

# COLLOQUIUM: GROTIUS, VATEL, AND MODERN INTERNATIONAL LAW

OCTOBER 7–10, SAN DIEGO  
CURTIS BRADLEY

An understanding of international law has become increasingly central to the role of U.S. lawyers and judges. Many issues that were historically of only domestic concern, such as human rights and the environment, are now the subject of multilateral treaties. A large and growing number of cases brought in U.S. courts involve foreign transactions and events, and these cases frequently implicate difficult questions of U.S. jurisdictional authority.

This course will examine the writings of classic international law writers, most notably Hugo Grotius and Emmerich de Vattel, on a variety of international law topics that have contemporary significance. These topics include the law of armed conflict, sovereign and diplomatic immunity, and extraterritorial jurisdiction. The course will also consider the controversial Alien Tort Statute.

Grotius, an early seventeenth-century Dutch lawyer, has often been called the father of modern international law. His seminal 1625 work, *On the Law of War and Peace*, was one of the earliest efforts to provide a systematic account of the international laws of war. Vattel, an eighteenth-century Swiss diplomat, authored the wide-ranging and influential 1758 treatise, *The Law of Nations or the Principles of Natural Law*. Both writers were well known to the Founders of the U.S. Constitution, and early U.S. decisions frequently cited their works.

Curtis Bradley is a specialist in international law and a professor at the University of Virginia School of Law.

All participants will be expected to have read all of the materials before the colloquium begins. If you do not think your schedule would permit this, please decline this offer and we will try to include you in a subsequent program.



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GROTIUS