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ASIL TRACKS U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE VIEWS OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW – NEW WEBSITE FEATURES CANDIDATE
STATEMENTS, SURVEY RESPONSES

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Society of International Law (ASIL) today launched a new section of its website entitled *International Law 2008*, at www.asil.org/il08. The resource is being launched as the primary voting nears, and it aims to provide members of the public and press with comprehensive, timely, and reliable information on U.S. presidential candidates’ stands related to international legal issues.

International Law 2008 features three key components: a collection of candidates’ policy statements and speeches on topics related to international law (such as counter-terrorism, trade, and weapons of mass destruction); a candidate survey through which nominees elaborate their views about the role of international law in U.S. foreign policy; and “Leadership Views,” featuring commentary by ASIL Executive Council members, identifying the most important international law-related issues facing the next U.S. administration.

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Survey responses have been received from candidates Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, and Barack Obama and are viewable at www.asil.org/il08. Additional responses will be posted as they are received.

Excerpts from the surveys include the following candidate comments.

Hillary Clinton:

- “As President, I will make reform of the human rights system a priority of the United States.”
- “I will double the enforcement staff at the U.S. Trade Representative and I will appoint a trade enforcement officer.... I will also extend Trade Adjustment Assistance eligibility to service workers, extend eligibility to workers whose jobs have moved overseas to countries like India and China with which we do not have free trade agreements, and double the program’s training budget. I will also increase the Health Coverage Tax Credit subsidy to 90% from 65% to ensure that displaced workers can afford health insurance.”
- “As President, I will build bipartisan support to secure ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.... I will also seek Senate approval of the CEDAW treaty, the most authoritative UN negotiated treaty to protect women around the world from discrimination.”

John Edwards:

- “The United States should join the International Criminal Court.”
- “As president, I will create the Counterterrorism and Intelligence Treaty Organization (CITO).... Going beyond institutions designed for an earlier age, CITO will meet today’s threats by providing more complete intelligence sharing and allied response

cells to perform security operations.”

- “We need to strengthen the Geneva Conventions to ensure that they fully address challenges presented by modern threats like terrorism while fulfilling their original goals.”
- “I will also renegotiate NAFTA to make sure it works for workers in all three countries.”

Barack Obama:

- “There are a number of meritorious treaties currently pending before the Senate. Some of these are clearly in the national interest, such as the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. As president, I will make it my priority to build bipartisan consensus behind ratification of such treaties.”
- “I have laid out a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy that includes establishing a Shared Security Partnership Program to invest \$5 billion over three years to improve cooperation between U.S. and foreign intelligence and law enforcement agencies.”
- “I believe that the United States can detain and interrogate suspected terrorists - lawfully and humanely -- without amending the laws of war... We should be championing the Geneva Conventions, instead of looking for ways to evade or rewrite them.”

Commenting on the new website ASIL Executive Director Elizabeth Andersen said, “*International Law 2008* is an exciting, innovative project for the Society. Our

mission is to promote discussion, debate, and study of international law, and I can think of no more important context in which to do so than the current U.S. Presidential race. We hope that the site will be a resource to the candidates, the media, and voters throughout the coming year.”

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.