

# Feedback on Mishpatim 2015

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## Nav Dhaliwal

I have been extremely pleased with the program and the opportunity to be presented with such diverse subject matter. I have been also very happy with how multiple viewpoints on issues have been presented and I have felt that I've received a very balanced education in terms of the issues we covered....

I just want to say again that I have been so grateful for this opportunity and am very happy with the program. The start-up business aspect of this course has made me very interested in business law, and I plan to take courses in business and trade law solely as a result of my interest being piqued in this program. I came here not knowing much about Israel other than what I had seen on the news about the conflict. However I came here with an appreciation that the situation here is complex, with an open mind and the willingness to learn, and as a result have been greatly rewarded with this experience.

## Sherry Brown

I wanted to extend my personal gratitude to you for the support you have given to the Mishpatim program. The program far exceeded my expectations. There are so many positive experiences, I will try to capture just a few.

The course that was offered was interesting and thought provoking. The topics that were covered helped to provide context to the whole experience. Learning about Basic Laws and the work of the Knesset was fascinating and the field trip to the Knesset rounded out the learning experience.

I thoroughly enjoyed to opportunity to learn about start-up businesses. Concepts like business incubators and exiting were foreign to me. The information we received in class and then having the opportunity to meet with start-up companies in Tel Aviv sparked a new area of interest for me. Since coming back to Canada I have been taking note which firms recognize work with start up companies and what that might entail.

There are so many other things I can say about the experience but I think it might turn into a novel! I don't think a novel would adequately capture in words what experience this course gave me.

Seeing the country of Israel was simply breath-taking as I took the opportunity when we had some time off to travel a bit. It is definitely a place I want to return to with my husband so he can also enjoy the landscape of such a beautiful country.

Thank you so very much for your support so that I could have this once in a lifetime experience. I know my peers felt similar in our gratitude to the supporters.

I also want to thank Professor Schwartz, Professor Fainstein and Professor Ohana for all their work in setting up this opportunity. They make it look so seamless!!

## **Alexander Robertson**

Prior to attending this trip, I had never been to Israel and I had a very cursory knowledge of the history and issues Israeli's face.

I have come away from this program with a far greater understanding and appreciation for the history along with the challenges and amazing accomplishments of the Israeli people and the state of Israel.

To learn all this while experiencing Israeli culture first hand was fantastic.

It was very clear to me just how much work has gone into developing this program. I am so impressed with our instructors, Bryan Schwartz and Daniel Ohana as well as all the guest speakers.

Together they provide a very balanced perspective on a number of very challenging issues as well as interesting cross cultural comparisons to Canada and other nations.

I found myself at the edge of my seat throughout our lectures.

Thank you again for making this program possible. I will be strongly recommending to my peers that they attend the Israel and International Law Program in the future.

## **Sara McGregor**

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for helping make this program a reality for so many students. It was a pleasure to get to know you and your wife during our time in Jerusalem, and I truly appreciate all that you did and do to ensure that each participant gets the most out of their time in Israel.

A number of my friends have taken part in the exchange over the past five years, and all of them have spoken so highly of their experiences that when you released the application materials for this year's trip, I knew I had to apply. My personal interest in the program aside, please know that without the generous bursary I received to put towards my travel and accommodation expenses, I would not have been able to justify taking part in the exchange, so

please accept my thanks for the Financial assistance you helped arrange for all Robson Hall participants.

Once in Israel, I was truly impressed with the quality of instruction that my fellow participants and I received during our time at the HU. In addition to our daily lectures, the guest speakers and field trips that were arranged for our benefit were truly eye opening. I particularly enjoyed our visits to the Knesset and the Israeli Supreme Court, as well as our trip to Yad Vashem near the end of our time in Israel.

All told, I have learned so much about Israel, its history and people, as well as the country's hopes for the future in a way that I never could have from here in Canada. I am eager to apply what I have learned this coming school year when I compare and contrast what I now know about Israel to Canada's own systems of law and government, as well as the challenges we face here at home.

