

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mérida Hodgson, President of the American Society of International Law

FROM: Natalie Y. Morris-Sharma, Chair, 2024-2025 ASIL Honors Committee (on behalf of the Committee, including Members Olabisi Akinkugbe, Tafadzwa Pasipanodya, Jeremy K. Sharpe, Frédéric G. Sourgens)

DATE: November 7, 2024

SUBJECT: ASIL Honors Committee Report and Recommendations

This memorandum constitutes the 2024-2025 ASIL Honors Committee report and recommendations to the Executive Council for the 2025 recipients of three ASIL honors. These awards are:

- The **Manley O. Hudson Medal**, awarded to a distinguished person of American or other nationality for outstanding contributions to scholarship and achievement in international law. The 2024 recipient was José Alvarez. For the 2024 Manley O. Hudson Medal, the Committee recommends that **Joseph H. H. Weiler** be honored.
- The **Goler T. Butcher Medal**, awarded to a distinguished person of American or other nationality for outstanding contributions to the development of effective realisation of international human rights. The 2024 recipient was Roya Boroumand. For the 2024 Goler T. Butcher Medal, the Committee recommends that **Leila N. Sadat** be honored.
- The **Honorary Membership Award**, awarded to an individual of American or other nationality who has rendered distinguished contributions or service in the field of international law. The 2024 recipient was Ben Kioko. For the 2024 Honorary Membership Award, the Committee recommends that **James T. Gathii** be honored.

The Honors Committee was constituted by ASIL President Mérida Hodgson in the summer of 2024. At that time, the Society posted and publicised a Call for Nominations. In addition, Committee members reached out to ASIL members to solicit nominations. The Committee received multiple nominations in each category in response to this Call and added several other nominations to the pool for each category. As a result, the Committee had a strong and accomplished set of nominees to consider for each of the three awards. Background material relating to each of the nominations was reviewed by the Committee and discussed at length over zoom meetings and email. The Committee is grateful for the help and advice of Executive Director (and *ex officio* member of the Honors Committee) Michael Cooper and for the support and assistance of Selma Laporte in the management of the process.

The Honors Committee unanimously submits the following recommendations to the Executive Council:

Manley O. Hudson Medal

Joseph Halevi Hurwitz WEILER

Joseph H. H. Weiler, an eminent scholar and distinguished educator, has made remarkable contributions to the fields of international and constitutional law. Weiler has had a profound impact on the fields of European integration, human rights, and global trade law, through both his scholarship and extensive involvement in academic leadership. Over the course of his nearly 50-year career, Weiler has been awarded honorary doctorates from 14 institutions worldwide, including from the University of Edinburgh, Humboldt University in Berlin, and the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, a testament to the global recognition of his scholarly impact.

Weiler has held prominent academic positions across leading global institutions, and is a devoted teacher and mentor to younger international law scholars. These roles underscore Weiler's influence in shaping global legal education and research in international law. He currently serves as a University Professor at New York University School of Law, where he is also the Co-Director of the Jean Monnet Center for International and Regional Economic Law & Justice. He holds a Senior Fellow position at the Center for European Studies at Harvard University and is a Professor of Law at the National University of Singapore. In addition, he co-directs the Academy of International Trade Law in Macao, China. In previous roles, Weiler served as President of the European University Institute in Florence, where he directed the Department of Law and founded the European Policy Unit. He was also previously the Manley Hudson Chair of Law at Harvard Law School and a Professor at the University of Michigan Law School. He has led doctoral programmes at the New York University School of Law, University of Michigan Law School and Harvard Law School, and has supervised numerous theses and dissertations at these and many other institutions.

Weiler's impact on academia is also reflected in his numerous visiting appointments, which have included the University of Paris II, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Columbia University, and the College of Europe in Bruges and Natolin. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and holds honorary professorships at University College London and Copenhagen University. Through these appointments, Weiler has shared his expertise with diverse academic communities across Europe, North America, Asia, and Australia.

Weiler's influence extends to numerous academic and advisory boards. He has held memberships on governing boards of prominent institutions, including the IMT Lucca Institute for Advanced Studies and the Max-Planck-Institute for International and Comparative Public Law in Germany. His expertise is further recognised through his roles on editorial boards of leading journals, including the "American Journal of International Law", as well as on scientific boards that influence legal research worldwide.

