



JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL
of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**JCRC ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP TRANSITION PLANS FOR 2016
Abby Porth Named to Succeed Rabbi Doug Kahn**

San Francisco, CA, November 12, 2014: The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) today announced that long-time Executive Director Rabbi Doug Kahn has decided to retire in July 2016. The Board of Directors has appointed current Associate Executive Director Abigail Michelson Porth to succeed him in this leadership post.

Upon retirement, Doug will apply his experience, relationships and expertise in new ways to extend his lifelong work and commitment to consensus building, advocacy, and crisis management. Doug will also continue to work closely on these issues and with colleagues at JCRC and other aligned community and faith based groups.

“After 32 years with JCRC—25 of those as Executive Director—Doug informed the board of his desire to retire and move into a consulting role,” said Rosalind Franklin, President of the JCRC Board. “Doug is a remarkable Jewish community leader, a confidant of opinion leaders in the Jewish and broader community, and a wise and visionary thinker. He is a unique blend of activist and diplomat, and has served our community with extraordinary impact for three decades. He plans to continue to work on issues of importance and concern to the Jewish community and to others who value diversity, social justice, and a civil society, and a deep commitment to Israel. We are delighted that Abby will carry forward Doug’s and JCRC’s important work, and lead the organization into the future.”

Porth, 39, has been with JCRC for more than 15 years, working closely alongside Kahn on key issues. She has been instrumental in the development and implementation of the organization’s strategic plans, community outreach, strategic communications, and management of complex issues, including spearheading the nationally recognized “Year of Civil Discourse Initiative,” to examine politically diverse views of Israel. She and Kahn lead groups of community, business, ethnic and political leaders intensive 10-day visits to Israel to encourage an understanding of Jewish relations in the broader community—locally and around the world.

“Abby is uniquely qualified to lead this organization,” Kahn said. “She’s a consensus builder, a visionary, and a consummate community leader, in addition to being an outstanding manager. She understands the needs of both our Jewish community and the Bay Area at large, and has dedicated her career to creating a better world.”

“Doug and I will continue to work closely together and with the Board over the next 18 months to ensure a seamless transition,” Porth said. “We have a lot of work ahead of us, including combating the growing anti-Israel movement in the Bay Area, and serving as a convener and collaborator with other faith-based communities on issues that represent our core values and interests.”

Porth joined the JCRC in 1999 from the Anti-Defamation League of New England, where she ran a juvenile criminal justice diversion program for hate crime offenders. She earned her Bachelor’s degree in African and Afro-American Studies and Sociology at Brandeis University, and her Master of Management at its Heller School for Social Policy. She serves on the Board of Directors of Congregation Emanu-El in San Francisco, the San Francisco Interfaith Council, and is the founder of the Memory Garden, a healing garden for those grieving from fertility losses. She lives in San Francisco.

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ABOUT JCRC:

The Jewish Community Relations Council, serving San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, mobilizes the Jewish community and amplifies its voice in the public arena in order to promote a just society and a secure Jewish future.