Press Release

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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***ISJL Hires New Director of Rabbinical Services***

*Jackson, MS* – The Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL) is excited to announce that Aaron Rozovsky has been hired to fill the position of Director of Rabbinical Services.

Rozovsky will be ordained this spring from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, the seminary of the Reform movement. Prior to beginning his rabbinical studies, he also completed a Master’s degree in International Studies with a concentration in Latin America at Central Connecticut State University, and a Bachelor’s degree in History with a Spanish minor at Providence College in Rhode Island.

“This is my dream job,” Rozovsky says of his new role with the ISJL. “To serve small Jewish communities throughout the South who have added so much to the American fabric and our understanding of what it means to be Jewish is the opportunity of a lifetime.”

The experience he brings to the position is relevant and extensive. As a student rabbi, he served in an array of positions, primarily in small communities: teaching at Kulanu Cincinnati Reform Jewish High School, working at the Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education, advising students at the Hillel at Miami University of Ohio, and holding student pulpits at United Hebrew Congregation in Terra Haute, IN, and Temple B’nai Israel of Petoskey, MI.

Rozovsky also has a special commitment to this nation’s armed forces. He has served as Chaplain for the 1/103rd Field Artillery Battalion​ in Providence, RI; summer chaplain at the Robley Rex Veterans Affairs Medical Center​ in Louisville, KY; and as a fellow at the Jewish War Veterans of America (JWV) Cincinnati-Dayton chapter​, Cincinnati, OH; and he has worked for twelve years with the Rhode Island Army National Guard​. He also spent a year as a Liaison Officer for the US Army-Israel Defense Forces, in Jerusalem.

Perhaps most relevant for Rozovsky, and what drew him to the ISJL’s work, was his year-long deployment to Afghanistan with the Military Police. There, he learned how to create meaningful Jewish experiences out of whatever was on hand, recalling having only “a few cans of corn, peaches, and Army rations” and still hosting “a festive Shabbos dinner.”

“We are so excited to welcome Aaron to the team,” says Michele Schipper, the ISJL’s incoming CEO. “His passion for serving under-served Jewish communities, his past experience and his vision for this role all make him an ideal rabbi to serve our region.”

The ISJL’s Rabbinical Services Department serves communities across a thirteen-state region, focusing specifically on communities with no full-time rabbi in place. In his role as Director of Rabbinical Services, Rozovsky will travel two to three weekends a month to lead Shabbat experiences, will write a weekly Taste of Torah e-mailed d’var (sermon), serve as a remote resource for Bar and Bat Mitzvah students, engaged couples, and more; he will also work with colleagues to coordinate visits throughout the region with the ISJL’s Rabbis on the Road program.

Being the ISJL’s traveling rabbi is a prestigious and interesting rabbinical post. Previously held by Rabbi Debra Kassoff, Rabbi Batsheva Appel, Rabbi Marshal Klaven, and Rabbi Jeremy Simons, as the “ISJL Rabbi,” Aaron Rozovsky will continue a proud tradition of service to the small but mighty congregations and individuals in small towns throughout the South.

*The Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL) promotes Jewish life and heritage in the South through innovative programs and shared resources, serving communities seeking new solutions or where Jewish resources are limited. To learn more about the ISJL visit www.isjl.org, call 601-362-6357, or “like” the organization at Facebook.com/TheISJL*

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