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## MEDIA ADVISORY

### **ASIL HOSTS EVENT WITH AMBASSADORS FOR STATE DEPT'S**

### **NEW POST-CONFLICT CIVILIAN CORPS INITIATIVE**

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Society of International Law's (ASIL) Transitional Justice and Rule of Law Interest Group and the United States Institute for Peace International Network to Promote the Rule of Law (INPROL), in cooperation with the American Bar Association's Section of International Law, will host an evening program with US State Department Ambassadors for a new post-conflict civilian corps initiative by the US government. The event, entitled *Transitional Justice and Rule of Law and the Creation of the Civilian Response Corps U.S. Government Expeditionary Capacity*, will take place Thursday, **January 22, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**, at ASIL headquarters, **2223 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Washington, DC**. Members of the press are invited to attend by responding to [sward@asil.org](mailto:sward@asil.org).

Guest speakers will be **Ambassador John Herbst**, Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization, U.S. Department of State, and **Ambassador Clint Williamson**, Ambassador at Large for War Crimes Issues, U.S. Department of State.

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**Melanne Civic**, Senior Rule of Law Advisor, U.S. Department of State, Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization, Civilian Response Operations, and Co-Chair, ASIL Interest Group on Transitional Justice and Rule of Law, will moderate.

Lessons learned from Iraq, Afghanistan, the Balkans, and elsewhere have highlighted the importance of developing a U.S. government civilian ready capacity for reconstruction and stabilization (R&S), including, among other priority sectors, transitional justice, security, and rule of law. The Department of State is developing such a capacity in coordination with an initial seven other U.S. government executive agencies – USAID, Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Treasury Department.

The Civilian Response Corps (CRC) will be a group of full-time civilian federal employees from across several agencies in a combination of Active and Standby roles working on international R&S work. The CRC eventually plans to include experts from the private sector and state and local governments who will serve as CRC Reservists. The Corps members will be pre-vetted, pre-trained, and equipped to deploy rapidly to countries in crisis or emerging from conflict, as well as to participate in Washington- and regionally-based planning and collaborative civilian-military exercises, in order to provide coordinated reconstruction and stabilization assistance.

The Civilian Response Corps will work in coordination with the military, the UN, and other entities in the field. It will be comprised in large part of law enforcement and corrections officers, prosecutors and other justice and rule of law personnel, and war crimes and human rights experts. CRC members will serve as advisors and mentors to

local police, judges, and prosecutors and provide support for securing evidence of past crimes and atrocities committed during the conflict. In addition to rule of law experts, the Corps will include diplomats, development specialists, public health officials, engineers, economists, public administrators, agronomists, and others – to provide the full range of skills needed to help fragile states restore stability and achieve economic recovery and sustainable peace as quickly as possible.

In this ASIL program Ambassadors Herbst and Williamson will discuss their experiences and impressions of this critical area of reconstruction and stabilization and the importance and significance of establishing this new U.S. government expeditionary capacity. The event will begin with their presentations and then a brief question and answer session, followed by a reception. ASIL hosts such programs on an occasional basis as an informational service to bring experts on current international law topics together with those who have an interest in them.

ASIL is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational membership organization. It was founded in 1906, chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1950, and has held Category II Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations since 1993. ASIL's mission is to foster the study of international law and to promote the establishment and maintenance of international relations on the basis of law and justice. The Society's 4,000 members (from nearly 100 countries) comprise attorneys, academics, corporate counsel, judges, representatives of governments and nongovernmental organizations, international civil servants, students, and others interested in international law.

ASIL events, such as *Transitional Justice and Rule of Law and the Creation of*

*the Civilian Response Corps U.S. Government Expeditionary Capacity*, generally deal with one of the Society's seven thematic focal areas: Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, International Institutions, International Law and Development, International Security, Science and Technology, Trade and Investment, and Transnational Litigation and Arbitration. For more information, visit [www.asil.org](http://www.asil.org).