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MEDIA ADVISORY

ASIL COSPONSORS NORTH AMERICAN QUALIFYING ROUND OF INT'L CRIMINAL COURT TRIAL COMPETITION

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Society of International Law (ASIL), in cooperation with the Dutch Government and Pace University Law School, will cosponsor the North American qualifying round of the International Criminal Court (ICC) Trial Competition, January 30 - February 1, 2009. Members of the press are invited to attend the competition, taking place at the New York State Judicial Institute at Pace Law School, White Plains, NY.

The North American round is open to law students from the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The two highest scoring teams in the qualifying round will advance to next month's finals in The Hague (February 15-20, 2009) to compete against teams from the rest of the world.

The 30 competitors at Pace will argue a fictitious case on the legality of “an attack against a civilian population as such or against individual civilians not taking direct part in hostilities.” The event will begin with a kick off dinner featuring remarks by ASIL

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member and international criminal law expert **Michael Newton** on Friday, January 30, at 5:30 pm. Competitive rounds will take place throughout the day Saturday, January 31. The final rounds on Sunday, February 1, will be followed by a 2:00 pm lunch during which the winning team and other awards will be announced.

“It is an honor for ASIL to cosponsor the expansion of the Pace Moot Court competition, now in its fourth year, into the inaugural North American Qualifying Round for the ICC Trial Competition in The Hague,” said ASIL Executive Director **Elizabeth Andersen**. “I want to thank particularly the Dutch Embassy for the leadership and support that they have given to help make this happen.”

The North American round is being sponsored by the Dutch government through the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with Pace Law School, the University of Amsterdam, the American Society of International Law, and the International Criminal Law Network. The partnership was formally announced June 4, 2008, at a reception in Washington, DC, hosted by **Christiaan Kröner**, former Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United States.

“This competition brings together participants from all over the world, including countries like the United States that are not yet party to the ICC,” said **Frank Majoor**, the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations in New York, who will address the participating teams at the Sunday awards luncheon. “It is a unique opportunity to underline the importance of universality of the ICC, which is an essential player in reconciling justice and peace.”

Each team in the North American round will submit three short memorials (briefs) requiring the students to research and develop arguments based on the three participants

in ICC prosecutions, i.e. the Prosecution, the Defence, and the Victims' Advocates. These memorials will be evaluated by legal scholars, and prizes will be awarded for best brief, second place runner-up, and third place runner-up in each of the three categories of memorials. Points are awarded for oral presentations before judges, who are lawyers familiar with the field.

“Educating students about the kinds of atrocities committed throughout history, and how society now has decided to prosecute those responsible, is of the utmost importance as we prepare these students to be tomorrow’s practitioners,” said **Matthew E. B. Brotmann**, director of the Pace Law School ICC Moot. Brotmann also serves as a prosecutor for the Westchester District Attorney’s Office in New York State.

The ICC Trial Competition is one of the first such competitions in the world. The teams are under the instruction of legal associates and law school professors from the United States and abroad. Rules and regulations for participation are available on the ICC Trial Competition Web site at www.icc-trialcompetition.org/regulations.html. A schedule for the North American qualifying round and Pace Law School’s involvement can be found at www.law.pace.edu/icc.

Reporters who wish to cover the competition should notify Jennifer Riekert, Director of Marketing and Communications, Pace Law School, at (914) 422-4128 or jriekert@law.pace.edu. For more information about the Dutch Government’s support of the competition, contact Carla Bundy, Public Diplomacy Officer, The Royal Netherlands Embassy, at (202) 274-2632 or cy.bundy@minbuza.nl.

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 Pace Moot Court Competition, 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.