

Connecting to Original Israeli law

Lechatchila
Israeli Torah courts

Lechatchila - Israeli Torah courts

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Dear Friends,

Background

It is a known fact that with the establishment of the State of Israel our politicians unfortunately rejected the original Israeli legal system, based on the law of the Torah, and adopted in its stead a joint system of English and Ottoman Law.

Rabbi Herzog, the Chief Rabbi at that time, wrote with great sadness, "One could not believe that.. the Jewish State would abandon the Holy Torah and adopt laws and statutes of other peoples.. The legal system which was imposed upon us by the Mandatory Government was built piece by piece on British and Ottoman Law. We believe that the Israeli public must retain an element of the Torah Legal System in the country of the Torah that will allow all Jews the right to pursue legal action in the monetary matters".

Fifteen years ago, the Israeli High Court of Justice forbade the religious courts from hearing cases concerning monetary matters. This ruling created an impossible situation. It meant that there could be no religious court that could deal with monetary matters according to the laws of the Torah.

As a result of this complex situation and the desire to bring Am Yisrael closer to the Jewish Law, a new court network for dealing with monetary matters was established called - "Lechatchila" (AT THE OUTSET).

Judges in these courts come from important organizations such as the national court network of Eretz Hemda, the Organization of Monetary Courts of Israel, the Pesakim Institute, the Machon Mishpatei Aretz, and others.

The new organization aims to organize and solidify the system of Monetary Courts in Israel as a national, coordinated organization. It will be countrywide, with unified legal procedures. It will provide a Jewish law based legal service that is professional, efficient and welcoming to all Israelis.

Lechatchila today includes 33 courts spread throughout the country.

The appended link provides a listing of the locations and names of the judges in the system. Refer to the Lechatchila site.

<https://www.mishpatisraeli.org.il>

לכתחילה
המערך הארצי
של בתי הדין לממונות

33 בתי דין
99 דיינים
לשירותך!

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On the 25th of Heshvan, the first conference of the new network took place. The plenum dealt with Rules of procedure in the courts, according to the laws of the Torah. Representatives of all existing courts including Kollelim which prepare Yeshiva students to serve as future judges in Rabbinical Courts, attended the conference. The Judges had serious deliberations and came to conclusions on the basis of a majority vote. By the end of the conference 103 procedural decisions were adopted for the Lechatchilah network.

A major and vital part of the vision of Lechatchilah is to provide enrichment for the Yeshiva students and judges in the network in professional fields that are relevant to their work. These include a practicum in real estate, knowledge of civil law pertaining to the functioning of the religious courts, the correct halachic way of relating to them and more. The first training conference took place on the first day of Channukah of this year. The Kollel students and the judges heard lectures on company law, property registration and the laws of mediation and arbitration all according to halacha.

The task of informing the general public of the activities of these Torah based courts involves serious efforts in public relations. Community Rabbis all across Israel have a major role to play in this matter. On the 13th of Adar a conference of Community Rabbis took place in Jerusalem with the participation of Chief Rabbi of Israel, Judges and senior Rabbis.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-GU1vXIRXA&t=3s>

The Next Stage

The technical process of turning these courts into a viable alternative to the existing national court system in monetary matters involves: digitizing the activities of the courts, developing specialized software and setting up an internet site for administration of files. The internet site will be a place in which the general public can open a file, submit a petition to the court as well as present a statement of defense, pay fees and submit requests, receive protocols and correspond with the secretariat of the court.

The administration programming will place the courts at a technological level comparable if not equal to the civil courts. This new management program will attract lawyers to work with the courts. In order to achieve this goal the courts need your support. We hope that you will agree to share this burden with us and assist us in returning Torah law to Israel.

Please click here to donate securely by credit card –

<https://meshulam.co.il/s/642fa0c3-93de-0cb9-9dad-42dde98ae4f1>

Sincerely,

Rabbi Yitzhak Zagha – 972-58-5216216

