



THE DECALOGUE TABLETS

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“Greece” is the Word (of G-d)? *Town of Greece v. Galloway* and the future of legislative prayer

By Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg

The Supreme Court recently held that the Town of Greece, New York, did not violate the Establishment Clause by inviting local religious leaders to offer sectarian prayer at the opening of its monthly board meetings. *See Town of Greece, N.Y. v. Galloway*, 134 S. Ct. 1811, 1828 (2014). The Court determined that the prayers were consistent with this country's tradition of legislative prayer as long as they were not used to proselytize or coerce participation by nonadherents. *Id.* at 1826-28.

The town invited clergymen to serve as “chaplain of the month” from a list of local congregations, which included only Christian institutions. *Galloway*, 134 S. Ct. at 1816, *see also Galloway v. Town of Greece*, 732 F. Supp. 2d 195, 203 (W.D.N.Y. 2010), *rev'd*, 681 F.3d 20 (2d Cir. 2012), *rev'd sub nom.*, 134 S. Ct. 1811 (2014) (discussing the local religious institutions). The town did not preview the chaplains' prayers, which sometimes were distinctly Christian in tone and content. *Galloway*, 134 S. Ct. at 1816-17; 1848. After residents complained, the town allowed four non-Christians offer an opening prayer. *Id.* at 1817, 1848, 1862. The town says that it would not have rejected any request to provide the invocation, but it did nothing to advertise this fact. *Id.* at 1816, 1852. As far as the citizens (and chaplains) were concerned, the only way to be afforded the opportunity to offer the invocation was to be invited by the town's staff.

As the Court recounted, legislative prayer has long been considered a permissible form of ceremonial deism. *Galloway*, 134 S. Ct. at 1818; *Marsh v. Chambers*, 463 U.S. 783, 782 (1983) (upholding the Nebraska legislature's session opening prayer by state-funded chaplains). Theoretically, such practices have lost their religious meaning due to their long-standing, ubiquitous use, and have been maintained for a secular purpose, like encouraging patriotism or establishing an occasion's solemnity. *Id.*; *see* Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg, *Turn to the Constitution in Prayer: Freedom from Religion Foundation v. Obama, the Constitutionality and the Politics of the National Day of Prayer*, 68 NAT'L LAW. GUILD REV. 193, 209-10 (2011). The Court has also considered its own invocation, the national motto, religious references in patriotic songs, and the Pledge of Allegiance as examples of ceremonial deism either explicitly or in dicta. *See Galloway*, 134 S. Ct. at 1825; *Elk Grove Unified Sch. Dist. v. Newdow*, 542 U.S. 1, 37 (2004); *Cnty. of Allegheny v. Am. Civil Liberties Union Greater Pittsburgh Chapter*, 492 U.S. 573, 602-03 (1989).

The Court held that the proper inquiry was whether the prayer practice at issue fit within the tradition of legislative prayer, *Galloway*, 134 S. Ct. at 1819, and then discussed the history of legislative prayer at length. *Id.* at 1818-19, 1833-34. As the Court points out, Congress has appointed chaplains to offer invocations that were often Christian in content since its first session. *Id.* at 1818, 1833. “When *Marsh* was decided, in 1983, legislative prayer had persisted in the Nebraska Legislature for more than a century, and the majority of the other States also had the same, consistent practice.” *Id.* at 1819. The Court also generally notes “historical precedent” for prayer at town meetings. *Id.* In contrast, the Town of Greece's use of prayer to solemnize its meetings is of relatively recent advent. The town had begun its meetings with a moment of silence, but in 1999 the town began inviting local clergymen to deliver an invocation after roll call. *Id.* at 1816.

(continued on page 4)

“Honoring the Past, Setting Goals for the Future”

From the Inaugural Address of Decalogue President Joel L. Chupack



Thank you all for coming to The Decalogue Society of Lawyers 80th Annual Meeting. It is a privilege for me to be its President during this anniversary year.

