



Office of the President

December 6, 2018  
28 Kislev 5779

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Judaism has always been characterized by the centrality of law. Within contemporary orthodox and conservative Jewish schools of thought, *halakha* retains its central position. In the world of progressive Judaism, the place of Jewish law in Jewish faith has been open to great discussion and debate. Nevertheless, even progressive Jews acknowledge that law plays a major role in the ongoing narrative of Jewish tradition.

The Harvard conference on “Progressive *Halakha*” is devoted to exploring issues of surrounding the nature and application of law in progressive Jewish circles today. The conference is bringing together a wide array of thinkers and experts on Jewish law to discuss issues of both practical and theoretical import for those concerned with these topics. It promises to be an exciting two days and I know that everyone who attends will profit greatly from its deliberations. For liberal Jews like myself, it promises to be a thought provoking and informative delight.

I hope that many of you can attend these lectures and discussions and that others of you can following the proceedings through the Harvard Law School website: <http://pjil.law.harvard.edu/annualconferences>

Cordially,

Rabbi David Ellenson, Ph.D.  
Interim President