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**ASIL RESOURCE RELATED TO CONFIRMATION HEARING FOR
STATE DEPT LEGAL ADVISER NOMINEE**

WASHINGTON, DC –The American Society of International Law (ASIL), on the eve of confirmation hearings for its member and Yale Law School Dean **Harold Koh**, has made available online a report by a joint, ad hoc committee on the role of the US State Department Legal Adviser, the top counsel to the Secretary of State. Although first published in 1991, the article summarizes the Legal Adviser’s duties and powers in a way that remains valid and useful today. The document can be accessed at www.asil.org/legaladvisersrole.

The product of a collaborative effort between the Society and the American Branch of the International Law Association (ABILA), the report appeared in the Society’s flagship publication, the *American Journal of International Law*. The report not only outlines the primary responsibilities of the Legal Adviser but also makes recommendations for the further evolution of that office. Specific areas covered by the report are “Compliance with International Law,” “The Legal Adviser’s Special Role regarding U.S. Participation in the International Legal System,” “The Conflict between the Legal Adviser’s Different Responsibilities,” “The Role of the Legal Adviser vis-à-vis

Other U.S. Government Attorneys,” “Should the Legal Adviser Have Prior Experience in International Law?,” “Enhancing the Legal Adviser’s Influence,” “The Legal Adviser and the International Law Profession,” and “The Legal Adviser and Public Attitudes towards International Law.”

This joint ASIL-ABILA committee consisted of 34 members: nine former Legal Advisers, one former US President’s counsel, and other US government officials, academicians, and private attorneys. The Advisory Group to the Committee included two former US Secretaries of State, a former US Attorney General, and other former US government officials, former legal advisers to other countries, and foreign academics.

For more details about the report or to speak with an ASIL member expert on the role and duties of the Legal Adviser, contact Sheila Ward, ASIL Director of Communications and Member Relations, at sward@asil.org or 1-202-939-6018.

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.