I want to congratulate Jim Goldberg for the great year he had. We had more events than any time that I can remember (which made everyone but Aviva happy) and we also made great strides in increasing membership and attracting younger attorneys.

I look at the names of the Past Presidents and am humbled. As a much younger attorney I was struck by their eloquence and leadership. As I look back now, I am more in awe of what they have accomplished and how they continue to contribute to the organization. We have 15 Past Presidents with us tonight and more who wanted to come. Please stand and be recognized.

I congratulate all the Award recipients whom you will hear about or from after me. To be on the same program with them is an honor.

I thank my partners, Rob Heinrich and Deborah Kramer, for all the cover and assistance they will be giving me this year.

I am blessed to have my mother-in-law here who came in from Pittsburgh. Sarah, I may miss a few more dinners with you this year, but that just means I'll appreciate and enjoy our time together more.

This Anniversary Celebration would not be possible without the wizard behind the curtain who makes all things Decalogue possible, Aviva Patt. Aviva and Leisa Braband have worked tirelessly to make this a special night. Let's join together and thank them for this evening.

I thank Bill Wigoda and the Union League Club for this wonderful space and Lane Tech Jazz Band (and alumna Diedre Baumann) for the musical ambiance.

While 80 may be just a number, it is also a benchmark. It's how old Moses was when he told Pharaoh to "let my people go." According to the Psalms, it's the life of a person, if you are strong. It's also twice the number of years the Israelites were wandering in the desert. It is the numerical value of the Hebrew letter Peh, which is associated with speech and silence. It is four generations, eight censuses, 20 presidential elections. And it's a good time to take a breather and reflect.

So, let's take a look at where we were 80 years ago and set the Way-Back Machine for 1934. If you were Jewish and living in Chicago, you felt a special insecurity. Hitler's power in Germany was solidified. Germany was getting on the right track economically. Many Americans believed the Big Lie that Nazis are saving Germany from Communism and that Jews are Communists.

The Nazis had their boosters here too. Their sympathizers formed the 'Bund'. In fact, the Bund was started by a German-national here in Chicago. The Bund had military training camps outside major American cities. Yes, including Chicago.

Anti-Semitism was on the rise and yes, it did meander its way into the legal practice.

It was time for self-protection. A group of attorneys from the West Town Lawyers Association decided that we needed a bar association to serve and protect the needs and interests of Jewish attorneys and the Jewish community. It was not the time to conduct surveys or studies or research or appoint a subcommittee to deal with the problem.

It was time to act and act quickly. In less than 30 days from their first meeting, and with the help of the Bohemian Bar Association and many non-Jewish lawyers, The Decalogue Society of Lawyers was formed. 'Decalogue' means 'the ten words', referring to the Ten Commandments. Decalogue's original constitution set forth 10 purposes of the Society.

I read through these 10 purposes and was struck by what was missing. Despite all that was happening across the sea and in their own backyard, anti-Semitism is not mentioned--not even once. How could this be?

The closest you get is the 4th stated purpose, "to maintain vigilance against public practices which are anti-social or discriminatory".

'Judaism' is mentioned only once, in the 6th stated purpose – "to encourage and stimulate Jewish ideals and culture".

This hardly seems like self-protection. It shows an almost complete lack of parochialism. But they knew what sometimes we forget. As Jews, we do not stand alone. Discrimination against us or any other group is a problem for all of us.

They could only try to undo discrimination by improving the law and the administration of justice, by educating lawyers and the public, and by fostering good will among the bar and its own members.

Decalogue has been doing just this for the last 79 years and we will continue to do so. This is how we will do it this year:

1. Justice is not just for the rich. Due to the financial inability to retain an attorney, there are more and more pro se litigants. This is a strain on the courts and its resources. Illinois has passed the Access to Justice Act and the Illinois Supreme Court recently created the Access to Justice Commission to deal with these issues. As this endeavor gets off the ground, Decalogue stands ready to assist. I have reached out to the Commission and am in communication with them to see how we can be of help. It is also worth noting that Decalogue has an active pro bono program run through JUF and CVLS. I want to thank every attorney who has participated in it.

