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### **INTERNATIONAL LAW SOCIETY LAUNCHES ASIL-WEST**

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Society of International Law (ASIL), a leader in the study and promotion of international law since its founding on the east coast 100 years ago, is pleased to announce the launch of ASIL-West. ASIL-West is a pilot project designed to enhance the Society’s regional presence in the western United States.

The ASIL-West project took shape in fall 2006 at a gathering of ASIL members hosted by the Society’s Vice President **David D. Caron**, a law professor at the University of California-Berkeley. He, along with ASIL members **Diane Marie Amann**, a law professor at the University of California-Davis, and **J. Kirk Boyd**, a long-time human rights lawyer and co-director of the Berkeley-based International Convention on Human Rights Research Project, will co-chair this new ASIL entity.

“After years of institutional thinking about ways in which ASIL could extend its reach and impact to the western half of the country, it is a delight to be realizing this dream through the formation of ASIL-West,” said ASIL Executive Director Elizabeth Andersen. “The time for this pilot project has come, and thanks to the vision, commitment, and efforts of these West-coast-based leaders in the Society, I am most enthusiastic about the prospects for its success.”

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The goal of ASIL-West will be to bring together academicians, members of the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) community, and private and public sector practitioners of international law in the western US. To that end, the leaders of ASIL-West plan on adding a representative from the private sector to their group.

ASIL-West events will range from sponsorship of conferences to receptions with judges, executive officials, and non-lawyers whose work touches on international law and policy. Also planned is educational outreach to the news media; to high school, college, and law students; and to the public at large.

During its first year, ASIL-West's efforts will focus on Northern California. Quick geographic expansion, however, is anticipated, and eventually the project will serve as a regional hub for ASIL members throughout the western states. All ASIL members living or working in the western US are invited to join ASIL-West. For information on becoming a member of the Society, visit [www.asil.org](http://www.asil.org).

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 (NGOs), international civil servants, students, and others interested in international law. To learn more about ASIL, visit [www.asil.org](http://www.asil.org).

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