

Rabbi Lennard R. Thal Received American Jewish Distinguished Service Award at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion Graduation Ceremonies

Rabbi David Ellenson, Ph.D., President of the **Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR)**, presented the American Jewish Distinguished Service Award to **Rabbi Lennard R. Thal**, Vice President Emeritus, **Union for Reform Judaism (URJ)**. The award was granted at HUC-JIR's New York Graduation ceremony on Thursday, April 30, 2009 at Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York.

Rabbi Thal served as the Vice President of the URJ from 1996 to 2001 when he was promoted to the position of Senior Vice President. In 2003, he was named Chief Development Officer at the URJ.

Rabbi Thal, who was ordained at HUC-JIR/NY in 1973, served as the Associate Dean of HUC-JIR/LA from 1973 to 1982. He is a graduate of Princeton University and Stanford University Law School.

Rabbi Ellenson said, "Rabbi Thal is receiving the American Jewish Distinguished Award in recognition of his life-long commitment and dedication to the Union for Reform Judaism and the Reform Movement."

For more information on the HUC-JIR Graduation, Investiture, and Ordination ceremonies in New York, Los Angeles, and Cincinnati, please visit <http://www.huc.edu/newspubs/pressroom/article.php?pressroomid=271>.

For more information, contact Jean Rosensaft, 212-824-2209 or jrosensaft@huc.edu.

View the national invitation for event details:
<http://www.huc.edu/external/email/09/03/graduation/>

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