



Welcoming Address

**By State Minister
Prof. Bausback**

at the Nuremberg Moot Court

on July 26, 2017

**in Nuremberg,
Germany**

Please check against delivery.

**Dear Mrs. Bayerlein,
dear Moot Court participants,
members of the jury,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**“Attack by the self-proclaimed ‘Islamic State’
before the German Embassy in Afghanistan!”**

**“North Korea’s Dictator Kim Jong-Un conducts
another nuclear bomb test!”**

**“Erdogan has leading journalists in Turkey
arrested!”**

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The newspaper headlines we read these days are not pretty. This news is **alarming, consternating and unsettling.**

After the **end of the Cold War** between Russia and the USA, **optimism** spread throughout the western world. We had the impression that the world would change for the better.

Sometimes it seems as if we had been **mistaken** back then. The stream of horrific news is never-ending, and new flashpoints pop up over and over again.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

But there is something else that we do not want to—and indeed shouldn't—conceal: There are definitely many places on this earth that give us **reason to hope**. Just think, for example, of the **Peace Accord**, recently signed by the **government** and **Farc** in Colombia following many years of horror.

Nevertheless, I am firmly convinced that the **significance of international penal law as a peacekeeping instrument** will rise rather than fall.

You,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

are the **judges of the future**. In the medium term, your generation of law professionals will rule on what is genocide, what is a war crime, what is a crime against humanity—and what isn't.

You thus shoulder enormous responsibility.

Therefore, it is wonderful that you are dedicating yourselves to international penal law at an **early stage in your careers**.

As is so often the case in life, theory is not everything in this field, either.

Public speaking in court, quick reactions to questions, argumentative finesse and repartee are **skills** young jurists simply **cannot acquire early enough**.

Here at the Nuremberg Moot Court, you learn and hone these skills almost **playfully**. Unlike later in practice, you can afford to make a mistake once in a while, without it having real consequences for the parties involved.

Address!

There is no **better venue** for the Nuremberg Moot Court than Room 600 of the Nuremberg Courthouse, in which we find ourselves today.

This is where the Nuremberg Trials took place, at which the '**Charter of the International Military Tribunal**' was applied for the first time. This is why this courtroom is considered the **birthplace of international penal law**.

Even back then—more than 70 years ago—one thing was absolutely clear: international penal law can **only** develop and be applied effectively if **nations work together. As they are doing these days at the Moot Court.**

Address!

I would like to take this opportunity up-front to **express my high regard** for all of the participants!

Trying and pleading a fictitious case **under international penal law** as one would before the International Court of Justice and drafting **briefs and** preparing **summations** for such a trial is a herculean task!

Given this challenging subject matter, **the preparatory work alone** has definitely demanded a lot of **energy, dedication** and **time** of you.

I think it is **outstanding** that you have taken on the **toils** of being involved with the Moot Court!

And I am **sure** that you will **all take home something valuable! Not just from a professional point of view** as budding legal professionals, but also for **yourselves as individuals.**

I wish you all an enjoyable time and the best of success!

Thank you for your attention.