2. Lawyering is not just for the established attorney. There is so much great talent out there, we have to find opportunities for these new attorneys. Decalogue has a mentoring program and many networking opportunities. They say that finding employment is a numbers game. Younger attorneys... we will give you those numbers. I particularly want to thank Melissa Gold for her dedication and innovative programming for new and younger attorneys.

I have never forgotten the lawyers who helped me when I was just six months out of law school and learned that my boss had a stroke and eventually died. To this day, when I see these lawyers, I give them a warm smile and a firm handshake. I want Decalogue to be the source of many such smiles and handshakes from our younger attorneys.

3. Learning is not just for MCLE credit. Our Legal Lecture Series is bar none. We truly have the best and the brightest authorities giving the lectures. And while you can get all your required MCLE and PMCLE credit for free, what truly sets us apart are the special programs we present every year. Next month we are co-sponsoring a lecture with the ADL on civil rights and this fall we are co-sponsoring a seminar with the AABA on Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. I thank Jonathon Lubin for taking over the reins from me in chairing CLE.

4. Outreach is critical. Finally, the last goal I will speak about tonight is to continue with and enhance the outreach Jim Goldberg has made to the other bar associations. Every time we have a program with another ethnic or minority bar association, I come away feeling enriched and enlightened.

At this time, as a tribute to the vision of Decalogue's founders, I would like to call up the presidents or representatives from the following bar associations to light a candle as a show of solidarity among the bar groups:

Advocates Society, Cook County Bar Association
Filipino American Lawyers Association of Chicago
Hellenic Bar Association
Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois
Illinois State Bar Association
LAGBAC
North Suburban Bar Association
Women's Bar Association of Illinois

Thank you for all that you do.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

There are many events that occur in between publications of the *Tablets* that are promoted only through email. *Don't miss out!*

Please email us at
decaloguesociety@gmail.com
to be added to the email list.

Law Students and Young Lawyers “Year in Review”

By Melissa Gold

Young Lawyers Committee Chair 2014-2015

Serving a varied spectrum of purposes for the organization, the Decalogue Law Students and Young Lawyers Committees have grown to new heights during the 2013-2014 programming year. One cannot simply praise both Committees' accomplishments; one has to list and spell them out!

- Setting new records for new member recruitment
- Partnering with JUF Young Lawyers Group for successful networking events
- Creation of a Law Student Internship Database on the Decalogue Website
- Strengthening the use of social network outreach – you should “LIKE” or “JOIN” the pages!
 - o Decalogue Facebook page
 - o Decalogue Law Students & Young Lawyers Facebook page
 - o Decalogue LinkedIn page
- Creation and Implementation of first-ever Illinois state-wide Decalogue Mentorship Program
- Helped Young Lawyer members participate in the NEW Supreme Court Mentoring Program
- Continuing work to establish additional Decalogue Foundation law student scholarships
- Worked with Events Committee to provide budget friendly Decalogue event attendance options for our Law Student and first year attorney members.
- May 22, 2014 Happy Hour at Blackfinn Ameripub in River North with almost 40 people!
- February 27, 2014 Joint Committee Kick-Off Meeting before the Appellate Judges Reception
- November 22, 2014 Shabbat Dinner at Milt's BBQ in Lakeview SOLD OUT with almost 70 people!
- November 7, 2013 Happy Hour at Sidebar Grille in the Loop with almost 50 people!
- And more!

Such accomplishments were truly a team effort among the Young Lawyers Committee Co-Chairs (Melissa Gold & Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg), Law Students Committee Chair (Mathew Rudolph), our many Law School Chapters' Executive Boards, our volunteer Mentors and the Decalogue Board of Managers!

We are looking forward to the 2014-2015 programming year ahead!

Stay tuned for an early August 2014 Law Student - Young Lawyer Happy Hour!

