

Prayer for the justice system

God of justice and righteousness – the true Judge – we thank You for the rule of law which sustains our society: for the wisdom of the judiciary, the courage of counsel, and the service of jurors.

We are taught: *multiply law courts*. Guide our leaders to tend to the needs of the court system, so that it will remain open to the most vulnerable among us. Let access to justice be the bedrock of our nation.

We are also taught: *a good advocate strengthens the face of the law*. Grant succour to the criminal bar in its mission to secure justice for all. Bless the work of their hands and endow their paymasters with insight and generosity.

As Your prophet Amos declared: וַיֵּגַל כַּמִּים מִשְׁפָּט וצִדְקָה כְּנַחַל אֵיתָן – *let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream*.

May this be Your will, and let us say: Amen.



GKW 25.viii.22

Notes

This prayer was written in reaction to the first ever strike by the Criminal Bar Association. These dedicated public servants are deeply concerned about the record-breaking backlog of criminal cases – over 58,000 – which leads to victims and defendants alike being denied justice. Moreover, legal aid funding has dropped by 28% in the past decade. This will destroy the diversity of the bar by making a career as a barrister inaccessible to those from disadvantaged groups.

The quotations are taken from b.Sanhedrin 112a, Exodus Rabbah 43:1 and Amos 5:24 respectively. The first is specifically a comment on this week's parashah, R'eh.