



**Statement of ASIL President Gregory Shaffer
on the Passing of Benjamin B. Ferencz**

April 8, 2023

The American Society of International Law mourns the loss of long-time member, Benjamin B. Ferencz.

Mr. Ferencz, the last surviving prosecutor of the Nuremberg trials, died last night, Friday, April 7, in Boynton Beach, Florida at the age of 103. Through his many books, articles, speeches, statements, and letters—to editors, elected representatives, world leaders, international organizations, and others—Ben was an indefatigable advocate for peace and justice.

For decades, Mr. Ferencz advocated for an International Criminal Court, and in 1998, his vision was largely realized when the Rome Statute for the ICC was adopted, and a few years later the Court was established in The Hague. Mr. Ferencz continued to champion the work of the Court, both as a keen critic of its shortcomings, and a guardian of its great promise.

Ben's personal story is extraordinary. From the humblest of immigrant backgrounds, Mr. Ferencz rose to prosecute the infamous Einsatzgruppen case. With as many as one million victims, "Case #9" is widely held to have been the biggest murder trial in history.

Mr. Ferencz's accomplishments in the courtroom, extraordinary dedication to the rule of law, and lifelong advocacy for human rights gave real meaning to the word "accountability," elevating global expectations for justice in the face of the most egregious crimes and encouraging countless young people to embrace careers in international law.

The world will remember Benjamin B. Ferencz as one who successfully prosecuted the most heinous and unimaginable crimes with intelligence, fortitude, and determination. We will remember Ben as a friend, a cherished member of our Society, and an eternal source of inspiration and optimism.

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ABOUT THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

The American Society of International Law (ASIL) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational membership organization founded in 1906 and chartered by Congress in 1950. Its 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.