The Promise of International Law

American Society of International Law

2020 ANNUAL REPORT
The 114th Annual Meeting of the Society convened to consider “The Promise of International Law” amid the worst global pandemic in over a century. As it became apparent that we would be unable to meet in person, we resolved to transform the meeting into an all-virtual event that would recreate the substance, energy, and vibrancy of our in-person meeting to the greatest possible extent. The efforts of the Annual Meeting Committee, our leadership, and our staff were rewarded with record attendance and enthusiastic reviews.

Over the ensuing months, the Society’s creativity and resilience were tested again and again, as we sought to summon the sense of purpose and solidarity that have sustained the ASIL community for 115 years. We embraced the possibilities of the virtual environment to expand the Society’s online presence throughout the year, generating a steady stream of virtual meetings, conferences, and public events on a vast array of international law topics, from vaccine equity to climate change, from rising authoritarianism to the struggle for racial justice.

In the summer, we launched our latest online series, “International Law and the 2020 Presidential Election: What is at Stake,” which included high-level discussions of cyber threats and election interference, counterterrorism, trade, and the future of multilateral institutions. In the fall, we presented a fully virtual Midyear Meeting, including the annual Research and Practitioners’ Forums.

Throughout this period, the *American Journal of International Law* and its open access companion, *AJIL Unbound*, continued to lead the field, presenting timely and innovative scholarship, including a pathbreaking collection of articles on “The International Legal Order and the Global Pandemic” that appeared in the October issue of the *Journal*. *ASIL Insights* and *International Law in Brief* provided concise analyses of current developments, and our podcast, *International Law Behind the Headlines*, featured top legal experts on the issues dominating the news.

As the pandemic disrupted law school classes and the job market, we eliminated Annual Meeting registration fees for students and deployed new tools to engage and inspire the next generation of international lawyers through remote mentoring, training, and professional development opportunities.

In the fall, we bade farewell to the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the longtime chair of the Society’s Judicial Advisory Board, and a friend and mentor to many of us. At the meeting of the board held in her memory, she was recalled by Justice Stephen Breyer as a “woman of valor” who transformed the legal landscape for women and minority communities. We are honored that Justice Breyer has agreed to succeed her as we reaffirm our commitment to upholding her legacy and to becoming an ever more welcoming and inclusive community.

Our ability to surmount the extraordinary challenges of this pandemic year was due to the steadfast support and engagement of our members, partners, and financial supporters. We are grateful for all they do to sustain and nurture this indispensable institution, and to ensure that it remains strong and relevant in these challenging times.

Catherine Amirfar
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### HOW WE ARE ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY

| **150** substantive programs held annually around the world |
| **435** professional women participating in ASIL mentoring programs in 20+ cities |
| **3,500+** members in 100 countries |
| **105** Arthur C Helton Fellows pursuing field work and research in 48 countries |
| **2,000+** ASIL members active in 34 Interest Groups |
| **2,500** daily visitors to asil.org |
| **1,400+** participants from over 50 countries attend the ASIL Annual Meeting |

### SOURCES OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES FOR 2020

#### 2020 REVENUES
- Publication Related: 16%
- Grants and Contributions: 34%
- Dues: 16%
- Sponsorships: 14%
- Meetings and Events: 20%

#### 2020 EXPENSES
- G&A: 72%
- Development: 15%
- Programs - Publications, Research, Outreach, Library, Education: 13%
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The Society’s 3,500 members come from more than 100 nations, with nearly 40% residing outside the United States. Its members include scholars, jurists, practitioners, government officials, leaders in international and nongovernmental organizations, students and others interested in international law.

Through its many publications, conferences, briefings and educational events, ASIL seeks to serve the needs of its diverse membership and to advance understanding of international law among policymakers and the public.

ASIL is a volunteer-led organization governed by a 60-member Executive Council elected by its membership. In partnership with the elected leadership, ASIL is led by an executive director and supported by a professional staff of 10.