

## IN MEMORIAM

PAUL C. SZASZ

Paul Szasz (international lawyer and physicist) was a dedicated servant of the United Nations, a wise and careful scholar, a knowledgeable teacher, a generous colleague, and, with his wife Frances, a modest Germantown farmer. He was a dedicated member of the American Society of International Law for forty-five years.

Paul was respected and loved in the international law community. He believed deeply in international law, and more than most, he understood its limitations. Whether he was helping to establish a new institution, negotiate peace arrangements or resolve a dispute, Paul practiced international law meticulously and fairly.

Paul Szasz was a master of the United Nations system. He was present at the beginning of four international institutions: the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the conversion of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) into a Specialized Agency of the United Nations. If anyone wanted to know the history of why a text read one way rather than another, or why certain rules, regulations or practices were employed rather than others, or how texts should be interpreted, Paul was the unparalleled repository of the institution's memory. He knew how international institutions really work, and he repeatedly shared those insights with the Society and with the international community generally.

Paul Szasz had many roles at the ASIL—leader, author, panelist. Most appropriately, Paul was serving as a counselor to the Society at the time of his death. Paul had already held many offices: a member of the Executive Council, vice president (in 1985 and 1986), and honorary vice president from 1994–1999. He served on many committees, and had a key role in developing the Society's carefully drafted guidelines for recommending nominees to the International Court of Justice.

At the Annual Meetings, we always came to hear Paul speak on Namibia, Bosnia, nuclear safeguards, the ICC, and at last year's meeting, the draft WHO framework convention on tobacco control. We came because we knew he was always well-informed, always well-prepared, and always objective and measured in speech.

Throughout all of his assignments for his beloved United Nations, Paul found time to undertake careful research, deliver papers, publish scholarly articles, and teach at New York University Law School. His bibliography includes more than 150 published books, articles, and notes, including seven articles and thirteen book reviews in the *American Journal of International Law*. Often his articles contained new ideas about how difficult issues ought to be handled. In one of his most recent papers, he proposed a multilateral treaty that would criminalize breaches of confidentiality by an international organization's inspectors/staff carrying out on-site inspections and other intrusive control measures pursuant to international treaties.<sup>1</sup>

For many of us, though, we remember Paul as the extremely generous colleague, who at a moment's notice would willingly and painstakingly review our writings and point out even the slightest inaccuracy. We treasured that.

<sup>1</sup> *Disciplining International Officials*, Paper prepared for the International Symposium: Cooperation and Legal Assistance for Effective Implementation of International Agreements, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, The Hague, Netherlands, February 7–9, 2001.

Throughout the world, Paul garnered everyone's respect for his intellect, his uncompromising integrity, his innate sense of fairness, and his dedication. Paul treated everyone the same, whatever the nationality. He passionately believed in international law. Even in the last twenty months when he was ill, he continued to live and breathe the life of international law, flying repeatedly to Geneva, to Rio, to The Hague, to California, and elsewhere to advise on international negotiations for a framework convention to control tobacco or to present a paper. Paul was a master, a mentor, and model to people around the world, young and old. The American Society of International Law is grateful to him and will miss him terribly.

EDITH BROWN WEISS

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