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Fulbright Scholar in Ottawa Named President of Gratz College

MELROSE PARK, Pa.—Dr. Paul Finkelman, who currently holds the Fulbright Chair in Human Rights and Social Justice at the University of Ottawa, has been named president of Gratz College in Philadelphia. In 2016, Finkelman held the Ariel F. Sallows Chair in Human Rights at the University of Saskatchewan. He will assume full responsibilities as president of Gratz at the end of his Fulbright in early December.

Dr. Finkelman has published in a wide variety of areas including American Jewish history, religious liberty and separation of church and state, American legal history, constitutional law, slavery and race, and legal issues surrounding baseball.

“Dr. Finkelman is a renowned scholar with a wide range of interests and expertise,” said Michelle Portnoff, chairwoman of the Board of Governors. “We are particularly pleased with his work in civil rights and social justice because it dovetails with one of Gratz College’s biggest and fastest growing programs, Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Dr. Finkelman has a national reputation and network, which will help us expand our online programming in this field, as well as in the other degrees we offer.”



A native of Watertown, N.Y., Dr. Finkelman received his B.A. in American Studies from Syracuse University in 1971 and his Ph.D. in history from the University of Chicago in 1976. He was later a fellow in law and humanities at Harvard Law School. He has held a number of endowed chairs as a tenured professor or as a visitor, including the Ariel F. Sallows Chair in Human Rights Law at the University of Saskatchewan, the John Hope Franklin Chair in American Legal History at Duke Law School, and the Chapman Chair at the University of Tulsa Law School. In 2014, he took emeritus status at Albany Law School, where he was the President William McKinley Distinguished Professor. He is currently finishing his tenure as the Fulbright Chair in Human Rights and Social Justice at the University of Ottawa School of Law, in Ottawa, Canada. In 2017, he was also the John E. Murray Visiting Professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. Dr. Finkelman is the author of more than 200 scholarly articles and the author or editor of more than 50 books. His forthcoming book, *Supreme Injustice: Slavery in the Nation’s Highest Court*, will be published by Harvard University Press in 2018.

Dr. Finkelman’s work has been cited in four decisions by the United States Supreme Court, numerous other courts, and in many appellate briefs. He has lectured on slavery, human trafficking, and human rights issues at the United Nations, throughout the United States, and in more than a dozen other countries, including China, Germany, Israel, and Japan. In 2014, he was ranked as the fifth most cited legal historian in American legal scholarship in Brian Leiter’s “Top Ten Law Faculty Scholarly Impact, 2009-2013.” He was an expert witness in the famous Alabama Ten Commandments Monument Case (*Glassroth v. Moore*) and in the lawsuit over the ownership of Barry Bonds’ 73rd home run ball (*Popov v. Hayashi*).



Dr. Finkelman said he is excited to take on the challenges of leading Gratz into its next era. A historic institution, Gratz is uniquely poised to continue offering quality education while meeting the needs of a changing world.

“Beyond our long-standing educational programs, we now offer a Ph.D. in Holocaust and Genocide Studies—the only online program of its kind in the world,” Finkelman said. “This is a challenging time for higher education, but Gratz provides important and innovative programs that are accessible in Philadelphia, across the nation, and around the world.”

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About Gratz College

Gratz College is the oldest independent and pluralistic Jewish college in the United States. Its origins date to 1849, and it was fully operational in 1895. Gratz provides important online programs at the college and graduate school level, and it also operates a high school program that allows its students to accumulate college credits. Gratz provides online Jewish education in a variety of fields, as well as Hebrew language education. In addition to its Ph.D. in Holocaust and Genocide Studies—the only online program of its kind in the world—Gratz offers an online Ed.D. in Education Leadership. Its Masters of Arts in Education supports teachers worldwide as they hone their skills and advance their careers. Concentrations at the MA level range from early childhood education to specializations in creativity and technology.

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