

1906-2021

# American Society of International Law

Advancing Law and Justice for 115 Years



he 115th Annual Meeting of the Society convened in March 2021 amidst the continuing challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, to





consider "Reconceiving International Law: Creativity in Times of Crisis." In designing this second virtual meeting, we sought once again to offer our worldwide

audience a rich and engaging experience that would reproduce the vibrancy of an in-person Annual Meeting to the greatest possible extent. The response of the international law community was gratifying, and attendance exceeded the record of over 2,000 registrants we had set in 2020

Another successful innovation was our "Global Engagement Series," presented in collaboration with regional colleague societies in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. The sessions were designed to draw on the expertise of our colleagues around the world in addressing both global and regional concerns, and they were scheduled at times that would be optimal for the panelists and viewers in each region. This joint venture was a wonderful way to strengthen our partnerships with our colleagues across the globe, and we anticipate continuing it.

The spring brought to fruition two important long-term projects. In April, we released the report of our independent nonpartisan Task Force on Policy Options for U.S. Engagement with the International Criminal Court. The report was the culmination of an extensive 18-month effort that brought together international criminal justice experts and former senior government officials.

In May, we presented a ground-breaking two-day virtual conference, organized in cooperation with the University of the West Indies, on Reparations under International Law of Enslavement of African Persons in the Americas and the Caribbean. Convened by ASIL Honorary President Judge Patrick L. Robinson of the International Court of Justice, the conference discussed the historical and social legacy of transatlantic chattel slavery and the basis for reparations under international law. A second conference is planned for next year.

In November, we held our second virtual Midyear Meeting, which comprised the annual Research and Practitioners' Forums. At these events and throughout the year, we continued to embrace the opportunities offered by the virtual environment to expand the Society's online presence, generating a greater volume of timely, high-quality programs than at any time in our history. Indeed, over the last 18 months alone, we presented over 100 ASIL events, plus another 30 co-sponsored events during the same period. Although we are eager to resume our in-person activities in the coming year, the virtual format has enabled us to reach new audiences around the world, and we expect to continue to offer a menu of virtual activities to complement our Tillar House events

Meanwhile, the American Journal of International Law and its open access companion, AJIL Unbound, continued to lead the field, together with International Legal Materials, ASIL Insights, International Law in Brief, and our now well-established podcast, International Law Behind the Headlines, which marked its 33rd episode.

With the guidance of our Judicial Advisory Board, chaired by Justice Stephen Breyer, we planned to relaunch our judicial education program with a series of panels on international law to take place at various circuit conferences. Although the omicron variant forced the cancellation or postponement of these events, we were able to host a nationwide webinar for federal judges in the fall.

Fostering the next generation of international lawyers remained a top priority during 2021. As the pandemic continued to disrupt law school classes and the job market, we focused on ways we could use our virtual capabilities to maintain and expand our services to law students and new professionals, including through remote mentoring, training, and professional development programs.

We are gratified to have been able to overcome the extraordinary challenges of this second pandemic year, thanks to the steadfast support and engagement of our members, partners, financial supporters, and our staff. We are grateful for all they do to sustain this indispensable institution, and to ensure that it remains strong and relevant in these challenging times.

Catherine Amirfar

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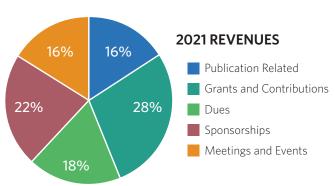
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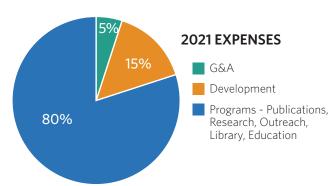
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The Society's 3,500 members from more than 100 nations include attorneys, academics, corporate counsel, judges, representatives of governments and nongovernmental organizations, international civil servants, students and others interested in international law. Through our meetings, publications, information services and outreach programs, ASIL advances international law scholarship and education for international law professionals as well as for broader policy-making audiences 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 11.

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