



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 10, 2009  
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 2009 PRIZES**

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Society of International Law's (ASIL) Lieber Society on the Law of Armed Conflict presented three prizes at ASIL's recent 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting: two **Francis Lieber Prizes** and a **Lieber Society Military Prize**.

#### **Francis Lieber Prize**

Since 2004, the Lieber Prize has been awarded annually to an author less than 35 years of age for outstanding scholarship in the field of the law of armed conflict. This year, for the first time, the Lieber Society selected prizes for two separate categories: book and article. This year's book award was given to **Guénaél Mettraux** of the International Criminal Law Bureau for his work **The Law of Command Responsibility** (Oxford University Press, 2009). **Grant T. Harris** of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations was awarded the second Lieber Prize for his article "**Human Rights, Israel, and Political Realities of Occupation**" (Israel Law Review, Vol. 41, 2008).

#### **Lieber Society Military Prize**

The Lieber Society Military Prize recognizes a paper or article that significantly enhances the understanding and implementation of the law of war. The prize, given for the third time this year, is awarded for exceptional writing in English by an active duty or

retired member of the regular or reserve armed forces, regardless of nationality. This year's Lieber Society Military Prize went to Major **Jeffrey S. Thurnher** of the United States Army for his essay "**Drowning in Blackwater.**"

In addition to Major Thurnher, two other authors were cited for excellence with Certificates of Merit: United States Navy Commander **David W. Glazier** (Ret.) for the essay "**If I Could Turn Back Time: Re-lawyering the 'War on Terror'**" and Commander **Andrew Murdoch** of the United Kingdom Royal Navy for his essay "**Forcible Interdiction of Ships Transporting Terrorists.**"

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.

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 **Michael 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 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).

#####