

**ALYSSA GRAY, J.D., PH.D. GRANTED TENURE AT
HEBREW UNION COLLEGE-JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION**



Alyssa Gray, J.D., Ph.D., has been granted tenure as Associate Professor of Codes and Responsa Literature at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR), as of July 1, 2009.

In announcing Dr. Gray's tenure, Rabbi David Ellenson, HUC-JIR President, said, "Alyssa Gray's distinguished scholarship, gifted teaching, and dedicated mentorship of our students reflects the ethos of our institution as a center for intellectual, spiritual, academic development and leadership training. Her research and publications in Talmud and Rabbis have added significant contributions to the field."

Dr. Gray first joined HUC-JIR as Instructor of Codes and Responsa Literature in July, 2000, was promoted to Assistant Professor in January, 2001, and to Associate Professor of Codes and Responsa Literature in July, 2007. She received her Ph.D. in Talmud and Rabbis from the Jewish Theological Seminary, and also holds an LL.M. in Mishpat Ivri (Jewish Law) from the Hebrew University Faculty of Law. Prior to pursuing her advanced studies in rabbinic literature and Jewish law, she was associated with Davis Polk & Wardwell, where she practiced law as a commercial litigator. She also graduated from Barnard College (magna cum laude; Phi Beta Kappa), the Jewish Theological Seminary (Seminary College, now List College), and the Columbia University School of Law.

Dr. Gray's interests include the history and development of Talmudic literature, the

history of the halakhah, and Jewish law and contemporary legal theory. She has written on a number of topics, notably martyrdom in the Palestinian Talmud, the redactions of the Babylonian and Palestinian Talmuds, the relationship of halakhah and law, treatments of sexuality in the Babylonian Talmud and medieval halakhic works, liturgy, and the medieval halakhic texts concerning women as givers of *tsedaqah*.

Her books include *A Talmud in Exile: The Influence of Yerushalmi Avodah Zarah on the Formation of Bavli Avodah Zarah* (Brown Judaic Studies, 2005); and *Studies in Medieval Halakhah in Honor of Stephen M. Passamanek* (Jewish Law Associations Studies XVII), co-edited with Bernard S. Jackson. She is currently working on a book provisionally entitled "*If Your God Loves the Poor*": *Studies in Wealth, Poverty, and Charity in Classical Rabbinic Literature*.

She is a contributor to the 2nd edition of the *Encyclopedia Judaica*, has contributed essays and chapters to a number of significant volumes including *The Torah: A Women's Commentary, New Methods in Reading Rabbinic Literature: Hermeneutical Limits and Possibilities* (ed. Matthew A. Kraus), *Creation and Composition: The Contribution of the Bavli Redactors (Stammim) to the Aggadah* (ed. Jeffrey L. Rubenstein), *The Oxford Handbook of Jewish Studies*, *The Cambridge Dictionary of Jewish Religion, History, and Culture* (ed. Judith Baskin, forthcoming), *Sexual Issues in Jewish Law* (ed. Walter Jacob with Moshe Zemer), *My People's Prayer Book* (vol. 6-10), and *My People's Passover Haggadah*, as well as articles published in the *AJS Review*, *Journal for Jewish Studies*, *Prooftexts*, *Hebrew Studies*, *Conservative Judaism*.

Dr. Gray has been invited to speak in a variety of academic and non-academic settings in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Latin America, including Yale University, the University of Chicago Divinity School, Williams College, New York University, Florida Atlantic University, Society of Biblical Literature, Freehof Institute for Progressive Halakha, Jewish Law Association, Association for Jewish Studies, the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Freehof Institute for Progressive Halakhah, Limmud UK, the Union for Reform Judaism, Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis, and the World Union for Progressive Judaism, as well as numerous synagogue settings.

Dr. Gray is active in the profession, as a member of the editorial board of the *Hebrew Union College Annual*, and having served as a sub-editor for Early Judaism at *Religious Studies Review*, and as a board member of the Women's Caucus of the Association for Jewish Studies.