

Eretz Hemdah

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The Montefiore Endowment

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In memory of Rabbi Abraham Levy zt"l

Choshen Mishpat Dayanut Program for Rabbis in North America

leading to semicha

Choshen Mishpat Yadin-Yadin for the Diaspora

Eretz Hemdah and The Montefiore Endowment, in collaboration with the RCA, are launching a specialized *Choshen Mishpat Dayanut* program for rabbis in North America. This rigorous part-time program, beginning in Elul 5785 (September 2025), spans six to seven years and is designed for highly qualified rabbis. Participants will develop deep expertise in monetary law as outlined in *Choshen Mishpat*, equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary for *Dayanut* and halachic decision-making.

Purpose of the Program

The **Choshen Mishpat Dayanut Program** aims to equip rabbis in North America with advanced, specialized training in Jewish monetary law as well as related practical rabbinic subjects. It is designed to address the growing need for competent rabbinic authorities who can:

1. **Adjudicate Monetary Disputes**

Develop the expertise to serve as dayanim (judges) in monetary cases within the Jewish community, including disputes related to business, partnerships, loans, neighbors, inheritance, damages, and worker rights.

2. **Strengthen Halachic Leadership**

Provide rabbis with a deep understanding of complex halachic issues, empowering them to offer authoritative guidance in their communities on monetary and civil matters.

3. **Prepare for Practical Application**

Train participants in the application of halacha (Jewish law) to real-life situations, emphasizing clarity, fairness, and adherence to Torah values in decision-making processes.

4. **Promote Rabbinic Excellence**

Foster advanced learning and professional development for experienced rabbis, allowing them to refine their skills and deepen their knowledge base under the guidance of distinguished scholars and dayanim.

5. **Expand Community Resources**

Enhance the availability of qualified rabbinic authorities in North America, ensuring that communities have access to knowledgeable and reliable halachic adjudicators.

6. **Preserve Torah Tradition**

Uphold and transmit the rich tradition of Jewish monetary law as codified in Choshen Mishpat, maintaining its relevance and applicability in the modern era.

This program is a part-time, rigorous course designed to accommodate the demanding schedules of practicing rabbis while providing a structured and comprehensive path to achieving **semicha – Yadin-Yadin for the Diaspora**. By completing this program, participants will not only gain personal enrichment but also contribute significantly to the halachic and scholarly framework of their communities.

Leadership and Oversight

Program Leadership:

- **Rav Yosef Carmel** – Rabbinical Dean of Eretz Hemdah; Av Beit Din, Eretz Hemdah-Gazit
- **Dayan Shlomo Shapira** – Supreme Rabbinical Court, State of Israel
- **Dayan Tzion Luz** – Supreme Rabbinical Court, State of Israel

Head of Program:

- **Dayan Ofer Livnat** – Eretz Hemdah Ra”m; Dayan on the Sephardi Beth Din of London

Curriculum

Subject Areas (estimated – subject to changes):

1. **Laws of Dayanim** (*Choshen Mishpat* Simanim 1–27)
2. **Laws of Loans** (*Choshen Mishpat* Simanim 39–41, 60, 67, 69–70)
3. **Laws of Claimant and Defendant** (*Choshen Mishpat* Simanim 75–86)
4. **Laws of Neighbours** (*Choshen Mishpat* Simanim 153–156)
5. **Partnerships** (*Choshen Mishpat* Simanim 175–176)
6. **Acquisitions** (*Choshen Mishpat* Simanim 189–212)
7. **Incorrect Pricing and Mistaken Sales** (*Choshen Mishpat* Simanim 227–237)
8. **Gifts** (*Choshen Mishpat* Siman 241)
9. **Inheritance** (*Choshen Mishpat* Siman 276)
10. **Guardianship and Rentals** (*Choshen Mishpat* Simanim 303–307, 312–316, 321)
11. **Worker Rights** (*Choshen Mishpat* Simanim 331–336)
12. **Damages** (*Choshen Mishpat* Simanim 378–388)

Learning Structure

- **Weekly Learning Units:** These include comprehensive sources ranging from the Gemara and Rishonim to the Shulchan Aruch and contemporary Poskim. Emphasis is placed on practical applications.
- **Interactive Shiurim:** A one-hour weekly shiur (in English) online on Zoom and recorded for convenience.
- **Self-Study Commitment:** Participants are expected to dedicate 8–10 hours weekly to prepare learning units.
- **Annual Seminar:** A week-long, in-person seminar held annually in the United States.

Support for Participants

- **Chavruta:** Each rabbi is paired with a chavruta from among Eretz Hemdah's dayanim-in-training for guidance, occasional chavruta learning, and Q&A support.
- **Resources:**
 - Online repository of books, articles, and source sheets
 - Access to rabbinic databases
 - Dedicated WhatsApp group for discussions

Timing

- **Weekly Shiurim:** Wednesdays at 10-11am ET (TBC).
- **Seminars:** A week-long, in-person seminar held annually in the United States. Annual or bi-annual seminars in Israel may also be arranged, featuring senior dayanim.

Examinations and Semicha

Participants will undergo written bechinot at the completion of each topic. Upon passing these exams and fulfilling all program requirements, Eretz Hemdah will confer **Semicha – Choshen Mishpat Yadin-Yadin for the Diaspora** for the topics studied.

Tuition Fees

The tuition fee is **\$1,200 per year**.

Application Process

Rabbis interested in applying should email the following to info@eretzhemdah.org:

1. Full CV, including references
2. Semicha certificate

For further inquiries:

- **Contact Dayan Ofer Livnat:**
 - **Email:** rabbilivnat@eretzhemdah.org
 - **WhatsApp:** [+972544610403](https://wa.me/972544610403)