



In this six-session class, we will consider how Jewish law and American law address and affect people with disabilities, including physical disabilities, intellectual disabilities, and mental illness. We will study ways in which the law treats everyone equally and ways in which legal systems include accommodations for people with disabilities. In American law, what ethical issues arise in representing a person with disabilities? In Jewish law, how are people with disabilities obligated in mitzvot, and how are communities obligated to include them? When is a person with disabilities liable to be punished for a crime? As in previous years, we will study sources from Jewish law and American law, all available in English. Session topics will include capacity; public accommodations and public space; education; poverty and income supports/tzedakah; employment and leadership roles; and criminal law. All are welcome to learn with us! Pennsylvania lawyers will have the option of receiving CLE credits for an additional fee.

**Dates:** The course will be held over Zoom, from 12:30-1:30pm, on the following Wednesdays: **October 6, November 3, December 1, February 2, March 2, April 6.**

**Session 1, October 6:** Introduction. This session will introduce the course and provide some definitions for disability in Jewish and American law. We will consider how and when a person with disabilities is obligated in mitzvot and, in the American law context, the ethical obligations of lawyers representing a person with disabilities.

**Session 2, November 3:** Public Accommodations and Public Space. This session will study Jewish and American law about making public spaces accessible for people with disabilities. What are our legal and ethical obligations to ensure that people with disabilities can travel, access government services, and attend communal gatherings? In the American context we will look at the Americans with Disabilities Act and its implementation.

**Session 3, December 1:** Poverty and Income Support/Tzedakah. This session will study the systems in place in Jewish and American law to provide income support to people who are unable to support themselves through employment due to a disability. How does the law define a community's obligation to a person with disabilities? What obligation does that person have to work? In the American context we will focus on Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

**Session 4, February 2, 2022:** Education. This session will study the public obligation to provide education for people with disabilities. How does Jewish law provide accommodations to people with disabilities who want to learn Torah? How does American law ensure that people with disabilities can access education?

**Session 5, March 2, 2022:** Employment and Leadership Roles. This session will study how Jewish and American law address employment for people with disabilities. How does Jewish law address people with disabilities who wish to take on leadership roles, and how does that impact Jewish communal leadership today? In the American context, what accommodations are employers required to provide for employees with disabilities?

**Session 6, April 6, 2022:** Criminal Law. This session will study the implications of disability for criminal liability (whether a person is responsible for a crime) and punishment (how a person convicted of a crime can be punished) in both Jewish and American law. We will consider diminished capacity, not guilty by reason of insanity, and the death penalty. American law materials will include Constitutional law and Pennsylvania caselaw.