

CHARLES P. TRUMBULL IV

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of South Carolina School of Law, Columbia SC (present)

- Assistant Professor of Law (2024 to present)
- Courses: Public International Law, National Security Law, International Criminal Law, Use of Force & Law of Armed Conflict

SCHOLARSHIP

- *Reorienting Proportionality in National Self-Defense* (forthcoming VAND. J. TRANSNAT'L L. 2026).
- *Collateral Damage and Individual Rights in Armed Conflict*, 48 FORDHAM INT'L L. J. 521 (2025).
- *Proportionality, Double Effects, and the Innocent Bystander Problem in War*, 59 STANFORD J. INT'L L. 35 (2023)
- *Autonomous Weapons: How Existing Law Can Regulate Future Weapons*, 34 EMORY INT'L L. REV. 533 (2020)
- *Analogies in Detentions: Distorting the Balance Between Military Necessity and Humanity*, 58 VA. J. INT'L L. 97 (2018)
- *Re-Thinking the Principle of Proportionality Outside of Hot Battlefields*, 55 VA. J. INT'L L. 521 (2015)
- *The Basis of Unit Self-Defense and Implications for the Use of Force*, 23 DUKE J. COMP. & INT'L L. 121 (2012)
- *Elections and Government Formation in Iraq: An Analysis of the Judiciary's Role*, 44 VAND. J. TRANSNAT'L L. 331 (2011) (with Julie Martin)
- *The Victims of Victim Participation in International Criminal Proceedings*, 29 MICH. J. INT'L L. 777 (2008)
- *Giving Amnesties a Second Chance*, 25 BERKELEY J. INT'L L. 283 (2007)
- Note: *Islamic Arbitration: A New Path for Interpreting Islamic Legal Contracts*, 59 VAND. L. REV. 609 (2006)
- *Foreign Investment in Cuba: Prospects and Perils*, 35 GEO. WASH. INT'L L. REV. 903 (2003) (with Matias Travieso-Diaz)

ON-LINE PUBLICATIONS

- *Trump's Boat Strikes Are Crimes Against Humanity*, FOREIGN POLICY, July 15, 2026
- *The OLC Maduro Memorandum: Assisting in War Sustaining Activities is Not Direct Participation in Hostilities*, JUST SECURITY, Feb. 6, 2026 (with Michael Schmitt)
- *The Administration's Boat Strikes are Crimes Against Humanity*, LAWFARE, Dec. 16, 2025
- *Addressing Uncertainty in the Use of Autonomous Weapons Systems*, ARTICLES OF WAR, Nov. 5, 2025
- *Does the Int'l Criminal Court Impose Too Low a Standard of Proof to Arrest a Head of State?*, JUST SECURITY, Dec. 12, 2024 (with Todd Buchwald)

- *Considering a Legally Binding Instrument on Autonomous Weapons*, LAWFARE, Oct. 28, 2024
- *Assessing Jus Ad Bellum Proportionality: A Factored Approach*, JUST SECURITY, July 2, 2024
- *Collateral Damage and Innocent Bystanders in War*, ARTICLES OF WAR, July 10, 2023

CONSULTING

Defense Institute of International Legal Studies (2025): Advised Ukraine's Ministry of Defense on formulation of domestic policies related to weapons reviews and autonomous weapons systems

PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State: (2008 to 2013; 2016 to 2024)

- **Legal Adviser, U.S. Mission to the United Nations in Geneva:** (2022-2023; Deputy Legal Adviser 2020-2022): Advised on a range of issues related to human rights, international humanitarian law, diplomatic law, and international organizations. Negotiated resolutions at the Human Rights Council (HRC) and served as Deputy Head of Delegation to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).
- **Western Hemisphere Affairs** (2019 to 2020): Advised on domestic and international law issues, including on sanctions, foreign assistance, human rights, presidential permits, multilateral resolutions, and various international agreements and arrangements
- **Political Military Affairs** (2011 to 2013; 2016 to 2019): Advised on a range of law of war issues; served on delegation to the CCW; member of the negotiating team for the Special Measures Agreement with Korea and the Bilateral Security Agreement with Afghanistan; negotiated detainee repatriations
- **Human Rights and Refugees** (2010): Negotiated resolutions at the HRC; represented the U.S. before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; advised on human rights issues
- **Legal Adviser, U.S. Embassy, Baghdad, Iraq** (2009 to 2010): Served as both Deputy Legal Adviser and Legal Adviser; advised the Ambassador and Embassy section heads on a wide range of legal issues; negotiated a multi-million dollar lease for Embassy property; took part in negotiating a multi-million dollar settlement agreement with Iraq
- **Employment Law** (2008 to 2009): Advised on employment law issues; represented the State Department at the EEOC and MSPB; worked on the Avena and Kosovo Declaration of Independence cases before the International Court of Justice

Deputy and Acting Special Envoy for Guantanamo Closure, U.S. Department of State: (2013 to 2016)

- Led interagency delegations to negotiate detainee transfer arrangements with foreign governments; oversaw the transfer from GTMO of approximately 85 detainees; testified and briefed Congressional committees; drafted reports for Congress; formulated policy

on habeas cases; represented the State Department at Deputies and Principals Committee meetings at the White House; represented the U.S before the IACHR

- Served as the Acting Special Envoy from January to July, 2015, during which time I had primary responsibility for all diplomatic efforts to transfer GTMO detainees

International Criminal Court: (2007)

- Law clerk to the Honorable Philip Kirsch, Appeals Judge

Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals: (2006 to 2007)

- Law clerk to the Honorable M. Blane Michael

Covington & Burling: (2005)

- Summer associate

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- “It’s Time to Curb the President’s Military Power: Yes or no”, Lincoln-Douglas Society Debate, University of South Carolina School of Law (Feb. 17, 2026)
- “The Role of the United States in the 21st Century”, University of South Carolina School of Law (Oct. 10, 2024)
- House Armed Services Committee, Sub-Committee on Oversight and Investigations, “Update on Detainee Transfers from Guantanamo Closure” (February 12, 2015), available at <https://www.lawfareblog.com/statement-gtmo-special-envoy-yesterdays-hasc-hearing-guantanamo-bay>
- “Guantanamo Closure: Where We’ve Been, Where We Are, and Where We’re Going,” Covington & Burling (June 8, 2015)
- “IHL, HRL, and International Criminal Law,” University of Virginia Law School (May 29, 2013)
- “Legal Perspectives on Countering International Terrorism,” Foreign Service Institute (July 2012, March 2013)
- “Elections and Government Formation in Iraq,” George Washington University Law School (November 7, 2011)
- “Lawyering in Baghdad,” Temple University Law School (January 7, 2011)

AWARDS

- Legal Adviser’s Award for Excellence, U.S. Department of State (2024)
- Office of the Secretary of Defense, Medal for Exceptional Public Service (2024)
- Superior Honor Award, U.S. Department of State (numerous years)

EDUCATION

Vanderbilt University Law School, J.D., 2006

- Editor-in-Chief, VANDERBILT LAW REVIEW; Order of the Coif; Weldon B. White Prize for best student paper; studied Islamic law in Cairo with grant from Vanderbilt University

Dartmouth College, B.A. in Philosophy, 2002

- Conducted independent research in Cuba and published several articles on economic reforms after receiving First Year Summer Research, Waterhouse, and Rockefeller research grants from Dartmouth College

LANGUAGES

English (native); Spanish (highly proficient). Conversational in French.