

David Scheffer

David Scheffer is the Mayer Brown/Robert A. Helman Professor of Law and Director of the Center for International Human Rights at Northwestern University School of Law in Chicago, Illinois. He teaches international human rights law and international criminal law. He was U.S. Ambassador at Large for War Crimes Issues from 1997 to 2001 and led the U.S. delegation in U.N. talks establishing the International Criminal Court.

During his ambassadorship, Scheffer negotiated and coordinated U.S. support for the establishment and operation of international and hybrid criminal tribunals and U.S. responses to atrocities anywhere in the world. He also headed the Atrocities Prevention Inter-Agency Working Group. During the first term of the Clinton Administration, Scheffer served as senior adviser and counsel to the U.S. Representative to the United Nations, Dr. Madeleine Albright, and served from 1993 through 1996 on the Deputies Committee of the National Security Council.

In his earlier career, Scheffer was an associate attorney with the international law firm of Coudert Brothers (New York and Singapore offices), an International Affairs Fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations, a Staff Consultant on the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, a Senior Associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and Senior Vice President of the United Nations Association of the U.S.A. He was a visiting lecturer at Duke University School of Law and a visiting professor at Georgetown University Law Center and George Washington University Law School prior to joining the faculty at Northwestern Law. He has published extensively on international legal and political issues and appears regularly in the national and international media.

Scheffer graduated from Harvard College, Oxford University (where he was a Knox Fellow), and Georgetown University Law Center. He is a member of the New York and District of Columbia Bars, the American Society of International Law, and the Council on Foreign Relations, and is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Law Students Association.