



For Release: October 3, 2019  
Contact: James Steiner

[jsteiner@asil.org](mailto:jsteiner@asil.org)

**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW HONORS CHAMPIONS OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL RULE OF LAW**

NEW YORK CITY, NY – The American Society of International Law (ASIL) presented its Champions of the International Rule of Law Award to human rights advocate **Amal Clooney** and Microsoft president **Brad Smith** at a gala ceremony and reception on Tuesday, October 1, 2019 in New York. Clooney and Smith were recognized for their global contributions to the international rule of law.

The ceremony was held at The Frick Collection, an internationally renowned museum and research center for old master paintings, European sculpture, and decorative arts. Following the formal presentation, the honorees participated in an unscripted conversation with CNN senior political analyst **John Avlon**.

Clooney is a barrister who has defended the rights of journalists and political prisoners around the world. She has represented victims of mass atrocities, including Iraqi women from the Yazidi community who are seeking accountability for genocide and other international crimes perpetrated by ISIS. In 2016, Amal and her husband, the actor, George Clooney, established the Clooney Foundation for Justice, which works to advance justice in courtrooms, classrooms, and communities around the world. Its flagship initiative, TrialWatch, monitors trials and advocates on behalf of journalists, women, sexual and religious minorities, and human rights defenders.

Smith is the president and chief legal officer of Microsoft. He has been a visionary leader on digital privacy and other critical issues at the intersection of technology and society, and has worked to promote responsible business practices, environmental sustainability, corporate

philanthropy, and human rights. He has been an outspoken defender of the rights of DREAMers and other immigrants, and chairs the board of directors of Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), which provides free legal assistance to unaccompanied children facing deportation.

ASIL President **Sean D. Murphy** said, “At a time when the rule of law faces daunting challenges around the world, it is important to celebrate the champions who work to uphold the values we share. These two honorees are true champions, whose lives and work are a testament to those values.”

### **About the American Society of International Law**

The American Society of International Law is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational membership organization founded in 1906 and chartered by the U.S. 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. The Society holds Special Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and is a constituent society of the American Council of Learned Societies.

The Society’s 3,500 members come from more than 100 countries, including Scholars and practitioners, judges and government officials, representatives of international and non-governmental organizations, and students and new professionals.

Through its meetings, publications, information services, and outreach programs, the Society advances international law scholarship and education for international law professionals as well as for broader policy-making audiences and the public.

For more information about ASIL, visit [www.asil.org](http://www.asil.org).

# # #