

FOREWORD

The Society's 2014 Annual Meeting—its 108th—was exceptional in many respects: organized as a joint meeting with the International Law Association (ILA) and coincident with both the ILA's Biennial Conference and the final rounds of the International Law Students Association's Jessup Moot Court Competition, it was the largest and most diverse meeting in the Society's history. Stretching a full week, with ILA study groups and committee meetings interspersed with the traditional fare of an ASIL Annual Meeting, it presented attendees with a rich smorgasbord of activities, events, and discussions on which to feast. This volume collects summaries and transcripts of the discussions at the program sessions typically associated with the ASIL Annual Meeting; future students of this moment in the history of international law might well read this volume alongside the companion *Proceedings* of the ILA Biennial Conference, to appreciate the full sweep of this extraordinary gathering.

The Society, Annual Meeting attendees, and *Proceedings* readers owe a debt of gratitude to our Program Co-Chairs, Oona Hathaway, Larry Johnson, and Fionnuala NíAoláin, who assembled a first-rate program committee and whose tireless commitment and creativity were evidenced throughout. They chose as the 2014 Annual Meeting theme the timely and challenging topic of "The Effectiveness of International Law." It seemed a particularly urgent theme as the Meeting convened this year against the backdrop of Security Council inaction over the ongoing slaughter in Syria and Russia's provocative annexation of Crimea. Indeed, two highlights of the Meeting were plenary panels focused on these challenges to the international legal order. Other memorable sessions included Radhika Coomaraswamy's stirring Grotius Lecture and Diane Amann's response, highlighting progress on and challenges to the rights of women and children in international law; Sundaresh Menon's Brower Lecture, outlining his vision for innovation and greater effectiveness in international dispute resolution; a moving WILIG Luncheon, featuring tributes (including by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor) to the three women on the International Court of Justice, Joan Donoghue, Xue Hanqin, and Julia Sebutinde; the plenary panel discussion among these three; and the very special Hudson Medal Luncheon conversation between ICJ President Peter Tomka and 2014 Hudson Medalist Alain Pellet. Numerous panels focused discussion on contemporary challenges for international law, including several sessions that focused on technological change—in weaponry, communications, surveillance, and even in human rights monitoring. These and many other timely discussions are detailed in these *Proceedings*.

In addition to the Co-Chairs and the Program Committee, whole-hearted thanks go also to Cara Smith, who managed the editorial process for the *Proceedings*, and to Sheila Ward, Lara Townzen, and the team at ASIL's Tillar House headquarters and at Voila! Inc., who managed the logistical aspects of the Annual Meeting program. Without their efforts, none of this would have been possible. Finally, we are grateful to our collaborators in the joint meeting, in particular the leadership of the American Branch of the International Law Association, its President, Ruth Wedgwood, and President-Elect, David Stewart, and other members of our joint steering committee, Catherine Amirfar, Jim Nafziger, Cynthia Lichtenstein, and Donald Donovan. A meeting of this size and complexity does not come together without a creative and committed group of organizers, and we were lucky to have just that in this hard-working joint steering committee.

I write this preface as one of my last acts as Executive Director of the American Society of International Law, as I move this summer to new professional challenges. It is a time of personal reflection on my ASIL tenure, our Society, and the role of international law in our world. As I consider these threads, I am convinced of the imperative of our work, that international law *is* effective—certainly not perfect nor a panacea, but a critical tool of global governance nonetheless—and that it is the important work of organizations such as ASIL and the ILA constantly to question and hone this valuable tool. It is this community of talented and committed international lawyers that is the key to international law’s effectiveness.

I hope that *Proceedings* readers will enjoy this volume and its interrogation of the effectiveness of international law in today’s world, and that they will be moved to join the discussion, to get involved in the Society, participate in future Annual Meetings—in short, to work toward the effectiveness of international law.

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