



2223 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20008-2864  
(202) 939-6000 • Fax: (202) 797-7133  
[www.asil.org](http://www.asil.org)

For Release: April 9, 2007  
Contact: Sheila Ward

+1.202.939.6018 direct  
+1.202.309.0510 cell  
[sward@asil.org](mailto:sward@asil.org)

### **ASIL'S LIEBER SOCIETY PRESENTS 2007 PRIZES**

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Society of International Law's (ASIL) Lieber Society on the Law of Armed Conflict presented two prizes at ASIL's recent 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting: the **Francis Lieber Prize**, which has been awarded by the group for the past three years, and the newly established **Lieber Society Military Prize**, given for the first time this year.

#### **Francis Lieber Prize**

The Lieber Prize is awarded annually by the Lieber Society to an author under 35 years of age for outstanding scholarship in the field of the law and armed conflict. This year's award goes to Dr. **Laura Perna**, formerly of the University of Essex, for her book *The Formation of the Treaty Law of Non-International Armed Conflicts*. The book was published by Martinus Nijhoff in 2006 as part of its International Humanitarian Law Series. This is the third consecutive year that a contribution to the series has been so recognized.

"In her book Dr. Perna traces the processes that led – and continue to lead – to the formation of treaty norms applicable in non-international armed conflicts," said Lieber Prize Committee Chair Professor Michael Schmitt. "The work is of particular

-MORE-

importance in its suggestion that the reluctance of States to accept treaty limits on non-international armed conflict, lest they appear to legitimize the actions of the non-State fighters, did not necessitate avoidance of rules regarding weapons and the conduct of hostilities. It thereby adds context to ongoing and future efforts to craft norms to govern non-international armed conflict in ways that are consistent with military necessities and the constraints of domestic and international political concerns,” Schmitt said. “In this regard, Dr. Perna's work offers far more than excellent scholarship; it represents a meaningful contribution to the development of international law.”

### **Lieber Society Military Prize**

With its initiation this year, the Lieber Society Military Prize recognizes a paper or article that significantly enhances the understanding and implementation of the law of war. The award will be given annually for exceptional writing in English by a member of the regular or reserve armed forces, without regard to nationality.

The winner of the first Lieber Society Military Prize is Lieutenant Colonel **Eric Talbot Jensen**, U.S. Army, for his paper "**Combatant Status: It Is Time for Intermediate Levels of Recognition for Partial Compliance.**" LTC Jensen is currently the Chief of the International Law Branch, Office of the Judge Advocate General, U.S. Army. His article was originally published in the May 2006 issue of the *Virginia Journal of International Law*.

LTC Jensen's paper was among 25 submitted by military authors from the United States, Australia, Germany, Switzerland, Canada, and Israel. For this competition, papers addressing practical problems confronting members of armed forces were preferred. Issues addressed included the use of force in international law, the conduct of hostilities

during international and non-international armed conflicts, protected persons and protected objects, rules of engagement, the treatment of detainees, and occupation law.

In addition to LTC Jensen, two other authors were winners of Certificates of Merit: Major **Simon W. Lee**, Australian Army Reserve, for his paper "**Making a Killing on the Battlefield: Private Military Companies and their status under International Law**," and Lieutenant Commander **Gregory Raymond Bart**, JAGC, U.S. Navy, for his paper "**The Ambiguous Protection of Schools under the Law of War – Time for Parity with Hospitals and Religious Buildings.**" Major Lee is a former Australian Army Regular Legal Officer, currently a Reserve Legal Officer attached to the Headquarters of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade in Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia. LCDR Bart is currently serving in the Office of the Judge Advocate General of the Navy, International-Operational Law Division/Code 10. He lives in Washington, D.C.

For information concerning ASIL's Lieber Society, write to its Chair, Professor Dennis Mandsager at [dennis.mandsager@nwc.navy.mil](mailto:dennis.mandsager@nwc.navy.mil). For information on the Lieber Prize, write to Professor Schmitt at [schmitt@aya.yale.edu](mailto:schmitt@aya.yale.edu), and on the Lieber Military Prize to Colonel Sherrod Bumgardner, USMC (Ret.), at [slb3103@mac.com](mailto:slb3103@mac.com).

ASIL Interest Groups, such as the Lieber Society, are organized by ASIL members for focused activity in particular fields of international law. The Lieber Society serves as ASIL's focal point for the study of and dissemination of information about the law of armed conflict (international humanitarian law) and other public international law related to the conduct of military operations. The Lieber Society facilitates dialogue by bringing together academics and governmental and non-governmental practitioners, civilian and military, from the United States and throughout the world. In addition to its

prize program, the group fulfills its mission by sponsoring panel discussions; publishing a quarterly newsletter; co-sponsoring symposia; and sharing and critiquing ideas, research, and papers.

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](http://www.asil.org).