Alison Dundes Renteln, Professor of Political Science, was Vice-Chair of the Department of Political Science from 1995-2001. She is a specialist in the areas of International Law/Human Rights, Comparative Legal Systems, Constitutional Law, and Legal and Political Theory. She joined the Department of Political Science in 1987.


An expert on cultural rights, including the use of the "cultural defense" in the legal system, Professor Renteln has lectured to judicial organizations and law enforcement groups on this subject. She served on the State Bar Commission on Access to Justice, the California Judicial Council Access and Fairness Advisory Committee, and the California Attorney General's Commission on Hate Crimes.

Professor Renteln received her B.A. from Harvard-Radcliffe in History and Literature, her Ph.D. in Jurisprudence and Social Policy from the University of California at Berkeley, and her J.D. from the University of Southern California Law Center.

In the News:
USC Chronicle 11/5/01: "Family Matters: A cultural defense"

Communication from former students:
Martin Dupuis: On Prof. Renteln's copy of his new book, Same-Sex Marriage, Legal Mobilization, & The Politics of Rights, Dupuis wrote: "Alison, you are a role model as a teacher and a scholar. Thank you so much."