



## From Insight to Impact: The Society's New Strategic Plan

Joint column from ASIL President Mélida Hodgson and Executive Director Michael D. Cooper

This is a volatile and uncertain time for the rules-based international legal order. In this moment, the Society's mission—to foster the study of international law and to promote the establishment and maintenance of international relations on the basis of law and justice—has never been more critical.



The Society's Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Steven Hill and Elchi Nowrojee, presented to President Mélida Hodgson its Interim Report in November 2024, and on April 16, 2025, will deliver its Final Report. The Final Report is intended to guide the American Society of International Law toward becoming a stronger, more effective organization, fit for purpose, and ready to meet the challenges of our time.

The Committee spent more than a year engaged in a broad and inclusive consultative process to assess ASIL's current situation and to identify a path forward. Many of the challenges that the Society faces are also shared by its peer organizations. However, the fact that these challenges are shared makes them no less real—or less critical to overcome—if ASIL is not only to survive but to thrive.

Above all, ASIL's financial position—and thus its capacity to meet the moment—remains precarious. Traditional income sources are under extreme pressure, either declining or expected to decline. To be clear, at the outset, the recommendations of the Strategic Planning Committee cannot move forward unless the Society identifies significant new financial resources, a task that will require both commitment and creativity.

The challenges outlined in the report are serious but surmountable. They require that thoughtful, focused action be taken now to ensure the Society's long-term health. For over a century, members of the Society have been the architects of the modern international legal order. With fundamental principles of that international order now contested, the Society is in a unique position to meet these challenges head on.

Approaching its 125th anniversary, the American Society of International Law will amplify its voice and increase its social impact. To advance its long-standing core mission, the Society

should focus on three overriding goals, namely, unlocking new insights, engaging new audiences, and meeting new challenges.

These three strategic goals intersect with one another to generate measurable impact. For each of the three strategic goals the committee has identified several specific objectives designed to ensure their advancement and eventual realization.

### Unlocking New Insights

ASIL will leverage its position as a thought leader in the field of international law to unlock new insights through dialogue and debate among practitioners, academics, policymakers, and the private sector.

In the face of artificial intelligence, open access, and other ongoing changes in the publishing field, the Society must safeguard its publications, securing the *American Journal of International Law* as the field's primary locus of knowledge creation.

Likewise, ASIL will also elevate its flagship Annual Meeting to new heights, while at the same time hosting more cross-disciplinary, cross-border convenings to foster engagement. Through academic discourse and convenings both public and private, the Society will widen its geographic reach and engage diverse stakeholders from across the political spectrum, projecting its impressive convening power far beyond the beltway.

### Engaging New Audiences

If the Society is to advance its mission, new audiences must be engaged. ASIL will continue to cultivate a diverse group of

## INSIDE

### Presidential Statement

4

### 2025 Book Awards

5

### IG & Chapter News

7

### Annual Meeting

10

## Joint column from ASIL President Mélida Hodgson and Executive Director

**Michael D. Cooper** —*continued from page 1*

members with expertise in international law from across the globe, including Africa, Asia, and the Global South.

Beyond expanding membership, the Society must also expand outreach to external stakeholders invested in the success of its mission. Committed to its role as a public educator, ASIL will create and curate timely educational and expert content in collaboration with members and partners.

Focused events will enable the Society to target specific audiences, such as corporate counsel, legal advisors to government and international institutions, and high-level national and international courts. To reach new audiences, ASIL must create a comprehensive communications plan, distribute the value of its varied content across multiple communications channels, increase its capacity for real-time engagement with pressing issues, and upgrade its marketing and communications infrastructure.

In addition, the Society must explore, secure, and leverage formal affiliations and partnerships with institutions that provide access to discrete external audiences. To reach targeted lay audiences, the Society will also reimagine its “100 Ways” initiative.

### **Meeting New Challenges**

Existential threats, such as climate change, global pandemics, and the increasing threat of a nuclear exchange, sit alongside emerging threats such as artificial intelligence, an accelerating populist fascination with autocracy, and the reemergence of revanchist foreign policies.

Leaning into its position as a trusted expert, ASIL will harness the power and expertise of its exceptional membership to inform international law discourse with practical, nonpartisan, research-based information on a range of challenges facing the globe.

ASIL can achieve this, for example, by developing a resident and nonresident fellowship program focused on cutting-edge international law issues, intervening across the international law and policy landscape in a more active, focused manner, and engaging early and often with the next generation of leaders, including the students of our academic partners as well as young people engaged in the final international rounds, of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition.

### **Implementing the Strategic Plan**

The Strategic Planning Committee recognized that to advance these three strategic goals, the Society must strengthen its operations, including its long-term financial sustainability, its governance structures, and the administrative capacity of its professional staff. Toward this end, the report sets forth a number of specific recommendations.

ASIL’s current financial trajectory is unsustainable, and the Society must move onto firmer financial ground. Accordingly, the Committee recommends the commissioning a professional feasibility study to plan implementation of a capital (or “comprehensive”) campaign, and the creation of a “Friends of ASIL” entity that will invite philanthropic support from those who may not become members of the Society, but who nonetheless support the Society’s mission and can contribute to the growth of ASIL’s endowment.

The Committee was surprised to uncover the true running costs of Tillar House, while at the same time, acknowledging that its programmatic use has declined in recent years. It was recommended that the Society convene a Headquarters Committee, including expert external advisors, to evaluate the best course of action. Recognizing the historic, symbolic, and sentimental value of Tillar House, its intimate relationship with the core identity of the Society, the Committee suggested that if the Society is determined to maintain Tillar House as its headquarters for the next one hundred years, it must be prepared both to use Tillar House wisely and to take care of Tillar House properly.

Successful implementation of the strategic plan will likely require changes across the Society’s organizational structure, decision-making processes, capabilities, culture, and systems. Committee recommendations include a systemic review of ASIL’s Constitution and Regulations to identify anomalies, anachronisms, and other conflicts for the purpose of updating these documents. Likewise, the Society’s substantial work to date on diversity, equity, and inclusion must be further advanced in a practical and meaningful manner to support and align with strategic goals and objectives.

