



# GRUBER FOUNDATION

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## JEROME SHESTACK AND THOMAS BUERGENTHAL, TWO RENOWNED ADVOCATES OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE THROUGH LAW, RECEIVING PRESTIGIOUS GRUBER PRIZE

### **Yale Law School Dean Harold Hongju Koh to Speak on "Human Rights in the Post-Post-Post Cold War World" to Honor 2008 Gruber Justice Prize Recipients at George Washington University Law School Symposium**

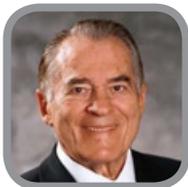
Washington, DC, October 22, 2008 – Harold Hongju Koh, dean of Yale Law School, will lead a panel discussion featuring two giants of international justice as they are honored with the 2008 Justice Prize of the Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation. Dean Koh will deliver a brief talk entitled "Human Rights in the Post-Post-Post Cold War World," after which Justice Prize recipients Judge Thomas Buergenthal and Jerome J. Shestack will share their insights on this subject, gleaned from their long and distinguished legal careers. The three panel members will then accept questions from the audience. This event, which will also be viewable via webcast, will take place at 2 p.m. on October 30, 2008, at the George Washington University Law School in Washington, DC.

"Through a lifetime of dedication and determination to the principles of equal rights and justice through law, each of this year's Gruber prize recipients has had a profoundly positive and lasting impact on the lives of people all over the world," said Patricia Gruber, co-founder of the foundation that has been awarding the Gruber Justice Prize annually since 2001. "They will discuss the work that they and others have done to bring justice to the victims of oppression and discrimination, and reflect on how a changing geopolitical landscape has affected – and will continue to affect – the nature of those efforts."

The event participants will include:



**Judge Thomas Buergenthal** – a child of the Holocaust who became a world leader in the struggle for justice and serves as the American judge on the International Court of Justice; co-authored the first international human rights law textbook in the United States; as judge and president of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, helped end the practice of disappearances in Honduras, and helped secure the government of Guatemala's compliance with a Court order ending executions of human rights activists by special tribunals. A complete biography is available at [http://www.gruberprizes.org/GruberPrizes/Justice\\_LaureateBio.php?id=66&awardid=46](http://www.gruberprizes.org/GruberPrizes/Justice_LaureateBio.php?id=66&awardid=46)



**Jerome J. Shestack** – former president of the American Bar Association who helped end the practice of disappearances in Argentina, Chile, and Brazil; helped marshal support to eliminate race and gender discrimination in the United States; successfully defended dissidents in the former Soviet Union and South Africa; organized protection for human rights advocates; and served as a mentor to a generation of human rights lawyers. A complete biography is available at [http://www.gruberprizes.org/GruberPrizes/Justice\\_LaureateBio.php?id=67&awardid=46](http://www.gruberprizes.org/GruberPrizes/Justice_LaureateBio.php?id=67&awardid=46)

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**Yale Law School Dean Harold Hongju Koh** will be the panel's moderator. The Gerard C. and Bernice Latrobe Smith Professor of International Law at Yale, Dean Koh is a leading expert on international law and a prominent advocate of human and civil rights. He has been a member of the Yale Law School faculty since 1985 and its dean since 2004. From 1998 to 2001, Dean Koh served as Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. Before joining Yale, he practiced law at Covington and Burling and at the Office of Legal Counsel at the Department of Justice.

In addition to a shared cash award of \$500,000, the recipients receive a medal of honor and citation, which reads:

***The 2008 Justice Prize of the Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation is proudly presented to Jerome Shestack and Thomas Buergenthal, two human rights advocates who are pioneers in the fight for justice and human rights throughout the world.***

*They have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to creating a world in which both governments and citizens protect and honor individualized freedom and human dignity while vigilantly fighting against social injustice and human rights abuses.*

*Amid great challenges, Thomas Buergenthal and Jerome Shestack made tremendous and lasting contributions to creating a just rule of law and changing the landscape of human rights advocacy. Through their staunch advocacy, they influenced the thinking of government officials, policymakers, educational institutions, and the general public around the world, and brought these figures into the struggle for human rights.*

"Justice begins with the actions of committed individuals," said **Dean Harold Hongju Koh**, the featured speaker and panel moderator at the Gruber Foundation Justice Prize ceremony. "Through inspired lifetimes of devotion to justice through law, each prize recipient has provided a powerful example of what worthy individuals can accomplish, even in the face of seemingly overwhelming obstacles."

