The Yeshiva University Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization at Cardozo School of Law brings together scholars of varied legal traditions and fields, creating a cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary dialogue that contributes a distinctively Jewish legal perspective on issues in law and culture. CJL sponsors a wide range of academic activities, including an innovative curriculum in Jewish law and legal theory, workshops, colloquia and conferences, as well as programs designed to support students and emerging scholars.

For more information on The Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization, visit our Web site at www.cardozo.yu.edu/cjl

The Leonard and Bea Diener Institute of Jewish Law supports conferences, symposia and scholarship on issues of Jewish law.

Yeshiva University

Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law
Brookdale Center, Room 417
55 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10003
9:30 – 11:30 a.m. **Rationales for the Commandments in Antiquity**

YAakov Elman  
Yeshiva University  
*Ta’am u-Re’u: The Sinaitic Torah’s Threefold Revolution*

David Flatto  
Penn State University  
*Categorizing Commandments in Late Second Temple and Rabbinic Literature*

Richard Hidary  
Yeshiva University  
*‘You Might Come to Fix a Musical Instrument’: The Bavli’s Reasons for Shevut Laws*

Lawrence H. Schiffman  
Yeshiva University  
*Second Temple Period Rationales for the Torah’s Commandments*

12:30 – 2:30 p.m. **Rationales for the Commandments in the Medieval Period**

David Berger  
Yeshiva University  
*Ta’amei ha-Mitzvot and the Jewish-Christian Debate*

Ephraim Kanarfogel  
Yeshiva University  
*An Unnoticed Strategy of the Sefer ha-Hinnukh in Presenting Ta’amei ha-Mitzvot and Halakhic Teachings*

2:45 – 5:15 p.m. **Rationales for the Commandments in Modern Jewish Thought**

Yonatan Brafman  
Columbia University  
*Halakha as ‘The Objectifying Instrument of Religious Consciousness’: Halakhic Norms as Expression and Discipline in R. Soloveitchik’s Thought*

Daniel Rynhold  
Yeshiva University  
*What’s the Reason for Reasons? Toward an Unprincipled Judaism*

David Shatz  
Yeshiva University  
*Mastery Over the Body in Modern Theories of Mitzvot*

Howard Wettstein  
University of California, Riverside  
*The Flavor of the Commandments*

Shalom Carmy  
Yeshiva University  
*Commentator*