

# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LAWYERS AND JURISTS

*U.S. Affiliate of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists*

*President*  
Robert Garson

*Executive Vice President*  
Michael Traison

*Treasurer*  
Stanley Fink

*Gen. Secretary*  
Judd Azulay

*Regional Vice Presidents:*  
Mark Speiser  
Rhonda Lees  
Milan Chatterjee

*Honorary Presidents*  
\*Nathan Lewin  
\*Robert L. Weinberg

*Immediate Past President*  
\*Stephen R. Greenwald

*Board of Governors*  
Jessica Adler  
Ira Azulay  
Carl Bensinger  
Paul Berger  
Debra Feuer  
Herbert Franks  
Bruce Gitlin  
Ariel Glasner  
Jared Greisman  
Harold Halpern  
Cathy Horwitz  
Isaac Jaroslawicz  
Sheldon H. Klein  
Matthew. Kronisch  
Marc A. Landis  
Alyza D. Lewin  
Michael Melnicke  
Avery Neumark  
Jack H. Olender  
Herbert Rubin  
Jonathan Sapirstein  
Akiva Shapiro  
Philip B. Vinick  
Jeffrey Wice  
Leon Wildes

*Honorary Board Members*  
Hon. Avern Cohn  
\*Prof. Sherman I. Cohn  
Hon. Stuart Eizenstat  
Hon. Joseph Lieberman  
\*Jerome J. Shestack OBM  
Hon. Jack B. Weinstein

Dean Beiner  
William H Bowen School of Law  
1201 McMath Avenue  
Little Rock, AR 72202

October 27, 2021

By Email to: [tmbeiner@ualr.edu](mailto:tmbeiner@ualr.edu)

Dear Dean Beiner,

The American Association of Jewish Lawyers & Jurists (AAJLJ) is the voluntary bar association of American Jewish lawyers. We are a national nonprofit association that represents the American Jewish legal community on legal issues that affect, and are of importance to, the community, including; freedom of religion, civil rights, human rights, access to justice, social justice, and defense of the rule of law. The Association also advocates upon and defends against matters affecting the global Jewish community such as antisemitism and those which are designed to undermine the State of Israel such as the BDS movement. We also provide opportunities for American lawyers and lawmakers to better understand the Israeli justice system and the strength of the rule of law in Israel.

It has been brought to our attention, by a concerned member of the Bar, that Professor Robert Steinbuch has been singled out in a discriminatory fashion by yourself in the context of his observance of Jewish holy days despite having been able to do so, without let or hindrance, pursuant to school policy for nearly twenty (20) years. This is not only surprising in this day and age, but for it to occur in the context of a law school, where students are cultivated to safeguard rights, is deeply disturbing.

The Deans' Offices' newly cited excuse that such a rule is there to cater for a "power outage" rather than permitting a professor to augment his students' learning is unavailing.

# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LAWYERS AND JURISTS

*U.S. Affiliate of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists*

Moreover, Professor Steinbuch has been singled out for retaliatory conduct, having been removed from teaching one of the courses that he has taught for years, Law and Economics, and instead has been assigned to teach Criminal Law, an area with which he has no prior background.

Seemingly, the accounts recently reported by Mike Masterson is just the tip of the iceberg. <https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2021/oct/26/conflicts-continue/> When Professor Steinbuch, together with another Jewish colleague, offered to teach a Constitutional Law course, which takes place day and night, this was rebuffed. Instead, a more junior lecturer with little or no experience is being assigned to this task.

Unfortunately, we at the AAJLJ, and particularly myself, are acutely attuned to such acts of micro-aggression which are grounded in what is obvious to all but usually not to the aggressor. Antisemitism. For a gentile to tell a Jew that he cannot have guest lectures to cater for Jewish Holidays, as he has done so for nearly twenty years without complaint, while others routinely do for other various reasons, is offensive. It is certainly not a student driven problem.

I have been very fortunate that most judges and colleagues have been accommodating in my career, with courts sitting early on Fridays so I can get home for sabbath or the staggering of witnesses in long trials during Rosh Hashanah, for example. It is my experience that those who refuse to show such courtesy have more sinister motivations. Jews have contributed to society and the law, not despite their Judaism but because of it. It is also surprising that in a state like Arkansas which has had relationships with its Jewish Community from 1839, this letter has to be written.

# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LAWYERS AND JURISTS

*U.S. Affiliate of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists*

Action is required. It is imperative that the William H. Bowen School of Law broaden its diversity training and provide heightened and urgent courses to recognize and combat anti-Semitism. For if the senior faculty is not safe, *a fortiori* will a student be discriminated against. This country was established on the very basis that an American is free to exercise religion freely, in private or in public, and the AAJLJ will not stand idly by.

Rather than merely complaining, we would be more than happy to assist the William H. Bowen School of Law in ensuring that such a sorry sequence of events becomes a turning point. Accordingly, the AAJLJ would gladly provide lawyers, including myself, well-versed on Jewish culture and history and well-qualified in anti-discrimination training so that all students and faculty can be as informed on anti-Semitism as they are of other forms of discrimination.

Yours Sincerely,



Robert Garson

President

cc: Chancellor Christy Drale  
Lisa Ballard (Director of Arkansas Bar Committee on Professional Conduct)