Finally, the Society must devote resources to retention, skills acquisition, and professional development of current staff, help to set clearer priorities for the staff, and map a long-term staffing plan to build out the administrative support structures needed to advance strategic goals. Likewise, ASIL must invest in its capacity to generate accurate, actionable, real-time data across a broad range of metrics, and invest in an intentional and systemic manner in innovation. These and other recommendations found in the report will help the Society to implement and advance the strategic goals and objectives.

### **Conclusion**

The American Society of International Law was founded in 1906—before ChatGPT, the World Wide Web, and iPhones. Before quantum computing and blockchain, laptops and PCs. Before Netflix, YouTube, Google, blogs, podcasts, television, and broadcast radio. Before satellites and self-driving cars, lasers, tanks, fighter jets, and ballistic missiles.

—*continued on page 3*

## Joint column from ASIL President Mélida Hodgson and Executive Director

**Michael D. Cooper** —*continued from page 2*

The Society has stood the test of time. Its mission remains unaltered, as do its core contributions to the field of international law—the Annual Meeting, the *American Journal of International Law*, and the extraordinary community of practice ASIL has engendered. Yet, even as the Society has remained true to its mission, the world around ASIL has changed dramatically.

For its long-term health, the Society must take concrete steps to achieve the three strategic goals set forth in this report—unlocking new insights, engaging new audiences, and meeting new challenges. Success will demand sustained effort over a five-year time horizon; not everything can be accomplished immediately.

The talent of ASIL’s loyal members and capable staff must be strategically deployed, and the membership pipeline expanded and stewarded. The Society’s assets must be protected, and after nearly 120 years, its precarious financial position must be secured. To that end, the endowment must be grown dramatically, and new revenue sources secured.

After 18 months of investigation, consultation, and deliberation, the Strategic Planning Committee has arrived at these conclu-

sions with a sense of both optimism and urgency. Today, the international legal order that the Society’s members have helped to design and construct over the last 120 years faces existential challenges.

As a Society of well over 4,000 members from more than 100 countries devoted to the shared mission of fostering the study of international law and promoting the establishment and maintenance of international relations on the basis of law and justice, ASIL is uniquely suited to play a lead role in sustaining the international legal order.

To our extraordinary, dedicated, and indefatigable members, the future of the American Society of International Law is now in your hands.

The Final Report of the Strategic Planning Committee can be found at [asil.org/FinalSPReport](https://asil.org/FinalSPReport).

*Mélida Hodgson and Michael D. Cooper*

## Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

The Strategic Planning Committee undertook a far-reaching analysis of ASIL’s **S**trengths, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities, and **T**hreats. The “SWOT” analysis integrated several inputs, including discovery sessions, focus groups, small group and one-on-one interviews as well as a survey conducted over four weeks in the spring of 2024 and distributed to nearly 3,500 members. The SWOT analysis closely informed Committee’s Final Report.

### Strengths

- A strong brand and long history establish ASIL as a trusted authority in the field.
- The Society’s global network and convenings foster collaboration and inclusiveness.
- ASIL’s flagship publications lead the field of international legal scholarship.
- ASIL members, drawn from across the globe, truly are the world’s leading experts.

### Weaknesses

- Convenings are sometimes perceived as disconnected from issues of public concern.
- The Society’s long-standing ethos of neutrality can feed an impression of irrelevance.

- Broad scope and lack of defined priorities can compromise capacity for social impact.
- Perception of ASIL as an “insiders’ club” has abated but more progress must be made.

### Opportunities

- Position ASIL as the champion of international law at a time when it is most needed.
- Empower members to make timely contributions aimed at pressing legal issues.
- Exploit the untapped market of funding from like-minded individuals and institutions.
- See international law in crisis as an opportunity for innovation and adaptation.

### Threats

- International law and international institutions face growing global skepticism.
- Online social networks have diminished the value of membership organizations.
- The changing media environment can make it harder to get ASIL’s message heard.
- An increasingly crowded nonprofit space creates a competitive funding landscape.

## Presidential Statement

On February 13, 2025, ASIL President Mérida Hodgson released a statement regarding the United States and the International Rule of Law. The statement is printed below and can be found on the ASIL website at [asil.org/press](https://asil.org/press).

*Founded in 1906 by U.S. Secretary of State Elihu Root, the American Society of International Law has advanced a vision of international relations based on two simple ideas—law and justice. Indeed, working together for nearly 120 years, the members of our Society have been architects of the modern international legal order.*

*That legal order is now under direct assault, both at home and abroad. The list of U.S. initiatives that undermine the international legal order is long and includes: the proposed forcible transfer of two million Palestinians out of Gaza; direct threats to the sovereignty and integrity of a growing list of countries and territories; the abrupt and procedurally flawed withdrawal from international institutions and instruments, such as the World Health Organization and the Paris Agreement on climate change; disregard for binding legal obligations to asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants; as well as the retraction of foreign aid allocated by the U.S. Congress—assistance*

*that relieves suffering, saves lives, advances American values, and makes Americans safer.*

*Moreover, the use of sanctions against the International Criminal Court to punish people working to safeguard international law is pernicious, especially given that such sanctions were rejected by the U.S. Congress. Those working with and for the International Criminal Court, a court designed to exact accountability for the most egregious crimes—genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression—perform a function critical to the free world. These sanctions directly affect members of our Society and their families, and more broadly, they have a chilling effect on freedom of speech and association for those who work in the field of international criminal justice, whether as attorneys, academics, or government officials.*

*The United States has led the world in constructing an international legal framework that reflects American values, nurturing broader peace and prosperity. This retreat from international law is an unparalleled abdication of American responsibility and leaves a vacuum that will only invite chaos, conflict, and violence, ultimately weakening the United States. Our Society remains committed to a more peaceful and just world under international law.*

## Essay

### Teaching the Law in a Lawless World

David M. Crane

In an era characterized by significant political upheaval the challenges of teaching law become both more profound and complex. The disregard for established federal law, the threats to constitutional principles, and a reconfiguration of international rules-based order towards peace and security all serve to create a landscape where the very foundation of the legal system feels precarious. How do educators impart the crucial lessons of law, justice, and ethical governance in a world that appears to be drifting away from the rule of law?

