

## Event Descriptions

**Title:** The Rule of Law: Terrorism and National Security

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, Nov. 9, 10:00-11:15 a.m.

**Description:** This panel will explore the critical role of the rule of law in the struggle against terrorism. It will discuss the efforts to advance democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, particularly in countries where terrorist activity is spawned. As governments around the world confront the growing security threat posed by international terrorism, there is now broad consensus that weak or failed states lacking the rule of law offer fertile ground for terrorist networks and organized crime. Still, there is continued debate about which aspects of rule of law are most important in today's security environment. Panelists will examine the ways in which the absence of the rule of law has enabled terrorism to grow, and how building democratic, open, just and law-respecting societies can help eliminate the root causes of terrorism, particularly in failed states. Panelists will discuss these linkages and identify strategies for integrating rule of law promotion into international security policy.

**Title:** The Rule of Law: Economic and Business Development

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, Nov. 9, 11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**Description:** The private sector has an enormous stake in promoting the rule of law globally, and an important yet largely untapped role in advancing it. Absence of the rule of law is a serious impediment to economic and business growth. Without the rule of law, the private sector is severely hampered in its ability to contribute to economic development which in turn helps meet basic human needs. From combating corruption to enforcement of contracts to protection of intellectual property, the private sector has an increasing stake in advancing functioning legal systems with fair, transparent rules and effective institutions to enforce them. This panel will explore the interplay of the rule of law and foreign investment across product types and business sectors. Panelists from corporations, chambers of commerce and international financial institutions will discuss how the absence of the rule of law harms business and how the business community has and can contribute to advancing the rule of law.

**Title:** Luncheon: The Challenges of Promoting Rule of Law

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, Nov. 9, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

**Description:** Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will discuss the United States' commitment to the rule of law and international law.

**Title:** Track 1: Corruption as a Threat to Rule of Law

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2:30-3:45 p.m.

**Description:** Pervasive corruption tears at the fabric of societies, hampering government administrations, eroding justice, and raising the cost and risk of doing business for domestic and foreign investors alike. Each year, hundreds of millions of dollars in development assistance are diverted by corrupt government officials, depriving citizens of much-needed and sometimes life-saving assistance. Citizen frustration over corruption can turn to resentment and even unrest in societies where the justice system fails to combat corruption and public officials are above the law. This panel will probe this critical problem from a variety of perspectives, and analyze the causes and costs of pervasive corruption. Panelists will identify effective strategies for combating corruption in different regions and contexts.

**Title:** Track 2: Pandemics and Public Health

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2:30-3:45 p.m.

**Description:** This panel will explore the vital yet often unrecognized linkages between the rule of law, public health and pandemics. Corruption, weak governance, and ineffectual justice systems can contribute to health crises that affect large parts of an often impoverished population. For instance, tuberculosis is spreading rapidly in Russia largely because of lengthy pre-trial detention in overcrowded Russian jails. In a number of African countries, the majority of drugs intended to help those living with malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other emerging health threats disappear into the black market, enriching the few while millions die of treatable diseases. In many countries, discrimination against at-risk populations limits their access to information and treatment critical to efforts to halt the spread of disease. These are diseases for which treatments exist, but weak governance and lack of accountability prevent effective responses. This panel will address key aspects of the rule of law as they relate to current efforts to improve public health around the world.

**Title:** The Importance of the Rule of Law in Preventing Conflict & Rebuilding Societies

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, Nov. 9, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

**Description:** Fair and accessible legal systems and a national commitment to the rule of law can stave off conflict and instability. When citizens are able to use the legal system to resolve grievances, they are less likely to resort to violence. In post-conflict societies, building the capacity of the legal system to ensure the rule of law is essential to a lasting peace. Governments face an urgent need to develop and strengthen legal institutions to protect human rights and combat the organized crime and corruption that often flourish in the chaos and lawlessness of conflict and its aftermath. State power to establish law and order is needed, yet such power can too easily be abused in ways that undermine basic rights. Post-conflict societies also need legal institutions to ensure accountability for crimes committed during armed conflict. In these and other ways, rule of law initiatives are critical to building stable and just societies after armed conflict.

**Title:** The Rule of Law and Global Poverty

**Date & Time:** Thursday, Nov. 10, 9:15-10:30 a.m.

**Description:** This panel will explore the ways in which the lack of the rule of law contributes to global poverty and frustrates efforts to reduce it. Corruption, crime and violence inhibit economic growth and opportunity. Discrimination prevents women and minorities from fully contributing to the betterment of their own lives and the societies in which they live. Panelists will discuss how efforts to establish effective legal and judicial institutions are making a real difference in fighting poverty. By reflecting on successful efforts to help alleviate poverty through better governance, panelists will explore the role that advancing the rule of law can play in achieving sustainable and equitable development.

**Title:** How Different Stakeholders Can Promote Rule of Law

**Date & Time:** Thursday, Nov. 10, 10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**Description:** This session will be divided into three concurrent panels, each convening a particular set of stakeholders to discuss their role in promoting the rule of law. In Panel One, *civil society organizations*, ranging from bar associations to human rights groups to foundations, will explore how they can advance the rule of law through innovative locally responsive programs; public campaigns for law reform and human rights; and the strengthening of legal institutions. In Panel Two, *governments and international organizations* will examine successes and failures of past efforts to promote the rule of law and how they can more effectively allocate resources and coordinate strategies to promote the rule of law in countries around the world. In Panel Three, representatives of the *private sector* will explore ways in which multinational corporations, law firms and even small enterprises can make a significant difference in advancing the rule of law globally.

**Title:** Toward a Coordinated Approach to Promoting Rule of Law

**Date & Time:** Thursday, Nov. 10, 3:15-4:30 p.m.

**Description:** This session will discuss the various strategies and tools that have been used to promote the rule of law around the world, and their effectiveness in different contexts. It will highlight the relative benefits of bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, support for local reformers, loan conditionality, trade sanctions, “naming and shaming,” technical legal assistance, and foreign direct investment. The session will also examine past efforts to promote the rule of law in order to shape successful strategies for the future. It will also address ways to encourage political will among government leaders to accept constraints on their power.

**Title:** Launching a Global Rule of Law Movement: Next Steps

**Date & Time:** Thursday, Nov. 10, 4:30-5:00 p.m.

**Description:** This closing session will synthesize the views of diverse stakeholders set forth during the Symposium into an agenda for concrete and concerted action in the vital effort to promote the rule of law around the world.