

**Dr. Michael A. Signer, z"l, Received Doctor of Humane Letters,
honoris causa, at Hebrew Union College-
Jewish Institute of Religion Graduation Ceremonies**



Rabbi David Ellenson, Ph.D., President of the **Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR)**, presented a posthumous Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, to **Dr. Michael A. Signer, z"l**, Abrams Professor of Jewish Thought and Culture at the **University of Notre Dame**. The degree was granted at HUC-JIR's Los Angeles Graduation Ceremony on Monday, May 18, 2009 at HUC-JIR/LA, 3077 University Avenue in Los Angeles.

Rabbi Signer was an expert in medieval Hebrew and Latin interpretations of and commentaries on the Bible; a leader in Jewish-Catholic dialog in Israel, Europe, and North America; and an esteemed rabbinical alumnus of HUC-JIR, who served for almost two decades at the Los Angeles campus as Professor of Medieval History and Commentaries, as well as co-chair of the Joint Commission on Inter-religious Affairs of the Reform Movement since 1998.

At Notre Dame, his areas of teaching were the study of the Bible in the Middle Ages by Jews and Christians; Saint Victor in Paris and its theologians in the twelfth century; and Jewish history in France and Germany 900-1500. His recent areas of research included Medieval and Jewish Christian biblical exegesis; Jewish-Christian Relations from Antiquity to the Middle Ages; and Manuscript Studies. Among his many honors and awards were the Lady Davis Teaching Fellowship, Hebrew University, Jerusalem; and Fellow, Center for Advanced Jewish Studies, University of Pennsylvania. His numerous

publications included *History and Memory in Judaism and Christianity* (Notre Dame, 2001); and Co-editor, *Jews and Christians in Twelfth-Century Europe* (Notre Dame, 2001).

Rabbi Ellenson said, “As rabbi and scholar, Rabbi Signer manifested a deep personal attachment to Judaism and to the love of Israel through his personal and professional commitments.”

For more information on the HUC-JIR Graduation, Investiture, and Ordination ceremonies in New York, Los Angeles, and Cincinnati, please visit <http://www.huc.edu/newspubs/pressroom/article.php?pressroomid=271>.

For more information, contact Jean Rosensaft, 212-824-2209 or jrosensaft@huc.edu.

View the national invitation for event details:
<http://www.huc.edu/external/email/09/03/graduation/>

*Founded in 1875, **Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion** is the nation's oldest institution of higher Jewish education and the academic, spiritual, and professional leadership development center of Reform Judaism. HUC-JIR educates men and women for service to American and world Jewry as rabbis, cantors, educators, and communal service professionals, and offers graduate and post-graduate programs to scholars of all faiths. With centers of learning in Cincinnati, Jerusalem, Los Angeles, and New York, HUC-JIR's scholarly resources comprise renowned library and museum collections, the American Jewish Archives, biblical archaeology excavations, research institutes and centers, and academic publications. HUC-JIR invites the community to an array of cultural and educational programs which illuminate Jewish history, identity, and contemporary creativity and which foster interfaith and multiethnic understanding. Visit us at www.huc.edu.*

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