



GLOBAL JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP 2026 FELLOWS AND STAFF

The AJWS Global Justice Fellowship is a selective program designed to inspire, educate and train American Jewish clergy to become national advocates for global human rights. The 2026 cohort includes leading clergy from across the United States and represents a broad array of backgrounds, communities, experiences and networks.

RABBINIC FELLOWS



RABBI DANIEL COLEMAN

Captain Daniel Coleman is a decorated officer in the United States Air Force Reserve, recognized for his service as a chaplain supporting military personnel and their families at overseas installations. His commitment to service extends beyond the military through his work as a Kulanu Rabbinic Ambassador supporting emerging Jewish communities in El Salvador and Guatemala. As a civilian, Rabbi Coleman serves on the leadership team of Yeshiva University's Career Center as Senior Associate Director of Career Strategy. There, he designs innovative career development programs for students and alumni while fostering a commitment to social justice, service, and global citizenship through immersive educational experiences in the US, Israel, Central America, and Africa. Earlier in his career, Rabbi Coleman distinguished himself at the intersection of healthcare, ethics, and spirituality. For more than a decade, he provided pastoral care to tens of thousands of patients, families, and healthcare professionals while developing and leading chaplaincy programs across New York's premier health systems. He continues to serve on New York State's Institutional Review Board (IRB), helping ensure that medical research is humane and conducted according to the highest ethical standards. Rabbi Coleman holds an MBA with a concentration in healthcare policy, several patents, and an organ donor card.



RABBI MEGAN DOHERTY

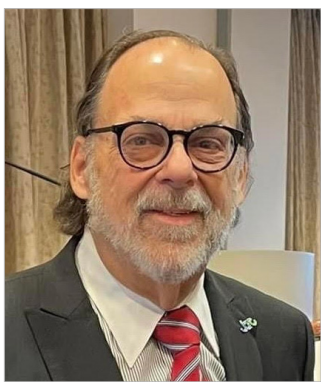
Rabbi Megan Doherty (she/her) is the immediate past CEO of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association. Previously, she was Senior Educator in Community Engagement at HIAS. Additionally, she has served as Director of Hillel and Campus Jewish Life at Oberlin College and Associate Rabbi and Senior Jewish Fellow at the Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale. She is an alumna of the Mandel Foundation's Educational Leadership Fellowship and the Shalom Hartman Institute Fellowship for Campus Professionals. She holds a certificate in Jewish Mindfulness Meditation from the Institute for Jewish Spirituality and the Awakened Heart Project and completed IJS's Rabbinic Leadership Program. She completed Social Justice Mediation training with the Yeworkwha Belachew Center for Dialogue at Oberlin and is a certified mediator in the state of Ohio. She has served on the board and Executive Committee of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association and was a founding co-chair of the Reconstructionist Movement's Joint Israel Commission.

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RABBI JOHANNA M. HERSHENSON

Rabbi Johanna M. Hershenson brings decades of experience serving and strengthening Jewish communities in diverse settings to Congregation Ahavath Beth Israel in Boise, Idaho. She is a Reform rabbi ordained at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion. Rabbi Hershenson has held rabbinic positions in Alaska, California, Oregon, New Zealand, and the Czech Republic. She is known for her relational leadership and creative approach to worship and learning, with a particular commitment to building meaningful Jewish life in both established congregations and small, geographically isolated communities. In addition to her rabbinic service, Rabbi Hershenson is a licensed professional counselor who performs psychological and fitness-for-duty evaluations for law enforcement and first responders and facilitates post-critical incident support sessions. Guided by the Torah’s teaching, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” she brings compassion, wisdom, and steady leadership to individuals and communities alike.



