

FOREWORD

To biologists, *adaptation* describes the process by which an organism or species evolves to become better fitted to its environment. The 2015 Annual Meeting theme, *Adapting to a Rapidly Changing World*, asks whether, and to what degree, international law can play a comparably organic role in global affairs.

The Program Committee assembled an impressive array of programs and speakers to explore that question. Over the course of the Annual Meeting, more than 175 speakers sought to illuminate the myriad challenges facing the international legal order, and to consider the adaptations that will be needed if international law and legal institutions are to evolve to meet those challenges.

For four days, scholars, practitioners, judges, government officials, and advocates debated such pressing problems as: violent extremism; regional wars of aggression and the widening refugee crisis they have left in their wake; the corrosive effects of corruption on international investment, trade and development; and the threats posed by pandemics, global climate change, and weapons of mass destruction.

On Wednesday afternoon, Sir Kenneth Keith set the stage for these discussions with his Grotius Lecture, “Some Thoughts About Grotius 400 Years On,” followed by an equally erudite and entertaining response from Dame Rosalyn Higgins. On Thursday, Professor Michael Reisman delivered the Third Charles N. Brower Lecture, which he entitled, “Canute Confronts the Tide: States and the Evolution of the Minimum Standard in Customary International Law.” Professor Reisman also joined this year’s Hudson Medalist, Pierre-Marie DuPuy, for a wide-ranging luncheon conversation on “The Unity of International Law.” Other highlights of the Annual Meeting included a policy address by Defense Department General Counsel Stephen Preston on “The Legal Framework for the United States’ Use of Military Force since 9/11,” remarks by ASIL past president Anne-Marie Slaughter at the Women in International Law Luncheon on “What People-Centered International Law Would Look Like,” and a powerful Gala Dinner address by Judge Rosemary Barkett of the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work and commitment of many people, including our President Lori F. Damrosch, Annual Meeting co-chairs Monica Hakimi, Natalie Reid, and Samuel Witten, and the exceptional Program Committee they assembled. Particular thanks are due to the editor of these Proceedings, Erin Lovall, our Director of Education and Research, Wes Rist, our meeting planner, Eden Capuano, and her team at Voila! Inc., and all of the members of the Society’s talented and dedicated staff.

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