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MEDIA ADVISORY

ASIL CO-SPONSORS DISCUSSION OF “THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT”: DARFUR AND BEYOND

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Society of International Law (ASIL), in conjunction with the American Bar Association’s International Law Section and the United Nations Association-National Capital Area, will sponsor the discussion *Human Rights and the Responsibility to Protect: Darfur and Beyond* on Thursday, April 12, 2007, 4:00 – 5:30 pm. The event, with reception following, will take place at ASIL headquarters, 2223 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC. Members of the press and public are invited to attend by registering at <http://www.asil.org/event0412/>.

The principle discussant will be **Lee Feinstein**, Senior Fellow for US Foreign Policy and International Law at the Council on Foreign Relations, who wrote the recently published book *Darfur and Beyond: What is Needed to Prevent Mass Atrocities* (<http://www.cfr.org/publication/12444/>). **Nicholas Michel**, UN Under-Secretary for Legal Affairs, and **Todd Buchwald**, US State Department Assistant Legal Advisor for UN Affairs, will respond to Feinstein’s presentation. The panel will then take questions from the audience.

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The context for this event is the “Responsibility of States to Protect” doctrine, endorsed at the September 2005 UN World Summit. According to it, a state’s population should be protected from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. May 2006 endorsement of the doctrine by the UN General Assembly and Security Council placed these serious crimes on par with other threats to international peace and security, as defined in the UN Charter. This significant development in international law requires that sovereignty be perceived as a responsibility of states to the international community and not as an absolute right.

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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