

FASPE

FELLOWSHIPS AT
AUSCHWITZ
FOR THE STUDY OF
PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

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

FASPE LAW: A SUMMER FELLOWSHIP ON LEGAL ETHICS

FASPE was a truly amazing and life altering experience; intellectually stimulating and emotionally involving. FASPE should be mandatory for all law students.

Zachary Shapiro, Harvard University, 2015 FASPE Law Fellow

This is the best learning experience I have ever engaged in and I recommend it with no hesitation. Being in a community of scholars who are interested in ethics...has been truly inspiring and has re-ignited my enthusiasm for law school.

Maria Sevilla, Georgetown University, 2012 FASPE Law Fellow

The Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE) offers a unique historical lens to engage journalism, medical, seminary, and law students in an intensive course of study focused on contemporary ethics in their professions. FASPE Fellows are granted an all-expenses paid 12-day trip to Germany and Poland to learn about the role of their chosen profession in Nazi Germany and to use that historic framework to explore the ethical issues facing their field today.

Pre-World War II professionals in Germany were known and respected internationally. Yet, leaders (and practitioners) in each of the professions, and often the institutions they represented, played a fundamental role in designing, enabling and/or executing the crimes of Nazi Germany.

The FASPE law program examines the roles played by legal practitioners -- lawyers and judges -- in Nazi Germany and underscores the reality that moral codes governing the legal profession can break down or be distorted with devastating consequences. Having learned the power of their profession, the Law Fellows are better positioned (and more willing) to address various contemporary ethical issues facing the legal profession and individual lawyers. The program integrates historical, cultural, philosophical, and literary sources; survivor testimony; and on-site workshops in Berlin, Krakow and Auschwitz.

The law program was developed with the assistance of Professor Tony Kronman, former Dean of Yale Law School, and Eric Muller, the Dan K. Moore Distinguished Professor and Associate Dean for Faculty Development at the University of North Carolina School of Law. Since piloting the program in 2009, 81 Fellows have participated from law schools including Berkeley, Columbia, Georgetown, Harvard, Northwestern, the University of Arizona and Yale. The 2016 program will include 12 new Fellows chosen through a national application process.

The Fellowships include all costs associated with the 12-day program, including international and European travel, lodging, and food. The Fellows are provided with reading materials prior to meeting in New York; and the academic component of the program is intensive and interactive. Daily Seminars are led by faculty and local experts who engage the Fellows in legal issues associated with the locations visited.

FASPE Law Fellows examine such topics as:

- Ethical approaches to truth and disclosure in the adversarial process.
- The ethical challenges of ambition in professional development.
- Ethics and government lawyering.
- The Nuremberg Trials and post-war justice, in historic and modern contexts.
- Ethics in the day-to-day practice of law.

FASPE Law Program Outline:

- Orientation is held at the Museum of Jewish Heritage and includes touring exhibits, meeting with Holocaust survivors, and working with FASPE staff and guest scholars.
- Fellows travel to Berlin to visit and study the city's historical and cultural sites. Educational workshops take place at such locations as the House of the Wannsee Conference, where in 1942, representatives of State and Nazi Party agencies (including nine lawyers) convened to discuss and coordinate plans for the "Final Solution."
- Fellows travel to Oświęcim, Poland, the town the Germans called Auschwitz, where they tour Auschwitz-Birkenau and work with the distinguished staff at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. They also travel to Krakow where they explore the city's rich Jewish, Catholic, and Polish history. Sessions devoted to contemporary legal ethics take place in seminar rooms at Auschwitz and at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, one of Europe's oldest and most prestigious universities.
- Each Fellow submits a final written product focused on a contemporary ethical issue chosen by the Fellow. These are included in an annual journal of essays from Fellows from all disciplines.
- An Alumni Reunion & Symposium is held each year for current and past Fellows. Fellows from the most recent Program present their papers; and all gather and discuss the impact of the Fellowships.

FASPE seeks to instill a sense of professional responsibility for the ethical and moral choices that the Fellows will make in their careers and in their professional relationships. Understanding that their voice and actions can positively influence their profession, they will be part of a growing cohort of lawyers who are invested in improving the practice of all those in the legal profession.

FASPE is committed to a long-term relationship with the Fellows in order to sustain the ideas raised during the Fellowships and to provide a forum for continuing dialogue among the Fellows as they move forward in their careers. Testimonials from the Fellows have confirmed the value of FASPE as they have entered their profession – as practicing lawyers, academics, public servants or otherwise. FASPE succeeds through the long term impact on its Fellows.

For more information, contact Thorin Tritter, Ph.D., Managing Director of FASPE.

Tel: (646) 437-4307 ▪ Fax: (646) 437-4281 ▪ ttritter@FASPE.info

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www.FASPE.info