



The California Legislative Jewish Caucus

ABOVE: CLJC members join Governor Brown and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at historic signing of MOU supporting collaboration between Israel and California.

(photo credit: Justin Short, Office of the Governor)

A historic beginning!

MAKING HISTORY

- ▶ In 2012 Assemblymembers Marty Block, Bob Blumenfield, and Speaker John A. Perez initiated a process to establish the nation's first ever official Legislative Jewish Caucus.
- ▶ Today, the bipartisan and bicameral Caucus includes eight Senators, three Assemblymembers, and three non-Jewish Associate members. Twelve are Democrats and two are Republicans.
- ▶ The California Legislative Jewish Caucus (CLJC) also established and convenes the Capitol Knesset, a monthly gathering of 50 to 100 predominantly Jewish Legislators, staff, third house advocates, and community members to network and discuss issues of importance to the capitol Jewish community.

SPONSORING AND FACILITATING

THE CALIFORNIA HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CEREMONY

- ▶ As our signature program, CLJC annually honors Holocaust survivors, children of survivors, and concentration camp liberators from throughout California for a memorial program on the Assembly Floor.

SPONSORING LEGISLATION

- ▶ CLJC sponsored SCR 121 (Block, 2014) and SCR 25 (Block, 2015) which memorialized the Legislature's support for the Memorandum of Understanding signed by Governor Jerry Brown and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.
- ▶ CLJC sponsored SCR 39 (Block) which established the month of May as Jewish American Heritage Month.



ABOVE: CLJC founding members meet in San Diego to establish bylaws and mission.

ADVOCATING FOR FUNDING

- ▶ CLJC secured \$2 million to train K-12 educators to build safe and respectful schools. The program is implemented by the Museum of Tolerance and is called Tools for Tolerance.
- ▶ CLJC expanded the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, by \$2 million. This program provides funds for organizations which are potential targets of hate-motivated violence.
- ▶ CLJC successfully supported the repeal of the maximum family grant cap on aid to children living in poverty.

FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION & BUILDING COALITIONS

- ▶ CLJC led a press conference with 40 legislators from both parties and both houses, veterans and community leaders to condemn a swastika display in Sacramento's River Park neighborhood.
- ▶ CLJC sponsored "Confronting Hate: Stand-Up Against Anti-Semitism" with the Sacramento Jewish Federation; more than 500 people attended this rally which received significant media coverage.
- ▶ CLJC participates with other ethnic caucuses in rallies, press events, and floor speeches condemning discrimination and celebrating diversity.
- ▶ CLJC in conjunction with the other ethnic caucuses hosts hundreds of capitol community members at an annual session kickoff featuring multicultural fellowship, Klezmer music, and traditional Jewish food.

COMBATING DISCRIMINATION AND SUPPORTING ISRAEL ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

- ▶ CLJC successfully urged the UC Board of Regents to adopt the *Principles Against Intolerance*, focusing on ending discrimination and anti-semitism on UC campuses.
- ▶ CLJC met with UC President Janet Napolitano and UCLA Chancellor Gene Block to address the anti-semitic movement to boycott Israeli business and academics and its impact on Jewish students.

EMPOWERING OUR YOUTH

- ▶ CLJC hosts young Jewish professionals visiting the State Capitol to lobby on various issues.
- ▶ CLJC welcomes Jewish teens in government and civic engagement programs from throughout the state to Sacramento.