Greece vs. Galloway (cont'd)

In rejecting the notion that the Town of Greece's invocation was in discord with the tradition of legislative prayer because of the consistently sectarian content of the prayers offered, the Court noted that the First Congress would have been used to the kind of religious themes objected to in this case and that Congress continues to allow its chaplains to use similar religious expression. *Galloway*, 134 S. Ct. at 1820. But Congress now advises its chaplains to be mindful of the diversity of their audience, *id.* at 1829, and there is much more diversity amongst Congressional visiting chaplains, *see id.* at 1820-21, than amongst those serving the Greece town board. In fact, between 1999 and 2010, of the 127 prayers given at Greece town board meetings, only four were given by non-Christians and those only in the shadow of litigation. *See Galloway*, 732 F. Supp. 2d at 198-202 (W.D.N.Y. 2010); Americans United for Separation of Church and State (2014), https://www.au.org/files/images/page_photos/Greece_infographic.pdf.

Although the concurrence noted that it might be the best practice for a legislative body to suggest to its chaplains that they use inclusive language, *Galloway*, 134 S. Ct. at 1829, the Court emphasized such language was not required. *Id.* at 1820-23; *see also id.* at 1840-41 (listing Congress's guidelines). (Neither the Illinois Senate nor the General Assembly provides their visiting chaplains any guidance. *See National Conference of State Legislatures, Inside the Legislative Process: Prayer Practices 5-153 (2002).*) In her dissent, Justice Kagan suggests that had the town issued such guidelines, she would not have considered their prayer practice unconstitutional. *Galloway*, 134 S. Ct. at 1851. The majority cautioned that a town should be wary of censoring the religious speech of its invited chaplains by editing or approving their proposed prayers. *Id.* at 1822-23. Interestingly, most state legislative bodies do not review prayers before their presentation, but the Florida, Ohio, and Puerto Rican houses do. NCSL at 5-127.

The court was careful to note the limits of its opinion. The court stressed that this was a fact-specific decision. *Galloway*, 134 S. Ct. at 1825. It ruled only on the constitutionality of the Town of Greece's "prayer opportunity" as it said it worked. *Id.* at 1824. The court refused to fault the town for the content of its monthly chaplains' prayers, but noted that if, in the aggregate, those invocations were used to "denigrate nonbelievers or religious minorities, threaten damnation, or preach conversion" the practice might not comport with its ceremonial purpose and by extension the Establishment Clause. *Id.* at 1823. Justices Kennedy, Roberts, and Alito also suggested that the town's practice might not have passed muster had the "town board members directed the public to participate in the prayers, singled out dissidents for opprobrium, or indicated that their decisions might be influenced by a person's acquiescence in the prayer opportunity." *Id.* at 1826. As Justice Kagan notes in her dissent, this might be a myopic view of the pressures placed on a petitioner before a town board, which often acts in a semi-judicial capacity. *Id.* at 1845. Moreover, it seems immaterial that it was the chaplain rather than a town board member who directed the public to stand, pray, or bow their heads; after all, the public knows the chaplain has been invited by the board.

As a general matter, I was troubled by the Court's emphasis on tradition as a sort of trump card over the First Amendment's

promise that government not establish religion. *Galloway*, 134 S. Ct. at 1818-19. The Court notes that *Marsh* is described as an exception to the Court's usual Establishment Clause tests. *Id.* at 1818. The Court generally employs the three-part inquiry originated in *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, 403 U.S. 602, 612-13 (1971), which tests the purpose and effect of the government action as well the extent of any government entanglement with religious matters. "The Court in *Marsh* found those tests unnecessary because history supported the conclusion that legislative invocations are compatible with the Establishment Clause." *Galloway*, 134 S. Ct. at 1818.

It is hard not to think then what other historical practices would be considered immune from testing based on tradition if they hadn't fizzled out on their own. As Justice Thomas's concurrence notes, at our nation's founding, "at least six states had established churches," several states allowed towns to select a minister and religious denomination, others permitted taxation in support of Christian churches, or maintained religious tests for office. *Id.* at 1835-36 (Justice Thomas wrote separately to express his skepticism that the Establishment Clause can be applied to the states and their subsidiaries).

