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**ASIL AND HARVARD LAW SCHOOL CONVENE JUDGES FOR
INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE**

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Society of International Law (ASIL), in conjunction with Harvard Law School, brought together judges and other experts to discuss best practices in transnational judicial dialogue at a conference December 1-2, 2006. Co-chaired by retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor and retired Constitutional Court of South Africa Justice Richard Goldstone, the conference convened more than 20 judges from international tribunals and domestic courts in countries ranging from Argentina to Egypt and the U.S. The meeting, held at Harvard, provided a forum designed to facilitate dialogue on strengthening international judicial networks and mechanisms for judicial consultation and cooperation.

“ASIL was pleased to be able to partner with Harvard Law School in convening this important meeting of judges and representatives from several major international legal and judicial organizations,” said ASIL Executive Director Elizabeth Andersen.

“This two-day program gave the group a rare opportunity to discuss issues and challenges common to judiciaries and judicial networks around the world, such as education, ethics, and institutional independence. We expect this gathering will be the first of many that

ASIL organizes to foster stronger global ties among members of the judiciary.”

The objectives of the meeting were three-fold: to generate peer-to-peer discussion of elements of modern judicial systems, the role of the judiciary in a democratic society, and interests of the profession around the world; to identify lessons learned and best practices in building effective judicial networks and mechanisms of communication and cooperation across borders; and to consider future initiatives for broadening and deepening transnational judicial dialogue and the participation of judges in the development of judicial reform agendas. Sessions entitled *Judicial Education and Knowledge in an Era of Globalization*, *Judicial Ethics and the Role of a Judge in a Democratic Society*, *Judicial Efficiency and Enforcement of Judgments*, *Current Challenges for Jurists and Judiciaries*, and *Perspectives on Judicial Dialogue and Cooperation* concentrated on questions including: Have increased networking, communication, and cooperation among judges and courts helped create an “invisible college of judges”?; To what extent have judicial networking projects had a sustainable impact on the strengthening of judicial independence and effectiveness?; and Can legal scholars and practitioners contribute to the effective and efficient functioning of judiciaries and support the development of judicial networks?

Participants in this ASIL-Harvard-sponsored event included judges from international tribunals and Supreme Courts and Constitutional Courts in Africa, the Asia Pacific region, Europe and Eurasia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, and North America. To see papers submitted by some of the conferees as well as a complete listing of participants and other conference-related materials visit <http://www.asil.org/judicial/transnational>.

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. For more information, visit www.asil.org.

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