

Talmudic and secular law discussed at conference

BY ROBERT HAMILTON

Can studying the ancient Talmud really make lawyers better today? Two of the top lawyers in Miami, Joel Hirschhorn and Stuart Z. Grossman, think so.

More than 60 lawyers turned out to watch them discuss and debate the legal reasoning between Talmudic and modern American law with the dean of the Institute for American and Talmudic Law (IAT Law), Rabbi Shlomo Yaffe, and respected members of the judiciary. They came to discover what they could learn from the Talmud and these great lawyers to serve their clients better today.

On May 13, IAT Law hosted its first Continuing Legal Education (CLE) seminar in Florida, "The Conference on Legal Ethics," in partnership with Chabad of Downtown Coral Gables. The conference was held at the Regions Bank building in Coral Gables. Regions Bank was a sponsor.

The event featured some of Florida's top legal minds participating in a three-part program. The first part featured Joel Hirschhorn, a partner at Hirschhorn & Bieber, and Joel Cohen, a partner at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan (who flew in

from New York City especially for this event), discussing ethical considerations in criminal defense.

The second part featured Stuart Z. Grossman, a co-founder of Grossman Roth, who discussed medical malpractice in Jewish law.

Finally, in a panel discussion, three judges from the 11th Circuit Court — Stanford Blake, Kevin Emas and Jeffrey Rosinek — explored the issues raised in the previous segments from a judge's perspective, with the help of moderator Spencer Aronfeld.

Throughout most of the program, Rabbi Yaffe, a noted Talmudic scholar and a widely acclaimed speaker from Hartford, CT, offered the approach of Judaic-Talmudic law to many of these pressing legal issues.

"The program was terrific," said Alison Miller, a partner in the law firm of Stearns Weaver. "At a time when we are all grappling with handling the impact of medical malpractice on our healthcare system and the failures of our criminal justice system, learning about the Jewish approaches to these issues was both thought provoking and enlightening."

Rabbi Avrohom Stolik of the Chabad of Downtown Coral Gables said he was



Attorneys (l-r) Stuart Z. Grossman, Joel Cohen and Joel Hirschhorn participate in a panel discussion.

pleased with the event.

"This is the first time that we have organized a conference of this type," he said. "The impressive turnout and the tremendous interest that it has generated proves its importance."

Chabad of Downtown Coral Gables plans to host more such conferences in the future.

"They will cover various legal fields, such as commercial litigation, bankruptcy, and real estate and family law," Rabbi Stolik said.

IAT Law is a New York City-based non-profit organization that provides CLE to attorneys and other professionals. IAT Law is known throughout the CLE field as a top provider of innovative and entertaining programs on a wide range of top-

ics that compare and contrast American and Talmudic law.

Chabad of Downtown Coral Gables is a Jewish educational organization affiliated with the worldwide Chabad Lubavitch outreach organization, whose humanitarian and educational activities span the globe.

The event was sponsored by Aronfeld Trial Lawyers, Cisneros Group of Companies, Goldstein Schechter Koch, Trust Surety Group, and Regions Bank.

For information on "The Conference on Legal Ethics" and to be notified of future planned events, contact: Chabad of Downtown Coral Gables, 550 Biltmore Way, Suite 103, Coral Gables; telephone 305-490-7572, or send email to <info@ChabadGables.com>.



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