

# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LAWYERS AND JURISTS

*U.S. Affiliate of the International Jewish Lawyers*

## AAJLJ ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD FOLTIN AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Washington, DC, January 29, 2024 --

The American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists (AAJLJ) has announced the naming of Richard Foltin as Executive Director. AAJLJ is a national nonprofit association that advocates for the Jewish American legal community on a range of important issues, including freedom of religion, civil rights, human rights, access to justice, and defense of the rule of law. AAJLJ also focuses on matters affecting the global Jewish community, particularly the scourge of antisemitism, including antisemitism that is both a product and a cause of antipathy toward Israel.

Foltin served for many years as a senior official of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), most recently as National Affairs and Legislative Director. Since leaving AJC, he has served as a Fellow for Religious Freedom at the Freedom Forum and serves as special counsel to the ABA Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice. Foltin is a widely respected advocate on legal and policy issues. He is an expert on religious freedom matters, as well as civil rights, domestic antisemitism and hate crimes, and responses to anti-Israel boycott.

“Richard will be a wonderful asset for the AAJLJ,” said AAJLJ President Robert Garson, adding that “we are delighted that Richard will – at this critical moment – bring his noted legal and policy acumen, as well as his organizational skills and deep knowledge of the Jewish community, to bear in magnifying the impact of our members.”

Alyssa Grzesh, AAJLJ head of programming said, “Richard will help us educate our members and the community about the issues at stake at a time when AAJLJ has been particularly active, writing letters, hosting seminars and otherwise advocating for and educating about the legal dimensions of Hamas’ ongoing terrorist activities in Israel, Israel’s defense against these acts of barbarism, and legal responses to antisemitism around the world.”

Richard Foltin said, “I am thrilled at the opportunity to take on the role of AAJLJ staff leader at this critical moment for the Jewish community – and, in particular, for the Jewish legal community. There is a greater need than ever for a central address to speak on behalf of American Jewish lawyers, both in defense of Jewish interests and as a champion of human rights more broadly. I look forward to working in partnership with my AAJLJ colleagues in enhancing AAJLJ’s presence and membership, sharpening its fund-raising efforts, and building out its relationship with other legal associations, so as to increase the organization’s impact on antisemitism and its other critical legal and human rights priorities.”