

# Meet Our New President



Richard Lobell

**H**arvey Blitz was unanimously elected to serve as the 17th president of the Orthodox Union at the Union's Biennial National Convention in Rye, New York. Mr. Blitz succeeds Mandell I. Ganchrow, M.D., OU president since 1994, who will continue his service to the OU as its chairman of the board.

Mr. Blitz is the senior vice president of AXA Financial, Inc. and its subsidiary, The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States. He was graduated from Wayne State University with high distinction and received his law degree from the University of Chicago, serving as editor of the *Law Review*. Mr. Blitz was an instructor at New York University Law School and has a Masters of Law (L.L.M.) in taxation from NYU. He worked for several years at the Manhattan law firm of Kaye, Scholer, Fierman, Hays & Handler and later at the firm of Lowenstein, Sandler, Brochin, Kohl & Fisher, specializing in taxation.

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*As we go to press, Mr. Blitz is beginning his presidency. His column, "President's Message" will appear in forthcoming issues.*

He joined The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States as an associate counsel in the Law Department in 1978 and received a succession of promotions, becoming senior vice president in 1987.

Mr. Blitz has served with distinction and dedication as an officer of the Orthodox Union for more than 20 years. He was chairman of the OU Youth Commission for ten years, treasurer of the OU for six years, and senior vice president from 1994 until his election as president. Mr. Blitz said, "I begin this presidency dedicated to restructuring the governance and operations of the Orthodox Union, consistent with the NCSY Special Commission's recommendations, in order to make the Union a first-rate, well-run organization. That is a necessary goal during these difficult times. However, it is not sufficient. The Union's mandate, for over 100 years, has been to infuse the community with an enhanced commitment to Torah and *mitzvot*. That is the ultimate objective toward which we strive. We are optimistic that the changes we will implement, coupled with active input from the community, will help us to achieve that goal." 