RABBI BOB KAPLAN

Rabbi Bob Kaplan is Senior Advisor and founding Executive Director of the Center for Shared Society at the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York (JCRC-NY), where he developed leadership fellowships, coalitions, and programs that honor human dignity across New York’s diverse communities. Rabbi Kaplan is a Commissioner on the New York City Commission on Human Rights and a chaplain to the MTA Police Department. He serves as co-chair on Governor Hochul’s Hate and Bias Task Force, and on the boards of New York Jewish Agenda, Family Health Centers at NYU Langone, the Holocaust, Genocide & Interfaith Education Center at Manhattan College, and the 67th Precinct Clergy Council’s anti-gun-violence initiative. He served on former Mayor Eric Adams’ transition team, the NYC DOE Interfaith Advisory Council, and the New York State Census 2020 Coalition and instructs at the Academy for Jewish Religion. He has led U.S. State Department and foreign-office trainings and co-founded the New York–Jerusalem Experts Exchange.



RABBI MARA NATHAN

Mara Nathan is the senior rabbi at Temple Beth-El in San Antonio, Texas, where she has served since 2014. She is the first woman to serve as senior rabbi of a major congregation in the State of Texas. Rabbi Nathan is engaged in numerous interfaith and social justice initiatives and is passionate about strengthening a sense of inclusivity and spiritual uplift. She has served in various leadership positions with the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) and Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR), and currently sits on the Board of Planned Parenthood South Texas and the Ecumenical Center. A native New Yorker, Rabbi Nathan and her husband Larry have three children: Isaac, Solomon, and Miriam.



RABBI JOSHUA RABIN

Rabbi Joshua Rabin is the rabbi of the Astoria Center of Israel in Astoria, Queens. He received his *semikhah* (rabbinic ordination) and certificate in pastoral counseling from the Jewish Theological Seminary in 2011 and completed executive education at institutions including Harvard Business School, the Institute for Jewish Spirituality, and the Disney Institute. Josh is a recipient of the Wexner Field Fellowship and the Ruskay Fellowship for Jewish Professional Leadership, and he is currently the chair of Jewish Women International's Clergy Task Force on Domestic Abuse. Josh lives on the Upper West Side with his wife, Rabbi Yael Hammerman, and they are the parents of Hannah, Shai, and Ella. You can read Josh's writings at www.joshuarabin.com.



RABBI SIMONE SCHICKER

Rabbi Simone Schicker (she/her) is the sole spiritual leader of Temple B'nai Israel in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where she has served since her ordination in 2018. A graduate of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio (HUC-JIRC), she received her BA with honors from Birmingham-Southern College in Birmingham, Alabama. While at HUC-JIR, Rabbi Schicker was both an AIPAC Leffell Israel Fellow and an iFellow with the iCenter. On campus, she served as the rabbinic student body president, the co-chair of the Gender Task Force, and on the Admissions Committee. Rabbi Schicker is a graduate of the third cohort of the Rukin Rabbinic Fellowship sponsored by 18Doors and currently serves as co-President of the Women's Rabbinic Network. Rabbi Schicker lives with her partner and their many fur babies. She is the proud stepmom of three awesome teenagers.



RABBI JONATHAN SPIRA-SAVETT

Rabbi Jonathan Spira-Savett has served Beth Abraham in Nashua, New Hampshire since 2008. His prior rabbinic work began in Jewish day high schools in the New York area and Atlanta, where along with Jewish Studies he co-taught courses in American Studies and Environmental Studies. He also helped set up teen philanthropy projects with a focus on social justice giving through day schools, synagogues, and Jewish foundations. Rabbi Jon is active in multifaith projects in Greater Nashua as past president of the Nashua Area Interfaith Council and co-convener of the Greater Nashua Interfaith Housing Justice Group. In the wider local community he has taught adult courses on Jewish history, ethics, and Israel-Palestine. He is a member of the ethics advisory committees for Southern New Hampshire Medical Center and the City of Nashua's Division of Public Health and Community Services. Rabbi Jon is a graduate of Harvard College and the Jewish Theological Seminary.