#### The State of the Law Today

The legal landscape is noticeably shifting. With the erosion of traditional norms, the rise of unilateral action in foreign policy, and a palpable skepticism of federal authority, law students are confronted with an uncertain reality. The traditional sources of legal authority—judicial decisions, statutes, and international agreements—are at risk of being overshadowed by a narrative that prioritizes power over principles. The once steadfast pillars of the rule of law seem increasingly fragile when public officials opt for expediency over legality in their decision-making processes.

### Navigating the Curriculum

Teaching law in such a tumultuous environment requires a reevaluation of our pedagogical approaches. Here are several suggested strategies to consider that might yield effectiveness (this is not an exhaustive list):

1. **Emphasizing Critical Thinking:** Rather than merely conveying legal doctrines, an emphasis on critical analysis equips students to question existing legal frameworks. Engaging them in discussions about current events and their legal implications fosters an understanding of the law's relevance, its strengths, and its vulnerabilities.
2. **Historical Contextualization:** Exploring historical movements of law and governance can illustrate how societies have grappled with similar issues in the past. By studying moments of constitutional crisis, civil rights movements, and approaches to international law, students can better appreciate both the resilience and fragility of the rule of law.
3. **Teaching Ethical Considerations:** The erosion of the rule of law necessitates a stronger focus on ethics. Encouraging students to consider not just what the law permits, but what is just and moral, creates a generation of lawyers who are not merely practitioners but stewards of a higher legal ideal.

—continued on page 5



**Essay** —continued from page 4

4. **Global Perspectives:** In a world where the U.S. is shifting away from international norms, understanding global law becomes crucial. Students should learn about other legal systems, the impact of international agreements, and the importance of multilateralism. This sets the stage for a legal education that transcends parochial concerns.
5. **Simulations and Practical Experiences:** Incorporating simulations of real-world scenarios where the law is contested allows students to engage actively with the complexities of legal practice. These experiences can emphasize the importance of advocacy, negotiation, and the role of law in societal protection.

**Encouraging Civic Engagement**

Legal education should not exist in a vacuum. Encouraging students to engage with their communities, advocate for the rule of law, and understand the social implications of legal decisions can foster a sense of responsibility. Grounding students in the necessity of civic involvement can empower them to not only critique the state of the law but also strive for its advancement.

**Open Communication and Dialog**

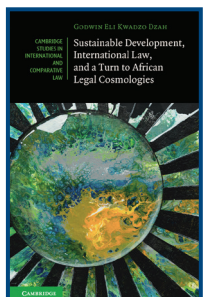
Teaching the law is a two-way street—teacher and student. Ensuring and maintaining an ability to discuss the changing legal landscape in an honest and open manner is important. Students should be taught to question, to develop a moral focus and compass, to look for avenues to enhance and strengthen the rule of law. Methodologies where faculty and staff have a program for individual and collective dialog about the shifting concept of the rule of law and a student’s place in a changing legal profession is essential in their learning process. Both faculty and students need to have a space to vent their concerns and perspectives in a non-threatening and safe manner.

Teaching law in a world that increasingly disregards the law poses significant challenges, but also unique opportunities. By fostering critical thinking, emphasizing the ethical dimensions of legal practice, and connecting students to historical and global narratives, legal educators can prepare a generation of lawyers who understand that law is not merely a set of rules but a framework for justice and in governing society. In a time when the rule of law teeters on a precipice, instilling in students the conviction to uphold and protect it is perhaps the most vital lesson of all. It cannot be forgotten that many dictators of the past used the rule of law as a cornerstone in seizing power. ■

**2025 Book Awards**

The 2024–2025 Book Awards Committee (Victoria Sahani (Chair), Anna Spain Bradley, Ben Love, Blanca Montejo, Jarrod Wong, and Kabir Duggal) carefully reviewed over forty books and unanimously recommends the following authors and books for the four ASIL book awards. The awards will be presented at the Society’s upcoming 119<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. (See related story on page 10.)

**Certificate of Merit for a Preeminent Contribution to Creative Scholarship**



The Committee selected Godwin Eli Kwadzo Dzah, *Sustainable Development, International Law, and a Turn to African Legal Cosmologies* (Cambridge University Press, 2024).

This monograph introduces a novel framework for examining the intersection of sustainable development, international law, and African legal traditions. Dzah critiques the “paradox” of legal universalism and skillfully bridges multiple fields, including international law, environmental law, African studies, legal pluralism, and Indigenous rights, contributing significantly to each. He challenges Western-centric models of sustainable development, which often overlook local, Indigenous, and customary legal systems, thereby exacerbating inequality and environmental degradation. Dzah advocates for adopting African legal cosmologies, which emphasize communal ownership, interconnectedness with nature, and collective well-being, offering a more holistic and context-sensitive approach to development. He argues that African legal systems, rooted in eco-legal philosophies, can enhance global development frame-

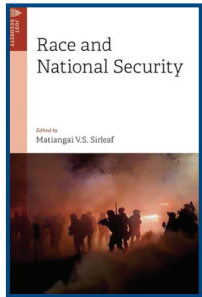
works by incorporating “ecocosmologies”—African eco-legal principles that promote sustainable environmental practices grounded in Indigenous knowledge. Through African case studies, he demonstrates how these legal traditions can address contemporary challenges in environmental protection, resource management, and social justice. The book proposes a “turn” to African legal ontologies as a foundational principle for reimagining sustainable development in international law, suggesting that this shift could revitalize global sustainability discussions by incorporating diverse, non-Western perspectives. Dzah’s interdisciplinary and innovative approach provides a nuanced understanding of how African legal traditions intersect with global legal frameworks. In an era where sustainability is a central global concern, his call for a more inclusive, context-sensi-

—continued on page 6

## 2025 Book Awards —continued from page 5

tive approach to development is timely. His work underscores the importance of integrating diverse legal systems into the global sustainability discourse, offering creative and alternative solutions to complex global challenges.

### Certificate of Merit for High Technical Craftsmanship and Utility to Practicing Lawyers and Scholars



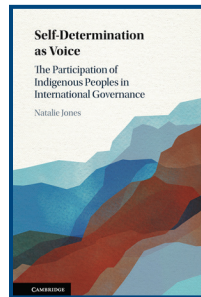
The Committee selected Matiangai V. S. Sirleaf (ed.), *Race and National Security* (Oxford University Press, 2023).

