

**Speaking Notes**  
**By**  
**Professor Charles C. Jalloh**  
**Assistant Professor of Law**  
on the occasion of the  
Special Lecture by U.S. Ambassador Stephen J. Rapp  
University of Pittsburgh School of Law  
Teplitz Auditorium  
Thursday, January 28, 2009  
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Your Excellency, Mr. Ambassador,  
Chancellor Nordenberg,  
Dean Crossley,  
Distinguished faculty and colleagues,  
Honorable Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Good Afternoon:

It is a great honor for me to be here to introduce the United States Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes, Stephen J. Rapp.

First, Mr. Ambassador, I would like to start by personally echoing Dean Crossley, who has welcomed you to Pitt Law on behalf of all of us in the law school and the wider University of Pittsburgh community.

Secondly, I wish to express my profound personal gratitude to you for taking up my invitation to visit our law school to give a lecture on one of the most pressing challenges of our time: how to feed the global hunger for justice.

In a world characterized by brutal civil wars, one where mass atrocities are common, but justice for them far too uncommon, it is clear that we, like you, have a responsibility to do our part in the global fight to end impunity. Our humble contribution is to help in educating and preparing the next generation of international criminal lawyers.

Before I introduce you, allow me to be a bit presumptuous and to briefly talk about your mandate and to highlight its significance to the United States and, indeed, the rest of the international community.

The Office of Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes is part of the Department of State. When it was established by the Clinton Administration, it was the first such office in this country's history and that of the world. Two president's later, that remains the case today. While Ambassador Rapp could tell you more about this during the question and answer session, his mandate is to help the U.S. Secretary of State, and through her the President of this country, to develop and coordinate U.S. and international policy on justice and accountability for mass atrocities going on daily in numerous conflicts around the world.

Needless to say, throughout the world, victims of heinous international crimes, from the Sudan to Sri Lanka, from Colombia to the Former Yugoslavia, from Sierra Leone to Rwanda, all today look up to the United States to take up its traditional leadership role in helping bring the entrepreneurs of serious international crimes to justice. That leadership was demonstrated by the U.S. insistence on trials, instead of outright executions, of Nazi leaders during after the Second World War. That, of course, led to the infamous Nuremberg Tribunal. Those trials set the basis for the Yugoslav, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Cambodia and Lebanon Tribunals, as well as the International Criminal Court, all of which followed decades later with strong U.S. backing.

Essentially, to my humble mind, the Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes is the voice of our collective conscience, the one who gives a human face in the most powerful country to the oft forgotten victims of international crimes, such as genocide and crimes against humanity, no matter where they occur and irrespective of who commits them. While a United States Government official, he is clearly a global advocate for the investigation and prosecution of such crimes, whether before national, hybrid or international courts and tribunals.

Mr. Ambassador, we are honored, that someone entrusted with such an important task as facing down the beast of impunity, would come to Pitt Law to share with us remarks about the anticipated Role of the United States in International Criminal Justice under the Obama Administration.

I first met Mr. Rapp, when he was the Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. At the time, I was a Legal Adviser in the Defence Office of the Special Court. He was appointed to that position by United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan in December 2006. However, we did not get a chance to meet when we were working at the Special Court in Freetown.

As fate would have it, we were meant to meet much later: in The Hague. It was the opening of the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor on June 4, 2007 – who Mr. Rapp had come to accuse of having committed serious international crimes during the Sierra Leone war.

Sitting across the room, on the opposite side of the Bar table, literally and figuratively, he, an experienced prosecutor, me a young lawyer that had just been appointed duty counsel by the judges to represent the former Liberian President after he had fired his counsel, I could not have predicted that I would one day be standing in front of a large audience like this one to introduce him. He has far more wisdom than me. But I doubt that the thought would have crossed his mind either.

Ambassador Rapp is an American and international prosecutor of many distinctions, yet, one of great humility. Around mid-last year, President Obama appointed him as the United States Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes. He was confirmed by the Senate in August 2009.

As the Chief Prosecutor of the Sierra Leone Court, from where he came to his current post, his office achieved the first convictions in history for sexual slavery and forced marriage as crimes against humanity, and for attacks on peacekeepers, and for recruitment and use of child soldiers as violations of international humanitarian law.

From 2001 to 2007, Mr. Rapp served as Senior Trial Attorney and Chief of Prosecutions at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, sitting in Arusha, Tanzania. At the ICTR, as insiders call it, he headed the prosecution team that achieved convictions of the principals of the infamous *Radio Télévision Libre des Mille Collines* (RTLM), the *génocidaires*' hate radio, and the extremist Hutu *Kangura* newspaper – the first in history for leaders of the mass media for the crime of direct and public incitement to commit genocide. That was in the aptly named “Media” trial.

Before joining international public service, Mr. Rapp, who was born and raised in Iowa, was United States Attorney in the Northern District of Iowa from 1993 to 2001, where his office won important convictions under the firearms provision of the Violence Against Women Act and the serious violent offender provision of the 1994 Crime Act. Prior to his tenure as U.S. Attorney, he worked as an attorney in private practice and served as Staff Director of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency and as an elected member of the Iowa Legislature.

He is a graduate of Harvard College. His legal training was at Columbia and Drake Law Schools.

As I already noted, Ambassador Rapp will speak to us today on the topic of the Role of the United States in International Criminal Justice. He will be pleased to take questions at the end. I wish to now invite Ambassador Rapp to the podium.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming him.

Thank You!