### Members of the committee that selected the 2008 Justice Prize Recipients:

- **Dennis Archer**, former president, American Bar Association, former mayor of Detroit, former member of the Supreme Court of Michigan
- **Giuseppe Bisconti**, chair, International Studio Legale Bisconti, former president of the International Bar Association
- **Arthur Chaskalson**, Chief Justice, Constitutional Court of South Africa (retired)
- **Param Kumaraswamy**, former president of the Malaysian Bar, former UN Rapporteur of the Independence of Judges and Lawyers
- **Bernice Donald**, US District Court, Western District of Tennessee
- **Martin Lee**, Office of Mr. Martin C.M. Lee, QC., SC

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## Past Honorees of the Gruber Foundation Justice Prize:

- **2007: Carmen Argibay** of Argentina, **Carlos Cerda** of Chile, and **Mónica Feria** of Peru. Justice Argibay has been a pioneering women's advocate, corruption foe, and participant at the Tokyo Tribunal to adjudicate charges of sexual slavery; Judge Cerda is an independent and courageous member of the Chilean judiciary who pursued Pinochet abuse while the dictator was in power; and Ms. Feria is an international lawyer, defender of children's rights and tireless champion of victims of the Fujimori prison massacre of 1992.
- **2006: Aharon Barak**, retired president of the Supreme Court of Israel, renowned for championing an activist judiciary and the rule of law and democracy.
- **2005:** Malaysian attorney **Param Cumaraswamy** who, at considerable risk to himself, stood up for the independence of the judiciary.
- **2004: Arthur Chaskalson**, the first president of South Africa's Constitutional Court, and **Pius Langa**, an advocate and judge who helped establish South Africa's Constitution as a model for modern democratic societies.
- **2003:** Canadian Supreme Court Justices **Rosalie Silberman Abella** and **Bertha Wilson** for their contributioto jurisprudence in Canada and beyond. Abella, who served on the Ontario Court of Appeal for 20 years before her appointment to the Supreme Court, is one of Canada's leading advocates for women's and human rights; Wilson, the first woman appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada, has forged a reputation as a champion of the underdog and a dedicated proponent of fair play.
- **2002: Fali Sam Nariman**, Member of the Parliament of India, Senior Advocate in the Supreme Court of India and president of the Bar Association of India. Nariman has played an important role in both establishing and enforcing the rule of law in India. He has helped to institute universal principles of human rights as a standard for India and other emerging democracies.
- **2001: Anthony Roy Gubbay**, former Chief Justice of Zimbabwe, and the **Law Society of Zimbabwe** were the joint recipients of the inaugural Justice Prize, honored for upholding the independence of the judiciary and protecting the rights of the people of Zimbabwe.

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**The Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation International Prize Program** honors contemporary individuals in the fields of Cosmology, Genetics, Neuroscience, Justice and Women's Rights, whose groundbreaking work provides new models that inspire and enable fundamental shifts in knowledge and culture. The Selection Advisory Boards choose individuals whose contributions in their respective fields advance our knowledge, potentially have a profound impact on our lives, and, in the case of the Justice and Women's Rights Prizes, demonstrate courage and commitment in the face of significant obstacles.

The nomination form and additional information about nomination requirements and selection criteria may be found on the Foundation web site at [www.gruberprizes.org/Nominations/Nominations.php](http://www.gruberprizes.org/Nominations/Nominations.php)

The Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation honors and encourages educational excellence, social justice and scientific achievements that better the human condition. For more information about Foundation guidelines and priorities, please go to: [www.gruberprizes.org](http://www.gruberprizes.org)

### NOTE TO MEDIA: PRIZE RECIPIENTS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS

To schedule a one-on-one interview with any of the 2008 Gruber Foundation Justice Prize recipients or to attend and cover the symposium event, contact Alyson O'Mahoney at (914) 241-0086, ext 13, or email [aomahoney@robinleedyassociates.com](mailto:aomahoney@robinleedyassociates.com)

