

FASPE

Fellowships at
Auschwitz
for the Study of
Professional Ethics

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University of Michigan Law School Graduate Chosen for FASPE Ethics Fellowship

Samantha Franks Joins Groundbreaking Program for Law Students and Early-Career Lawyers

New York, NY — **Samantha Franks, a Graduate of University of Michigan Law School**, is one of 14 law students chosen for the 2023 Law Program of the Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE).

Now in its thirteenth year of operation, FASPE provides a unique historical lens to engage graduate students in professional schools as well as early-stage practitioners in six fields (business, journalism, law, design & technology, medicine and seminary) in an intensive course of study focused on contemporary ethical issues in their professions.

The FASPE Law Program offers an approach that differs from the usual classroom experience in law schools by providing a holistic curriculum that looks beyond the specifics of formal rules to focus on ethical problems faced by individual lawyers in the various settings in which they practice. Fellows typically participate in a two-week program in Germany and Poland, which uses the conduct of lawyers in Nazi-occupied Europe as a way to reflect on legal ethics today.

Daily seminars are led by specialized faculty who engage fellows in discussions, encouraging critical thinking about both the historical and the contemporary. The Law Program is strengthened by the diverse perspectives of its participants and its intense focus on the powers of place and context. The experience of the law fellows is enhanced by traveling alongside the business and design & technology fellows, who—in formal and informal settings—consider together how ethical constructs and norms in their respective professions align and differ.

“By educating students about the causes of the Holocaust and the power of their chosen professions, FASPE seeks to instill a sense of professional responsibility for the ethical and moral choices that the fellows will make in their careers and in their professional relationships,” said David Goldman, FASPE’s founder and chairman.

FASPE studies the perpetrators to emphasize the essential role of professionals and to ask how and why they abandon their ethical guideposts. The FASPE Law Program examines the role of lawyer and the legal profession more broadly during the Nazi period, underscoring the reality that moral codes governing lawyers can break down or be distorted with devastating consequences. With this historical background, the law fellows are better positioned to confront contemporary issues.

The 2023 Fellowship will take place in Germany and Poland over the course of two weeks this summer (subject to health considerations). The Law Program will be led by Eric Muller, Dan K. Moore Distinguished Professor in Jurisprudence at the University of North Carolina School of Law, and Jessica Roth, professor of law and co-director of the Jacob Burns Center for Ethics in the Practice of Law at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

Samantha Franks is an attorney specializing in international trade, including sanctions designations, forced labor prevention, and national security law. She is currently serving as a Dean Acheson legal fellow at the European Court of Justice. Previously, she obtained a law degree from the University of Michigan Law School, a Master of Science in International Conflict Prevention from Durham University as a Fulbright Postgraduate Scholar, and degrees in English and Political Science from the University of Missouri.

Franks joins a diverse group of 84 FASPE fellows across all six programs who were chosen through a competitive process that drew applicants from across the U.S. and the world. FASPE covers all program costs, including travel, food and lodging.

FASPE maintains long-term relationships with its fellows in order to sustain commitment to ethical behavior and to provide a forum for continued dialogue. To date, FASPE has over 750 alumni.

To learn more about FASPE and its programs, visit www.faspe-ethics.org.

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