This edited volume introduces a novel and long-overdue contribution to the existing

scholarly study of national security. Through six sections, consisting of twelve chapters, the book takes on the scant treatment of race and racism in national security. In what Sirleaf describes as “hidden in plain sight” in her introduction, the book aims to center the treatment of race and racism at the core of the study and practice of national security. Indeed, the volume achieves this aim. Alongside Sirleaf, twelve experts of international law in their own right have authored insightful and impactful chapters that take the reader on a journey across domestic, transnational, comparative, and international law perspectives on national security into an intertwined, sophisticated conversation. The result is a framework that reconceptualizes any thinking about national security as one that must also grapple with the field’s role in perpetuating racism. In doing so, *Race and National Security* has established itself as required reading for future scholars and students of national security. It calls upon us to critically engage with the racialization of words like “threat” and “terrorist” to account for how white supremacy is a threat to national security and to see the irony of how racism intertwines with international justice to hold certain groups of people to account while overlooking crimes long committed by colonial powers and power-

ful nations today. The editorial efforts led by Sirleaf and the compelling contributions of the chapter authors have created an original contribution to national security and international law that will prove generative to the study and practice of this field for many years to come.

### Certificate of Merit for a Work in a Specialized Area of International Law

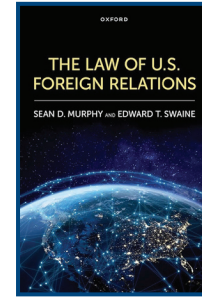


The Committee selected Natalie Jones, *Self-Determination as Voice* (Cambridge University Press, 2024).

The book offers a crucial examination of Indigenous peoples’ participation in inter-

national governance, emphasizing both the progress made and the persistent barriers to further progress. It adroitly traces the expansion of institutional mechanisms over the past four decades that allow Indigenous voices to be heard in global decision-making processes, particularly within the UN and other international bodies. While these mechanisms reflect a growing acceptance of Indigenous self-determination that prefigures its emergent status as customary international law, the author argues that the ideal of full and effective participation remains elusive. The book shows how Indigenous involvement is often limited by systemic, institutional, and material challenges, which reveal an “illusion of inclusion” that may serve to legitimize Eurocentric international frameworks while perpetuating colonial dynamics. The book further explores how states and international organizations often instrumentalize Indigenous participation, framing it as beneficial to their broader goals rather than as a means to fulfill Indigenous peoples’ self-determination. This insightful critique underscores the tension between the rhetoric of inclusion and the reality of limited power within global governance structures, highlighting the ongoing struggle for meaningful self-determination.

### The Robert E. Dalton Award for Outstanding Contribution in the Field of Foreign Relations Law



In 2019, the Society established a new book award with generous support from the family of Robert E. Dalton, a cherished member of the Society who served for 36 years in the Office of the Legal Adviser at the U.S.

Department of State.

The Committee selected Sean D. Murphy and Edward T. Swaine, *The Law of U.S. Foreign Relations* (Oxford University Press, 2023).

This authoritative treatise is a groundbreaking work that provides a detailed and insightful examination of U.S. foreign relations law, spanning ten chapters that thoroughly analyze the constitutional, statutory, and historical foundations of executive, legislative, and judicial authority in foreign affairs. Murphy and Swaine explore complex and contemporary legal issues, such as the treatment of detainees at Guantanamo Bay and the controversial relocation of the U.S. embassy in Israel, offering a balanced and thought-provoking discussion on these topics. The book also navigates the interplay between treaties, customary international law, and domestic legal frameworks, offering readers a holistic understanding of foreign relations law. Notably, the treatise provides a rich historical perspective while addressing pressing modern challenges, making it an invaluable resource for scholars, practitioners, and policymakers. The Robert E. Dalton Award honors exceptional contributions to the field of foreign relations law, and this book exemplifies the intellectual rigor and depth the award seeks to recognize. With its comprehensive scope and erudite analysis, *The Law of U.S. Foreign Relations* sets a new benchmark in the study and practice of foreign relations law, contributing significantly to developing this crucial legal field. ■

## IG Spotlight: News from the Society's Chapters and Interest Groups

### Cultural Heritage and the Arts (asil.org/CHAIG)

CHAIG have been busy in 2025 hosting a number of webinars with more in the works.

In February CHAIG co-hosted a webinar entitled “The Legal Dimension of Provenance Research: International, Comparative, Indigenous” with the European Society of International Law Interest Group on International Law of Culture. The event explored the meanings and significance of provenance research addressing past cultural injustices and wrongs against individuals, groups, and communities that have been subjected to genocidal acts and legislation, colonial exploitation, and discriminatory practices. Insights were shared by four experts in the field: Afolasade A. Adewumi (University of Ibadan, Nigeria); Evelien Campfens (University of Amsterdam and General Secretary to the Dutch Restitutions Committee for Nazi-looted art (2002-2016)); Tess Davis (Antiquities Coalition); and Rebecca Tsosie (James E. Rogers College of Law). We would like to sincerely thank our esteemed guests for the time and such a lively debate.

Following this, in March CHAIG co-hosted a webinar entitled “New Moves for the Repatriation of Historically Displaced Cultural Property in Asia” with the ASIL Asia-Pacific Interest Group. It explored the Qingdao Recommendations for the Protection and Return of Cultural Objects Removed from Colonial Contexts or Acquired by Other Unjustifiable or Unethical Means (June 20, 2024), which sheds light on new approaches and new efforts to repatriate looted Asian cultural property. Insights were shared by four experts: Zhu Ye (National Cultural Heritage Administration of China, Exchange and Cooperation Department); Melina Antoniadis (NOSTOS Strategies); Patty Gerstenblith, (Center for Art, Museum & Cultural Heritage Law, DePaul University); and Gyoocho Lee (School of Law, Chung-Ang University).

Aside from these events, CHAIG is planning a number of webinars for later this year including on the protection of heritage in Pacific island states and the protection of heritage in outer space. Additionally, CHAIG is keen to put together an online business and networking meeting for members in May after the 2025 ASIL Annual Meeting. Please be in touch if you have any ideas for this and any other events, we welcome your input!

