

What Does Decalogue Do?

The Decalogue Society of Lawyers is the oldest Jewish bar association in the country, founded in 1937 to advance and improve the law, the legal profession, and the administration of justice; to foster friendly relations among its members, and between its members and other members of the bar, the courts, and the public; to maintain vigilance against public practices that are antisocial or discriminatory; and many other noble purposes.

But what have we achieved?

DECALOGUE PROGRAMS

Campus Anti-Semitism Program

Campus support program to offer legal advice to students harassed because of their Jewish identity or pro-Israel activities.

Law School Scholarships

At 6 Chicago schools and the University of Illinois, and a fellowship at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, through the Decalogue Foundation.

Continuing Legal Education Series

Including special seminars on legal issues of importance to the Jewish community:

- The Intersection of Jewish and Secular Law
- Mezuzahs in Condominiums
- Jewish Law and End of Life Issues
- “Jewish Clause” in Inheritance
- Jewish Divorce
- Adoption and Jewish Law
- Surrogacy and Jewish Law
- Domestic Violence in the Jewish Community
- Child Sexual Abuse in the Jewish Community
- Sex Trafficking in the Jewish Community
- Hate Crimes Legislation
- Religious Conscience Laws
- US-Iran Sanctions
- Fighting Terrorism in the Courtroom
- Israel’s Right to Self Defense
- Who Owns the Water in the Middle East?

Cross-Cultural Programming

- Attorneys of Faith Seminar
- Jewish and Muslim Issues in Family Law
- Tisha B’Av/Ramadan Break Fast
- Jewish and Arab-American Women in Law

DECALOGUE SUCCESSES

Filed an amicus brief challenging the Muslim travel ban.

Participated in an appeal before the Illinois Appellate Court First District challenging the propriety of a “Jewish joke” during closing arguments.

Participated in an appeal before the US Court of Appeals affirming the right of a Jewish family to have an American court hear their claim against a US corporation for property seized in Egypt.

Participated in an appeal before the US Court of Appeals to ensure the right of Jews to affix mezuzot on their doors in condominium buildings.

Advocated for multicultural sensitivity training for Cook County judges after a Jewish attorney was held in contempt for failing to appear at an emergency hearing on Yom Kippur.

Advocated for equal services for Jewish students taking the ACT, LSAT, and MPRE tests on Sunday.

Supported students at Loyola University protesting student government’s passage of a BDS resolution without proper notice.

Convinced the Chicago Park District to reschedule summer program registration that was only on Shabbat and Yom Tov.

Pressured Chicago police to upgrade anti-Semitic tagging of garages in West Rogers Park as a hate crime.

Sounds good?

Join now <https://www.decaloguesociety.org/membership/> or renew your dues in May.