



American Society  
of International Law

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### ASIL NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WASHINGTON, DC—The American Society of International Law (ASIL) announces the appointment of **Mark D. Agrast** to serve as the Society's eighth executive director beginning October 20, 2014. Agrast succeeds **Elizabeth Andersen**, who left the Society this summer after nearly eight years to lead the American Bar Association's (ABA) Rule of Law Initiative. Agrast, who is an ASIL member, currently serves as deputy assistant attorney general in the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Legislative Affairs, where he has worked since 2009.

“Mark was selected from an outstanding group of candidates who were rigorously examined during a four-month-long process by a specially appointed search committee,” said ASIL President **Lori Damrosch**. “Through that process, which was adeptly led by Search Committee Chair **Lucinda Low**, we have found the best person to take the Society to new heights. Given his extensive experience on both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue and his many leadership roles in other professional organizations, we expect Mark to be in an excellent position to forge new linkages with all three branches of the U.S. government and with the broader professional community.”

Prior to joining the Justice Department, Agrast was a senior vice president and senior fellow at the Center for American Progress from 2003 to 2009, and from 1992 to

2003 he held senior staff positions with two members of the U.S. House of Representatives. Agrast previously practiced international law with the Washington office of Jones Day. He also has served in numerous leadership capacities in the ABA, including as a member of its Board of Governors and its Executive Committee, a past chair of the Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities and the Commission on Immigration, and current chair of the Commission on Disability Rights. He is a longtime member of the ABA's House of Delegates. Agrast has co-chaired the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association (now the National LGBT Bar) and served as that organization's ABA Delegate. He has also been a leader of the World Justice Project since its inception and has played a central role in designing and implementing its Rule of Law Index, a quantitative assessment measure of the extent to which countries adhere to the rule of law. Agrast graduated summa cum laude from Case Western Reserve University, pursued his postgraduate studies as a Rhodes Scholar at the University of Oxford, and received his J.D. in 1985 from Yale Law School, where he was editor in chief of the *Yale Journal of International Law*.

Agrast commented on his appointment saying, "For over a century, ASIL has been among the world's most respected learned societies, and I am honored to have been chosen as its eighth executive director. In a world riven by strife and lawlessness, the Society's mission – 'to foster the study of international law and promote international relations based on law and justice' – is of greater urgency than ever, and I look forward to working with the leaders, members, and staff of the Society to advance that mission in the months and years to come."

A photo of Agrast is available upon 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 nearly 4,000 members from more than 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).