The Court seems to discount that some of the framers saw our Constitution as aspirational, a document setting forth a grand vision for our country that courts could use as a tool to protect the people from government intrusions into our liberty. The framers were trying "to form a *more perfect* Union," and "establish Justice." U.S. CONST. pmb. In his concurrence, Justice Alito recounts the motion to open the First Continental Congress with a prayer, which he admits was not unanimous. *Galloway*, 134 S. Ct. at 1833. He explains that the "emphatically Christian" prayer was "met with wide approval" and he presumes that it united those in attendance. *Id.* Even if the many types of Christians who were present were truly united by prayer at the First Continental Congress, *see Religious Affiliation of the Founding Fathers of the United States of America*, ADHERENTS.COM, http://www.adherents.com/gov/Founding_Fathers_Religion.html (last accessed June 23, 2014), legislative prayer now divides.

As Justice Alito's concurrence notes, the religious composition of our country has become more diverse, making it increasingly difficult for a would-be legislative chaplain to find language that would unite the myriad religions and philosophies that fill America's hearts. *Galloway*, 134 S. Ct. at 1830. But does this mean that the courts should throw up their hands and say, "oh well," this is how it has always been done? What if we accepted similar reasoning when interpreting what is constitutional in other contexts? Certainly, some members of the court might agree to a carved-in-stone interpretation of the Constitution (or I guess parchment). *See Justice Antonin Scalia, The Originalist*, CAL. Lawyer, Jan. 2011, <http://www.callawyer.com/clstory.cfm?eid=913358> (insisting that the Equal Protection Clause does not protect citizens from sex-based discrimination).

Ultimately, *Town of Greece v. Galloway* allows local governments across the country to pretend that it is in a time capsule. They may look with rosy retrospection upon a past likely much more complicated than it now seems and, in the name of ceremony, marginalize the already marginalized in their communities.

THE ROHR JEWISH LEARNING INSTITUTE ב"ה
in partnership with
Decalogue Society of Lawyers, The American Association of
Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, and Jewish National Fund
present

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF JEWISH LAWYERS AT THE NATIONAL JEWISH RETREAT

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2014
Palmer House Hilton, Chicago Loop
Opening Session: 11:00 AM
Gala Dinner and main session: 6:00 PM

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Israel Divestment Campaign Poses Threat To Peace

By Matthew Rudolph

Editor's note: This opinion piece is in response to an April 6, 2014 DePauli op-ed titled "No More Silent Boycotts".

"No More Silent Boycotts" made several provocative, perhaps even incendiary statements including that "Israel's record of racism and violence is heinous"; and that "Violent and racist acts (are) committed by Israel". The author also referred to "Israel's brutal occupation and illegal practices". This tone, like that of the organization DePaul Divests (DPD), a divestment campaign, undermines efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution between the Palestinians and Israelis. DePaul students who share Vincentian values of peace and the common good may be feeling hopeless about a peaceful end of the conflict and fearful of continued violence provoked by such fierce expressions of anti-Semitism. As an educational and faith-based institution, DePaul University has a duty to encourage peace, not succumb to entreaties to oppose a peaceful compromise between the two parties.

DEPAUL DIVESTS OPPOSES PEACEFUL RESOLUTION and IGNORES ISRAEL'S DEMOCRACY

DPD's campaign of economic war against Israel and for support from the University is particularly untimely. U.S. Secretary of State Kerry recently tried to facilitate negotiations between the two sides. Negotiations thus far have seen Israel release 78 Palestinian terrorists from Israeli prisons, most of whom were instrumental in terror attacks against Israeli civilians. The DPD agenda would harden extremists and embolden Palestinian leadership to dismiss even these most painful concessions made by Israel.

