



Law and Emotions in Transit: The Central Court of Honor in Munich (1946-1950)

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The research is dedicated to the Munich Central Court of Honor (Erngericht, Yiddish). Established by Jewish Displaced Persons (DPs) in the American zone of occupation in Germany (1946-1950), the court was authorized to resolve disputes between DP officials. The vast archival records related to the tribunal activities show that many appeals expressed emotions, whether personal, communal, or national. The records display anger, anxiety, and jealousy, and also insults, smears, defamations, and even beatings.

The research offers a textual analysis of these court records, arguing that the records reflect the living conditions of Holocaust survivors in the immediate postwar period. The living conditions were shaped by personal and collective rehabilitation while living in refugee camps controlled by the U.S. Army and run by international welfare agencies. The research argues that these living conditions turned the Central Court of Honor into an "arena of emotions" and the Jewish DPs into a "community of emotions."

The research contributes to the hitherto unexplored issue of DPs and emotions and provides a voice to the discussion on the place and role of emotions in law.