

Whistleblowers: Paragons or Pariahs?

Susan Schneider Thomas, Esq.
Herbert S. Lustig, M.D.
Rabbi Annette Koch

9:30 am - 11:45 am

One (1) ethics and one (1) substantive credits: \$90
Continental breakfast included; dietary laws observed.
Doors open at 9:00 am; course starts promptly at 9:30 am

This course will examine the significant difficulties people encounter when they report suspected wrongdoing to government authorities. What explains the frequent condemnation not only from current employers, but also from prospective employers, and colleagues and friends? How can lawyers counsel potential whistleblowers to prepare them for the likely consequences of coming forward, including troublesome issues such as maintaining confidentiality even as to family members? How does Jewish law balance “telling tales,” something that is generally prohibited, with the command to not stand idly by when harmful actions are observed? What are the differences between people who leak evidence of government actions to the press versus those who report corporate wrongdoing to the government? The presenters are a practicing whistleblower attorney, a psychiatrist who counsels whistleblowers, and a rabbi who formerly practiced in the area of corporate law.



Panel leader and moderator:

Susan Schneider Thomas is a *magna cum laude* graduate of Brandeis University and a *cum laude* graduate of Temple Law School. Following a clerkship with Hon. Dolores K. Sloviter on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, Thomas entered private practice, where she has specialized in various forms of complex civil litigation on the plaintiffs’ side. Thomas has concentrated her practice for almost 15 years in the area of whistleblower litigation.

She was an integral member of a team of attorneys who prosecuted the AWP Drug Pricing false claims cases, where over \$2.5 billion was recovered from drug manufacturers who had overstated their drug prices and engineered inflated reimbursements from federal and state healthcare programs. Thomas believes her clients are best served by a stringent and exacting evaluation of their potential claims and a frank discussion of the consequences of initiating whistleblower litigation.



Panel participants:

Herbert S. Lustig, M.D. is a psychiatrist who treats conditions such as depression, ADHD, trauma, personality, social, and eating disorders. Dr. Lustig is a graduate of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University. In addition to having maintained a solo clinical practice in psychiatry since 1973, Lustig is Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Temple University School of Medicine. He recently served as a psychiatric expert witness in an FCA suit [No. 11-10316-RGS; *United States of America, et al. ex rel. Scott Bartz v. Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical, Inc. et al.*; United States District Court, D. Mass.] regarding the emotional consequences to a whistleblower from his employer’s alleged retaliation against him after he reported to his managers irregularities he perceived. The employee contended that his ostensible isolation and demotion within his organization caused him to experience depression, anxiety, social withdrawal and other significant medical, personal and interpersonal difficulties. Lustig has also counseled other whistleblowers and he is familiar with the tremendous impact that a whistleblower suit has on both the individual and his or her family.



Rabbi Annette Koch is currently serving as the Rabbi of Agudath Sholom Congregation in Lynchburg, Va. Rabbi Koch earned a Master of Arts in Hebrew Letter from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, where she received rabbinic ordination in 2006. A native of New York City, Rabbi Koch received her Bachelor’s degree from The City College of the City University of New York, and graduated magna cum laude from New York Law School. Before entering rabbinical school, Rabbi Koch practiced law in New York, at the firm of Weil, Gotshal and Manges and then as Vice President and Deputy General Counsel of a stand-alone subsidiary of Citicorp.

Jerusalem in International Law

David H. Weinstein, Esq.

12:45 pm - 3:00 pm

Two (2) substantive credits: \$90
Course begins promptly at 12:45 pm.

Jerusalem is claimed to be unique. It is held sacred by three of the World’s major religions. The State of Israel has declared the unified city of Jerusalem to be the permanent capital of the state. Palestinians generally assert that Arab Jerusalem is their capital. The 1947 UN Partition Plan for Palestine designated Jerusalem and its environs as a *corpus separatum*, an international entity separate from the contemplated two states, one Jewish and the other Arab. For more than a hundred years, treaties, proclamations, the League of Nations, and the United Nations have all referred to Jerusalem and its Holy Sites as enjoying special protections.

So, what is the status of the City in international law? Is it special? In this course we will identify and evaluate various opinions under international law in the light of historical and current events and facts.



David H. Weinstein, Esq. has been an attorney in private practice for more than 40 years. He is a founder and member of the Center City Philadelphia law firm, Weinstein Kitchenoff & Asher LLC. He has been the recipient of the Humanitarian Award of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and the Public Justice Achievement Award of the Trial Lawyers for

Public Justice Foundation. Among many other such appointments in his career, Mr. Weinstein is one of the court-appointed interim class counsel for a class of survivors and descendants of victims of the Holocaust in Hungary. As a soon-to-be part-time resident of Jerusalem and the father and grandfather of Jerusalem residents, he has explored in depth the issue of Jerusalem’s status in international law and has previously presented a more abbreviated version of this course to lay people. David is Chairman of the Board of Governors of Gratz College.

Registration Form

Questions?

Call Mindy Cohen at 215-635-7300 x 155
or email mcohen@gratz.edu

Register online at www.gratz.edu/cle

Mail this form to:
Gratz College CLE
7605 Old York Road, Melrose Park, PA 19027
Attn: Mindy Cohen

WHISTLEBLOWERS: Paragons or Pariahs?

- One (1) ethics and one (1) substantive credits: \$90
Continental breakfast included; dietary laws observed.
Doors open at 9:00 am; course starts promptly at 9:30 am

Jerusalem in International Law

- Two (2) substantive credits: \$90
Registration 12:30 pm. Course begins promptly at 12:45 pm.

Full Day

- \$180 Includes lunch.

Name PA lawyer ID #

Law Firm or Business

Address

City

State

Zip

Daytime phone number

Email address (for confirmation)

Area of concentration in your law practice

Total amount \$ _____

Please enclose one of the following:

- check payable to *Gratz College*
 Visa/ Mastercard/ Discover

Credit Card Number

Expiration Date

Security Code

Signature

Date

Gratz College and CLE, It's a perfect match!

As the oldest independent college of Jewish studies in North America, Gratz is committed to promoting the tradition of ongoing Jewish learning as well as meeting the needs of Jewish professionals. Judaism is a culture base on Halacha (law). Its sacred texts contain ordinances for nearly every facet of life. This is an opportunity to study one of the earliest bodies of law known to humanity and compare it to the modern American justice system.

Cancellations and Refunds

Cancellations must be received in advance of the program to receive a refund. Please call or email Mindy Cohen if you cannot attend the course for any reason. Voicemail will be checked early in the morning on the day of the course. No refund or credit will be given if Gratz College is contacted after the day of the course.