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## The Hudson Medal Luncheon: "The Unity of International Law" – Introductory Remarks by Lori Damrosch

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## **THE HUDSON MEDAL LUNCHEON: “THE UNITY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW”**

The luncheon meeting was convened at 1:00 p.m., Friday, April 10. The luncheon was convened with the opening remarks given by Lori Damrosch, President of the American Society of International Law. Michael Reisman of Yale Law School moderated the panel and introduced the honoree: Pierre-Marie Dupuy of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.

### **INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY LORI DAMROSCH\***

Ladies and gentlemen, could I have your attention just for a few brief words of welcome on behalf of the American Society of International Law. I just want to take a few minutes to say a few things about the Hudson Medal of the American Society of International Law and to welcome you to this Hudson Medal luncheon.

As many of you are aware, the Hudson Medal is the Society's highest honor. It is awarded for lifetime achievement in the field of international law. The Hudson Medal was first awarded to Lord McNair in 1959, and then to Philip Jessup in 1964. It was not awarded every year, but it has been awarded to the most distinguished persons for lifetime achievement in international law. You can find the list of the previous recipients on the Society's website.

Also at the head table here, we have two representatives of the Foley Hoag law firm. They are sponsoring this Hudson Medal luncheon, and we are very grateful for that sponsorship. We are going to give the floor to Paul Reichler, who is going to welcome our speakers and introduce the discussion.

### **REMARKS BY PAUL REICHLER†**

Thank you, Lori. It really is an honor for me to be on the same stage as two titans of international law. Michael Reisman, who stands above all other American international lawyers, received the Manley Hudson Medal in 2004. I will not say much about him today because time is short, he is not getting the Medal this year, and everyone here is already familiar with his unparalleled accomplishments. But I will say that it would be difficult to identify an issue in international law about which Michael has not written, and written brilliantly.

He has had a magnificent academic career—even if it was at that other law school in New Haven—but his accomplishments extend far beyond the university campus. He has put theory and noble ideals into practice in many important roles, including President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, President of the Arbitral Tribunal for the Bank for International Settlements, member of the Boundary Commission for Ethiopia and Eritrea, and arbitrator and counsel in numerous international cases.

I had the privilege of appearing with him, although on opposite sides, in the recent arbitration between Bangladesh and India over the maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal. Michael was an absolutely outstanding advocate for India—a formidable opponent, but also an always very gracious one. It was a privilege for me to watch him perform.

\* President of the American Society of International Law.

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