RABBI BRADLEY TECKTIEL

Rabbi Tecktiel has served as the spiritual leader of Midbar Kodesh Temple in Henderson, Nevada, since 2008. Ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS), he recently received an Honorary Doctorate from JTS, recognizing his profound impact and years of committed service to the pulpit. A respected voice in the greater Las Vegas area, Rabbi Tecktiel is deeply involved in numerous local organizations and holds influential roles on the Board of Rabbis of Southern Nevada, Jewish Nevada, Jewish Family Services of Las Vegas, and the Anti-Defamation League. His commitment to interfaith understanding and civil liberties is further exemplified as a founding member of the Las Vegas Alliance for Freedom of Religion and Dignity. Nationally, Rabbi Tecktiel serves the Rabbinical Assembly with distinction, contributing to its Membership and Ethics Committee.



RABBI RACHEL WEISS

Rabbi Rachel Weiss is known for her commitment to Jewish life that is creative, connective, and deep. She brings her warmth and energy to life cycle officiation and pastoral counseling, is an innovative teacher of Torah and a passionate spiritual leader. A graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, she has taken leadership roles within the Reconstructionist movement. She regularly speaks in the Chicagoland community at interfaith programming, community social justice actions, and communal observances within Jewish and secular spaces. Rabbi Weiss previously served Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, New York City's LGBTQS synagogue, where she was named one of the New York Pride Guide's "45 Under 45" for her leadership. She is active in her Evanston, IL community leading activism and mutual aid. A former social worker, Rabbi Weiss has extensive experience working with immigrant communities. She is fluent in Spanish and is a graduate of Grinnell College.

AJWS STAFF



TAWANDA MUTASAH

Chief Executive Officer

Tawanda Mutasah is President and CEO of American Jewish World Service (AJWS). He is a globally respected executive, human rights leader, and philanthropic strategist with three decades of senior leadership experience across complex, mission-driven international organizations. His career reflects a unique blend of CEO-level operational leadership and management, large-scale grantmaking and fundraising credibility, institution-building, and deep commitment and proximity to grassroots rights-based social change.

Prior to joining AJWS in 2026, Mr. Mutasah served as vice president of global partnerships & impact at Oxfam America; as senior director for international law and policy at Amnesty International; and the global director for programs and vice president at Open Society Foundations.

Alongside his executive career, Mr. Mutasah has maintained a strong commitment to teaching, thought leadership, and board service. He is an adjunct professor of law and public policy and has served on numerous boards and advisory councils advancing human rights, humanitarian protection, and gender justice.

He is an attorney and a graduate of Harvard Law School, New York University Law School, the Graduate School of Public & Development Management at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, and the University of Zimbabwe.



SLOANE HARDIN

Program Associate, Advocacy and Jewish Engagement & Sexual Health and Rights

Sloane Hardin is the Program Associate for the Advocacy and Jewish Engagement team and the Sexual Health and Rights team. Prior to joining AJWS, she worked in multiple offices at the State Department, including the Office of the Special Envoy for LGBTI+ Human Rights, where she supported prep for multilateral engagements, managed the office's human rights report editing, and provided subject matter expertise. She also worked in the Office of Global Programs, helping manage a multi-million-dollar grant portfolio.

While pursuing her degrees, Sloane interned for The Carter Center's Democracy Program, where she supported research on gender-based violence during elections and assisted in election monitoring across Latin America. She holds an M.A. in International Development from American University and a B.A. in International Affairs from Georgia State University.



RORI KRAMER

Director of U.S. Advocacy

Rori Kramer is the Director of U.S. Advocacy and leads AJWS's advocacy work in Washington, D.C. Prior to joining AJWS, she served in the Obama administration in several roles at the State Department, including as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Senate Affairs, where she led the Department's legislative priorities and managed its relationship with the United States Senate. She also served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regional, Global and Functional Affairs and Senate Director.

Previously, Rori worked as the Senior Foreign Policy Adviser to U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), member of the Senate Foreign Relations and the Finance Committees. There, she played a key role in developing the Senator's legislative priorities on foreign policy, international human rights, development and trade. Rori began her career in the Senate, working for several years on the staff of former U.S. Senator Bob Graham (D-FL). She also has experience in the advocacy community, working as the Director for Global Trade and Agriculture Policy at Women Thrive Worldwide, an organization that focused on gender and international development issues. She has also worked in the Trade and Development Program at the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Rori holds degrees from the College of William and Mary, University of Oxford and the London School of Economics and Politics.