In calling for "the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties, as stipulated in UN Resolution 194", DPD must know that such action would require Israel to relinquish its territory to several million Palestinian descendants and essentially cease to exist. This anti-peace narrative promoting a boycott of Israel encourages the end of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

I agree that human rights violations must concern the University. That sentiment, however, is irreconcilable with the demonization of Israel and the realities do not support this view of Israel, a country where Arab citizens can form and serve in political parties, the judiciary and the Foreign Service; Muslims, Christians and other religious adherents can practice their faiths in peace and with protection; women are afforded equal rights and gay and lesbians are an integral part of the Israeli community. Arabs and Jews alike can publically voice displeasure with Israeli policies and vote pursuant to their views. More to the point, organizations like DPD can, and do, exist in Israel and freely express their opinions.

CAN DEPAUL DIVESTS TURN TOWARD PEACE?

DePaul Divests seems to believe that only through abrasive rhetoric and calls for resistance can one untangle the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Other, better options exist and I offer one for consideration: the One-Step Cure which will open the door to the Two-State Solution and align the group with a more constructive initiative that could be in Palestine's best interest.

That One Step is to publicly accept Israel's right to exist as a Jewish State alongside a future Palestinian state. To encourage that Step, I'll make the first move: I publicly support the Palestinians' right of self-determination and their right to a sovereign state for the Palestinian people.

Israel, like all sovereign states, ought to be assured that its cities, markets, schools, museums, highways, holy sites, neighborhoods, courthouses, daycare centers and passport stamp will survive. To many, including Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama, a Two-State Solution is seen as a moral imperative. Moreover, DePaul University may be more willing to engage in discourse with a group seeking two future states for two people.

If embraced by DePaul Divests, the Two-State Solution could generate the following benefits:

- Relying on precedent, DePaul Divests could lobby Palestinian leadership to accept one of several previously offered two-state solutions. On prior occasions, the Palestinians could have negotiated for statehood. For example, in 2000 Yasser Arafat turned down Israeli Prime Minister Barak's two-state solution, to the dismay of President Clinton. In 2008, Palestinian President Abbas gave Israeli Prime Minister Olmert the same response to an even more generous offer. Prior to recent talks, Israel released 78 Palestinian terrorists as a precondition to merely negotiate a two-state solution. This gesture was ignored and on April 24, President Abbas entered into a unity-agreement with Hamas.

- DPD could lobby Palestinian leadership to distance itself from Hamas, a globally recognized terrorist organization committed to Israel's destruction, and from BDS leader Barghouti who calls for the "liberation of every inch of Palestine" and for fighting the "Zionist enemy".

- In recognizing Israel's right to exist and, hence, the necessity to protect its civilians from devastating terror attacks, DPD would be supporting Israel's security barrier. Before the barrier was erected, Palestinian terrorists routinely crossed unguarded city borders and murdered 457 Israeli civilians by bombing public buses, family restaurants and teen nightclubs. After the barrier was completed in 2009, civilian casualties fell to eight.

- Consistent with President Abbas' statement that he does not ask "anyone to boycott Israel itself. We have relations with Israel", DPD could acknowledge that divestment harms Palestinians whose jobs are impacted by sanctions on Israel, and recognize Israel as a key ally in promoting viable economic partnerships for high-tech, pharmaceuticals and agricultural desert development to benefit both states.

- Palestinian leadership might be persuaded to implement principles of Israeli democracy in a future Palestinian parliament and thereby promote the type of fair treatment afforded to religious and other minorities that prevails in Israel.

- DPD would encourage Palestinian schools to include Israel in its textbooks instead of erasing the Jews and their culture from the map and from history itself.

I hope DePaul Divests takes the recommended action, beginning with the first step, and avoids association with its NYU sister chapter that distributed mock eviction notices to Jewish students in a campus dorm. An agenda founded on such animosity has no place on a university campus. DePaul students of every persuasion should work hard to ensure DPD does not hijack our pursuit for peace.

CHAI-LITES: Member news worth sharing!

Decalogue Board member **Sarah Haley** was married July 19. Mazel Tov, Sarah!

Former Decalogue President **James Shapiro** was elected to his 4th term as a Director of the Alliance of Illinois Judges. He was also recently retained by Jenner & Block as an expert witness on expert testimony.