### Dispute Resolution

(asil.org/DRIG)

On January 29, leading academics and practitioners gathered at ASIL's Tillar House for a panel discussion on the book edited by Chiara Giorgetti, Patrick W. Pearsall, and Hélène Ruiz-Fabri “The Research Handbook on International Claims Commissions”, published by Edward Elgar Publishing. The panelists explored this groundbreaking edited volume which offers a comprehensive analysis of International Claims Commissions, examining their historical evolution, institutional design, and contemporary relevance. The Research Handbook brought together leading scholars and practitioners to examine how claims commissions have evolved as vital mechanisms for addressing mass claims and complex international disputes. The panelists were Chiara Giorgetti (Richmond Law School), Ucheora Onwuamaegbu (Arent Fox LLP), and Patrick Pearsall (A&O Shearman). The panel was moderated by ASIL-DRIG co-chair Nikhil Gore (Covington & Burling LLP). Following the panel discussion, attendees continued their lively discussions at a reception with refreshments and drinks.

### International Criminal Law

(asil.org/ICLIG)

On February 11, the International Criminal Law Interest Group hosted an International Criminal Law Year in Review, featuring leading scholars discussing and debating some of the most

momentous international criminal law developments of 2024. The event featured Leila Sadat (Washington University School of Law and former Special Adviser on Crimes Against Humanity to the ICC Prosecutor); Tom Dannenbaum (Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy); and Valerie Oosterveld (Western University and current Special Adviser on Crimes Against Humanity to the ICC Prosecutor). It was moderated by IG co-chairs, Steve Koh and Ryan Liss.

The ICL IG also issued a call for submission for the inaugural ASIL International Criminal Law Scholarship Prize, for the year's leading contribution to ICL scholarship. The winning submission will be announced at the ASIL Annual Meeting.

### Law of the Sea (asil.org/LOSIG)

The ASIL Law of the Sea Interest Group sponsored an online seminar on “Climate Change, Sea Level Rise and International Law” hosted by Rashtriya Raksha University (India) on February 5, 2025. The webinar, which attracted more than 100 online attendees, featured interactive presentations by four current members of the International Law Commission of the United Nations, namely, Nilufer Oral (Turkiye), Patricia Galvao Teles (Portugal), Juan Jose Ruda Santolaria (Peru), and Bimal Patel (India, also LOSIG Co-Chair). Outgoing LOSIG Co-Chair Peter Bekker contributed opening and closing remarks. The Society has released a recording of the webinar on the group's ASIL webpage.

### Private International Law

(asil.org/PILIG)

The Winter 2024 edition of *Commentaries in Private International Law* is available in the Public Documents and Publications section of the PILIG web page [here](#). The newsletter provides global context on private international law including updates on new laws, rules and regulations, judi-



## News from the Society's Chapters and Interest Groups —continued from page 7

cial and arbitral decisions, treaties and conventions and scholarly publications. The diverse editorial team is headed by Co-Chairs Jie (Jeanne) Huang and George Tian.

### Rights of Indigenous Peoples (asil.org/RIPIG)

The group has commenced a webinar series in collaboration with APIG regarding Indigenous Rights Struggles in the Asia-Pacific, with the inaugural webinar in December 2024 (available on the group's ASIL webpage). The series is co-hosted between ASIL, LAWASIA, and the Australian National University, and features Indigenous lawyers from Asia-Pacific countries speaking directly from experience about the current Indigenous issues within their respective jurisdictions.

In addition, RIPIG has also circulated its latest newsletter, which will be turning to a quarterly format. Last, and most recently, RIPIG organized a panel on Indigenous Theories of International Law for the ASIL Annual Meeting 2025, introducing a book project featuring Indigenous scholars asserting the existence of international Indigenous legal orders.

### Transitional Justice and Rule of Law (asil.org/TJROLIG)

The Transitional Justice and Rule of Law group hosted an online works-in-progress (WIP) workshop on March 27. Four participants - Diane Marie Amann (University of Georgia School of Law), Margaret deGuzman (Temple University Beasley School of Law), Zachary D. Kaufman (University of Florida Levin College of Law), and Miyoko T. Petit-Toledo (University of Hawai'i Richardson School of Law) - presented and received feedback on their WIPs involving a range of topics, including genocide, child taking, international justice beyond punishment, and intergenerational healing. The WIP was organized by Tayo Olarewaju (University of British Columbia Allard School of Law).

### Women in International Law (asil.org/WILIG)

Viviana Krsticevic is the recipient of WILIG's 2025 Prominent Woman in International Law Award in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to gender justice and women's rights through international law. As the Executive Director of the Center for Justice and International

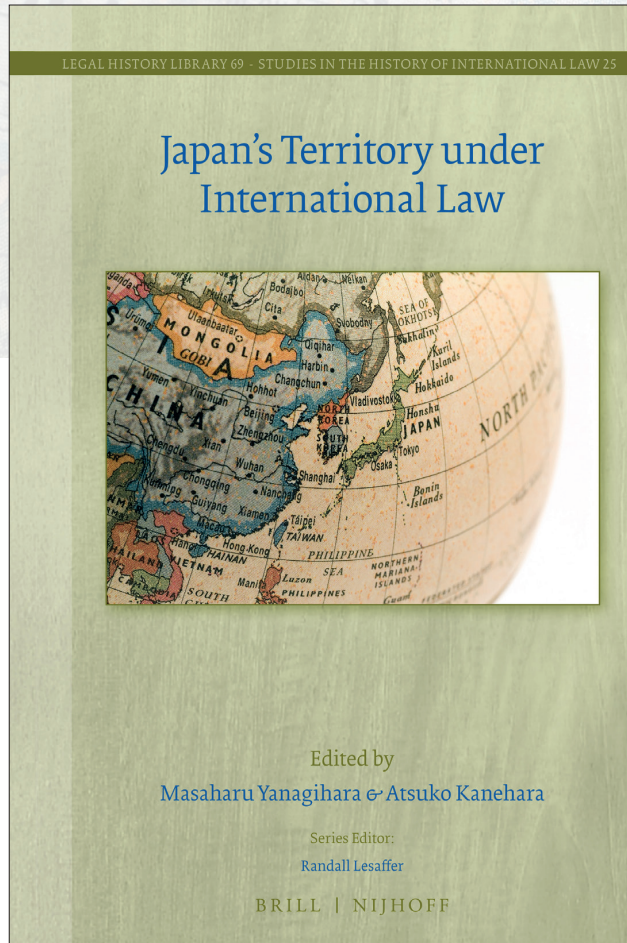
Law, a founder and leader of the GOUAL campaign, and a member of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on Iran, Viviana uses international law to advance women and women's rights, breaks through glass ceilings for women in international law, promotes women and their voices in the field, and contributes substantively to advancing, researching, advocating for, and promoting women's rights and gender justice.

