



Burton Blatt Institute  
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Contact: Anthony Adornato  
Director of Communications  
(315) 443-6173/[acadorna@syr.edu](mailto:acadorna@syr.edu)

### **Burton Blatt Institute Hosts Research Seminars with Disability Rights Scholars from the United States, Israel, and Japan**

SYRACUSE, NEW YORK – The Burton Blatt Institute (BBI) at Syracuse University will host a series of seminars this month, part of the ongoing opportunities for researchers affiliated with BBI to present on research relative to their area of expertise with impact for people with disabilities. The seminars, free and open to the public, will be held in the BBI Collaboratory, located at 321 Crouse-Hinds Hall.

“Campus community members are invited to attend the seminars to learn how BBI’s partnerships with leading researchers in the United States and around the world are advancing the civic, economic, and social participation of people with disabilities,” says Peter Blanck, BBI Chair and University Professor. “The seminars will be an important collaborative discussion on the rights of persons with disabilities in the US, Israel, and Japan.”

**Thursday, Feb. 17 – 2:30 p.m.**

#### **“Disability Cause Lawyers”**

Michael Waterstone

Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Research and Academic Centers, Loyola Law School  
Los Angeles

Waterstone will discuss interviews he has conducted with lawyers who bring cases on behalf of people with disabilities, and how the research findings reinforce some disability scholarship but challenge other aspects. Waterstone is a nationally-recognized expert in disability and civil rights law. He is one of the co-authors of a leading casebook on disability law and his recent articles are in the *Harvard Law Review*, *Notre Dame Law Review*, *Minnesota Law Review*, *Duke Law Journal*, *Vanderbilt Law Review*, and *Northwestern Law Review*, amongst others.

**Tuesday, Feb. 22 – 12:30 p.m.**

#### **“Research on equal rights for persons with disabilities in the Israeli parliament”**

Shirley Avrami

Head of Research and Information Center, The Knesset, Israel

Having played an active role in Israel’s equal rights legislation, Avrami’s seminar will focus on the current situation concerning disability legislation and reality in Israel. She will discuss disability related research conducted by The Knesset, the house of representatives of the State of Israel. Avrami is the author of the book *His Last Letter Remains* (in Hebrew) and many

articles. Much of her research has focused on attitudes of members of The Knesset toward the enactment of the Equal Rights for People with Disabilities Law. The Research and Information Center is Israel's equivalent of the Congressional Research Service, and Avrami is in the United States on an official State Department visit.

**Wednesday, Feb. 23 – 12:30 p.m.**

**“Current Situation of Disability Discrimination Act in Japan: Concept of Disabilities”**

Jun Nakagawa

Professor, Department of Social Policy, School of Social Welfare, Hokusei Gakuen University, Japan

Nakagawa will discuss the current status of the Disability Discrimination Act in Japan in the course of transition of Japanese disability law and policy. He will explore what concept of disability is consistent with new Disability Discrimination Act, as Japan implements the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. He has researched for and published articles about the duty of reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in the United States, Canada and Japan. Nakagawa was Chair of the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 research projects regarding “Comparative Study of Reasonable Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities,” and submitted the reports to the Ministry of Cabinet Office in Japan.

**About the Burton Blatt Institute (BBI) at Syracuse University**

BBI is dedicated to practical inclusive solutions for people with disabilities worldwide. With a staff of more than 60 and offices in Syracuse, NY, Washington, DC, Atlanta, GA, New York, NY, Los Angeles, CA, and Tel Aviv, Israel, BBI engages in projects on civil rights, entrepreneurship, universal design, employment and economic advancement, technology innovation, and attitudes about disability in traditional and new media. For more information, visit <http://bbi.syr.edu>.

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