

FASPE

FELLOWSHIPS AT
AUSCHWITZ
FOR THE STUDY OF
PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

FASPE is under the auspices of the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust.

Legal Program – Summer 2010

FASPE is an innovative program for students in professional schools designed to address contemporary ethical issues through a unique historical context. The Fellowships provide law, medical, business, journalism, and seminary students a structured program of study that initially focuses on the role of their chosen professions in Nazi Germany and the Holocaust and uses that historic focus as a framework for the consideration of contemporary ethical issues. FASPE is under the auspices of the Museum of Jewish Heritage.

Ten to fifteen Fellows from each profession are chosen to participate in FASPE each year through a competitive process that draws applicants from professional schools across the country. Following an introductory session in New York, the Fellows travel to Berlin, Krakow, and Oswiecim (Auschwitz). In Germany and Poland, the in situ program looks at the role of the profession in the development and implementation of policies and programs that led to the Holocaust. FASPE is predicated upon both the potent symbolism of Auschwitz and the Fellows' personal experience while in Germany and Poland to help the Fellows explore the power and potential of their professions along with the potential challenges they will face as professionals.

FASPE programs will be offered in 2010 to students attending schools of Law and Medicine; programs for the other professions will begin in 2011.

The FASPE program for law students is an intensive two-week program that examines the moral responsibilities and professional duties of legal practitioners—lawyers and judges—in extreme as well as more routine situations. The Law Fellows will study historical, philosophical, theological, and cultural texts related to Nazism and the Holocaust, which are examined in relation to contemporary issues. The discussing, exploring, and questioning of moral reasoning at the core of FASPE will inform their professional and personal lives.

The following outlines the framework of the Law Program:

- The study of the individuals and institutions associated with legal and judicial structures and the roles they played during the Holocaust, as well as in the formation of the Nazi legal system, itself.
- Consideration of broader issues, such as the context of “lawlessness” vs. the rule-of law; the use of law as a resource for destruction, or for challenging the established order; the Nuremberg trials and post-war justice—all in both a historic and modern context.
- Examination of exclusively contemporary ethical issues facing the legal profession through the lens of relevant history.

The FASPE curriculum for Law Fellows was designed by faculty and students at Yale Law School. The 2010 program will be led by Anthony Kronman, the Sterling Professor of Law, and former dean, of Yale Law School and others associated with Yale Law School, in association with the staff of the Museum of Jewish Heritage.

The two-week program has the following structure:

- The group gathers at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York for a brief orientation that includes visiting the Museum's exhibits, meeting with Holocaust survivors, and working with FASPE staff and guest scholars.
- The first leg of the European portion is in Berlin, where the Fellows will have the opportunity to study the city's historical and cultural sites, and also enjoy the vibrant social life of modern Berlin. Educational workshops will take place at the House of the Wannsee Conference, the site where, in 1942, representatives of State and Nazi Party agencies convened to discuss and coordinate plans for the “Final Solution” -- a group that included nine lawyers.

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- The Fellows then travel to Krakow, Poland, where they will explore the city's rich Jewish, Catholic, and Polish history. The Fellows will meet with Righteous among the Nations (rescuers) before departing for Oświęcim, the town the Germans called Auschwitz, where they will tour Auschwitz-Birkenau and work with the distinguished educational staff at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.
- Back in Krakow for the final few days, the Fellows will focus exclusively on contemporary ethical issues facing the legal profession. Sessions will take place at Jagiellonian University, one of Europe's oldest and most prestigious universities.

The 2010 FASPE Law Program will take place concurrently with the FASPE program for medical students. Joint sessions throughout the program give the Law and Medical Fellows an opportunity to consider issues relevant to both professions, such as euthanasia and the implications of bioethical research and implementation.

To Apply:

Applications can be found at www.mjhnyc.org/teach_students_faspe.htm. Applicants will be required to submit academic transcripts, the names of references, and a letter of recommendation, in addition to two essays. Completed applications must be received by December 15, 2009. The committee will inform all candidates of their decisions by January 31, 2010. All program costs, including travel, lodging, and food, are covered.