

Rabbi Diana Villa

E-mail: rabbivilla@schechter.org.il

EDUCATION

Hebrew University, Jerusalem – Research M.A. in Talmud, 2016

Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, Jerusalem - Rabbi, 2000

Buenos Aires University, Buenos Aires - Licenciatura in Psychology - 1989

Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, N.Y. - M.A. in Jewish Philosophy, 1981

Hebrew University, Jerusalem - B.A. in History of Jewish Thought and Philosophy, 1979

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Schechter Rabbinical School, Jerusalem –1997, 2002-2004, 2006-2017

Lecturer at the Conservative Movement's rabbinical school in Israel:

Introduces rabbinical students to practical *halakhah* (subject matter and methodology), and codes. Lectures in Talmud. Coordinates the Mishlei program (M.A. with a major in the Talmud and Jewish Law and Family and Community tracks, focused on pluralistic Jewish communities) and the *Torah Lishmah* program.

Schechter Institute for Jewish Studies, Jerusalem – 1999-2017

Researched issues related to the status of women in Jewish Law (solutions to the agunah dilemma and more) at the Center for Women in Jewish Law (see publications)

Edited responsa for the Schechter website

Answered questions for the Schechter Ask the Rabbi column Lectured at congregations all around Israel, The I.D.F., the Foreign Ministry, etc.

Worked for the welfare of *agunot*, as representative to I.C.A.R. (see below)

Hebrew Union College, Israeli Rabbinical School, Jerusalem – 2005-2007

Lecturer in Jewish Law

Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano, Buenos Aires, Argentina – 1985-1996

Lecturer at the Conservative Movement's Academic Institution for Latin America:

Lectured at the Schechter high school, Mechinah program, Abarbanel Judaic Studies' college, Heschel rabbinical school and the graduate school (joint program with the University of Palermo) on Jewish Philosophy, Rabbinic Literature, Talmud and Halakhah.

Supervised the Rabbinic Literature program at the high school level

Developed curriculum for the Judaic Studies' College

Developed and administered the Talmud proficiency exam for students coming to Israel for the year (last year before ordination)

Rabbi Judah Halevi Teacher's College, Buenos Aires Argentina – 1982-1985

Jewish philosophy lecturer at teachers' college:

Developed curriculum for Jewish Philosophy for elementary and high school teachers

Taught all courses in the field

Part time jobs relating to practical rabbis:

1) Adat Shalom congregation, Rechovot (2006), Tiferet Israel Congregation in Ramat Aviv, Tel Aviv (2001), Amitai Congregation in Ra'anana (1998)

High Holiday pulpits

- 2) Modi'in and Shalhevet Hamacabim congregations (2000)
Part time pulpit including High Holiday position
- 3) Ya'ar Ramot congregation, Ramot, Jerusalem (1998-1999)
Student pulpit, in charge of sermons and adult education

Other Activities

International Coalition for Agunah Rights, Schechter representative at plenary meetings and steering committee, and chair of the Halakhic Committee (2002 -2017)
Staff member in national and regional Women Study Days organized by Women's League for Conservative Judaism (2000-2017)
Lecturer and panelist, Women's League for Conservative Judaism Conference, Whippany, N.J. (2014)
Interfaith Conferences, March –April 2009, Istanbul; July 2009, Antalya; February 2010, Dead Sea, Jordan; June 2010, Paphos, Cyprus; February 2011, Antalya
Masorti Movement representative at the Institute for Jewish Studies (2006-2011)
Vice president of the Israeli Rabbinical Assembly (2006-2010)
Presenter at Limmud U.K. (Nottingham University – 2004 and 2006 and Warwick University – 2008, 2010 and 2014); Limmud Galil (Nov. 2005 and Dec. 2009) and Limmud Stockholm, (Nov. 2009)
Delegate at the Women's Partnership for Peace in the Middle East Inaugural Conference (a project of The Global Peace Initiative of Women Religious and Spiritual Leaders), Oslo, Norway, June 2003, and "Towards Justice and Reconciliation" Conference, Dead Sea, Jordan, December 2004
Board member (1999-2002) and President (2002-2004) of Ramot Zion Congregation, French Hill, Jerusalem

Publications

Co-author "Tradition and Change – the Challenge of Conservative Conversions in Israel" (Hebrew, to be published by the Israel Democracy Institute in 2017)
Symposium participant: "If there were one thing you could change about the Israeli Rabbinate" – Moment Magazine, Nov. 2015
"Halakhic Conservative Rulings and their processes", (Hebrew) Akdamut 26, 2012
"The Agunah Problem and Israel's Law of the Land", Sh'ma, December 2009
Co-author of "Za'akat Dalot, Halakhic Solutions for the Agunot of Our Time" (2006), and "Ask the Rabbi-Women Rabbis Respond to Modern Halakhic Questions" (2010)
Researcher and coauthor of *Jewish Law Watch* 1-6 (2000-2003) and of *To Learn and to Teach*, numbers 1-5 (*The Mehitzah in the Synagogue, Aliyot for Women, Women as Sheliḥot Tzibbur and in the Minyan, Prenuptial Agreements, A Solution for the Agunah Problem of Our Time, and The Separation of Menstruants from the Synagogue and Sacred Things* (2004-2008), published in five languages.
"Spiritual Significance of the land of Israel", the Orchard, published by the United Jewish Communities Rabbinic Cabinet, New York, Spring, 2002
Article in Spanish (with English translation) on The Status of Women in Jewish Law, published on the Jewish Agency Website, 1998

Languages

Hebrew, English, Spanish