

Prof. Aviad HaCohen

Aviad HaCohen is among the leading researchers of Jewish law in the world today. His research and public work is specifically devoted to the application of Jewish civil law in modern life. Prof. HaCohen is a professor of law and a public figure who has been serving for the past five years as president of the Academic Center for Law and Science, an institution where he served as the dean of the Law School for about ten years.

Prof. HaCohen completed his law studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in the years 1985-1989 with distinction, and completed his doctoral thesis in 2003. He did this while engaging in research at the Israel Metz Institute for the Study of Jewish Civil Law at the Hebrew University. He interned with the Vice President of the Supreme Court, Prof. Menachem Alon, and with attorney Dr. Mishael Cheshin (who later became the Vice President of the Supreme Court). While yet in the middle of his studies, he won the recognition and appreciation of the academic community and was conferred numerous awards of excellence, including: the Dr. Yaakov Herzog Award for an outstanding student in civil law studies (1991), the Slavik Award for an outstanding student in graduate studies (1992), the Shenrach Award for an outstanding student in the study of Jewish civil law (1994), the Robert Asseraf Award for outstanding research in doctoral studies (1997), the Leo Guzik Award for an outstanding student in the study of Jewish civil law (1999) and the Judge Dr. Moshe Zilberg Award for an outstanding doctoral thesis in civil law studies (2004).

At an early stage of his public activities, in 1995, when he began to teach issues concerning religion and state, Jewish law and media law at Bar-Ilan University, his research and teaching integrated Jewish sources with Israeli society and state affairs. The following year he began working as a lecturer and director of the Center for the Teaching and Study of Jewish Law at the Shaarei Mishpat College, which later became the Academic Center for Law and Science.

Prof. Aviad HaCohen founded Mosaica, the Institute for the Study of Religion, Society and State. He was invited to be a senior research fellow at the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem and a member of other public forums.

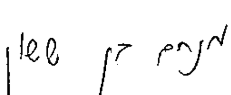
His academic and public work, which focuses on the application of Jewish civil Law at the Hebrew University the life of a Jewish and democratic state, brought about his appointment as a member of Psakei Din, the official publication system of the Supreme Court's rulings. He was for several years the editor-in-chief of the series. He is a member of editorial boards of journals addressing the focus of his activities, including: The Yearbook of Hebrew Law (published on behalf of the Institute for the Study of Jewish Law at the Hebrew University); Medicine and Law, Identities (by the Jewish Culture and Identity department of the Van Leer Institute), Machanayim, Masechet, Shaarei Mishpat, and HaLishkah - the periodical of the Bar Association in Jerusalem. Prof. HaCohen is also the author of the revised entries regarding human rights in the new edition of the Encyclopedia Judaica, which include entries on freedom of speech, freedom of movement and freedom of occupation. He publishes weekly articles on the weekly Torah section as they relate to Jewish law.

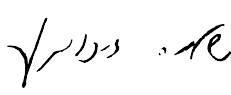
Prof. HaCohen is not only content with writing and publishing; he is always ready to join any effort where it concerns public legal activism. As part of this, he is a member of the Higher Ethics Committee of the Hebrew University for non-medical research involving humans; he academically accompanies the activities of the Bar Association's Committee of Jewish Law, which is the committee that confers the Yakir haMishpat halvri award. He is involved in disseminating Jewish law to judges and lawyers, while emphasizing its practical potential. He had a part in revising the Fundamentals of Judicial Law, which includes Jewish law as a source of ruling in the event of a lacuna in the law. He was appointed a legal assistant for Jewish law at the Supreme Court; was involved in the establishment of a database of sources on Jewish law, and was one of the initiators founding an institute for Jewish law that answers the questions of judges and lawyers about the position of Jewish law. He was one of those active in conveying the Jewish legal view in any bill being discussed by the Constitution, Law and Justice Committee in the Knesset.

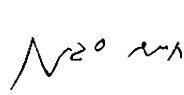
Prof. HaCohen's varied, rich and diligent activity has been carried out for many years with great dedication and without let-up.

The 2023 Katz Award is awarded to Prof. Aviad HaCohen for his many years of outstanding activity and his special achievements in the application and advocacy of Hebrew law in modern life.

The 2023 Katz prize is awarded to Prof. Aviad HaCohen for his many years of outstanding activity and his special achievements in the application and advocacy of Jewish civil law in modern life.


Prof. Menahem Ben-Sasson


Rabbi Shlomo Dichovski


Rabbi Haim Sabato