Preface to Sixth Edition

Reports about the demise of International Law have been greatly exaggerated. The 5th edition questioned whether 9-11 turned International Law on its head—or merely poured fresh wine into a vintage bottle. The 6th edition continues this critical analysis during the current phase of the War on Terror. It assesses claims that US hegemony has trumped the collective security regime associated with the UN dream of beating swords into plowshares.

This book provides worldwide perspectives on International law via its edited cases and commentaries. It of course contains many US resources as well. No one country, however, can redefine International Law—although it may have a notable impact. The author’s 5th edition ratio of foreign to US case studies was three to one. It is now four to one. Numerous foreign resources are embedded in this text, to provide global access to the content of International Law. The materials on US law have also been augmented, largely because of its leadership role in the War on Terror.

Some attempts to cover this subject are doggedly focused on the views of the textbook authors. All writers of course pick and choose their sources. The textual quotes feature numerous scholars from many countries. My ubiquitous “collaboration” with other leading commentators facilitates my quest to present worthy evidence of the actual content of International Law.

Numerous examples illustrate current events, while plugging historical gaps, so as to educate a well-rounded student. Each chapter’s endnotes and online bibliography typically refer readers to book-length analyses of the issues presented. Where useful for further research, I have included website and news story citations. These resources facilitate access to succinct accounts of the many newsworthy issues at hand. They do not necessarily equate to this author’s adoption of all views therein expressed.

Rather than present a huge collage of arguably related bits and pieces, this is a smaller, tightly integrated volume. It is designed with two general purposes in mind. First, it presents the fundamental corpus of International Law, via a painstaking attempt to engage the student. It provides a teaching tool that is suitable for the varied learning styles we encounter in our classrooms. One may thus tilt the course format to suit institutional needs via the most desirable combination of the lecture, case, and problem/role-playing methods. I have thus revised or added certain styles and parenthetical details to the edited cases, treaties, and commentaries. These will assist the many students taking this course in their second or third language.

After an opening chapter on the general scope of International Law, the next three chapters cast the State, organizational, and individual/corporate actors in their relative roles on the international stage. The next unit, Chapters 5–9, portray much of the practical substance of International Law. The remaining chapters add more substance in a somewhat distinct unit. They address cross-cutting human rights, environmental, and economic themes. These are present, to some extent, in all chapters of this book. They present a fundamental core, for the more detailed analyses offered in the advanced versions of these subjects offered at many universities.

The general organization and progression of the most recent editions of this book has been retained. One of the significant changes to this 6th edition is the folding of the former Chapter 7 (Diplomacy) into Chapter 2 (States). This merger better reflects the negotiating feature of the day-to-day interaction between States.

The second notable alteration is the improved access to online teaching and research materials. This web-based material bridges the gap between: (1) professors, seeking longer and more detailed original materials; and (2) the student and publisher, both of whom prefer a shorter
book that is less expensive. This augmented menu offers a far richer smorgasbord of teaching materials than in past editions. The strategy of playing these integrated print and electronic chessboard pieces will prepare International Law’s disciples and detractors for their twenty-first century endgame.

Organizational Retrofit
The third important improvement is the addition of a page-one summary of each chapter’s contents. Also, the substance of each chapter has been comprehensively reorganized into alphabetic subsections. These two non-substantive changes will promote quicker access to, and review of, the content of International Law. This 6th edition retains the book’s familiar feel, in terms of the general presentation and progression of the 5th edition subject matter. It provides better access to content, however, exemplified by these guideposts.

Course Web Page
This edition’s electronic component remains available online at: <http://home.att.net/~slomansonb/txtcesite.html>. One need not be confined by the all-too-familiar adage: “A book is obsolete the day it’s published.” The end-of-chapter bibliographical resources have been moved to the Course Web Page (electronic) portion of this textbook. That change facilitates the addition of fresh resources between editions.

This 6th edition amplifies the 3rd edition’s introduction of an electronic component of *Fundamental Perspectives on International Law*. There has been—once again—a cosmic improvement in the amount, reliability, and sustainability of digitalized material. This technical upgrade to the former print-only editions enhances access to treaties, resolutions, and other key international instruments in ways not possible with a single-volume snapshot. Professors may thereby assign the print and online materials most suitable for their particular course needs.

