



24/12/15

Re: Mr. Menachem Fischman

I am writing to recommend very strongly Mr. Menachem Fischman.

Mr. Fischman is presently concluding his studies in Amirim, the Hebrew University's honors program in the Humanities, mostly within in the period in which I chaired the program.

Menachem is a highly dedicated and hard-working person, and his scholastic achievements are very impressive even relative to Amirim. Also from teaching him in a seminar last year, I can testify to Menachem's openness and highly original thinking. I regard him as one of the very best students in our program. This high opinion is shared in the law school. Besides his academic activities, he is highly active in volunteer work. He was also a research assistant for a history professor, which testifies to his breadth of areas of expertise.

Amirim, the Hebrew University's special program for outstanding students, is an extremely competitive program. Its students are selected from among the top 3% of all applicants to the Hebrew University. They study a wide range of courses in the Humanities and Social Sciences in addition to majoring in their own area of interest. All classes demand weekly written and oral presentations, a huge amount of preparatory work, and a unique degree of commitment. As such, the twenty five students who compose each in-coming class of Amirim are the best and the brightest. In the program, they are exposed to different academic methodologies (history, logic, philosophy, political science, psychology, game theory, etc.) and to a variety of "Great books" courses, which include introductions to Judaism, Christianity, modern secular thought, Islam, Classical heritage, etc. In addition, they learn how to write academic papers in English and participate in extra curricular activities. All students are required to take all classes and to participate actively in all the discussion. Many of the program graduates go on to pursue Ph.D. degrees in their disciplinary field in Israel and abroad, and among our graduates professors who teach today in all the universities in Israel as well as in Stanford University, Chicago University, UCLA, Princeton, and the Sorbonne.

I had the pleasure of reading Menachem's research papers on psychoanalytic themes in the writings of Borges. This was one of the very top papers in this course, as it demonstrated Menachem's outstanding ability to apply sophisticated theories to a literary text, as well as his meticulous care in organizing material and in presentation. I therefore recommend him with great warmth for the legal apprenticeship. Very few young graduates are as qualified and as deserving.

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