

## **Alexandra Kramen**

*B.A., History and Political Science (Holocaust Studies Special Interest Program), Albright College, Reading, PA, 2006*

*J.D., Temple University Beasley School of Law, Philadelphia, PA, 2009*

*M.A., Holocaust & Genocide Studies, West Chester University of Pennsylvania, 2015*

Claims Conference Fellow, Kramen holds the Marlene and David Persky Research Award for her dissertation on Jewish survivors living in Föhrenwald, the longest-running Jewish displaced persons camp in postwar Europe. She investigates how Jewish DPs conceived of justice and symbolic revenge in postwar Germany and how ideas of, and actions toward, justice evolved over time in response to shifting political, social, and economic conditions. Her research elucidates an area of Jewish life during and after the Holocaust that has received scant attention, offering a new perspective on how Jews coped with the trauma they experienced under the Nazi regime and reestablished a sense of justice in the process, while contributing more broadly to the study of transitional justice processes in the wake of mass violence beyond formal international criminal tribunals. For instance, Kramen observed a pattern in the Yiddish newspapers she gathered as a 2018 Summer Graduate Student Research Fellow at the USHMM. In the Föhrenwald newspaper *Bamidbar*, articles by various authors identify the establishment of the state of Israel as a form of justice for the Holocaust.

Kramen has secured significant outside support for her research. In the 2020-2021 academic year, she held a Fred and Ellen Lewis Fellowship that supported her research in the JDC Archives, although conducted remotely. That fellowship culminated with a well-attended webinar presentation focused on her archival findings. During summer 2021, she was a Junior Fellow at the Center for Holocaust Studies at the Institute for Contemporary History (Munich). While at the Stadtarchiv-

Wolfratshausen, Kramen unearthed a trove of unpublished interviews with former Jewish residents of the DP camp which she looks forward to analyzing more deeply in the coming months. She also discovered a series of German social aid files while at the Staatsarchiv-Muenchen that she plans to consult during an upcoming research trip to Munich, which will yield information on the backgrounds and wartime experiences of a number of survivors who have provided oral history testimonies relating to their DP experiences.

In January 2022 she will be in residence at the Center for Jewish History to complete a 2020-2021 David Baumgardt Memorial Fellowship at the Leo Baeck Institute-New York, and will return to the Center for Jewish History in June 2022 for a ten-month residency as the Dr. Sophie Bookhalter Graduate Research Fellow.