

**Nuclear Weapons and International Law 2020: Virtual Conference**

On November 12, 2020, the **International Section of the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA)** hosted an all-day virtual conference on nuclear weapons and international law. An exceptional group of experts in law, policy, diplomacy, and advocacy joined high-level officials from the United Nations and the United States to examine the application of international law to nuclear weapons and policy and advocacy strategies for control and elimination of the weapons and for ensuring their non-use. Speakers examined national nuclear weapons postures, international humanitarian law, human rights law, the UN system, the non-proliferation regime, and civil society advocacy, including religious approaches.

* A report on the conference is [here](http://www.lcnp.org/NYSBA%20Nov%202020%20Conference%20-%20Final%20Report.pdf)**,** including summaries of the sessions with video links.
* The agenda with video links, speakers’ biographies, texts of remarks, and a bibliography are available [here](https://gsinstitute.org/conference-videos-nuclear-weapons-and-international-law/).
* Video of the conference is also available [here](https://nysba.ce21.com/ViewerUnAutheticatedLink?x=raWfFH9aBpXELgNN3qSTyw==).

Speakers included Prof. **Osamu Arakaki** of International Christian University, Japan; **Hans Kristensen** of Federation of American Scientists; Prof. **Scott Sagan** of Stanford University; UN Under-Secretary-General **Izumi Nakamitsu**; **Ariana Smith** and **Dr. John Burroughs** of Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy; **Allison Pytlak** of Reaching Critical Will/WILPF; American Bar Association President **Patricia Lee Refo**; Global Security Institute President **Jonathan Granoff**; Governor **Jerry Brown**, Executive Chairman, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists; Ambassador **Christopher Ford**, Assistant Secretary for International Security and Nonproliferation; Ambassador **Thomas Graham**, former Special Representative for Arms Control, Nonproliferation and Disarmament; Dr. **Gloria Duffy**, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense; Prof. **Charles Moxley** of Fordham Law; Prof. **David Koplow** of Georgetown Law; **Kathleen Lawand** of the International Committee of the Red Cross; **Laurie Ashton**, counsel for the Marshall Islands in its nuclear disarmament cases; **Jacqueline** **Cabasso** of Western States Legal Foundation; Rev. **Drew Christiansen** of Georgetown University; **Tom Collina** of Ploughshares Fund; and **Audrey Kitigawa** of the Parliament of the World’s Religions.

Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy, Global Security Institute, and the International Law Section of the American Bar Association co-sponsored and co-organized the conference with the NYSBA International Section and its incoming Chair, **Edward Lenci**. Additional co-sponsors were Fordham Law School, Center on National Security; Georgetown University, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs; New York City Bar Association, Committees on International Law, Military and Veteran Affairs, the United Nations, and Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice; and New York County Lawyers Association, Committee on Foreign & International Law.