The winner of the 2025 WILIG Scholarship Prize is Rebecca J. Cook (ed.), *Frontiers of Gender Equality: Transnational Legal Perspectives* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2023). *Frontiers* examines multiple legal dimensions of gender equality, demonstrating that the wrongs of discrimination can best be understood from the perspective of the discriminated, and that gender discrimination persists and grows in new and different contexts. It also highlights successful legal avenues to counter gender discrimination at the domestic, regional, and international levels. The Selection Committee unanimously agreed that *Frontiers* stood out for its breadth and depth, significant intellectual contribution, and effectiveness at identifying challenges and solutions. ■



# Japan's Territory under International Law

Edited by **Masaharu Yanagihara**, Open University of Japan, **Atsuko Kanehara**, Canon Institute for Global Studies



This title is published in Open Access with the support of the Japan Institute of International Affairs.

This volume sheds light on Japan's territorial situation from a unique perspective by analyzing the historical evolution of the concept of "territory" and the various legal theories on resolving territorial disputes. Each of the chapters in this book presents multiple points of view that provide significant insight into the resolution of Japan's territorial issues, such as those concerning the Northern Territories, Takeshima, and the Senkaku Islands. This book will be a valuable and useful resource to practitioners, researchers, and even members of the general public with an interest in territorial disputes.

Contributors are: Masaharu Yanagihara, Tadashi Mori, Tetsuya Yamada, Yuichi Sasaki, Atsuko Kanehara, Tomofumi Kitamura, Hironobu Sakai, Tomoko Fukamachi, and Dai Tamada.

September 2024  
 Hardback (xviii, 326 pp.)  
 ISBN 9789004706354  
 Price € 136 / US\$ 148  
 E-ISBN 9789004706361  
 OPEN ACCESS  
 Legal History Library /  
 Studies in the History of  
 International Law, 69/25



Download your free copy



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### 119th Annual Meeting Focuses on “Traditions and Transitions in International Law.”

The Society invites you to join us in Washington, DC, on April 16-18 for the 2025 Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law. We look forward to returning to the Washington Hilton, and we are committed to providing attendees with a safe and enjoyable experience.

Participants will have the opportunity to engage with a remarkable array of thought leaders in international law and related disciplines. The program features more than 150 speakers, 60 substantive sessions, and 6 cross-cutting thematic tracks, as well as Interest Group meetings and mentoring and professional development activities.

This year’s Annual Meeting theme is **Traditions and Transitions in International Law**. The international legal order is faced with both longstanding and novel challenges presented by changing cultural norms, climate and biodiversity crises, the resurgence of international armed conflict, democratic backsliding, revitalized nationalism, the ubiquity of big data, and ground breaking technological innovations. While traditional international law and institutions have proven resilient in addressing some of these challenges, transitions are emerging in areas where existing frameworks may not be achieving the shared goals of the international community.

The 2025 ASIL Annual Meeting will question the efficacy of our international law traditions and the impact of ongoing transitions in the existing world order. Which traditional elements of international law and institutions remain effective, and which may not be fit for purpose? What can we learn from ongoing transitions for addressing contemporary challenges? Of which transitions should we be skeptical and why? What insights can non-lawyers such as diplomats, journalists, natural and social scientists, technology experts, commercial actors and artists offer as we probe the efficacy of traditions and transitions in international law?

The Society’s 119th Annual Meeting will be a forum for international lawyers from all sectors of the profession, policymakers, and experts from other fields to reflect on the implications of traditions and transitions in international law.

Highlights of the four-day program will include: The **27th Annual Grotius Lecture**, sponsored by the International Legal Studies Program at American University Washington College of Law, will be delivered by E. Tendayi Achiume (Stanford Law School) on the topic “Traditions and Transitions: For Whom is International Law?” The response will be given by our Distinguished Discussant, Jamil Dakwar (ACLU). The formal program will be followed by the Grotius Reception, which is also sponsored by American University Washington College of Law. Weather permitting, this and some of our other main receptions will take place outdoors in the Heights Courtyard.

The **Manley O. Hudson Medal Luncheon** will honor eminent scholar and distinguished educator Joseph H. H. Weiler, who will speak to “The Pax Americana: A Postmortem.” *Please note that advance tickets are required.*

At the Society’s **Assembly**, the centerpiece of the Annual Meeting, we will inaugurate our incoming leaders, confer the honors and awards of the Society, recognize new Emeritus Members, and commemorate the members we have lost over the past year. Those *in attendance* at the Assembly will have an opportunity to vote to adopt the Society’s **Proposed Resolution on Slavery and the Slave Trade (asil.org/slaveryresolution)**. Elinor Hammarskjöld, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel United Nations, will then present the **Assembly Keynote**. Following the Assembly, attendees are invited to join the President’s Reception.

The Women in International Law Interest Group will host the **WILIG Luncheon**, at which the 2025 Prominent Woman in International Law Award will be presented to Viviana Krsticevic, Center for Justice and International Law. *Please note that advance tickets are required.*

The **Tenth Annual Detlev F. Vagts Roundtable on Transnational Law** will consider “AI Governance: The Path Forward.” The convener will be Marc Rotenberg and the Junior Scholar will be Nathalie Smuha.

The **Goler T. Butcher Medal Discussion** will be delivered by the 2025 recipient of the Goler T. Butcher Medal, Leila N. Sadat, on the subject “The Long Arc of Justice: Forging a Convention for Crimes Against Humanity.”

The **2025 Charles N. Brower Lecture on International Dispute Resolution** will be delivered by Claudia Salomon, International Court of Arbitration, on the subject of “From Wannabe to Where to Be: Becoming the Next Arbitration Capital.”

—continued on page 11

**Upcoming Events** —continued from page 10



Finally, the **Closing Plenary** will feature a roundtable discussion, sponsored by the Municipality of The Hague, and organized by the Asser Institute, titled, “Can Arms Trade bring about Peace” Following the discussion, we invite you to join us for the Closing Reception, again generously sponsored by the Municipality of The Hague.

