



CP Developments in Israel: The Rackman Center at Bar Ilan University School of Law

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On 31st December 2013, The Rackman Center at Bar Ilan University, Israel, ran a hugely successful seminar about Collaborative Divorce.

Established in 2001, The Rackman Center was set up with the goal of improving women's status, making social change and bringing an end to gender discrimination in Israeli society in general, and in the area of family law in particular. Believing that collaborative divorce is the right way to end a marriage, we decided to run this seminar in order to explain to divorce professionals in Israel what it is, how it works and why it is so important to develop and establish it here in Israel. We then look forward to continuing our work on developing this further with the start of training sessions beginning in February this year.

We were honored to hear viewpoints from excellent speakers;

Mr. Yuval Berger, who spoke about his vision of Collaborative divorce from a global comparative perspective. Mr. Berger has worked as a Marriage and Family Therapist for 25 years, he has been involved in the practice of Collaborative divorce since 2001, both as a consultant and trainer of divorce professionals. Mr. Berger's main work takes place in Vancouver, Canada where he practices Collaborative divorce, working with therapists and other professionals to help broken families. He also runs training courses in Collaborative divorce in the U.S., Canada, Europe and Israel. Mr. Berger is a board member of the IACP - International Academy of Collaborative Professionals.

Prof. Ruth Halperin – Kaddari, who discussed the process of Collaborative divorce, the theory and the practice alongside the use of mediation and its importance, even in Israel. She spoke about the real potential in this theory and that it is an important challenge, especially in Israel's complex legal setting, to push for this unique aspect of the divorce process. Prof. Halperin-Kaddari is the Director of the Rackman Center. She is a specialist in family law and feminist theories of law. Former Vice President of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, she is finishing her second term and is running for the State of Israel for a third term.

Judge Ayelet Golan-Tabori, who discussed her observations on Collaborative divorce from the perspective of the family court.

Judge Golan-Tabori sits as a family judge in the Family Court in the Central District, Rishon Lezion, and author of "*Forever Linked - Guide to Family Law*."

Ms. Rachel Vladimirsky together with **Attorney Idit Shacham**, who founded a public center for Collaborative divorce, the first of its kind in the world, spoke about the importance of taking

responsibility for public service and the local authority by the state, in dealing with related family conflicts in divorce proceedings; and discussed the role of the lawyer in the process of Collaborative divorce in both the private and public spheres.

Ms. Rachel Vladimirsky is a social worker, couples and family therapist , and directs the family welfare department of the municipality of Ramat - Gan. She instructs employees and has dealt in family crises and conflict resolution for many years.

Idit Shacham is a lawyer and a mediator, who has helped establish a number of working groups using Collaborative divorce in the country, both in public and in private spheres and has run training courses, including for the first time, training in Hebrew.