

2009 DOROTHY HEIGHT COALITION BUILDING AWARD

Presented to



Richard Foltin

Legislative Director and Counsel
American Jewish Committee

Richard T. Foltin, Legislative Director and Counsel in the American Jewish Committee's Office of Government and International Affairs in Washington, D.C, is responsible for the development, promotion and execution of AJC's legislative agenda (which includes religious liberty, civil rights, immigration, hate crimes, the intersection of national security and human rights, and foreign affairs issues).

Before moving to Washington, D.C., Mr. Foltin served in AJC's New York headquarters as director of governmental affairs and associate legal director and, prior to that, was an associate with the litigation department of a major New York law firm. He has testified before Congressional committees and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, most recently on religious discrimination in the workplace before the House Committee on Education and Labor. Mr. Foltin is a member of the bars of New York State, Washington D.C., the U.S. Supreme Court, and the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.

Mr. Foltin serves on the governing Council of the American Bar Association's Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities, prior to which he co-chaired the section's First Amendment Rights Committee. Mr. Foltin writes on current issues for the AJC membership and general public, and speaks on these issues in the media and at conferences and workshops. Mr. Foltin co-chairs a coalition to promote passage of the Workplace Religious Freedom Act and as a member of the National Council of Churches' Committee on Religious Liberty. He has served as a member of the National Immigration Forum's Board of Directors. Mr. Foltin edited *Religious Liberty in the 1990s: The Religion Clauses Under the Rehnquist Court* (1993) and his article, "Religious Discrimination in the Workplace: Administration Policy and Practice," appeared in *The Test of Our Progress: The Clinton Record on Civil Rights* (1999). For several years, Mr. Foltin wrote the annual report on national affairs for the American Jewish Year Book.

A native of New York City and a child of Holocaust survivors, Mr. Foltin received his B.A. magna cum laude with honors in Political Science from New York University and his J.D. cum laude from Harvard Law School. In 1999, he was named a Wasserstein Public Interest Fellow at Harvard Law School. Mr. Foltin has served several times, most recently in May 2007, as a faculty member for a course on "Religious Traditions and the Courts," offered as part of a continuing judicial education program for Florida judges.