

IN PRAISE OF BENJAMIN G. DAVIS

*Leila Nadya Sadat**

It is an honor to contribute to a special issue of the University of Toledo Law Review dedicated to the work of Professor Benjamin G. Davis. I consider Professor Davis a colleague, a mentor, a friend, and a fellow traveler in the world of international law and human rights. We also share a love of Paris, and even though we never actually met while I was working there as an associate and he was at the ICC international court of arbitration, our views on so many issues are so similar, that I feel as if we must've met at a dinner somewhere and just didn't realize at the time how much our paths would continue to cross.

Professor Davis is a distinguished international lawyer and scholar, publishing extensively in a wide variety of journals, and traveling the world to lecture particularly on topics relating to arbitration and dispute resolution. He also helped developed arbitration moots for students and is known as a superb teacher and mentor. With his warm personality and grand sense of humor, he has made a positive impact on hundreds of students and colleagues alike. Of particular note is his effort to push the American Society of International Law to adopt a Resolution on the Laws of War and Detainee Treatment, only the eighth resolution in the Society's history.¹ I am grateful he acted as the voice of conscience, speaking law to power, on that occasion.

Although I wish him well on his retirement, I hope he will remain an active voice as we still have so many international law and human rights challenges before us. Racial equality, human dignity, climate change, international dispute settlement, international trade, and global peace and security all remain issues on the table particularly in these fractious times. I look forward to celebrating his retirement next year, and to continued interaction with a dear friend and colleague.

* James Carr Professor of International Law; Director, Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute; Washington University School of Law.

1. Mary Ellen O'Connell, *The ASIL Centennial Annual Meeting Adopts a Resolution on the Use of Armed Force and the Treatment of Detainees*, AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW (May 19, 2006) <https://www.asil.org/insights/volume/10/issue/12/asil-centennial-annual-meeting-adopts-resolution-use-armed-force-and>; ASIL Resolution on the Use of Armed Force and the Treatment of Detainees, AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW (March 30, 2006) https://www.asil.org/sites/default/files/insights_pdfs/ASIL_Resolution.pdf.