

# Informal seminar for lawyers, accountants more like 'speed dating'

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Correspondent

TORONTO – In the world of continuing legal education, there usually aren't too many surprises – a speaker here, a seminar there, perhaps some better-than-average rubber chickens.

But all that is about to change, with the newest offering from the Trusts and Estates Group of the Lawyers' Division of B'nai Brith Canada's League for Human Rights.

A breakfast event, to take place on March 23 in Toronto, will introduce a touch of informality to the staid, grey format that is by now so familiar to lawyers and accountants. With an agenda that



**IAN HULL**

is reminiscent of "speed dating" than the board room, participants will sit at round tables – about 10 at each – and industry leaders will rotate, each presenting a paper for 20 minutes – with ample time for questions.

"Our constituency is made up of professionals who serve the Jewish community," said the chair of the Trusts and Estates Group, Charles Wagner of Charles B. Wagner & Associates. "They need to be kept abreast of Jewish law. And B'nai Brith, with this seminar, is bringing



**JORDAN ATIN**

expertise not only on general topics, but also specific to Jewish clientele.... It allows people to sit in a continuing education program and have kosher food."

The Judaism-specific topic that will be discussed at this year's seminar is Halakhic Wills.

The group's annual seminars began in 2006, but according to Wagner, this year's edition boasts "someone with expertise in your area responding to your questions in an intimate fashion."

While the more informal for-



**RACHEL BLUMENFELD**

mat has appeared in continuing education circles at times, this is its first appearance with the Trusts and Estates Group. Wagner expects about 70 lawyers and accountants at the event, including – with the cooperation of the Canadian Jewish Law Students Association – about 20 law students. By inviting the students, the Lawyers' Division aims to introduce some of tomorrow's lawyers to the profession and its movers and shakers.

This year's event will also feature



**ARCHIE RABINOWITZ**

the launch of the *B'nai Brith Law Journal*, a journal aimed at legal and accounting professionals. The journal will be published three times per year: the spring issue will tackle estates and trusts; the summer, family law issues and the winter, international law and human rights.

The inaugural edition, about estates and trusts, will be handed out to all participants, and the seminar will feature five of the six authors in the journal: Wagner; Ian Hull, co-founder, with his father,



**CHARLES WAGNER**

Rodney Hull, of Hull & Hull LLP; Jordan Atin, also of Hull & Hull; Rachel Blumenfeld, of Miller Thomson LLP and Archie Rabinowitz, of Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP.

Veteran attorneys all, Hull is listed as a "most frequently recommended" estate litigation practitioner on the Toronto list of the widely read Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory for 2008. On the same list, Rabinowitz is rated as "consistently recommended" and Atin receives kudos as "repeatedly recommended."

# Canadian business gets peek at Tel Aviv U technology, products

TORONTO – A two-day Tel Aviv University (TAU) Technology Showcase Event last week underscored Israel's exceptional scientific creativity and the tremendous opportunities available to Canadian businesses, government and academic insti-

tutions interested in building strategic partnerships.

The symposium, *From Lab to Market*, highlighted Israel's leading-edge technology and products in several fields, including wind turbines, Lithium thin-film batteries, whole cell

bio-chips for clean technology and chronic wound-healing discoveries using natural enzymes.

Ze'ev Weinfeld, CEO of Ramot, a wholly owned subsidiary of TAU that manages the transfer of technology from the laboratory to the marketplace, addressed

the audience on its function since 1973 as the commercial arm of the university.

Israeli Trade Commissioner Jonathan Levy mentioned his government's valuable role in supporting technological innovation. More than 110 foreign companies have established research and development centres in Israel, which employ more than 35,000 people.

According to Ehud Gazit, the university's R&D vice president, TAU is the largest and most diverse research university in Israel and its research is published regularly in the most respected scientific journals.

TAU scientists delivered presentations on their exciting breakthroughs in several areas.

Professor Illana Gozes, for example, who belongs to the Sackler faculty of medicine and is Chief Scientific Officer of Vancouver-based Allon Therapeutics Inc. (listed on the TSE),

described groundbreaking progress made in the development of treatment for Alzheimer's disease.

"And this is just a small part of the university," Sheldon Potter, incoming president of Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University, told the *Jewish Tribune*. "We have a tremendous law school, a world-class international MBA program.... Our film school is one of the best in the world and wins a prize at every single film festival."

Potter is a partner at Fogler, Rubinoff LLP, which hosted the first day of the event; the second day was at the TSX. "We at Canadian Friends see this as a real opportunity," Potter said. "Canada can benefit from the 'innovation capital' of the world, which is Israel."

Break-out sessions afforded the chance for Israeli companies, venture capitalists and financial corporations to mingle with scientists and academics to explore ideas for collaboration.

The event's main sponsors were Canadian Friends of TAU; Fogler, Rubinoff LLP; the Canadian Chamber of Commerce; the Toronto Atmospheric Fund; the Toronto Stock Exchange and the TSX Venture Exchange.

## US, Israel sign alimony agreement

JERUSALEM (Arutz-7) – Justice Minister Daniel Friedmann signed a memorandum of understanding last Thursday with the US, which is intended to fight against slackers from paying alimony by fleeing to the US.

According to the memorandum, each country is responsible for collecting alimony from a parent who lives in its country for children who live in another country.

In a case of alimony involving Israeli children, if a parent who is obliged to pay alimony, emigrates to the United States, the Israeli parent can apply to the justice ministry in Israel for assistance in receiving delinquent payment.

## APPOINTMENT



**SHARON BITENSKY**

B'nai Brith Canada has named Sharon Bitensky its Regional Director for the Quebec Region. Since joining the organization in April 2008 she has been Assistant Regional Director.

Bitensky, originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina, has a BA in Management for Non-Profit Organizations and has taken a postgraduate course in Management of Jewish Programs. She has recently completed a graduate diploma in Community Economic Development at Concordia University.

She has worked for the Argentinean Jewish Community since 1992. Her last position in her native country was Assistant Director of the Community Rebuilding Department of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Latin America and Caribbean.

Since joining B'nai Brith Canada, she has been involved in a number of initiatives, including advocacy programs, provincial and federal government relations, activities of the League for Human Rights and fundraising.

In 2006, Sharon received the 'Prix Extra' from the Commission Scolaire de Montréal for her achievements in French studies and received the distinguished 'Prix du Lieutenant-gouverneur du Québec' at the National Assembly building in Québec City, for her personal, social and community involvement.



PHOTO: ATARA BECK

At the Tel Aviv University (TAU) Technology Showcase Event last week, Ze'ev Weinfeld (left), CEO of Ramot, which manages the flow from 'lab to market,' with Illana Gozes, TAU professor of clinical biochemistry and Chief Scientific Officer of Vancouver-based Allon Therapeutics, and Israeli Trade Commissioner to Canada Jonathan Levy.

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