

## BELIEFS Values

## ADL's Lobenthal to retire soon

Richard Lobenthal, director of the "Southfield-based Anti-Defamation League Michigan Regional Office since 1984, is retiring at the end of June.

"It's the end of an era," said Leonard Sahn, president of the ADL Michigan board. "For many people, Dick was the ADL, and the only director they've ever known."

Lobenthal was local public radio's civil rights commentator for 15 years. He moonlighted teaching race relations and urban problems and urban sociology at Wayne State University for more than a decade.

Lobenthal lectured or taught at several southeast Michigan schools, including the University of Michigan, University of Detroit and Eastern Michigan University. He lectured and wrote on extremism, social problems and civil rights. An early pamphlet on the exploitation of sex education in Michigan's schools was a national best-seller.

As director of the Anti-Defamation League, Lobenthal served as the voice of the area's Jewish community on social issues and was quoted as an expert in civil rights.

He was president of the state's association of civil rights professionals and of metro Detroit's civil rights coalition - the Coordinating Council on Human Relations.

He was president of the Inter-



End of an era: Richard Lobenthal will stay on as an ADL consultant for five years.

national Black Appeal and was a founder and officer of the national Center for Resources on Institutional Oppression.

For more than 10 years, he served on the Michigan Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, consulted with foreign governments on social problems and most recently was co-chairman of the state's Bias Crimes Response Task Force.

Then-Gov. James Blanchard appointed him to the state's Council on Humanities and the

Nursing Licensing Board. Gov. John Engler appointed him to the state's Board of Ethics, on which he still serves.

"We're going to miss him," Sahn said, "but we're lucky that he's agreed to serve as a consultant to ADL, locally and nationally, for the next five years. We'll

miss him, but we're looking forward to continuing his work with his successor, and with an active, working board that he recruited and trained."

"Of course I'm ambivalent," Lobenthal said, "but I'm looking forward to the changes in my life. After 37 years with ADL, 32 of them here, it's time to do something else."

He has no specific plans.

"It just was time to move on to something else," he said. "Maybe I'll write a book. If you look at civil rights over the last 30 years, it's a fascinating story. When I came to Detroit, we were in a battle to pass a Fair Neighborhood Practices Ordinance, outlawing housing discrimination, and the referendum failed. Detroit supported housing discrimination! Look how far we've come since then," he said. "Three years later, we had the civil disturbance and I was a consultant to the Kerner Commission, which wrote the national report on racial discrimination. Our model was the report written in 1919 on the Chicago Race Riot. Nothing had changed in almost 60 years. The country, the state, southeastern Michigan, is just so much better off now."

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place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, June 6, and 8 a.m. to noon Friday, June 7, at Southfield Presbyterian Church, 21575 W. 10 Mile, between Evergreen and Lahser, Southfield. Donations of sale items will be accepted all day June 3 and 4.

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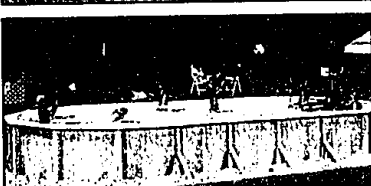
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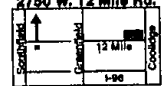
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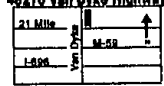


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## Future Seminars

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Fairlane, Reception Area

Thursday, June 13  
W. Bloomfield, Conf. Rm. B