RUTH W. MESSINGER

Global Ambassador

Ruth W. Messinger, President of AJWS from 1998 to July of 2016, is currently the organization's inaugural Global Ambassador, continuing her crucial work of engaging rabbis and interfaith leaders to speak out on behalf of oppressed and persecuted communities worldwide. She also works as a social justice consultant and as a teacher and facilitator for rabbinic students and for female social justice entrepreneurs. Additionally, she works independently on issues affecting our newest New Yorkers, the immigrants and asylum seekers coming to New York to escape oppression and establish a better life for themselves and their families.

Before her 18 years at AJWS, Ruth had a 20-year career in public service in New York City as a City Council member and Manhattan Borough President. She was a strong advocate for children, public education, campaign finance reform, gay rights, community policing, neighborhoods and small businesses. She maintains many connections to and involvement with urban issues.

Ruth has been honored for her leadership with awards from many national organizations and seminars. She is an active member of her congregation, SAJ – Judaism That Stands for All, and serves on the boards of Aegis Trust and the Interfaith Center of NY. She holds a bachelor's degree from Radcliffe College and a Master of Social Work from the University of Oklahoma; was married for 36 years to the late Andrew Lachman, a distinguished educator, and has three children, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



CORINNE PAUL

Senior Policy Advisor for Civil and Political Rights

Corinne Paul is the Senior Policy Advisor for Civil and Political Rights at AJWS. In this role she leads advocacy with the U.S. government regarding human rights and democracy in countries around the world. She comes to AJWS from CARE, an international non-governmental organization, where she advocated to increase women's health access and improve conditions for health workers internationally. Previously, she was a foreign policy legislative aide in the U.S. Senate. Prior to that, she worked for a nonprofit organization in Les Cayes, Haiti. Corinne earned her Master of Public Policy with a specialization in international development policy, and a Bachelor of Arts in Government and Politics with minors in International Development and U.S. Latina/o Studies from the University of Maryland. Corinne also serves as the board president of Write to Be, an organization that supports women and girls in Haiti.



RABBI ELIZABETH RICHMAN

Associate Director for Jewish Engagement and Advocacy

Rabbi Elizabeth Richman leads AJWS's Jewish Engagement team, working with American Jewish clergy and grassroots leaders to advance AJWS's mission. Prior to AJWS, she spent 13 years in executive leadership at Jews United for Justice. There, as Managing Director & Rabbi in Residence, she oversaw the advocacy, education, communications, and institution-building work that brought precedent-setting economic and workplace justice legislation to the Washington-Baltimore region.

Ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary, Elizabeth is actively engaged with the Jewish Social Justice Roundtable and is a Senior Fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute. She serves on the steering committee of Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NOVA) and previously served as co-chair of the DC Jobs with Justice board, as a member of the Interfaith Worker Justice board, and on various Rabbinical Assembly committees.

Elizabeth holds an A.B. degree in Public and International Affairs from Princeton University and a certificate in Senior Nonprofit Leadership from Columbia Business School. She lives in Washington, D.C., with her family.



ZACHARY SOLOMON

Senior Content and Storytelling Officer

Zachary Solomon is AJWS's Senior Content and Storytelling Officer. Raised in Miami, Florida, he received his B.A. in English from Clark University and his M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Brooklyn College, where he taught creative writing, film, and composition for five years. Following that, Zachary was Director of Storytelling for Plus Three, a nonprofit technology company; and most recently, he was Manager of the Strategic Initiatives Department at the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference). Zachary is a seasoned writer. His debut novel, "A Brutal Design," was published in February 2024 to critical acclaim. His work has been featured in The New York Times, The Guardian, Joyland, and elsewhere. He lives in Beacon, New York, with his wife and two young children.