Every year, we meet as a community to discuss and advance our profession and its role in the settlement of international disputes. Our three co-chairs this year have put an extraordinary amount of work into this year’s workshop. Please join me in thanking them for their outstanding work.

Today, I am delighted to have the opportunity to introduce our distinguished luncheon speaker; someone who has given much to international law, to our ITA community and to her country, the United States. She is a friend – and I want to stress that I use the word ‘friend’ in its fullest sense -- She is a friend to many of us and a mentor sought out and appreciated by many also.

I have had the privilege of knowing Lucy for almost 25 years. Over those years, there are several qualities I have seen to constantly exhibited by Lucy: (1st) an astounding ability to focus on the effort at hand, (2nd) a clarity and maturity of insight that can redefine the entire effort at hand – a quality sometimes called vision or leadership, (3rd) a simply wonderful playful sense of humor that makes the joint effort not only fun but memorable, and (4th) a capacity to ask the right questions to inspire us to right action:

“While globalization may be accelerating the expansion and decentralization of international law, those of us who practice it know that international law remains relatively primitive. Yes, the many new international courts, tribunals, and commissions are applying, interpreting, and often creating mixed private and public international law – but are they doing so at a pace that can meet the expectations of private as well as governmental actors? What is our role, as private and public international lawyers, in managing and, as warranting, fulfilling these expectations?”

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1 Lucy Reed, Great Expectations: Where does the Proliferation of International Dispute Resolution Tribunals Leave International Law, 96 AM. SOCY INT’L L. PROC. 219, 220 (ASIL Proceedings 2002).
Only a few months ago, our speaker assumed the Presidency of the American Society of International Law. For me, her speech manifested all the qualities I’ve mentioned. Let me share one brief quote from that speech:

“I am far from alone in observing that it is the worst of times and the best of times for international law, in that both disregard and expectations for international law are high. It is a challenging and propitious time for the Society and our members, particularly with a new U.S. administration arriving in January 2009 that will face pressing international law issues. We in the Society will either jump or be pushed into greater relevance. I would rather jump.”

This is our speaker this afternoon: a law graduate of the University of Chicago, United States Agent to the US-Iran Claims Tribunal, first general counsel of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization, a member of the Ethiopia-Eritrea Claims Commission, a partner at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, the President of the American Society of International Law, and a very good friend to ITA. Please join me in welcoming Lucy F. Reed.

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2 Lucy Reed, Notes from the President, ASIL Newsletter 5/7/08