
Editor's Note

Much of this book deals with international law rules and norms. For some time, the U.S. Department of Defense has been developing a *Law of War/Law of Armed Conflict Manual*, which encompasses an enduring policy statement of the part of international law that shapes U.S. involvement in armed conflict. As of November 2, 2013, this document has not been issued despite the DoD directive requiring its promulgation. The leadership role of the United States in Rule of Law standards in the international community concerning the conduct of armed conflict is diminished because of this unfortunate situation. And it is particularly distressing in the context of decades of primary participation by the U.S. government in this enormous international effort.

As noted in the Prologue “The Law of Armed Conflict, synonymous with International Humanitarian Law and the Law of War, is the specific portion of international law that regulates and controls the actions of those parties participating in a conflict. . . . This specialized area of international law, which assigns both national and individual obligations, limits the effects of warfare by providing positive and clear rules which, if violated, may result in international sanctions or war crime prosecutions.”¹ (Page 4.)

The Editor

1. For further information on this subject, please see Edwin Williamson, senior counsel, Sullivan & Cromwell, et al., *Where Is the Law of War Manual?* July 22, 2013, vol.18, no.42, THE WEEKLY STANDARD (<http://www.weeklystandard.com>). Source URL <http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/where-law-war-manual-7399267.html>.