



IDC Herzliya's Legal Clinics – Tikkun Olam

Fighting for Asset Restitution for Holocaust Survivors Hosted at IDC Herzliya

Radzyner Law School students provided year-round free legal services to Holocaust survivors in a variety of fields as part of the school's Legal Assistance for Holocaust Survivors clinic. The clinic held a conference on asset restitution for Holocaust survivors, organized by clinic director Adv. **Neta Nativ** in cooperation with the Dean's Office and with the support of Prof. **Sharon Rabin-Margalioth**, the school's former dean.

The conference, which brought Holocaust survivors together with students and academics, was moderated by **Michal Udvin**, one of the clinic's students, and involved two sessions. In the first session, **Shlomit Steinberg**, senior curator for European art at the Israel Museum in

Jerusalem, and **Judith Shen-Dar**, the retired former deputy director and chief art curator at Yad Vashem, discussed the ongoing Gurlitt case, which revolves around some 1,500 artworks stolen by the Nazis that were discovered in 2012 hidden in the apartment of German art collector Cornelius Gurlitt, who had inherited them from his father, Hildebrand Gurlitt, an art dealer and Nazi party activist. Adv. **Elinor Kroitoru**, head of the Location and

Information Division at the Company for Location and Restitution of Holocaust Victims' Assets, described the legal aspects of and obstacles to asset restoration, and relevant legislation in Israel and other countries in light of the Gurlitt case.



The second session featured two Radzyner School faculty members, Dr. **Ronen Kritenshtien**, former deputy dean, who spoke about the interpretation of wills, and Dr. **Eliav Lieblich**, who spoke on the subject of property protection during combat and occupation.

Street Law Clinic Hosts Mock Trial With Prisoners from a Rehabilitation Division

Thirteen prisoners from the Rehabilitation Division in Ma'asiyahu Prison took part in a mock trial led by the Radzyner Law School's Street Law Clinic. The trial was coordinated by second-year Law students **Dana Avidan**, **Or Haziz** and **Idan Portnoy** as part of their work at the clinic, which combines theoretical lessons with field work. IDC is the only academic institution that operates this kind of program in prison, and the main goal is to empower the prisoners and show them a supportive environment, benefiting both them and general society.

The mock trial was produced by the prisoners with guidance from the students, and revolved around a complex drug offense case that involved questions of criminal and constitutional law. One of the major issues was whether criminal defendants deserve relief in sentencing based on cultural diversity. Serving as judges for the mock trial were former Knesset member **Daniel Ben-Simon**, recently appointed Radzyner Law School dean Prof. **Amnon Lehavi**, and Adv. **Aihab Galgoli**.

The Street Law Clinic works on the motto that legal knowledge is crucial, especially for disempowered populations. The 25 students who participated in the clinic were divided into nine teams that worked with youth at risk, convicted prisoners, or felony victims, meeting with them

weekly to teach them helpful legal concepts. The mock trial constitutes the flagship end-of-year project.

The prisoners learned how to speak in court, constructed the legal arguments themselves, and acted as attorneys in the mock trial. "They spoke with confidence and passion; I have never seen anything close to it," Galgoli said. After the trial, the prisoners offered their opinions of the program, with most saying it had given them confidence to speak in public and legal knowledge. One of the students said the program had been surprisingly beneficial for students too. "We never thought we would have such an experience that teaches you a lesson in sensitivity and human nature," student Idan Portnoy said "We can feel the impact we have had on the prisoners, and we can see the difference in them. The clinic gave us the opportunity to contribute to a disempowered population in a new way." As a result of their experiences and the greater

understanding they developed of the challenges facing paroled prisoners, the students decided to organize Israel's first job fair for prisoners, and are also hoping to promote legislation to assist in prisoners' rehabilitation.

"The best things we ourselves gained throughout this year are the will to contribute to society and the understanding of the tools to do so, and most importantly, we found out that the legal system is a great platform for making social change," Portnoy said.



Judges Daniel Ben-Simon, Adv. Aihab Galgoli and Prof. Amnon Lehavi preside over the mock trial.