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AJU's Rabbi Elliot Dorff to Receive Leve Award

Los Angeles, CA – October 16, 2017 – American Jewish University is proud to announce that Rabbi Elliot Dorff, rector and distinguished service professor of philosophy, will be presented with the inaugural Leve Award by the UCLA Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies on Tuesday, October 24, 2017. The award recognizes Rabbi Dorff, for his significant public service and leadership in building bridges across diverse communities.

In addition to his role as rector and distinguished service professor, Rabbi Dorff is a board member and past president of Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles (JFS), a member of the Ethics committee at UCLA Ronald Reagan Medical Center, a co-chair of the Priest-Rabbi Dialogue sponsored by the Los Angeles Archdiocese and the Board of Rabbis of Southern California, a past president of the Academy for Jewish, Christian and Muslim Studies, and a past board member of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles.

In addition, Rabbi Dorff has served on federal advisory commissions dealing with healthcare ethics, sexual responsibility, and research on human subjects, and is a member of the State of California's Ethics Committee on embryonic stem cell research. He currently is secretary of the board of the FaithTrust Institute, a national organization that produces seminars and educational materials to help people avoid or extricate themselves from domestic violence. He is the author of twelve books, most recently, *The Oxford Handbook of Jewish Ethics and Morality* (2016). He is also a visiting professor at UCLA School of Law where he teaches a course in Jewish Law. Rabbi Dorff chairs the Conservative Movement's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, and has written many responsa (opinions and legal rulings). He earned his Ph.D. in philosophy from Columbia University and was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary.

"Elliot Dorff always practices what he preaches," said AJU president, Dr. Robert Wexler. "Although Rabbi Dorff has devoted his professional life to AJU, he has always made it a priority to give freely of his time to other Jewish and non-Jewish nonprofit enterprises. We are very proud that he has been selected as the first recipient of the Leve Award."

Rabbi Dorff believes it is important for rabbis to do volunteer work despite their busy schedules. "I hope this indicates to the community that communal service and philanthropy really do come out of the depths of our tradition—that this is not just something you feel inside you, but is something that is a continuation of our ancient heritage. And It is up to us to ensure it continues far into the future," said Rabbi Elliot Dorff.

American Jewish University, founded in 1947, is a recognized leader in providing world class, Jewish educational and cultural opportunities. By creating a unique and distinctive learning environment in which innovation is nurtured, new ideas are born, and Jewish values are integrated into community life, AJU has grown into a thriving center of Jewish resources and talent.

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