

Chai-Lites

by Sharon L. Eiseman

*For each Tablets issue, the “Chai-Lites” routinely features news about our busy members coming, going, celebrating, being recognized, speaking, writing, making new career moves, standing up for the oppressed, fighting antisemitism and BDS movements on college campuses and almost everywhere else as such incidents seem to be increasing, volunteering to deliver holiday dinners to those in need, serving on the DSL Judicial Evaluation Committee, acquiring more new titles and awards than seems possible, giving birth to future lawyers, judges, and Decalogue members, mentoring law students, and **running and running...** for office, for the bench, to court—whether virtual or in-person, and in *Race Judicata* to raise funds for CVLS!*

One of our most well attended and successful gatherings this year was **Decalogue’s 88th Annual Installation and Awards Dinner** held at the Union League Club on July 7, 2022. And, judging from the sheer intensity of enthusiasm of the attendees visible and audible from wherever one may have been standing and schmoozing, or sitting and schmoozing, in the enormous event room on the 5th floor of the ULC, all present were turned on and tuned in at their greatest capacity as the evening began with a noisy, crowded reception and progressed to a noisy, crowded formal dinner for the many hundreds of guests in attendance.

Before we move to the part where all of our award recipients and the slate of new DSL Officers were sworn in to their new years ahead of service to the DSL, or were recipients of shiny DSL plaques for outstanding service to the Society and the profession, a moment must be set aside to warmly acknowledge the superb quality of all tasks performed by our long-standing, long-sitting **Executive Director Aviva Patt** who has consistently proven herself to be a pure energy machine, always working, never resting, to keep the DSL fully funded and fully operational. No one of us who serves the Society, its Foundation, or on our many committees, fully understands how she succeeds every time on every endeavor she supports so we can continue to do it all.

So, who are our new Officers? Not so fast: many thanks to **outgoing President Mara Ruff** for a busy, productive year as our fearless leader in a time of growing antisemitism and concerns about the impact of Critical Race Theory in educational institutions and beyond to the extent that some legislators are trying to prevent it from being taught anywhere. It was no surprise to see Mara display, at the event, her capacity to captivate a crowd by overseeing the officer and board member installations, bestowing upon multiple stars among us those coveted shiny plaques for service to the DSL, and acknowledging and honoring a long list of members of the judiciary for their exemplary service to the Society, the judiciary, and the profession.

Mara welcomed **Judge Myron F. Mackoff** to the *bima* to congratulate him on his transition to the office of President of the Society, following which Hon. Mackoff gave a warm welcome to the audience. (Please see attached list of 2022-23 Decalogue Society of Lawyers Officers and Board Members, all of whom Chief Judge

Timothy Evans swore in as part of the Annual Installation.) Of special import was Judge Mackoff’s recognition of all in the Society who “stayed the course” during the challenge of the pandemic, continuing to perform our functions in order to keep intact and alive the DSL mission of pursuing justice wherever it is being threatened, and doing whatever is necessary to protect the vulnerable from being victimized by hatred and other forms of discrimination. He also praised all who spent energy keeping themselves and others safe from the virus so that important work might soon return through in-person meetings where commitment abounds to keep our projects going and find new ways to serve our community.

Thereafter, Board member and recently retired **Judge Moshe Jacobius** was acknowledged and honored with Decalogue’s **Lifetime Achievement Award** for his long career of excellence as a member of the Judiciary. His wisdom, attention to detail, and impressive demeanor as reflected in his judicial service encouraged those in higher office to appoint Judge Jacobius to many leadership positions along the way, and eventually to service as the Presiding Judge of the domestic relations division. He’ll be missed in the courthouse but we may call upon him for any one or more of our DSL projects.

For her distinguished career in the law and on the bench, most recently in the domestic violence division hearing matters involving domestic and elder abuse, **Judge Judith C. Rice** received the **Charles E. Freeman Judicial Merit Award**. She brings the same sense of compassion and understanding to her cases as she has long devoted to service on boards of several NFP entities, and has also been honored for her valuable work in promoting financial literacy for the Illinois Council of Economic Education, the City Colleges of Chicago, and the Federal Reserve Board.

The **Decalogue Society Award** was bestowed upon **Judge Neil H. Cohen** for his long and distinguished service in the general chancery division as well as his commitment to addressing criminal and social justice issues as reflected in his role on several Illinois Supreme Court committees devoted to such concerns. And, we have been informed of his equally productive personal life which he shares with his longtime spouse Susan Sher and their four children, four grandchildren, and three grandpuppies!

Board member **Appellate Court Justice Robert E. Gordon** was the recipient of the Society’s long-standing annual **Hebrew University Fellowship Award** for his widely known, relentless pursuit of justice through his devotion to serving the interests of all parties who appear before him, whether through settlement or other means of resolution. In addition to that commitment, Justice Gordon is further revered for his support of fellow Decalogue members and other minorities seeking judicial appointments, is a co-founder of the Jewish Judges Association of Illinois, and, among many other recognitions, has been designated as a legal scholar of the Public Interest Law Institute.

