

## An Update on “My View: A Partnership Betrayed at the American Psychological Association”

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Dear Colleagues,

On October 2nd, I published on my website and shared an [opinion piece](#) titled “My View: A Partnership Betrayed at the American Psychological Association.” Over the past week, I’ve learned that some people are claiming that the five members of the APA’s Collaborative of Jewish Psychologists (CJP) — Miri Bar-Halpern, Cassie Feldman, Daniel Hoffman, Dean McKay, and Joshua Simmons — who testified at the NACIQI hearing did not actually want APA’s accreditation status to be suspended or terminated.

In my view, for this claim to be true, it would require us to believe something that seems highly implausible: namely, that these individuals had no idea what was at stake when they testified against the APA before a committee of the Department of Education, an agency that has routinely used unsupported allegations of antisemitism to punish institutions that oppose the Trump Administration’s far-right agenda. I personally don’t believe these five psychologists are so naïve or uninformed as to not have realized that.

But by way of further evidence, perhaps the following documentation is even more compelling. It shows that the suspension recommendation — [“following scathing third-party comments”](#) — was actually **applauded** by various Israel advocacy organizations with which these CJP members appear to have important connections:

\*The [press release](#) from the **Brandeis Center** noted that its clients “provided powerful testimony...which had a notable impact on the committee’s deliberations.” The center’s chief policy officer [said](#), “We’ve made a serious impact on combating antisemitism with this decision. They can’t ignore this.” Bar-Halpern, Feldman, Hoffman, McKay, and Simmons are all apparently Brandeis Center clients.

\***StandWithUs** (legally known as the “Israel Emergency Alliance”) posted a [Facebook message](#) congratulating its lawyers about their role in bringing about the suspension, and thanking “the therapists, clinicians and partner groups who stepped forward to voice their concerns about the APA.” Bar-Halpern, McKay, and Simmons were among the organization’s [highlighted speakers](#) at its 2025 conference. McKay apparently conducts research with StandWithUs.

\***Psychologists Against Antisemitism** posted a congratulatory [Instagram message](#) with the headline “Speaking Up Works” and noting “Testimony moved the committee” and “Your voice has power. Keep using it.” Bar-Halpern, Hoffman, and McKay (and possibly the

others) are PAAS members. Bar-Halpern, Hoffman, McKay, and Simmons all signed the PAAS letter accusing the APA of systemic and virulent antisemitism.

\*On its [website](#), **Gesher Community Care** has a congratulatory message titled “A call to moral courage” which thanks its “Mental Health Advisory Board Members” for their testimony. Those [board members](#) include Bar-Halpern, McKay, and Simmons.

\*The [press release](#) from the **Anti-Defamation League** said that it “welcomed” the suspension. Bar-Halpern and Feldman (and possibly others) have been invited speakers at ADL-sponsored events, with Bar-Halpern receiving an award.

\*As an additional note, **Bar-Halpern** herself posted an [Instagram comment](#) describing the suspension as “a sad **victory**” (emphasis added), noting that “being able to hold the organization accountable is important.”

There may be other examples; I haven’t taken the time to conduct a more thorough search. But I believe what I’ve shared here is important in assessing the credibility of claims that these CJP members were opposed to the suspension or termination of APA’s accrediting status. In my opinion, I think this information is also worth keeping in mind if or when the CJP issues any recommendations to APA’s leadership.

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