



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 3, 2015

“Legal Genealogist” Judy Russell to deliver banquet speech at the 2016 IAJGS Conference in Seattle

Seattle, Washington

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies has chosen acclaimed Legal Genealogist **Judy Russell** as the banquet speaker at its 36th Annual Conference to be held from August 7 to 12, 2016 in Seattle, Washington.

Holder of credentials as a Certified Genealogist and Certified Genealogical Lecturer, Russell has enthralled audiences nationwide with her fascinating blend of legal and genealogical expertise. “I’m a genealogist with a law degree,” says Russell, “and I try to help folks understand the often arcane legal concepts and terminology that are so very important to those of us studying family history. Without understanding the context in which events took place and records were created, we miss so much of both the significance and the flavor of what happened.”

Russell’s talk will be the highlight of the 2016 conference banquet, which will be held on August 11, at 7 PM, the final night of the six-day conference. She will also make two additional presentations in the course of the conference, which will take place at the beautiful and convenient Sheraton Hotel in downtown Seattle. Russell, who traces her own American roots back to 1680 Virginia, holds a BA in journalism from George Washington University in Washington, DC, and a law degree from the Rutgers School of Law, Newark.

Another highlight of the 2016 conference will be the opening night keynote address by **Dr. Devin Naar**, chair of the UW Sephardic Studies Program and an assistant professor in the UW Department of History. Lead conference co-chair **Janette Silverman** said she and her fellow chairs are “thrilled to have two nationally acclaimed speakers on the Seattle program.”

Proposals for papers are currently being accepted through the official conference website www.iajgs2016.org. The deadline for submission is midnight, December 15, 2015. For information about proposals and submissions, contact the Program Committee at program@iajgs2016.org.

Early registration will open in January 2016 through the conference website.

For more information about the conference, contact the conference co-chairs Janette Silverman, Phyllis Grossman, and Chuck Weinstein through the conference website www.iajgs2016.org.