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Chai-Lites (cont'd)

By the conferring of its **Award of Excellence** on **Donald C. Schiller**, the Society paid tribute to Mr. Schiller for his 50+ years of meaningful contributions in the area of family law and all of its complexities, which have resulted in his being deemed one of the nation's top matrimonial lawyers by numerous public entities. Besides his founding of the well-known family law firm Schiller DuCanto & Fleck, Schiller has been teaching divorce law at the University of Chicago Law School for more than 20 years, a term reflecting the high regard in which he is held in one of the most difficult and challenging practice areas. Perhaps this award will help keep him fueled!

Decalogue Board member **Sharon L. Eiseman** happily accepted the Decalogue **Founder's Award** from President Mara Ruff while simultaneously wondering how she was chosen from among a field of extraordinarily active, gifted, and dedicated women who achieve results in their varied roles for the Society and its Foundation. However, Sharon promises she will continue to serve the DSL to the best of her ability in order to be worthy of that award.

The **Presidential Citation** was conferred by the DSL upon Board member **Joel F. Bruckman**, whose practice focuses on matters relating to data privacy, cybersecurity, and complex commercial litigation involving trade secrets and restrictive covenant matters. Yes, he does the work that many of his fellow lawyers simply avoid—due to its complexity, of course. Likely, his interest in those issues was sparked by his position as a Cook County ASA in the Public Corruption Unit of the Special Prosecutions Bureau. He should probably get an award at the end of each week he survives!

Apart from the Installation and Awards presentation, we deem it relevant to note wedding bells in the background for two of our past presidents. Those bells celebrate the recent marriage of **Judge James Shapiro** to Karin Elizabeth Clifford, and the recent engagement of **Judge Myron Mackoff** to Andrea Chavarria. We always enjoy hearing good news about our members. Accordingly, we extend a hearty MAZEL TOV! to both couples and wish them well as they travel through life with their new partners.

And more Chai-lites!

Mazel Tov to **Marc Blumenthal** and Sharon Veis on their daughter Sara's graduation from Hebrew College with a Rabbinical Ordination, a Masters in Jewish Education, and the Betty K. & Philip Fein Memorial Prize for Outstanding student in Jewish Education and Ordination. Sara is now Assistant Rabbi at Congregation Agudath Israel in New Jersey.

Jeffrey Leving's article "[Flexible remote work arrangements benefit both employees and their companies](#)" was published in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Jacqueline Carroll, Board member and co-Chair of the Committee Against Antisemitism and Hate, has been named Director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Mobile Museum of Tolerance.

Paul Plotnick, a Decalogue Society member, with offices in Skokie, was selected as the Military Marshal of the Village of Skokie 4th of July Parade. Although the parade was canceled in the wake of the Highland Park tragedy, the Village of Skokie and the Illinois National Guard held a ceremony August 15 to honor Paul and the other Marshalls for their military and community service.

Ron Stackler, a 60-year member of Decalogue, celebrated his 85th birthday July 30, 2022, living contentedly in retirement on the beach in Malibu, California.

Michele Katz started a philanthropic or tikkun olam foundation that's turned a year old (back in March). The Plus One Adoption Foundation is an information resource company to create more awareness about adoption as a family planning option. The website is www.plusoneadoption.org and we are active on Instagram @ plusoneadoption.

On 7/13/22, **Chuck Krugel** was interviewed for his fourth time by South Korea's national news network Arirang's The Daily Report. It's a daily hour long news program for Arirang TV's 2pm time-slot based in Seoul, Korea. Host Sun-hee MIN interviewed Professor OH Joon-seok of Sookmyung Women's University & Chuck concerning the Great Resignation—Why are people quitting their jobs amidst high inflation and possible recession? All of Chuck's Arirang interviews are available here: <https://www.charlesakrugel.com/charles-krugel-media/two-new-video-interviews-including-south-koreas-arirang-trust-radio-networks.html>

Also, on 5/13/22, Chuck was interviewed by Steven A. Leahy, BA, JD, LLM, CCE, Principal Attorney, Opem Tax Advocates & Law Office of Steven A. Leahy, PC, on his video podcast available on the Trust Radio Network & YouTube. They discussed practicing law, labor & employment law & business in general. The interview is just short of two hours and is here: <https://www.charlesakrugel.com/charles-krugel-media/two-new-video-interviews-including-south-koreas-arirang-trust-radio-networks.html>.

Finally, on 4/19/22, Chuck was quoted in Construction Dive's article "IL suspends requirement for in-state workers on public projects." It's available here: <https://www.charlesakrugel.com/charles-krugel-media/construction-dive-quotes-cites-me-in-il-suspends-requirement-for-in-state-workers-on-public-projects.html>.

On 8/5/22 Chuck received an A+ accreditation rating by the Better Business Bureau.

Judge **Neil Cohen** was appointed to fill the At-Large vacancy created by the appointment of the Honorable Raymond W. Mitchell to the First District Appellate Court. The appointment is effective September 8, 2022, and will conclude December 2, 2024, following the November 2024 general election.