Adding one more leadership position to his list for a possible record, former Decalogue President Justice **Michael B. Hyman** has been installed as President of the Illinois Judges Association.

Decalogue Treasurer **Charles Silverman's** nephew, Shmuel Appleton, finished his tour of duty with the IDF and, instead of resting, will follow that achievement with his marriage on October 6.

Decalogue 1st Vice President **Deidre Baumann** was elected to the Board of Directors of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois.

At its June 6th Centennial Gala celebrating the 1914 founding of the Association and the installation of officers and directors (including Deidre), the Women's Bar Association of Illinois presented Decalogue Board member **Sharon Eiseman** with the Justice Mary Ann McMorrow Lifetime Achievement Award.

Former Decalogue Board member **Lori Levin** received the Matthew Maloney Tradition of Excellence Award from the Illinois State Bar Association at the Association's Annual Meeting in Lake Geneva.

Decalogue Financial Secretary **Helen Bloch** was interviewed by a public television film crew from the Netherlands about *Bloch v. Frischholz*, her family's federal suit for the right of condominium dwellers to affix mezuzot on their door posts. Helen also appeared on "Get Down To Business with Shalom Klein" on AM 560, speaking about employers' non compete agreements and W2 vs. 1099 status.

Listen in at <http://shalomklein.com/weekly-radio-show/>

Contribute to the Tablets!

Please send us your Chai-lites for inclusion in the next issue. Deadline: September 5

Enjoy writing?

Decalogue members are encouraged to submit articles about topical legal and Jewish issues.

The Honorable Richard J. Elrod (Memorial)

By Adam J. Sheppard

"תמים" (tamim) – a Hebrew word meaning "of unassailable integrity." That was the Honorable Richard J. Elrod.



Judge Elrod dedicated his entire life to public service. After graduating from Northwestern University Law School in 1958, he began his legal career as assistant corporation counsel for the City of Chicago. Seven years later he was the City's chief prosecutor.

In 1969, Judge Elrod was elected as a state representative. He then served four terms as the Cook County Sheriff (1970 to 1986). His service in that capacity was distinguished not only by his personal integrity but by the professionalism which he brought to that office. As Sheriff, he instituted innovative reforms, including a Merit Board for the selection of sworn personnel and a Youth Services Division which gained national recognition by President Reagan. It was no surprise that, in 1983, Judge Elrod was elected as president of the 3,000-member National Sheriff's Association.

In 1986, Judge Elrod was appointed a Senior Assistant Attorney General. Two years later, he joined the judiciary as a Circuit Court of Cook County judge, a position he held until his recent death.

Judge Elrod presided over a trial call in the Law Division. He prided himself in sound evidentiary rulings. His colleagues also heralded him for his efficacy in pretrial settlement conferences. "He had prepared for the conference and read all materials. He asked the parties questions about their cases and pointed out challenges for each party if it went to trial. He listened to all parties involved and was instrumental in his guidance in getting the parties to a fair settlement," recalls Daniel Cotter, newly installed President of the Chicago Bar Association.

Judge Elrod also took particular pride in his Decalogue membership. As a young lawyer, he joined Decalogue in the late 1950's. In 2012, he was the recipient of Decalogue's Lifetime Achievement Award. Beyond his roles as an accomplished and admired public official and a member of the judiciary, Judge Elrod instilled in his family members the ideals embodied by the Decalogue Society of Lawyers. Today, his son Steven (managing partner at Holland & Knight), his grandson Daniel (newly admitted attorney at Katten/Muchin), his nephew Barry Sheppard, and great nephew Adam Sheppard (both of the Sheppard Law Firm, P.C.) – are proud Decalogue members who aspire to perpetuate the great legacy of the Honorable Richard J. Elrod whose absence from the legal community will be deeply felt by so many who revered this great but humble public servant.

Decalogue 80th Anniversary - June 16, 2014



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 19, 2014

I am pleased to join in celebrating your 80th anniversary.

