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

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, 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/](http://www.huc.edu/external/email/09/03/graduation/)

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