

**IRA L. SHAFIROFF**  
Southwestern Law School  
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**Admitted to Practice**

State Bar of California (1980)  
United States Tax Court (1980)  
United States District Court, Central District (1981)

**Education**

J.D. (*Magna Cum Laude*) (class rank 3/422),<sup>1</sup> Southwestern Law School, Dec. 1979  
B.A. (*Magna Cum Laude*), Brooklyn College, CUNY, June 1973

**Southwestern Law School: Positions Held**

Professor of Law (1989-)  
Associate Dean/Dean of Students (1990-1993)  
Associate Professor of Law (1985-1989)  
Visiting Associate Professor of Law (1982-1985)  
Adjunct Associate Professor of Law (1982)

**Southwestern Law School: Courses Taught**

*Property* (1986-)  
*Trial of Jesus Seminar* (2007-)  
*Selected Topics in American Law* (2007-18)  
*Survey of Federal Income Tax* (1983-2008)  
*Wills & Trusts* (1982-2009)  
*Jewish Law* (various)  
*Legal Ethics* (various)

**Southwestern Law School: Lectures Delivered**

*Starting and Marketing Your Own Law Practice*  
Given yearly to Southwestern students and alumni (1982-2017)

**Law Practice**

Sole Practitioner (1980-1988), with emphasis in federal tax dispute resolution, real property transactions, and land use.

**Other Tax Experience**

IRS agent, 1974-1980.

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<sup>1</sup> Through the years, some of my students have asked me why the school did not award me the distinction of *Summa Cum Laude* ("With Highest Honor"). So, here is the explanation: At the time I was in attendance, Southwestern awarded the distinction of *Summa Cum Laude* to those graduates in the top one-half of one percent (.05%). My class rank of 3/422 was not in the top .05%, but in the top .07%. Hence, Southwestern awarded me the distinction of *Magna Cum Laude* ("With High Honor"), given to those in the top 1% of the graduating class. Since I graduated, Southwestern awards the distinction of *Summa Cum Laude* to those in the top 1% of the graduating class.

**Bar Review Teaching: BARBRI Bar Review**

Taught *Wills and Trusts* for the California bar exam (1985-1992; 2003-17).

Created and taught *Essay Writing Workshop* for the California Bar Exam (1986-1992).

Created and taught *First Year Law School Essay Exam Writing* for 1Ls (2003-14).

**Other Teaching: UCLA Extension**

*Federal Tax Procedure* (1981-1986)

Taught lawyers, enrolled agents, and CPAs federal tax procedure and litigation.

**Legislation Drafted**

Principal drafter of California Probate Code §§ 6111(c) and 6111.5 (1990).

**Publication: Books**

PROPERTY LAW: FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES AND MORAL CONCERNS, Esquire Books (2012), second ed. (2022)

FIRST-YEAR LAW SCHOOL SUCCESS: THE ULTIMATE AND ESSENTIAL GUIDE FOR EVERY 1L, 613 House, fourth ed. (2018)

FORGIVENESS RULES, 613 House (2015)

FIRST YEAR LAW SCHOOL SUCCESS, BARBRI Bar Review, third ed. (2010)

CALIFORNIA WILLS AND TRUSTS: FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPALS, ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS, AND MORAL CONCERNS, Thomson-West (2007)

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE DESKBOOK, PLI (1985); second ed. (1989); third ed. 1998-2010; expanded to two volumes in 2000 and updated twice a year in loose-leaf format (2000-2010)

EVERY CHRISTIAN'S BOOK ON JUDAISM: EXPLORING JEWISH FAITH AND LAW FOR A RICHER UNDERSTANDING OF CHRISTIANITY, Noga Press (1998)

LIABILITY OF INCOME TAX PREPARERS, PLI (1989)

**Publications: Recordings**

ESSAY WRITING SUPER SEMINAR, Sum and Substance (1993), second ed. West Group (1998)

TAX SHELTER PROMOTER LIABILITY CCH Audilex Series (1983)

**Publications: Column, *From the Tower*, Los Angeles Daily Journal and San Francisco Daily Journal (2000-2004) (Partial List)**

*The Parent Gap: Moms, Dads, Not Teachers, Must Shoulder Responsibility For Learning*, August 20, 2001, page 6.

*Brothers in Arms: Honor Means Keeping One's Word to Those Filipinos Who Stood by U.S.*, July 16, 2001, page 6.

*Professional Pro Bono Policing: Measure Illegally And Immorally Forces Lawyers To Provide Free Legal Assistance*, June 18, 2001, page 6.

*Tax Reform With Fairness: Families and Society Would Benefit From Values-Based Legislation*, April 16, 2001, page 6.

*Au Revoir Bar Card: Lawyer-Client Confidentiality Means Little If It Can Trump Innocent Life*, March 1, 2001, page 6.

