



# Navigating the Line

*Balancing Free Speech and Social Responsibility*

**This course is FREE and will take place virtually during lunchtime.**

## Confronting Antisemitism: How Can Attorneys Make a Difference?

Thursday, Sept. 12 ♦ 12:00-1:30 pm

### Panelists:

**Denise Katz-Prober**, Director of Legal Initiatives, The Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law

**Ken Turkel**, Partner, Turkel Cuva Barrios, P.A.

**Lonny Wilk**, Interim Regional Director, ADL Florida

**Julie Wright Halbert, Esq.**, Co-Chair, Heller Sarasota Manatee Community Relations Council and Co-Founder, Coalition of Florida Jewish Community Relations Councils

### Co-Moderators:

**Rochelle Walk**, Managing Partner, AEGIS Law

**Mark Wright**, Mark H. Wright, PLLC

**The panel will look at recent news articles and events, and discuss using legal resources and experience the following topics:**

- Overview and specific data regarding the rise of Antisemitism
- State of the educational environment as the 2024/2025 school year gets underway
- When is anti-Zionism antisemitism?
- Is responding to antisemitism different than responding to racism and, if so, how and why?
- What techniques are most effective for attorneys to use in responding generally?
- Can attorneys influence the media and respond effectively and how?
- If asked to assist an individual, how might a lawyer with limited experience in targeted hate get started? What resources are available?
- How do attorneys balance their personal beliefs with the need to advocate for a client who may have a different belief about Antisemitism?

### Synopsis:

With the rise of antisemitism in the United States and around the world, lawyers are asked on behalf of agencies, private and public educational institutions, religious institutions, and individuals to respond to antisemitic rhetoric, represent victims of hate and offensive speech, and advise administrations, students and organizations impacted by the challenging environment of college campuses. These services are often provided on a pro bono basis and require prompt and thoughtful response.

Prior to October 7, 2023, volunteer lawyers often focused on public school practices such as scheduling exams on Jewish holidays, swastikas painted on school property, derogatory flyers in neighborhoods and using school resources for religious activities. Leading up to and after October 7, 2023, the rising tensions have escalated in the school environment and in communities and the need for educated attorneys to properly address these concerns consistent with the laws of the US and Florida has increased.

Issues relating to freedom of speech, freedom of religion, right to assemble, rights of university and school administration and professors in a classroom, protection and security of individuals and property, protection of religious institution property are a few of the issues that have been addressed by community volunteer lawyers, on a pro bono basis.

Social media, and the media in general, create platforms for many speakers to share their views, including views that offend, insult and are hateful to others. The dilemma for lawyers is knowing when such offensive and often hateful speech is protected speech under the First Amendment and when such speech is unconstitutional, illegal and actionable and how to professionally and ethically respond.

This program is part of a multi-part series, although stands alone for the purpose of Continuing Legal Education.

**Continuing Legal Education accreditation in Florida available.**

Cost: **FREE**

To register, visit [JewishTampa.com/JCRC](https://www.JewishTampa.com/JCRC)

Registration for each event will close at 5:00 pm on the day prior to the seminar.

Sponsored by:



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