ASIL 109th ANNUAL MEETING FEATURES MAJOR U.S. POLICY ADDRESS, AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND NEW OFFICER ELECTIONS

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Society of International Law’s (ASIL) 109th Annual Meeting featured speakers ranging from high ranking Obama administration officials to judges from multiple international courts and leaders in the field of international arbitration, human rights, and international criminal law. The program for the conference, which took place April 8-11, 2015, in Washington, DC, was developed by the Society’s 2015 Annual Meeting Committee, co-chaired by Monica Hakimi (University of Michigan Law School), Natalie Reid (Debevoise & Plimpton LLP), and Samuel Witten (Arnold & Porter LLP). The four-day event welcomed more than 1,000 attendees from 53 countries, including some of the world’s leading jurists, academicians, and practitioners in the field. Following are some of the highlights from the Meeting, online videos of which are available at www.asil.org/videos.

U.S. Department of Defense General Counsel Stephen Preston gave a major policy address entitled “The Legal Framework for the United States’ Use of Military Force Since 9/11.” The address was the latest in a series of speeches by senior Obama administration officials – dating back to the ASIL Annual Meeting in 2010 – explaining...
the legal basis for the use of military force as it has developed since the 9/11 attacks. A transcript of Preston’s full remarks is available at www.defense.gov/speeches.

Former International Court of Justice (ICJ) Judge and 2015 ASIL Honorary Membership winner Sir Kenneth Keith delivered the 2015 Grotius Lecture with commentary by Dame Rosalyn Higgins (former ICJ president). Keith’s lecture, “Some Thoughts on Grotius 400 Years On,” explored how the contributions of the great Dutch jurist and philosopher continue to resonate in today’s world. The lecture was sponsored by American University Washington College of Law.

Professor Pierre-Marie Dupuy of the Graduate Institute of Geneva received ASIL’s highest honor, the 2015 Manley O. Hudson Medal for outstanding contributions to scholarship and achievement in international law. At the luncheon in his honor, Dupuy shared stories and observations from his career in an interview with Professor Michael Reisman of Yale Law School.


New America Foundation President Anne-Marie Slaughter, winner of the Society’s Women in International Law Interest Group’s 2015 Prominent Woman in International Law award, gave remarks at a luncheon in her honor. In her speech, “What People-Centered International Law Might Look Like,” Slaughter called for orienting international law not only toward nation states but also toward "a world of people; not people as citizens of states, just people."

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The City of The Hague and the Royal Netherlands Embassy co-sponsored a discussion with Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Director-General Ahmet Uzumcu, with The Hague Institute for Global Justice President Abiodun Williams serving as moderator. Topics ranged from the OPCW's role in reducing chemical weapons in Syria to the overall success of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the OPCW’s receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013.

The closing plenary, “Preventing Torture in the Fight Against Terrorism,” featured American University Washington College of Law Dean and U.N. Committee Against Torture Chair Claudio Grossman, University of Virginia Center for National Security Law Director John Norton Moore, and former U.S. Navy General Counsel Alberto Mora, with Human Rights First President Elisa Massimino serving as moderator. The panelists discussed international efforts to enforce prohibitions against torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment.

Session summaries, book reviews, and interviews with Annual Meeting speakers can be found on the conference’s official blog, ASIL Cables, at www.asilcables.org.

In addition to the Hudson Medal, Honorary Membership, and Prominent Woman in International Law awards referenced above, the 109th Annual Meeting also included the awarding of the following prizes.

- The Society presented the Goler T. Butcher Medal, given each year since 1997 in recognition of outstanding contributions to the field of international human rights law, to Judge Iris Yassmin Barrios Aguilar of Guatemala.
- ASIL’s Certificate of Merit for a preeminent contribution to creative scholarship went to the book The New Terrain of International Law: Courts,

- The Society awarded its Certificate of Merit for high technical craftsmanship and utility to practicing lawyers and scholars to The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights: Commentary, Cases, and Materials (Oxford University Press, 2014) by Ben Saul, David Kinley, and Jacqueline Mowbray (all of the Sydney Law School).

- The Society’s Certificate of Merit in a specialized area of international law was given to Codifying Choice of Law Around the World: An International Comparative Analysis (Oxford University Press, 2014) by Symeon Symeonides (Willamette University College of Law).

- ASIL’s Francis Lieber Society on the Law of Armed Conflict awards two prizes to authors less than 35 years of age for outstanding scholarship in this field of international law: one for a book, the other for an article. This year Gilles Giacca (University of Oxford Faculty of Law) won in the book category for Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights in Armed Conflict (Oxford University Press). Tom Ruys (University of Ghent) won in the article category for “The Meaning of 'Force' and the Boundaries of the Jus ad Bellum: Are 'Minimal' Uses of Force Excluded from UN Charter Article 2(4)?” (108 American Journal of International Law 2, 2014).

- Ruys’s article also won this year’s Francis Deák Prize, awarded to a young author for meritorious scholarship published in the American Journal of International Law. This award is sponsored by Oxford University Press.

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At the ASIL Annual General Meeting, held each year in conjunction with the Annual Meeting, the following members were elected officers of the Society.

- **Gabrielle Kirk McDonald** (Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal) was elected honorary president;

- **Lucinda Low** (Steptoe & Johnson) was elected president-elect;

- **Mark Agrast** (American Society of International Law), **Anne Joyce** (U.S. Department of State), **Edward Kwakwa** (World Intellectual Property Organization), **Sean Murphy** (George Washington University Law School), and **Greg Shaffer** (University of California-Irvine School of Law) were elected vice presidents;

- Karen Alter (Northwestern University School of Law), **Doak Bishop** (King & Spalding), **Olufemi Elias** (Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons), **Susan Franck** (Washington and Lee University School of Law), **Blanca Montejo** (U.N. Department of Political Affairs), **Jide Nzelibe** (Northwestern University School of Law), **Beth van Schaack** (Stanford Law School), and **Carlos Vazquez** (Georgetown University Law Center) were elected Executive Council members; and

- **Jeffrey Bleich** (Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP), **Marcella David** (University of Iowa College of Law), **Margaret McKeown** (U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit), **Richard Steinberg** (University of California-Los Angeles School of Law), **Jane Stromseth** (U.S. Department of State), **Peter Tomka** (International Court of Justice), **Joel Trachtman** (Tufts University Fletcher

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School of Law and Diplomacy), and, for a two-year term, Elisa Massimino were elected ASIL counsellors.

For more information about the 2015 Annual Meeting, please contact Sheila Ward, ASIL director of communications and membership, 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 Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council 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 scholars, jurists, practitioners, government officials, leaders in international and nongovernmental organizations, students, and others interested in international law. For more information, visit www.asil.org.