



Rabbi Steven Engel

U.S. Law and Jewish Law: A Comparative Exploration Through Jewish Texts

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14 12:30 PM

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From 1997 until 2023, Steven Engel served as the Senior Rabbi of Congregation of Reform Judaism (CRJ) in Orlando, Florida. In 2023 he received the honor of becoming the congregation's first Rabbi Emeritus. As the Rabbi of Central Florida's largest Jewish congregation, he was actively involved in the Greater Central Florida community. He still serves on the Executive Committee of New Hope for Kids-Grieving Center for Children in Maitland, Florida, The Commission on Homelessness, and was a founding member of The Interfaith Council of Central Florida. Rabbi Engel has sat on several hospital Bio-Ethics Committees, served as a Police Chaplain, as the President of his southeast regional Rabbinic Organization (SEACCAR), and twice as the President of the Greater Orlando Board of Rabbis. (GOBOR). He has also served as an adjunct professor of religion and a guest lecturer at Rollins College and University of Central Florida. While a Rabbi in Jackson Mississippi he received the "Tree of Life Religious Leadership Award", the highest honor given by one of the oldest civil rights organizations in the country, The Mississippi Religious Leadership Conference. Rabbi Engel received his B.A. in Physics from Rutgers University and a Masters in Hebrew Letters from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles. He was ordained as a Rabbi and received a Doctor of Divinity from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati. His Rabbinic thesis was entitled "A Critical Psychobiography of Kivie Kaplan Against the Backdrop of Black-Jewish Relations in the 20th Century". Rabbi Engel has been prominent on the national scene as well having appeared in The New York Times, USA Today, US News & World Report, CNN, Larry King Live and on the Today Show. He was a co-creator and one of the co-hosts of the radio show "Friends Talking Faith with The Three Wise Guys. The popular radio program aired live on NPR affiliate WMFE in Orlando and was podcast to a world-wide audience. Rabbi Engel is married to Beverly; a gerontologist and they have three children and two grandchildren. He is an avid cyclist, woodworker, baseball card collector, and can repair just about anything. Steve loves his work as a Rabbi and still finds it challenging, meaningful, and inspiring.