

## IN MEMORIAM

### JOHN H. JACKSON—by Edith Brown Weiss\*

John Jackson joined the American Society of International Law in 1961. He was part of us for fifty-four years. He served as an Editor or Honorary Editor of the *American Journal of International Law* for thirty-four years, and as Vice President, Honorary Vice President, and then as Counsellor to the Society. In 2008, the Society honored him with its highest award—the Manley O. Hudson Medal.

John has been described as a Nobel Laureate in the field of international trade law, a field of legal study that in many respects he invented and shaped. His works are legendary throughout the world. His early book *WORLD TRADE AND THE LAW OF THE GATT* became *the* book used by those who practiced in the field.

John spent time in the policy world, which shaped his scholarship. From 1973–1974, he served as General Counsel and then Acting Deputy for the Office of Special Representative on Trade (now USTR). His seminal book in 1990, *RESTRUCTURING THE GATT SYSTEM*, contributed much to the development of the World Trade Organization. John strongly believed in a constitution for the world trading system, the importance of effective dispute settlement, and the integrity of the judicial process.

While he had a passion for international trade law, John also saw international law as a unitary whole, of which trade and more broadly international economic law were a part. He was open to examining the relationship between trade, environment, human rights, and labor. His last book, *BEYOND SOVEREIGNTY*, was addressed to broad issues in international law and was prescient in many respects.

As many in this room know, John mentored thousands of students across the world. Many learned from his coauthored course book, published in multiple editions. In addition to his role at the *AJIL*, he founded the *Journal of International Economic Law*.

John was an international person, who supported ASIL's programs with societies of international law in other countries. John addressed the inaugural tripartite meeting of the American Society of International Law, Canadian Council of International Law, and the Japanese Association of International Law in Tokyo, Japan, where he spoke with customary acuity, and then dined Japanese style on mats with his beloved wife Joan. He relished conversations with scholars, practitioners, and policymakers throughout the world, and conversations restarted quickly from where they had left off.

In one of my final conversations with John, we spoke about the panels at last year's annual meeting and the *AJIL* Board meeting. He asked me to tell him more next time we spoke. He cherished the ASIL and the *AJIL*, as we cherished him.

John was like a big, strong oak tree that one could see for miles in the distance, whose influence was mighty, and whose impact will live on for generations to come. We honor him and are forever grateful.

\* Francis Cabell Brown Professor of International Law at Georgetown University Law Center.