Weiler's scholarly work is substantial, comprising influential publications that span the fields of European and international law. He is the founding editor of the "European Journal of International Law," the "European Law Journal" and the "World Trade Review." He also serves as the Faculty Director and Co-Editor-in-Chief of "I.CON – The International Journal of Constitutional Law." Among his many monographs, his book

“European Integration”, published by Cambridge University Press in 1999 and translated into eight languages, is regarded as a key text in understanding the legal dimensions of the European Union. In addition to his academic publications, Weiler has authored a novel, “Der Fall Steinmann”, published in multiple editions, reflecting his ability to bridge academic discourse with broader narratives on law and society.

In the arena of large-scale research projects, Weiler has co-directed several high-profile initiatives, including “Integration through Law: Europe and the American Federal Experience”, a pioneering project that compared European integration with the American federal experience. This was subsequently followed by “Integration Through Law: The ASEAN Way in a Comparative Context”, which explored legal integration within Southeast Asia, and underscored Weiler’s interest in understanding and promoting integration efforts beyond Europe. He has also co-led a project on “Human Rights and the European Union”, reflecting his commitment to advancing fundamental rights within Europe.

Weiler was a member of the Committee of Jurists for the European Parliament’s Institutional Affairs Committee, where he contributed to drafting key documents such as the EP Declaration of Human Rights and the EP Draft Constitution. He also served as a consultant for the Amsterdam Treaty. His advisory work extended to constitutional matters, with consultations for the governments of Ireland and Cyprus, as well as an advisory role for the Greek Presidency of the European Union. In addition, Weiler has been active in the field of international dispute resolution, serving as a panel member for the World Trade Organization (WTO), North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and the International Chamber of Commerce. His experience in dispute settlement has contributed to his standing as a global authority in international trade law.

Joseph H. H. Weiler’s career embodies a commitment to academic excellence over decades, international collaboration, and advancing the rule of law. His distinguished achievements in legal scholarship, public service, and academic leadership have earned him worldwide recognition, making him a truly deserving recipient of this award.

Goler T. Butcher Medal

Leila Nadya SADAT

Leila N. Sadat is a renowned authority in international law and human rights, distinguished for her profound contributions to the advancement of justice and legal scholarship worldwide. Currently, she holds the James Carr Professor of International Criminal Law position at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri, where she is also a Faculty Scholar with the Institute for Public Health. Additionally, she sits on the Advisory Board of the Center for Human Rights, Gender and Migration, and the Executive Committee of the Centre d’Excellence of the French Embassy. Sadat also serves as an expert for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe’s (OSCE) Moscow Mechanism. The Mechanism allows OSCE participating States to request the establishment of an ad hoc mission of independent experts to investigate a particular question or problem related to the human dimension of the OSCE in their own territory or in the territory of another OSCE State.

Sadat’s landmark initiative, the Crimes Against Humanity Initiative, which wrote the first

draft of a possible treaty on crimes against humanity, represented a groundbreaking effort to develop such a treaty, to establish the first global framework for prosecuting these atrocities. Sadat has also produced a documentary film, “Never Again: Forging a Convention for Crimes Against Humanity”, which has been screened at international film festivals and recognised for its contributions to human rights awareness. In addition, she founded the Gun Violence and Human Rights Project, a novel research project that seeks to advance the understanding of gun violence as a human rights violation.

Sadat’s contributions to international criminal justice extend to her involvement with the International Criminal Court (ICC), where she served as a Special Adviser on Crimes Against Humanity to the ICC Prosecutor from 2012 to 2023. Her mandate involved advising the ICC Prosecutor on legal issues related to the commission of crimes against humanity and supporting the ICC’s mission through trainings and seminars. Sadat is also one of the founders of the ICC Scholars Group, a network of scholars of international criminal justice that meets to workshop scholarship and address challenges to teaching and advocacy in this field.

Sadat has taught as a visiting professor at institutions such as Northwestern University, Tulane University, and several universities in Europe, including Paris II-Assas, and held the Alexis de Tocqueville Distinguished Fulbright Chair in France. She has also delivered named lectures at institutions such as Case Western Reserve University, where she presented the Klatsky Endowed Human Rights Lecture, and the International Nuremberg Principles Academy, where she reflected on the enduring legacy of Nuremberg. She has addressed key topics in international law at numerous symposia, including the Society’s Grotius Lecture and panels on human rights and accountability for atrocities in Ukraine.

