

June 4, 2008

**Call for Papers**

**American Society of International Law  
International Economic Law Interest Group (IELIG)**

**2008 Biennial Interest Group Conference**

**THE POLITICS OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW: THE NEXT FOUR YEARS**

**George Washington University Law School  
Washington, D.C.**

**November 14-15, 2008**

- *Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly and applying the wrong remedies.*

- Groucho Marx

**I. Conference theme**

Ten days after the U.S. Presidential election, the ASIL International Economic Law Interest Group will convene in Washington, D.C., to discuss *the politics of international economic law*. After an election campaign that is sure to spotlight the intensifying relationship between international and domestic economic issues -- as seen in trade, exchange rates, investment, immigration, energy and regulation -- the focus will turn to the agenda for the new Administration's next four years.

We hope to have a dialogue on the interaction of politics and international economic law from practical, theoretical and empirical perspectives. How, for example, can and do politics influence international economic policy—like exchange rates and investment—and the structuring and application of international economic law? And how does international economic law and its institutional arrangements—like NAFTA and the WTO—shape and constrain politics at the national, regional and global levels? What role do we foresee for international economic law in the next administration, and what role for the next administration in the international economic arena? This conference aims to draw together researchers and practitioners at the leading edge of law, politics, economics, and public policy, providing both U.S. and diverse non-U.S. perspectives. We expect to host economic advisors from the Presidential campaigns and others involved in making international economic policy in Washington.

## II. Possible Sub-Themes

All paper proposals that conform to the general conference theme are welcome. We encourage proposals for papers from both young and established scholars and practitioners, whether active in law or policy. We seek innovative and stimulating approaches to the content of international economic law in its political setting. In addition to conventional paper proposals, the conference committee will consider full panel proposals as well as creative modes of presentation and discussion of the issues. The range of possible topics is wide – the list below is provided as a thought-starter of sub-themes identified by the conference committee:

- Making trade and investment policies: U.S. and comparative perspectives
- "It's NAFTA, stupid"? International economic policy and electoral politics in the '08 Presidential and Congressional elections
- Getting Doha Done: The politics of multilateral negotiations
- Litigation meets legislation: politics *of* and *in* the dispute settlement system
- The politics of investment: sovereign wealth funds and developed countries' reactions as host states
- The politics of investment dispute resolution: a search for legal stability?
- Economic regionalization and integration: How political is it? Where are we heading?
- The politics of teaching international economic law
- High and Low: Linkages between IEL and foreign policy
- Public-private-NGO alliances in legislation on international economic policy
- The Farm Bill, Corn and Ethanol: The politics of food and fuel in international economic law
- The politics of climate change legislation (including trade-related measures)
- How Much is that Money in the Window? The politics of currency manipulation
- Elephants, Dragons and Bears in the room: How emerging economies are changing the politics of IEL
- The confluence of politics in trade and labor issues, and other cross-over issues such as tax, investment, intellectual property and human rights

### III. Proposal Submission, Selection and Paper Publication

Paper proposals and all other program-related proposals must be submitted electronically by July 20, 2008 to [asilielig@live.com](mailto:asilielig@live.com). Proposals should include the author's name and full contact information, and an abstract of no more than 300 words.

The Conference Committee will review and select the proposals.

Committee Members are:

ASIL International Economic Interest Group Co-Chairs

Tomer Broude, Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Georgetown University Law Center  
Amy Porges, Sidley Austin LLP

Karen Bravo, Indiana University School of Law  
Rachel Brewster, Harvard Law School  
Marc Busch, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service  
Steve Charnovitz, George Washington University Law School  
Sungjoon Cho, Chicago-Kent School of Law  
Steven Fabry, Washington DC  
Susan Franck, Washington & Lee Law School  
R. Michael Gadbaw, Georgetown University Law Center  
Susan Karamanian, George Washington University Law School  
Claire Kelly, Brooklyn Law School  
Rafael Leal-Arcas, Queen Mary College, University of London  
Simon Lester, Worldtradelaw.net  
Joshua Meltzer, Washington DC  
Krista Nadakavukaren Schefer, World Trade Institute, Berne  
Sheila Ward, ASIL  
Richard Wilder, Microsoft Corp.

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Decisions regarding inclusion in the conference program will be sent by August 15, 2008. Paper contributors will be expected to provide full paper drafts by November 1, 2008. Generally, papers should not be longer than 12,000 words.

Conference papers will be published online as working papers prior to the conference, to facilitate discussion of their content. We intend conference sessions to be podcast on the ASIL website.

Post-conference publication is under consideration, either in the form of journal symposia or an edited volume. The results of previous two biennial IELIG conferences have been published as *TRADE AS THE GUARANTOR OF PEACE, LIBERTY, AND SECURITY? CRITICAL, HISTORICAL AND EMPIRICAL PERSPECTIVES*, Padideh Ala'i, Tomer Broude, & Colin Picker eds., ASIL Press, 2006;

and *INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW: THE STATE AND FUTURE OF THE DISCIPLINE*, Colin B. Picker, Isabella D. Bunn and Douglas W. Arner eds., Oxford: Hart Publishing, 2008.

#### **IV. Conference Details**

The conference will take place at George Washington University Law School, 2000 H St. NW, Washington, DC, on November 14-15, 2008. The conference site is centrally located in Washington, DC, near the White House and public transit. The registration fee for ASIL Members is expected to be approximately \$95. The organizers will provide contact information for a range of hotel accommodations at various price ranges conveniently located in the Washington, DC area. We will be applying for CLE credit for attendance in multiple jurisdictions.

#### **V. About the Interest Group**

The International Economic Law Interest Group promotes academic interest, discussion, research and publication on subjects broadly related to the transnational movement and regulation of goods, services, persons and capital. International law topics include trade law, investment law, economic integration law, private law, business regulation, financial law, tax law, intellectual property law and the role of law in development. The group provides a forum for interdisciplinary explorations of public and private international and municipal law, and is particularly interested in promoting the work and interests of new practitioners and scholars in the field. Its activities also include sponsoring panels at the ASIL Meeting and co-sponsoring conferences with allied organizations.

The Group's major focus of activity is to hold a biennial conference, framed by an open Call for Papers publicized to group members, the ASIL and the public. The group's conferences address current issues in international economic law, including the role and development of the multilateral trading system, the World Trade Organization, foreign investment and regional trade and investment agreements. The research papers generated by these conferences have regularly been published in law review symposia or in conference volumes, and are widely cited in international economic law scholarship.