In America, history is not only made by presidents and generals. Change often comes when caring and engaged individuals join together to build a brighter, stronger future for themselves and for the generations to come.

For years, you have carried forward a proud tradition. By daring to imagine the world as it could be and working tirelessly to realize that vision, you are helping America reach a better tomorrow.

Congratulations on your anniversary. As you reflect on your years of service to your community, I hope you take pride in what you have achieved. I wish you all the best for the years ahead.

Right - Lifetime Achievement Award winner Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky reads the Congressional resolution she introduced congratulating Decalogue on our 80th Anniversary



Below- Chief Judge Timothy Evans congratulates newly installed President Joel Chupack as Joel's wife Sarah, and children Shira, Matthew, and Alana look on.



Visit <https://www.facebook.com/DecalogueSociety> for more photos

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Decalogue Society Activities and Accomplishments for the 2013-2014 Bar Year

July

- Joint Tisha B'Av/Ramadan Break-fast with the Arab American and Muslim Bar Associations
- Social Outing to Sox Game

August

- Mitzvah Project at Maot Chitim

September

- Hosted Milt's Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Jordan Bendat-Appell

October

- Decalogue Mentorship Program Kick-off
- Book Signing with Ken Green, author of "I'm From Division Street"
- Social Outing to the Israeli Film Festival
- Special CLE on the Religious Rights of Prisoners
- Mitzvah Project at Uptown Cafe

November

- Seminar on Media Messaging in the Middle East
- Law Student Social at Sidebar
- Co-sponsored Gerald Bender Memorial Lecture on Jewish Divorce, with Lincolnwood Congregation AG Beth Israel
- Social Outing to Bulls Game
- Mitzvah Project at CJE Robineau Residence

December

- Decalogue Member Chanukah Party
- Decalogue Reception in Honor of the Judiciary

January

- Special MLK Day CLE on the Voting Rights Act

February

- Appellate Appreciation Reception

March

- Decalogue Family Purim Party
- Co-sponsored seminar on Jewish and Catholic Approaches to Property & Social Justice, with Catholic Lawyers Guild
- Social Action Project at Maot Chitim

April

- Mitzvah Project at Maot Chitim
- Book Signing with Sheldon Lebold, author of "Moses & Akhenaten" co-sponsored with Ezra Habonim, The Niles Township Jewish Congregation
- Special Ethics CLE: Attorneys of Faith: Staying True to One's Religion While Engaged in the Practice of Law, co-sponsored with Arab American Bar, Asian American Bar, Catholic Lawyers Guild, Indian American Bar, Muslim Bar, and Women's Bar

May

- Participated in Yom Ha' Atzmaut Rally
- Co-Sponsored AFHU Seminar "Making Sense of Discrimination", with John Marshall Law School
- Law Student Social at Blackfin Pub

June

- Co-sponsored CLE "Elder Abuse in Israel" with Seyfarth Shaw
- Decalogue 80th Annual Meeting & Installation

October-May

- 17 CLE classes, including 3 hours of ethics credits

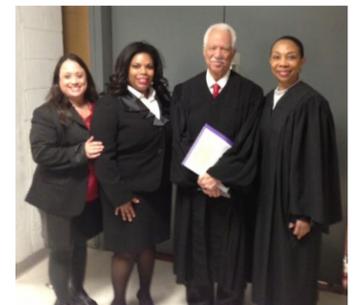
January-June

- Restorative Justice program at Barton Elementary



Left: Decalogue Banner at Yom Ha'Atzmaut Rally May 6

Right: Decalogue Vice President Deidre Baumann at New Admittee Ceremony May 1



SAVE THE DATES!

Our CLE committee is working through the summer to select topics and recruit speakers for the coming year. In the meantime, please mark your calendars for these Wednesdays for our brown-bag lunch programs.

2014	2015	
Sep 17	Jan 14	Mar 25
Oct 1	Jan 28	Apr 1
Oct 22	Feb 11	Apr 22
Nov 5	Feb 25	May 6
Nov 19	Mar 11	May 20

The Decalogue Tablets

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