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Dr. Gary P. Zola Sworn in as a Member of the *U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad*

Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer administers oath of office to the newly appointed Commissioners

CINCINNATI, OH:---In a ceremony that took place at the United States Supreme Court on April 25, 2012, Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer administered the oath of office to the newest members of the *U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad*. Those members included Dr. Gary P. Zola, Executive Director of The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives and Professor of the American Jewish Experience at the Cincinnati campus of Hebrew Union College---Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC---JIR). Dr. Zola was appointed to the Commission by President Barack Obama in February 2011.



Dr. Gary P. Zola (center) with son Jeremy and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Breyer at the Supreme Court



Justice Stephen Breyer administers the oath to the newly appointed members of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad

The Commission—an independent agency of the Government of the United States of America—is directed by law to fulfill two primary functions:

- To identify and report on cemeteries, monuments, and historic buildings in Eastern and Central Europe that are associated with the heritage of U.S. citizens, particularly endangered properties, and
- To obtain, in cooperation with the Department of State, assurances from the governments of the region that the properties will be protected and preserved.

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Dr. Zola has previously served in a number of leadership positions that have heightened the awareness of how American Jewish history illuminates the history of the American nation. From 2002 to 2005, Zola chaired the congressionally recognized Commission for Commemoration of 350 Years of American Jewish History. He was appointed to the Academic Advisory Council of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission in 2006. Although President Jimmy Carter appointed HUC---JIR president Alfred Gottschalk (1930-2009) to serve on the U.S. Holocaust Commission, Zola is the first board-appointed faculty member in HUC's history to be appointed to a U.S. Commission by the President of the United States.



*The entire Presidential **Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad** in Washington last week.*

Justice Breyer delivered a brief address to the members of the Commission after the ceremony; speaking about Albert Camus's famous novel, *The Plague*. The Justice reminded the Commissioners that the plague was actually a metaphor for that part of a human being which can be very evil. Camus cautioned that the plague's germ never dies, it simply goes into remission.

Justice Breyer said, "All over the world, people are trying to stop that plague because it's still there, in the hearts of people. To keep the plague away, we build institutions including independent judiciaries to interpret constitutions that contain words, which are protective of human beings' basic rights. I have a job that is one small part of the effort to build a barrier against another epidemic of evil like what we saw in World War II." Breyer concluded by noting that the work of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad would help to prevent the outbreak of another epidemic of evil.

"It is an privilege to serve on this Commission together with so many accomplished individuals. I look forward to participating in the Commission's work." said Dr. Zola.

For more information, please contact Joyce Kamen at 513.543.8109/ joyce@kamencreative.com.

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The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, founded in 1947 by its namesake on the Cincinnati, Ohio, campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, is committed to preserving a documentary heritage of the religious, organizational, economic, cultural, personal, social and family life of American Jewry. The Marcus Center contains over 15,000 linear feet of archives, manuscripts, nearprint materials, photographs, audio and videotapes, microfilm, and genealogical materials.

www.americanjewisharchives.org