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Which Jew is Smarter?

By

[GTJ Friend](#)

– November 30, 2010

Battle of the Ilyas, Round II. This Time, It's Personal

For those of you in the D.C. Libertarian community, you know that there are two Ilyas.



[Ilya Shapiro](#), a Senior Fellow of Constitutional Studies at the Cato Institute, and [Ilya Somin](#), a Professor at George Mason School of Law. Both are Libertarians. Both are Russian. Both have the same last initial. They often get confused, but they are nothing alike.

To resolve this name-game between these two brains, last year I hosted a trivia battle, dubbed the [Battle of the Ilyas](#). Shapiro was victorious. Ilya Shapiro has dutifully enjoyed his one-year reign as the undisputed Ilya of Washington, D.C. However, his term ended on November 24, 2010. Thus, it is time to fight again—Round Two of the Battle of the Ilyas began a week ago.

Last week both Shapiro and Somin a 25-question quiz, based on the Judicial Clerkship Knowledge Quiz of the Honorable Danny J. Boggs.

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• Events Calendar

Thursday, December 2

Showing events after 12/2.

[Look for earlier events](#)

Thursday, December 2

Chanukah: 2 Candles

7:15am Minyan at Chabad

5:00pm Bethesda Happy Hour: Lig

7:00pm RJC Hanukkah Party

7:00pm Washington Jewish Film F

7:30pm Interfaith Gathering: Three

7:30pm 39 Melachot

Friday, December 3

Chanukah: 3 Candles

12:00pm Humor, Identity, and the H

4:28pm Candle lighting

5:00pm Rosh Pina Kabbalat Shabt

6:30pm Services and Free Dinner!

6:30pm Adas YP Shabbat happy h

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After the parties complete the written component, we will record a podcast with several oral questions. Following the oral component, I will announce the winner of the 2nd Annual Battle of the Ilyas competition (and I gather Justice Kagan, and not Justice Scalia, will get the [reference](#) in the title of this post.)

May the best Ilya win!

For those of you who wish to play at home, here are the [questions](#).

To vote on which Ilya you think will win, visit the original post.

This post originally appeared at [JoshBlackman.com](#). Josh Blackman is a recent graduate of George Mason University Law School. He is now president of [FantasySCOTUS.net](#) and [The Harlan Institute](#). He is still frequently seen at Mesorah DC Shabbat dinners at Sixth & I Synagogue.

Ilya Shapiro and Ilya Somin are also D.C. Jews; their bios are linked in this post. However, it bears mentioning that [Ilya Shapiro is a former Jewish Guy of the Week](#).

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Stephen Richer
Posted November 30, 2010 at 2:51 PM

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