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MEDIA ADVISORY

BRIEFING: THE MILITARY COMMISSIONS ACT & INTERNATIONAL LAW

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Society of International Law (ASIL) will host a briefing for members of the press and public on *The Military Commissions Act and International Law*, **Friday, March 30, 10:00-11:00 a.m.**, at the **National Press Club**, Lisagor Room, 529 14th St, NW, Washington, DC.

As the first cases are prepared for the US government's Military Commissions, and the Military Commissions Act comes under scrutiny in the courts and in Congress, ASIL is publishing a series of essays on the Act and its compliance with and implications for international law. The essays, published in the latest and upcoming issues of the *American Journal of International Law (AJIL)*, cover a range of issues raised by the Military Commissions Act, including whether the law complies with the Geneva Conventions; how it affects the authority of US courts to enforce those Conventions; the possible impact of the law on US counter-terror operations; and lessons learned from past military commission trials. The contributing writers are among the leading scholars in the field, and five of them will share their expertise with members of the press and public on this significant, emerging issue in international law.

The panelists, all ASIL members, will be Harvard Law School Professor **Detlev F. Vagts**, author of "Military Commissions: A Concise History"; George Washington

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University Law School Professor **Michael Matheson**, author of “The Amendment of the War Crimes Act”; UCLA Law School Professor **Jack M. Beard**, author of “The Geneva Boomerang: The Military Commissions Act of 2006 & U.S. Counter-terror Operations”; Georgetown University Law Center Professor **Carlos M. Vasquez**, author of “The Military Commissions Act, the Geneva Conventions, and the Courts: A Critical Guide”; and Duke Law School Professor **Curtis Bradley**, author of “The Military Commissions Act, the Geneva Conventions, and Congressional Intent.” Columbia University Law School Professor and *AJIL* Board of Editors Co-Chair **Lori Fisler Damrosch** will moderate.

Copies of the *AJIL* will be available at the briefing, and continental-style breakfast will be served. Questions about the event should be directed to Sheila Ward, ASIL Manager of External Relations, sward@asil.org, 202-309-0510.

ASIL events generally deal with one of the Society’s seven program 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. 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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