The Society expresses its deep appreciation to the Annual Meeting Committee, led by Co-Chairs Susan Franck, Belén Ibañez, and Nawi Ukabiala; to our speakers, sponsors, partners, and exhibitors; to our technology partner, Silo Virtual Event Solutions; and to our event planner, Eden Capuano, and her team at Voila! Inc.


Thanks is offered to the leaders and staff of the Society, all of whom have devoted countless hours to creating this experience. The full Annual Meeting program is available on the conference website ([asil.org/am](http://asil.org/am)), and the conference app and will be continually updated. Join the conversation on X (Twitter): #ASILAM.

For assistance, contact the ASIL Service Center at [services@asil.org](mailto:services@asil.org) or +1-202-939-6001.


### Confirmed Keynote Speakers


**Grotius Lecture:**  
E. Tendayi Achiume and  
Jamil Dakwar




**Assembly Keynote:**  
Elinor Hammar skjöld




**Hudson Medal Luncheon:**  
Joseph H. H. Weiler



**Goler T. Butcher Medal Lecture:**  
Leila N. Sadat



**Charles Brower Lecture on  
International Dispute Resolution:**  
Claudia Salomon



**WILIG Luncheon:**  
Viviana Krsticevic

### Session Tracks at the 119th ASIL Annual Meeting

- **Track One:** International Human Rights, Humanitarian Law, and Criminal Justice
- **Track Two:** Transnational Litigation, Arbitration, and Dispute Resolution
- **Track Three:** International Trade, Investment, Finance, and Tax
- **Track Four:** International Organizations, Global Governance, Global Health, and Technology
- **Track Five:** Security, Foreign Relations, and Use of Force
- **Track Six:** Environment, Sea, Space, and Sustainable Development
- **Professional & Academic Development**

—continued on page 12





**Upcoming Events** —continued from page 11

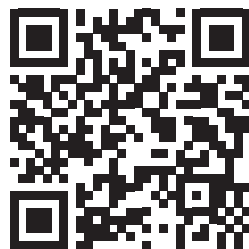
# 2025 ASIL Midyear Meeting

September 25-27  
Cleveland, OH

**Call for Paper Proposals  
Now Open**

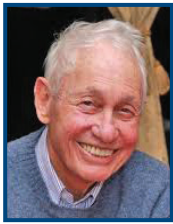


**CASE WESTERN RESERVE  
UNIVERSITY  
School of Law**





## In Memoriam



**Richard Bilder**, a long-time editor of the *Journal of the American Society of International Law* and former Vice President of the Society, passed away on January 18, 2025. Mr. Bilder was born in 1927

in Newark, New Jersey. He was educated at Williams College and Harvard University Law School and was a Fulbright Scholar at Cambridge University. He joined the U.S. Navy during World War II, serving from 1945-46, and rejoined during the Korean War from 1951-53. He then served in the U.S. Naval Reserve, retiring as Commander.

Bilder's career was dedicated to international law and the betterment of international relations. He began as an attorney in the Office of Legal Advisor at the U.S. State Department. In this capacity he traveled to Antarctica in 1957 as part of the International Geophysical Year, a cooperative event involving 67 nations, later receiving the Antarctic service medal.

He then served more than 50 years as a Professor of Law at the University of Wisconsin Law School and was a visiting professor at multiple domestic and international law schools. During this time, he published numerous articles on a variety of topics including the role of apology, human rights, science and stewardship in the Antarctic, dispute resolution, and the law of the sea. Bilder joined the Society in 1956 and was an Emeritus member.

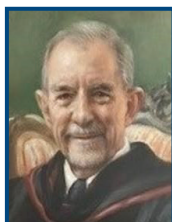


**Steve Charnovitz**, a Professor of Law at George Washington University, passed away on March 23, 2025. Mr. Charnovitz was born in 1953 in Savannah, Georgia. He received a

BA from Yale College in 1975, an MPP from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and a JD from Yale Law School in 1998.

Prior to joining the GWU Law faculty in 2004, he practiced law for six years at WilmerHale and from 1995 to 1999 he was Director of the Global Environment & Trade Study (GETS) at Yale University. From 1987 to 1991, he was the Legislative Assistant to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. Early in his career, he was an analyst at the U.S. Department of Labor, where his assignments included investigating foreign labor conditions, trade adjustment assistance, and technical cooperation with Saudi Arabia.

Charnovitz served on the Editorial Boards of several journals, including the *Journal of Environment & Development*, the *American Journal of International Law* and the *Journal of International Economic Law*. He was a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the American Law Institute. He joined ASIL in 1996 and was a Regular member.



**Gordon Christenson**, law professor emeritus and lifetime elected fellow of the graduate school at the University of Cincinnati, died on March 13, 2025. Mr.

Christenson was born in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1932. From 1951 to 1952 he served with the U.S. Air Force in Japan. In 1954 he was commissioned an intelligence officer in the Utah Air National Guard. From 1957 to 1967, he was a reserve officer in the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Division of International Affairs at the Pentagon.

Christenson earned a BS in Law from the University of Utah, matriculating with a JD in 1956 and an SJD from George Washington University School of Law in 1961. He then began working as an attorney at the Department of State from the late 50's to early 60's. He later worked at the Department of Commerce as the Assistant General Counsel for Science and Technology where in 1967 he was

awarded the Silver Medal in recognition of his service.

Mr. Christenson entered academia full time in 1967 at the University of Oklahoma as associate professor of law as well as executive assistant to the president of the university. In 1971 he became dean of the Washington College of Law of the American University. Taking leave after six years, he joined the U.S. Naval War College for two years as Charles H. Stockton professor of international law. Then in 1979 he accepted the position of dean and Nippert professor of law at the University of Cincinnati where he stayed until his retirement in 1998.

Mr. Christenson was a regular contributor and reviewer for legal journals including the *American Journal of International Law* and the *Human Rights Quarterly*. He joined the Society in 1957 and was an Emeritus member.



**Tom Farer**, former president of the University of New Mexico and AJIL Honorary Board member, passed away on March 3, 2025. Born in Coshocton, Ohio in 1935, Farer earned his

bachelor's degree from Princeton University and then received his Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School. While at law school he clerked for Judge Learned Hand.

Following law school, he worked at the Department of Defense as special assistant to General Counsel John McNaughton and Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara.