Thank you again for your support of this program. I have made wonderful new friends and gained countless memories during my time in Israel, and hope that this program continues to carry on and expand so that future generations of students can benefit from this exchange and the experiences it promotes.

## **Thomas Prendiville**

After participating in the summer program offered by the Rothberg International School at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, I would like to express my great appreciation for what has been an unforgettable experience.

Aside from the stories of fellow students who had participated in the program from years past, I was still a little unsure of exactly what to expect from the program. However, the bold decision to take part in the exchange program in light of this turned out to be highly rewarding.

While class hours were certainly long at times, the program was creatively designed to keep us students attentive and engaged by means of a wide range of guest speakers. Guest lectures had been concerned with a multitude of interesting topics from the start-up character of the state of Israel, to the historically problematic relations between Israel and Palestine.

Additionally, our class days would often include various day trips, both for the purposes of leisure as well as education. For instance, one of the more memorable trips the program had offered was a day trip to Tel-Aviv in which we were guided through numerous fascinating start-up companies in the heart of downtown. Comparatively, we also were able to enjoy a leisurely day trip to the dead sea which was a relaxing day not to be forgotten.

Overall, the program is exceptionally organized, enjoyable, as well as highly rewarding, and I would recommend it to any Robson student - or any Canadian law school student - looking for a

memorable summer and law related experience. In addition, it most certainly adds an impressive and interesting element to your resume.

Thank you to Professor Schwartz, Associate Dean Fainstein, Professor Ohana, Shai Yosipov, and all the administrative and support staff that make this program possible year after year. Your work is much appreciated.

## **Annalie Shahin**

Dear Mr. Moise Amselem, Mr. Moshik Galanty, and all who are involved with funding of the Asper or Amselem scholarships at CFHU, I want to send you my most heartfelt and genuine thank you for the scholarship that CFHU provided me with this summer. The Asper National Scholarship and the Moise Amselem Scholarship were major contributions to my Hebrew University of Jerusalem Mishpatim (law) program.

The program was rigorous, interesting and stimulating. It touched upon the most interesting aspects of Israeli law, many of which were quite controversial and sparked stimulating discussion amongst students. The field trips were a major bonus, and I am glad that they were a mandatory part of the course. I especially enjoyed our field trip to Tel Aviv, where we visited a number of start-up offices, met with their founders, and met with a lawyer who represents them. It was motivational to see young adults, just like myself, putting their absolute all into these new ideas, technologies and innovations. Their positive energy and proactive attitude was something to learn from.

I was especially impressed by the quality and qualifications of the guest speakers. They were absolutely brilliant, and so very accomplished. It was truly an honor to hear them, one after the other, many of whom were kind enough to share personal experiences. For example, there was an Ethiopian gentleman who lectured about his challenges in Israeli society. Whomever the lecturer, classes were always interesting and the wisdom shared really resonated with us students.

Furthermore, Prof. Ohana, Prof. Schwartz, and Prof. Fainstein were wonderful as well. They were exceedingly understanding and approachable, and conveyed a genuine love for their work and for the field of law.

Not only was the program a good learning experience, but it resonated with me thereafter. It motivated me to be proactive with the rest of my time in Israel. I interned at the legal department of "Let the Animals Live" in Ramat Gan, and worked closely (albeit only a few times) with a lawyer there who promoted animal rights and welfare.

In conclusion, this exchange program was an excellent experience that I would certainly recommend. Besides the academic component, it also strengthened my love for and ties to the state of Israel.

Finally, I know that students are expected to put in a number of hours of volunteer work following the program. Obviously, I am more than happy to do that. But I also truly believe in what you do, truly believe in studying in Israel and exploring its beauty, and if there is any way that I can help out with CFHU in another capacity, please do not hesitate to let me know. It would be my pleasure.

Thank you for having given me the opportunity to have this educational summer experience at Hebrew University.