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# To Prevent and to Punish: An International Conference in Commemoration of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Negotiation of the Genocide Convention

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**PRESIDENT’S WELCOME:  
TO PREVENT AND TO PUNISH: AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN  
COMMEMORATION OF THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
NEGOTIATION OF THE GENOCIDE CONVENTION**

*Barbara R. Snyder\**

It is both an honor and a pleasure to welcome you this morning to this “Conference in Commemoration of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Negotiations of the Genocide Convention.”

It is an honor because the topic is so important, and a pleasure because I am so proud of the work of our Frederick K. Cox International Law Center, the host of this event, has done.<sup>1</sup>

Many—if not all—of you are familiar with some of Professor Scharf’s significant projects in recent years. Three years ago he helped train the judges and prosecutors of the Iraqi High Tribunal, then in 2006 he led the first session to help prepare the prosecutors and judges of the U.N. Cambodia Genocide Tribunal. Along the way Professor Scharf and the law school’s war crimes program were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by six governments and the prosecutor of an international criminal tribunal.

But Case Western Reserve University’s involvement does not rest on the work of a single individual. Through the War Crimes Research Lab, Case Western Reserve University professors and students have prepared more than 150 research memoranda for six international war crimes tribunals.<sup>2</sup> More of our students have served as interns at the five international criminal tribunals than students of any other law school in the world, and a recent law school graduate, Ruth Mary Hackler, is among the attorneys prosecuting Charles Taylor in the Hague. Another Case Western graduate, Chris Rassi, has spent the past three years working as a legal advisor to the judges of the Rwanda tribunal.

Our center also has a blog, the “Groatian Moment,” that ranked highest among international law blogs in last year’s Weblog awards.<sup>3</sup> More

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\* President, Case Western Reserve University. President Snyder began her academic career in higher education in the Case Western Reserve University School of Law, was elected president of Case Western Reserve in December 2006, and began her tenure as the first woman to hold the office on July 1, 2007.

<sup>1</sup> See <http://law.case.edu/centers/cox/>.

<sup>2</sup> See <http://law.case.edu/war-crimes-research-portal/> (Cox Center War Crimes Research Portal).

<sup>3</sup> See [http://law.case.edu/saddamtrial/entry.asp?entry\\_id=15](http://law.case.edu/saddamtrial/entry.asp?entry_id=15).

recently we added an electronic newsletter, the "War Crimes Prosecution Watch," that has gained 15,000 subscribers in little more than a year.<sup>4</sup>

Case Western Reserve University's commitment to excellence in international law is longstanding. As some of you may know, I began my academic career here at Case Western Reserve University. Henry King, a former prosecutor in the Nuremberg Trials, served on the faculty then; he continues to do so today as director of our Canada-U.S. Law Institute.

Professor King is among three former Nuremberg prosecutors appearing on one of this morning's panels, "The Origins of the Genocide Convention: From Nuremberg to Lake Success." That session offers an invaluable opportunity for all of us to reflect on the history of the landmark U.N. Genocide Convention, first authored in 1947 and adopted the following year.

But today's conference goes beyond consideration of that historic moment and to discussion of such issues as: (1) the use of force to stop genocide, (2) prosecuting and defending individuals accused of genocide, and (3) the current role of the International Court of Justice in genocide cases.

The speakers gathered represent an impressive group of individuals who have not only thought deeply about these issues, but who have had direct experience in handling relevant cases. I commend Professor Scharf and the rest of the conference organizers, and thank all of you for coming.

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<sup>4</sup> See <http://www.publicinternationallaw.org/warcrimeswatch/>.