



The American Society of International Law

presents a book discussion on

Shaping Foreign Policy in Times of Crisis: The Role of International Law and the State Department Legal Adviser

**WHEN: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2010
5:00pm – 7:00pm**

WHERE: THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW
2223 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008
Metro: Dupont Circle

ASIL will host a book discussion on [*Shaping Foreign Policy in Times of Crisis: The Role of International Law and the State Department Legal Adviser*](#) with authors and ASIL members **Michael P. Scharf** and **Paul R. Williams**.

Shaping Foreign Policy in Times of Crisis: The Role of International Law and the State Department Legal Adviser grew out of a series of meetings that the authors convened with all ten of the living former U.S. State Department Legal Advisers (from the James Carter to the George W. Bush administrations). Based on the insider accounts of the role that international law played during the major crises of these administrations, the book explores whether international law is actual law or just a form of politics that policymakers are free to ignore when they perceive it to be in their interest to do so.

At this event, Scharf and Williams will share their findings and lead a discussion on the contemporary debate about the role of international law in times of crisis.

Following the discussion, the authors will be available to autograph the book, copies of which will be available for purchase at the discounted author price of \$20.

ASIL hosts programs such as this book discussion 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.

For more information or to register for this event,
members of the press should contact ASIL Director of
Communications Sheila Ward at sward@asil.org or +1-202-939-6018.
Non-reporters should instead [click here](#).

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