Her scholarship is extensive and influential, comprising books, articles, and edited volumes that explore international criminal justice, human rights, and global governance. Some of her notable publications include “The International Criminal Court and the Transformation of International Law”, and the second edition of “Forging a Convention for Crimes Against Humanity”. Sadat is also an editor of “International Criminal Law: Cases and Materials”, a cornerstone text in the field. Her scholarly contributions have garnered numerous awards, including Outstanding Book and Article of the Year awards from the American Branch of the International Association of Penal Law.

Leila N. Sadat’s career exemplifies a profound commitment to international justice, advancing the rule of law, and shaping the future of human rights protection. Through her scholarship, advocacy, and leadership, she has left an indelible mark on the field of international criminal law, inspiring a global movement toward accountability and humanitarian justice.

Honorary Membership Award

James Thuo GATHII

James T. Gathii, a distinguished professor and thought leader in international law, holds the Wing-Tat Lee Chair in International Law at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. He previously held the George E. Pataki Professorship of International Commercial Law at Albany Law School, where he received the Distinguished Faculty Award for Excellence in Scholarship. His teaching roles have extended to other institutions,

including the University of Chicago, University of Illinois, and the University of Nairobi.

A prolific writer, Gathii has authored four books and over 100 articles, chapters, and papers on diverse topics in international law, with a particular focus on African perspectives within the global legal system. His research spans international investment law, human rights, and economic law, often examining these fields through a lens of racial justice and equity. Gathii's academic impact is evidenced by his impressive body of published work, including the seminal book "War, Commerce, and International Law" and "African Regional Trade Agreements as Legal Regimes". He has edited several influential volumes, including "The Performance of Africa's International Courts", which explores the role of African international courts in social, legal, and political change. Additionally, his forthcoming books on climate finance and global debt underscore his ongoing commitment to addressing pressing global issues through legal scholarship.

As a founding member of the Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAAIL) network, he is a prominent voice in the movement to reframe international law to include perspectives and interests from the Global South. In addition, he has taken the lead in the organisation of international meetings and conferences that have brought together scholars from across the globe to address critical issues in international law. He is a frequent speaker at international conferences, often addressing themes related to international economic justice, sovereignty, and postcolonial perspectives in international law.

In addition to his teaching and writing, Gathii has made significant contributions to the legal community through his service and leadership roles. The American Society of International Law (ASIL), in particular, has benefited profoundly from his contributions, including through his service as Vice President of ASIL, member of the Board of Editors for the "American Journal of International Law", member of the Executive Committee of the Blacks of the American Society of International Law (BASIL), as well as mentor and advocate for numerous members of the Society from underrepresented groups within the field of international law. His efforts and involvement in the life of the Society at multiple levels have helped make the Society a more inclusive one and thus better placed to fulfill its role as a leading global institution of international law.

Gathii is also the Founding Editor of "Afronomicslaw.org", a blog dedicated to issues in international economic law as they relate to Africa and the Global South. In 2020, he also founded the "African Journal of International Economic Law", creating a platform for scholarship in an area often overlooked in traditional international law discourse. He is an Advisory Board member of "I.CON – The International Journal of Constitutional Law", the "Journal of International Economic Law", the "Caribbean Law Review", the "Journal of Human Rights and International Legal Discourse", the "Human Rights and the Global Economy" (an SSRN Electronic Journal), and "Law and Development Review" (a Bepress Electronic Journal).

Beyond academia, Gathii has served as a consultant on human rights and trade policy issues. He worked with the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights to investigate post-election violence following the 2007 Kenyan elections and contributed to the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission. His consultancy work with organisations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) further underscores his dedication to applying his expertise in ways that address real-world challenges. Gathii has also served as an arbitrator in cases of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, and he is

on the panels of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETEC), and the Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration.

James T. Gathii's career exemplifies a commitment to using international law as a tool for justice and equity, particularly for marginalised voices in the Global South. His academic rigor, extensive publication record, and dedication to teaching have made him a highly respected figure in international law. His work continues to inspire a new generation of lawyers and scholars dedicated to transforming the field of international law to reflect a broader array of perspectives.

The Committee respectfully asks that the Executive Council approve these recommendations and thanks the Council for its consideration.