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For Release: February 14, 2014  
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**NEW JOURNAL FEATURES ARTICLES ON AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COURT, TREATY INTERPRETATION, AND SUPREME COURT'S *KIOBEL* DECISION; *AJIL UNBOUND* DEBUTS**

WASHINGTON, DC—The American Society of International Law (ASIL) announces the release of the fourth issue of the 107th volume of its flagship publication, the [\*American Journal of International Law\*](#). Debuting with this issue is [\*AJIL Unbound\*](#), an experimental, supplemental online publication and blog featuring discussions on the newest issues of the *Journal*, as well as other timely international law matters.

The latest *Journal* contains two lead articles. The first is “A New International Human Rights Court for West Africa: The ECOWAS Community Court of Justice” by **Karen Alter** (Northwestern University Law School), **Laurence Helfer** (ASIL Academic Partner Duke University School of Law), and **Jacqueline McAllister** (Northwestern University). This article focuses on the transformation of the Community Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States into a court with far-reaching human rights jurisdiction thanks to political mobilization, rather than judicial lawmaking.

The second lead article, written by **Julian Mortenson** (University of Michigan Law School), is entitled “The *Travaux* of *Travaux*: Is the Vienna Convention Hostile to Drafting History?” This piece challenges the commonly held view that the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties relegated drafting history to a subsidiary role in treaty

interpretation. Through examination of the Convention’s own drafting history, the author concludes that reference to *travaux préparatoires* was meant to be a regular, central, and indispensable component of the interpretive process.

This issue of the *Journal* also contains a thought-provoking Agora (set of essays on a single theme) on the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2013 decision in *Kiobel v. Royal Dutch Petroleum Co.* “Agora: Reflections on *Kiobel*” has six essays in the *Journal* and ten additional essays available exclusively online. Together the 16 essays explore the profound implications of *Kiobel* on current international law issues from practical, jurisprudential, and other perspectives.

The ten online-only pieces are presented in the debut edition of [AJIL Unbound](#), ASIL’s new e-publication and blog, which combines the substance of the deep-rooted *Journal* with the advantage of an open-access medium for discussion and debate. Just after its launch, the blog hosted a week-long online symposium led by contributors to the Agora; see the discussion at [www.asil.org/ajilunbound](http://www.asil.org/ajilunbound). All 16 articles comprising “Agora: Reflections on *Kiobel*” are available at [www.asil.org/ajil](http://www.asil.org/ajil).

The latest issue of the *Journal* also contains:

- A tribute to **Detlev Vagts** (1929–2013), renowned scholar of international law, ASIL Patron, and lifelong member of the Society, authored by **Peter Trooboff** (ASIL Law Firm Member Covington & Burling LLP);
- Four case reports, edited by *Journal* Board and Executive Council member **David Stewart** (ASIL Academic Partner Georgetown University Law Center), including a featured decision on the first World Trade Organization judicial review of climate-change subsidy issues, as well as judgments and opinions on various

cases from the European Court of Justice, the European Court of Human Rights, and the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;

- A section on the latest developments in contemporary U.S. practice relating to international law, edited by *Journal* Board member **John Crook** (ASIL Academic Partner George Washington University Law School); and
- Six book reviews, edited by *Journal* Board member **Richard Bilder** (ASIL Academic Partner University of Wisconsin Law School).

This issue's full table of contents is available at [www.asil.org/ajil](http://www.asil.org/ajil).

The 107th (2013) volume of the *Journal* is the third in the periodical's 100-plus-year history to be published online simultaneously with its traditional print counterpart. Through a partnership with the nonprofit, online, scholarly periodical resource JSTOR, the *Journal*, along with the Society's other top two periodicals – *International Legal Materials* and the Annual Meeting *Proceedings* – are now available electronically at no extra cost to ASIL members.

The *Journal* has been published quarterly since 1907 and, according to JSTOR, is “considered the premier English-language scholarly journal in its field.” The periodical is also ranked as the most-cited international law journal on Google Scholar. *The Journal* regularly features articles, editorials, and comments by preeminent scholars on developments in international law and international relations. It also includes analyses of decisions by courts and tribunals, and it lists and reviews recent books on international law.

Members of the press may receive a complimentary copy of the current issue of the *Journal* by writing to Sheila Ward, ASIL Director of Communications and

Membership, at [sward@asil.org](mailto:sward@asil.org).

ASIL is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational membership organization. It was founded in 1906, chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1950, and has held Category II Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations 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 attorneys, academics, corporate counsel, judges, representatives of governments and nongovernmental organizations, international civil servants, students, and others interested in international law. For more information, visit [www.asil.org](http://www.asil.org).