of her legal career addressing equality issues from various aspects. Ms. Koenig-Yair started her career as a legal prosecutor at the District Attorney's office in Tel-Aviv. From the year 2000-2006, Ms. Koenig-Yair worked in the legal department of group for women, first as Legal Counsel and then as head of the legal department. In 2007 Ms. Koenig-Yair



was appointed Executive Director of the “IWN” and managed the organization for a year until being appointed first National Commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission in Israel (EEOC), establishing and creating the new government entity. Ms. Koenig-Yair has taught courses on equality at Tel-Aviv University and Ramat Gan College. In her national and international work, Ms. Koenig-Yair is committed to promoting equality and is concerned with strengthening and supporting the promotion of equality both from a legal perspective and a public one. In 2011 Ms. Koenig-Yair was selected as one of one hundred most influential people of “The Marker” for 2011, due to her work in promoting and implementing equality in the labor market in Israel.

Sarah Mandel

Israel

Sarah Mandel is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in the General History Department at Tel Aviv University, looking at the historical legal integration of a religious minority, namely the Jews in England in the long eighteenth century. She also works as an academic editor for the Orient Institute, Istanbul and as a freelance analyst for British Israel Communications (BICOM). Having made Aliyah in 2003, she worked in research at the Shalem Center and then as Associate Editor at NGO Monitor for four years, before taking a break to be Chaplain to Jewish students at Cambridge University. Sarah’s undergraduate degree was in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford University, and her Masters was in the study of Jewish Christian Relations at the University of Cambridge.



Shlomo C. Pill

United States of America

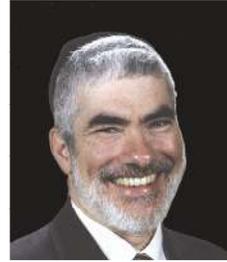
Shlomo C. Pill is a doctoral candidate at the Emory University School of Law and Emory’s Center for the Study of Law and Religion, as well as an associate rabbi at the New Toco Shul in Atlanta, Georgia, and a candidate for advanced rabbinic ordination as a rabbinic court judge and arbitrator. He holds a B.A. in Political Science and History from Lander College for Men (2009), a J.D. from Fordham Law School (2012), and an LL.M. in Law and Religion from Emory Law School (2013). Shlomo’s doctoral work focuses on Comparative Jewish, Islamic, and American Law and Legal Philosophy, and his dissertation develops a traditional Judeo-Islamic conception of the Rule of Law as a response to the “indeterminacy problem” in American jurisprudence, which he believes can be deployed to address long-standing questions in American constitutional theory, administrative law, and legal ethics, as well as to cultivate a legal, political, and social culture that values disagreement without delegitimization, and unity without uniformity. His publications include: “Law as Faith, Faith as Law: The Legalization of Theology in Islam and Judaism in the Thought of Al-Ghazali and Maimonides,” *Berkley Journal of Middle Eastern and Islamic Law* 1 (2014), “Transcending Theodicy: Approaching the Holocaust through the Lens of Halakha,” *The Graduate Journal of Harvard Divinity School* (2014), “The Pillars of Successful Religious Arbitration: Models for Islamic Courts in the United States based on the Beth Din of American and Muslim Arbitration Tribunal Experiences,” *Harvard Journal of Racial and Ethnic Justice* 33 (2014) (with Michael J. Broyde and Ira Bedzow), and “Recovering Judicial Integrity: Towards a Duty-Focused Disqualification Jurisprudence Based on Jewish Law,” *Fordham Urban Law Journal* 511 (2011).



Jonathan Rosenblum

Israel

Jonathan Rosenblum is the founder and director of Jewish Media Resources, a media organization helping foreign journalists in Israel better understand the haredi community. He is also director of communications and research for the recently established Haredi Institute for Public Policy, the first think tank serving the Israeli haredi community. He is a weekly columnist for *Mishpacha Magazine*, the most widely read weekly serving the Torah community in both English and Hebrew, and the longest continuously running columnist in the *Jerusalem Post*. Mr. Rosenblum has authored eight biographies of contemporary Jewish leaders and a volume on theodicy, and is currently completing a biography of Rabbi Noach Weinberg, the founder of Aish HaTorah. He is a graduate of the University of Chicago and Yale Law School.



Simcha Rothman

Israel

Simcha Rothman is an attorney and research manager for the Movement for Governability and Democracy (MGD), in which capacity he investigates the complex relations between appointed and elected officials; he represents MGD in appeals filed before the Israeli Supreme Court. Currently he is representing “Hayashar Ve'hatsedek Beith-Din” in the Israeli SC against Israeli Chief Legal Advisor’s Guidance that prevent the Beith-Din from Issuing Ktav Seruv and fighting a bill that tries to limit state appointed Rabbis freedom of speech. Mr. Rothman recently completed a LL.M. in Public Law in the joint program between Northwestern University and Tel Aviv University. He earned his LL.B. from Bar Ilan University, studied in Yeshivat Kerem B’Yavneh, and served as a chaplain in the Combat Engineering Corps of the Israel Defense Forces.



Jonathan Schnytzer

Israel

Jonnie Schnytzer was the Advisor to the CEO of Taglit-Birthright Israel for the past few years. In the past he led Israel advocacy delegations abroad and trained Israeli students through StandWithUs. Mr. Schnytzer is currently enrolling in a Ph.D. program in Jewish philosophy and hopes to publish his first novel, *Unspoken Heroes*, an espionage thriller, in the near future.



Yoav Sorek

Israel

Yoav Sorek is an Israeli journalist, Torah scholar and critic of contemporary Orthodoxy, and the author of numerous essays in these areas, as well as in Israeli politics. After serving as an aide to Binyamin Elon, then Israel's Minister of Tourism, and co-authoring the latter's 2002 peace plan, *The Israeli Initiative*, he founded in 2004 the literary supplement *Shabbat* in the Israeli weekly *Makor Rishon*, and was its editor for seven years. During his 2012-2013 Tikvah fellowship, he wrote a book, *The Israeli Covenant* (Hebrew), dealing with the challenge of Jewish renewal in Israel, which is forthcoming this winter. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in the Hebrew University, proposing that Judaism never intended to become a religion.



Andrew Steiner

United States of America

Currently serves as a managing director at J.P. Morgan. He is a stock research analyst who covers the U.S. Business and Information Services sector. He has been ranked number one eleven times by institutional investors. In 2012, Mr. Steiner was inducted into the Institutional Investor's All-American research team Hall of Fame. Holds a CPA and worked previously in the accounting field. He obtained his MBA from the Wharton school in 1995. Also, holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Michigan.



Yael Zelnik

Israel

Yael Zelnik is Parliamentary advisor to Knesset Member Dr. Ruth Calderon from the 'Yesh Atid' party. In this capacity she has drafted and promoted bills, particularly on issues relating to religion and state, such as the Shnat Shmita (Sabbatical year) bill, Civil Union bill and the Israeli Shabbat bill. Previously, Ms. Zelnik was an attorney in the litigation department at Herzog Fox & Neeman Law Firm for four years. In parallel, she was a teaching assistant for Dr. Ilana Dayan Orbach at the Tel-Aviv University Faculty of Law. Ms. Zelnik holds an LL.B. in Law from Tel Aviv University (2009) and was admitted to the Israeli Bar Association (2010). During her military service in the IDF Ms. Zelnik served in the education and youth corps where she taught youth at risk in a therapeutic rehabilitative village.

