

**February 24, 2022
Timeline**

*Fordham University
Online Zoom*

- 10:00 PM Welcome by Prof. Daniel Sinclair and introduction of speakers.
- 10:10 PM Keshet Starr’s remarks.
- 10:30 PM Shani Adess’ remarks
- 10:50 PM R. Shlomo Weissmann’s remarks.
- 11:10 PM Prof. Sinclair guides Q&A session.
- 11:25 PM Closing remarks by Prof. Daniel Sinclair.

Speakers Biographies

Moderator:

Professor Daniel Sinclair, Fordham University (New York)

Prof. Daniel Sinclair is an ordained Rabbi and Emeritus Professor of Law at the Striks Law School, Israel. He is currently a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute on Religion, Law and Lawyer's Work at Fordham University Law School and Visiting Professor of Law; Adjunct Professor of Public Health Law at Tel-Aviv University and at the Sir Zelman Cowen Centre at Victoria University Law School Melbourne, Australia where he specializes in the in the area of law and religion. Prof. Sinclair's publications in the field of Jewish Law and Comparative Biomedical Law comprise over 60 articles and several books. Previous positions include Dean of Jews' College, University of London; Rabbi of the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation; advisor to the Science and Technology Committee of the House of Commons in the area of human genetics, and member of the Ethics Committee of the Royal College of Physicians.

Speakers:

Rabbi Shlomo Weissmann

Rabbi Shlomo Weissmann serves as the Director of the Beth Din of America (www.bethdin.org), the rabbinical court that is affiliated with the Rabbinical Council of America and that administers the most widely used prenuptial agreement addressing the agunah crisis (www.theprenup.org). Rabbi Weissmann received rabbinical ordination in 2001 and advanced rabbinical ordination (Yadin Yadin) in 2014 from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. He is a graduate of Columbia Law School, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar. Prior to his association with the Beth Din of America, Rabbi Weissmann worked as an attorney at several prominent law firms, including Debevoise and Plimpton LLP.

Keshet Starr, Esq

Keshet Starr, Esq. serves as the Executive Director of the Organization for the Resolution of Agunot (ORA), the leading American not-for-profit organization addressing the agunah issue on a case-by-case basis. Her focus at ORA is on advocacy and early intervention initiatives designed to resolve instances of *get* refusal, along with communal advocacy to prevent abuse in the Jewish divorce process. Keshet's work has been published in several media outlets, and she frequently presents on issues relating to Jewish divorce, domestic abuse and the intersection between civil and religious divorce. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan and the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Shani Adess, Esq

Shani Adess, Esq. is the Associate Director of NYLAG's Domestic Violence Law Unit, and the Project Director of Project RISE. Shani works with survivors of domestic violence, abuse, and sexual assault, both adults and immigrant youth. In addition to her own practice, Shani supervises staff who serve these populations through direct representation in matrimonial family law, immigration law matters. Shani leads trainings and participates in panels in related substantive law; working with survivors of trauma and abuse; trauma's psychological physical, and physiological impacts; and provision of client-centered trauma-informed representation. Previously, Shani was the Senior Supervising Attorney for Safe Horizon's Immigration Law Project (Dec 2015 - August 2017), and an Advocacy and Communications officer with Jesuit Refugee Services in the Southern Africa Region (2009-2010).

Material for Continual Legal Education
(1.5 non-transitional professional practice credits):

Irving Breitowitz, *The Plight of the Agunah: A Study in Halacha, Contract and the First Amendment*, Maryland Law Review Vol. 51, Issue 2, Article 4 pp. 312-420.

<https://digitalcommons.law.umaryland.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2837&context=mlr>