*Ending Referral Fees Will Improve Client Good Will*, January 30, 2001, page 6.

*Quid Pro Woe: Effects of the Death Penalty Keep Value of Human Life in Moral Contest*, October 16, 2000, page 6.

*Getting Away with Murder: The Supreme Court States It Is Possible for a Killer to Be a Member of the State Bar*, September 18, 2001, page 6.

*Parental Duties Ignored: Parents Should Be Responsible For the Violent Acts of Their Underage Kids*, June 20, 2000, page 6.

*Graduation Recommendations: Law Graduates Will Prosper If They're Proud, Loyal, Humble and Charitable*, May 15, 2000, page 6.

*Moral High Ground: Justice Souter Shows That Honesty Still Supreme Value*, April 17, 2000, page 6.

**Publications: Op-Ed (Partial List)**

*The Seven Deadly (11) Sins*, Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal, August 22, 2018.

*Time for the State Bar to Ditch the MBE*, Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal, May 23, 2018.

*What Real Tax Reform Should Look Like*, Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal, September 14, 2017.

*Presidential Pardons and the Clinton Chronicles*, Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal, November 19, 2016.

*Two-Day Bar Exam: Still Irrelevant*, Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal, March 29, 2016, page 6.

*Drop the MBE. I Repeat, Drop the MBE*, Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal, December 9, 2014, page 6.

*10ish Commandments for Entering ILs*, Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal, July 18, 2013, page 6.

*State Bar Proposal for More Practical Skills Training Will Only Burden Law Students*, Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal, February 20, 2013, page 6.

*When There's a Will*, Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal, March 7, 2008, page 6.

*The Values of a Law School Education: The Study of Morality Has An Important Place in Legal Curriculum*, Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal, August 16, 1999, page 6.

*Zeal Shouldn't Mean Conceal: The Pursuit of Justice Includes Speaking Out When It Is Best For Society*, Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal (reprinted in the Orange County Reporter, July 2, 1999), page 6.

*The Quality of Mercy Is Strained: The Evil Acts of Murdering Eight Children Do Not Merit Compassion*, Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal, July 9, 1999, page 6.

*Getting Hale into Court? Head of White Supremacist Group Is Not Morally Fit to Practice Law*, Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal, February 25, 1999, page 6.

*Ritual Killing: Exorcism Can't Be Defended In the Name of Religion*, Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal, April 29, 1997, page 6.

*Ethics in Warfare Remains a Tradition in Jewish Law*, Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal, April 23, 1996, page 6.

*Ninth Circuit Misstated: Suicide Is Prohibited by Jewish Law*, Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal, March 15, 1996, page 6.

*What Is Judaism?* The Tidings, week of December 9, 1994, page 10.

*Judaism and Christianity: Two Peoples, One Heritage*, The Tidings, week of December 9, 1994, page 10.

*Capital Punishment and Scripture: Not a Clear Mandate*, The Tidings, week of June 12, 1994, page 12.

*A Nazi Saved by Jews: Israeli Court Was Very Generous to Demjanjuk*, Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal, September 24, 1993, page 6.

*Jewish Law Welcomes Multiple Appeals*, Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal, April 9, 1993, page 6.

*If the Bible Became Law*, Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal, October 22, 1992, page 6.

*The Trial of Jesus: Biblical Account Doesn't Jibe with Ancient Jewish Law*, Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal, April 1992, page 6.

*Prosecutors Seeking the Death Penalty Should Avoid Citing Ancient Jewish Law*, Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal, December 2, 1991, page 6.

### **Unpublished Manuscripts**

GOSPEL OF MATTHEW: THE TRIAL AND EXECUTION OF JESUS OF NAZARETH: A COMMENTARY ON THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW (KJV) USING JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN SOURCES (2009) (required text for *Trial of Jesus Seminar*), second ed. (2025).

SELECTED TOPICS IN AMERICAN LAW: TEXT AND MATERIALS (required text for *Selected Topics in American Law*; see above for course)

### **Book in Progress**

Title: *Saving the Messiah*

Genre: Historical Novel

Logline: The Jewish High Priest, the Sanhedrin, and Judas Iscariot conspire to rescue an itinerant teacher from Pontius Pilate and death on a cross.

### **Planned Works**

Title: *Liberating Sarah*

Genre: Historical Novel

Logline: When a Jewish GI from Brooklyn helps liberate the Dachau concentration camp, he falls in love with a survivor, who cannot return his love because of a deep, dark secret.

Title: *Lunacy*

Genre: Historical Novel

Logline: In 1850 Philadelphia, when a wealthy Christian businessman converts to Judaism, his devoutly Christian wife secures a court decree declaring him to be a lunatic, forfeiting his property to her, and committing him to an insane asylum, where he must secure a lawyer to reclaim his freedom and property.

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