

Exploring Jewish Conscientious Objection: Past, Present and Future

The Jewish CO Project will be hosting our first major event, a hybrid (online and in-person) seminar, *Exploring Jewish Conscientious Objection: Past, Present and Future*

How to Attend

It will take place on Sunday, August 10, 2025 from 2-5 pm (Central Time) via zoom (thanks to the [Spinoza Havurah](#) for providing our Zoom connection) as well as in-person at [Joy Mennonite Church](#), 504 NE 16th St, Oklahoma City.

To register for the Zoom session:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/3-BISkZDRSawpbPspWvGZg>



To attend in-person, please RSVP to James at GIRightslawyer@gmail.com or 405-494-0562.

And if you can't attend live, we will be recording the sessions (and will post them at JewishCOProject.org few days after the seminar)

There is no charge for this seminar, but donations to the Jewish CO Project (JewishCOProject.org) would be greatly appreciated so we can create more events like this.

Program Content:

Hour 1: The History of Jewish Conscientious Objection to War (and its place in the broader history of CO)

Hour 2: The theology and political theory of Jewish Conscientious Objection to war

Hour 3: The current practice of Jewish Conscientious Objection to war in the United States and Israel

Please note that each session will consist of about 45 minutes of lecture, followed by about 15 minutes of discussion by participants (either in breakout rooms or all together).

Who is this program intended for:

1. Jewish professionals seeking to understand Jewish conscientious objection to war, and how to discuss the topic with their communities effectively.
2. Jewish lay people who want to learn more about the history and current relevance of Jewish Conscientious Objection to war in both the

United States and Israel.

3. Peace activists from all backgrounds who want to gain a deeper understanding of the Jewish perspective on conscientious objection.
4. Teenagers and young adults who are concerned about a possible draft in the United States.
5. **Anyone** curious about the history, theology, political theory, and practice of Jewish conscientious objection to war.

Our Speaker:

James M. Branum is a defense attorney who has practiced in the area of military law since 2006. He has represented clients in every branch of the US military (except the Space Force) including in court-martial defense, conscientious objector hearings, administrative separation boards, as well as in advising clients regarding their free speech rights.



He is a proud convert to Judaism and today serves as one of the lay leaders of the online-only [Spinoza Havurah](#), as well as an interfaith officiant through the [Oklahoma Objector Community](#).

He is a graduate of Darshan Yeshiva, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Oklahoma City University School of Law, and the Institute for Christian Studies. He also will soon be graduating with a [certificate in "unbound Judaism" from the Unyeshiva](#) (in fact, this seminar is his capstone project for the program)

He previously served as the editor of [Humanistic Judaism](#) magazine from 2021-2024, and was the minister of Peace & Justice at Joy Mennonite Church for more than a decade.



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