Students may access more of the unedited, full-version cases and materials to satisfy their individualized research needs. From the Course Web page, one may thereby link to the following resources:

- key cases, treaties, and academic developments occurring after publication of the print portion of the 6th edition, which can be added to the core of this text during the life of this edition;
- miscellaneous web resources—including online dictionaries, graduate education opportunities, historical resources, maps, and travel requirements;
- a Career Opportunities in International Law webpage, to assist with office-hour questions regarding how one navigates the shift from an academic environment to the international job market;
- a Glossary of Terms (Internet glossaries); and
- a Case Reading and Analysis Suggestions webpage for non-law student readers.

New Materials and Sections
The 6th Edition contains the following fresh materials:

- updated and expanded examples and analyses of the prominent themes presented in the prior edition;
- more original documents, both in the printed text and on the Course Web Page;
- new decisions by national and international tribunals including—from the International Court of Justice—its 20__ validity of Kosovo independence case; its 2009 Georgia v. Russia
Racial Discrimination treaty case; its 2007 Bosnia v. Serbia genocide case; and—from the International Criminal Court—its 2009 first-ever arrest warrant for a sitting national president;

- some new, and some revised, role playing problems for probing student comprehension via applications of course material;
- a revised “Changes” web page, to facilitate the prior adopter’s transition from the 5th to the 6th edition;
- new book sections on extraordinary rendition, national court adjudication of international issues; organizational and corporate accountability; the so-called “redefinition” of torture; how a new US presidential administration seeks to do an “about face” regarding the War on Terror policies of the prior administration; a revised human rights chapter, now offering a potpourri of subsections on rights-specific groups; a revised environmental chapter that now offers readings on alternative environmental fora, war and the environment, criminal law options, environmental human rights, corporate environmental responsibility; and the economic chapter’s coverage of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and globalization backlash; and finally,
- a revised Teacher’s Manual.

Internet Notes
The number of endnotes containing web links has once again increased, to provide more access to original materials. These can be coupled with the periodically updated online bibliographies, which include additional web resources that are useful for research papers and presentations. Professors and students may thereby mine the rich vein of academic nuggets extractable from the Internet.

Cross-references
The number of textbook section cross-references has been increased. They appear as “[§_._].” This device promotes access to related materials in other sections of the book. Readers may thereby collate like materials for class preparation and further research.

The War on Terror (WOT), for example, has many facets which cannot be shoehorned into the same, or sequential, book sections. The distinct faces of this war are introduced in §1.1.A.2, presenting Third World perspectives on the content of International Law. The §2.4.C materials address the related interplay of self-determination and contemporary conflicts. The §3.3 and §3.5 materials cover organizational responses to the WOT. The Chapter 5 jurisdictional principles—and Chapter 6 range of sovereignty materials—cover what action can be taken, and where, in the pursuit of terrorists. Chapter 8 addresses the available judicial mechanisms for dealing with various participants in the WOT. Post-9–11 US applications of the Laws of War are provided in §9.7. The Human Rights Chapter (10) is rife with coverage of the host of victims experiencing the WOT on the ground.

In any international treatise, many terms appear in different forms. I have generally opted for the spelling found in the most universal public document (without changing the same term, as it appears in quoted documents). For example, “Usama bin Laden” and “Al-Qaida” are the terms used in UN Security Council resolutions. Certain unconventional endnote citation practices are designed to facilitate ease of reference, as opposed to blind adherence to a particular style manual.

Instructor’s Manual
Go to the above Course Web Page address, then click the html link near the icon for “Profs only.” This related on-line resource analyzes the new and/or revised end-of-chapter problems. They provide a blend of actual and hypothetical role-playing scenarios. There are almost 100 total—occasionally appearing in the narrative text, but mostly in the chapter Problem sections (89). These will assist those professors who employ the Problem Method for student review and synthesis.

This online Manual also contains a password-protected test bank of International Law examinations. The essay and multiple choice options are accessible via the above Course Web Page. Our materials can be shared on a national and international basis. Adopters are thus encouraged to submit exam questions to me, so that we can collaborate on the examination feature of our teaching role.