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For Release: May 13, 2008  
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### **ASIL LEADER RECEIVES LEARNED SOCIETY HONOR**

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Society of International Law (ASIL) is pleased to announce that its long-time member and patron **Judge Theodor Meron** has won the 2008 Charles Homer Haskins Prize from the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS, [www.acls.org](http://www.acls.org)). Judge Meron, the first lawyer ever to receive the Haskins Prize, is an appeals Judge of the United Nations Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda as well as past President of the former. He is also a Professor of Law Emeritus and Judicial Fellow at New York University Law School.

As part of the honor, Meron delivered the Haskins Prize Lecture at the ACLS Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA, on May 9, 2008. ACLS inaugurated the Haskins Prize lecture series, entitled “A Life of Learning,” in 1983 to honor Charles Homer Haskins, the first chairman of the ACLS. The lectures are designed to “commemorate the ACLS tradition of active engagement in scholarship, [and] the lecturer is asked ‘to reflect on a lifetime of work as a scholar and an institution builder, on the motives, the chance determinations, the satisfactions (and dissatisfactions) of the life of learning, to explore through one’s own life the larger, institutional life of scholarship.’” ACLS's Executive

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Committee of Delegates selects each year's Haskins lecturer from nominations provided by members of the ACLS community. ASIL was admitted to ACLS in 1971.

Judge Meron first joined ASIL in that same year and from 1993 to 1998 was Co-Editor-in-Chief of its flagship publication, the *American Journal of International Law*, of which he is now an honorary editor. In 2001 Meron was elected to the UN Tribunal where he serves on the Appeals Chamber, which hears appeals from both the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. From 2003 to 2005 Meron served as President of the Tribunal.

A leading scholar of international humanitarian law, human rights, and international criminal law, Meron has written some of the publications that helped build the legal foundations for international criminal tribunals. His books include *Human Rights Law-Making in the United Nations* (Oxford University Press 1986; awarded ASIL's Certificate of Merit); *Human Rights and Humanitarian Norms as Customary Law* (Oxford University Press 1989); *Bloody Constraint: War and Chivalry in Shakespeare* (Oxford University Press 1998); *War Crimes Law Comes of Age: Essays* (Oxford University Press 1998), and *International Law In the Age of Human Rights* (Martinus Nijhoff 2004). His latest book *The Humanization of International Law* appeared in 2006 (Hague Academy of International Law and Nijhoff).

Judge Meron served as Counselor on International Law to the Department of State. He is a member of the Institute of International Law and of the Council on Foreign Relations. In 2006 he received ASIL's prestigious Manley O. Hudson Medal and in 2005 received the Rule of Law Award of the International Bar Association. Meron has served

as a member of expert committees of the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as on the advisory bodies of several human rights organizations, including Americas Watch and the International League for Human Rights. In 1998, he served as a member of the U.S. Delegation to the Rome Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (ICC) and was involved in drafting the provisions on crimes, including war crimes and crimes against humanity. He has also served on the preparatory commission for the establishment of the ICC, with particular responsibilities for the definition of the crime of aggression.

ASIL Executive Director Elizabeth Andersen commented on the award saying, “We applaud ACLS’s superb choice and congratulate Judge Meron on this well-deserved recognition of his significant contributions to our field.”

A biographical sketch of Meron is available at <http://69.94.11.53/ENGLISH/factsheets/meron.htm>, and copies of his Haskins Prize speech are available on request.

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).

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