

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO AWARD AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS DEGREE
AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to award an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Stephen J. Rapp at Spring 2014 Commencement.

Executive Summary: Iowa State University wishes to recognize Ambassador Rapp for his leadership around the world to bring to justice those responsible for crimes against innocent people.

Details on Ambassador Rapp's Accomplishments:

- ◇ Mr. Rapp is a native of Cedar Falls and a former state legislator. From 1993 to 2001, he served as the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa where his office won historic convictions under the firearms provision of the Violence Against Women Act and the serious violent offender provision of the 1994 Crime Act.
- ◇ In 2001, he joined the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), where he led the prosecution in the "Media Trial" against the leaders of the RTLM radio station and Kangura newspaper who helped incite Rwanda's extremist militia and broadcasting the whereabouts of Tutsi sympathizers, which contributed to the slaughter of 800,000 civilians.
- ◇ In 2005, he became the Chief of Prosecutions of the ICTR and continued to assist Chief Prosecutor Hassan Jallow in prosecuting those involved in the 1994 genocide.
- ◇ In 2007, Mr. Rapp succeeded Desmond de Silva to become the third Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, where he directed the prosecution of former Liberian President Charles Taylor and others alleged to have violated international criminal law during the Sierra Leone Civil War.
- ◇ In 2009, he was appointed by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues. Ambassador Rapp leads the State Department's Office of Global Criminal Justice where he advises the Secretary of State and the Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights and works to formulate U.S. policy on prevention and accountability for mass atrocities.
- ◇ In his present role, Ambassador Rapp coordinates U.S. government support for ad hoc and international courts trying persons accused of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. The Office of Global Criminal Justice deploys a range of diplomatic, legal, economic, military, and intelligence tools to expose the truth, protect and assist victims, judge those responsible, and in doing so build the rule of law.
- ◇ Mr. Rapp received his undergraduate degree in government and international relations with honors from Harvard University. He attended Columbia Law School and received his law degree with honors from Drake University.

- ◇ Iowa State University wishes to recognize Ambassador Rapp extraordinary accomplishments with an honorary degree. According to faculty members from ISU's Department of Anthropology, "There are few international leaders who wield as much influence in fighting injustices against humanity as Ambassador Rapp. His footprint in the march of justice is evident throughout the world in bringing a wide range of diplomatic and judicial activities in tracking down and prosecuting regimes of corruption, torture, and human rights violations."