He began his teaching career at Columbia University Law School and during the course of his career would teach law at several universities including Rutgers, Harvard, American and the University of Denver.

—continued on page 14

**In Memoriam** —continued from page 13

He served on the InterAmerican Commission on Human Rights from 1983 to 1996, investigating human rights abuses in Central and South America. He also served as President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States, was a Senior Fellow at both the Carnegie Endowment and the Council on Foreign Relations and served as a consultant to Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

Mr. Farer was the author of several books including *Toward a Humanitarian Foreign Policy: A Primer for Policy* and *Beyond Sovereignty: Collectively Defending Democracy in the Western Hemisphere*. He joined the Society in 1962 and was an Emeritus member. ■

# Registration Open



## ASIL ABROAD Singapore

September 3-4  
2025

[asil.org/abroad](https://asil.org/abroad)

## PUBLISHER AND LAW FIRM PARTNERS

ASIL offers tailored programs for its institutional colleagues—law firms, academic institutions, and publishers. Our partnerships combine recognition, advertising, participation, promotion, outreach, education, and association with access to ASIL's worldwide community of international law professionals. For more information, contact [partnerships@asil.org](mailto:partnerships@asil.org) or visit [asil.org/partners](http://asil.org/partners).

### Publisher Partners

#### PREMIUM



BRILL  
NIJHOFF



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

#### REGULAR



Edward Elgar  
PUBLISHING

SPRINGER  
NATURE

### Law Firm Partners

#### PLATINUM

Arnold & Porter

Debevoise  
& Plimpton



FOLEY  
HOAG LLP



FRESHFIELDS BRUCKHAUS DERINGER

GIBSON DUNN

KING & SPALDING

Skadden

WHITE & CASE

WILMERHALE® 

#### GOLD

#### SILVER

BRYAN  
CAVE  
LEIGHTON  
PAISNER 

SULLIVAN & CROMWELL LLP

Covington & Burling LLP  
Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP  
Steptoe & Johnson LLP



## ACADEMIC PARTNERS



By publishing the award-winning *American Journal of International Law*, hosting the world's preeminent annual gathering of international law experts, and conducting programs serving students (now including free membership) and faculty around the world, the American Society of International Law maintains strong partnerships with the academic community. For more information, contact [partnerships@asil.org](mailto:partnerships@asil.org) or visit [asil.org/partners](http://asil.org/partners).

### Partner Schools

- American University Washington College of Law
- American University in Iraq, Baghdad College of Law
- Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law
- Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law
- Boston College Law School
- Boston University School of Law
- Brooklyn Law School
- Case Western Reserve University School of Law
- Columbia University School of Law
- Cornell Law School
- Creighton University School of Law
- Duke University School of Law School
- Durham Law School
- Emory University School of Law
- The Fletcher School at Tufts University
- Florida International University College of Law
- Florida State University College of Law
- Fordham University School of Law
- George Washington University Law School
- Georgetown University Law Center
- Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) College of Law
- Harvard Law School
- Hebrew University of Jerusalem Faculty of Law
- Indiana University Maurer School of Law
- Indiana University McKinney School of Law
- Ivan Franko National University of Lviv Faculty of Law
- Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies
- Kyiv School of Economics
- Law School of the Ukrainian Catholic University
- Loyola University Chicago School of Law
- National University of Kyiv-Moyhla Academy Faculty of Law
- New York University School of Law
- Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
- Notre Dame Law School
- Pepperdine Caruso School of Law
- Rutgers Law School
- Saint Louis University School of Law
- Santa Clara University School of Law
- Stanford Law School
- Suffolk University Law School
- Syracuse University College of Law
- Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv Institute of International Relations
- Temple University Beasley School of Law
- Tulane University Law School
- University of Baltimore School of Law
- University of California-Berkeley School of Law
- University of California-Davis School of Law
- University of California-Irvine School of Law
- University of California-Los Angeles School of Law
- University of Chicago Law School
- University of Cincinnati College of Law
- University of Colorado Law School
- University of Denver Sturm College of Law
- University of Georgia School of Law
- University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, William S. Richardson School of Law
- University of Houston Law Center
- University of Iowa College of Law
- University of Miami School of Law
- University of Michigan Law School
- University of Ottawa Faculty of Law
- University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law
- University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School
- University of Pittsburgh School of Law
- University of Richmond School of Law
- Vanderbilt University Law School
- Washington University in St. Louis School of Law
- Yale Law School



## SUPPORTING ASIL

Membership dues alone cannot sustain the Society’s programs and services. To ensure that it remains strong and relevant, the Society relies on the generosity of its members and other contributors.

With 80 cents of every dollar donated supporting educational programming and engagement of the international law community, the Society is one of the best charitable values around.



## HOW TO GIVE

The Society welcomes tax-deductible donations in any amount, and recognizes gifts or pledges of \$500 or more in its annual report. Donations can be made online or in whatever way is most convenient—through a monthly donation, a multi-year pledge, a gift from a donor-advised fund, or a transfer of stock. Donors over age 70 1/2 can make a qualified charitable distribution directly from an IRA. Finally, the future of the Society can be secured through the Heritage Circle, ASIL’s planned giving program. To make a donation or find out more, please visit [asil.org/support](https://asil.org/support).



## AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Tillar House  
2223 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008  
+1-202-939-6000 | +1-202-797-7133 fax | [www.asil.org](http://www.asil.org)

### ASIL OFFICERS

PRESIDENT  
Mélida N. Hodgson

HONORARY PRESIDENT  
Honorable Joan Donoghue

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
Michael D. Cooper

VICE PRESIDENTS  
Marney Cheek, Harlan Cohen,  
Steven Hill, Saira Mohamed

SECRETARY                      TREASURER  
James Nafziger                  Nancy Perkins

ASSISTANT TREASURER  
Ronald Bettauer

### ASIL NEWSLETTER

EDITORS  
Matthew Gomez and Jimmy Steiner

CONTRIBUTORS  
Staff: Justine Stefanelli  
ASIL Members: Interest Group Co-Chairs

### Vol. 41, Issue 1 – January/March 2025

ASIL is a nonpartisan membership association dedicated to fostering the study of international law and promoting the establishment and maintenance of international relations on the basis of law and justice.

© Copyright 2025 by The American Society of International Law.  
All rights reserved.