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# Introduction: 2016 Klatsky Endowed Lecture in Human Rights

Bruce J. Klatsky

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KLATSKY ENDOWED LECTURE IN  
HUMAN RIGHTS, PRESENTED BY THE  
U.N. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS, PRINCE ZEID RA'AD  
AL-HUSSEIN

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW — APRIL  
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I. LECTURE INTRODUCTION

*Bruce J. Klatsky\**

It is with great humility that I join in welcoming you to this year's "Klatsky Lecture" on the fifteenth anniversary of its endowment. I had hoped to be with you today, but a family wedding in California has prevented this.

I am thrilled to have the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights as our speaker. His participation is a clear indication of the importance of the Law School and this program in supporting the work of Human Rights advocates across the globe. I am thrilled that the Commissioner has joined the likes of Harold Koh and my dear friend Ken Roth (Executive Director of Human Rights Watch) in addressing you on a critical issue of our day.

It is hard to believe that I am now approaching the fiftieth anniversary of my graduation from "Reserve." This institution played a pivotal role in not only my, but my wife's life. When I was able and felt it was imperative to give something back to CWRU, my passion for human rights and the blossoming of the Law School, in all areas, particularly international law, seemed a perfect marriage.

Our endowed lecture series and fellowships at Human Rights Watch have thrived over the years and this area of law is particularly relevant today, as I believe a focus on the basic rights of all people is

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\* Bruce J. Klatsky, an emeritus member of the Case Western Reserve University Board of Trustees, served as CEO and Chairman and of the Board Directors of Phillips-Van Heusen Corporation (PVH), one of the largest apparel and footwear companies in the world.

one of the most important weapons we have to fight the horror of global terrorism.

With that, I express my great appreciation to Co-Dean Michael Scharf, who has embraced this program with his normal enthusiasm and great intellect. Again, I express my thanks and appreciation to the Commissioner for addressing you today.

I hope to meet many of you next year and our Fellows this summer either in New York or Washington.

Thank you and my best wishes to you all!

## II. 2016 KLATSKY ENDOWED LECTURE IN HUMAN RIGHTS

### *Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al-Husseini*<sup>†</sup>

I am honored to have been chosen to deliver the Klatsky Human Rights lecture, and to accept, on behalf of all my colleagues at the United Nations Human Rights Office, the Award for Advancing Global Justice.

This is a deep and moving tribute, for justice—global justice—means, as you all know, more than simply law alone. For laws themselves can be commandeered for supporting that which is unjust and unworthy of us. Laws have upheld slavery, apartheid, the persecution of others, segregation and the like. Laws that have been both hideous in conception and implemented often without remorse.

Legality is not enough. Justice—maintained by the rule of law, upholding fundamental human freedoms, the equal and inalienable rights with which every human is born—is our necessary condition. To achieve this—to promote and protect the civil, political, economic, social and cultural human rights of every woman, man and child—is the mandate of my Office.

A vast mandate. Humbling really. The work of monitoring, fact-finding and reporting confronts us with harrowing details of torture, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, sexual violence, slavery and murder. So many people suffer so much, from discrimination and torture. Only a week ago, I joined the board of the U.N. Voluntary

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<sup>†</sup> Prince Zeid was appointed U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights in July 2014. He is the first Muslim to ever hold that position. He previously served as Jordan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 2010-2014, as President of the Security Council in 2014, and as Jordan's Ambassador to the United States from 2007-2010. Before that, he served as a political affairs officer in UNPROFOR (the U.N. forces in the former Yugoslavia) from 1994-1996, and as Jordan's Deputy Permanent Representative at the U.N. from 1996-2000. Prince Zeid has argued before the International Court of Justice on behalf of his country, and following allegations of widespread abuse being committed by U.N. peacekeepers in the summer of 2004, he was appointed as Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. Prince Zeid earned his BA from The Johns Hopkins University in 1987, and his PhD from Cambridge (Christ's College) in 1993.