Dr. Taner Akçam (2018)
Dr. Taner Akçam, a Turkish-American historian and sociologist, is an international authority on the Armenian Genocide and a leader in human rights. In 1977 he was imprisoned by the Turkish government for criticizing injustices in Turkey and the treatment of minorities, especially the Kurds, and he was adopted as a ‘prisoner of conscience’ by Amnesty International. He escaped from prison and received asylum in Germany, where he obtained citizenship and resided until 2000. Dr. Akçam is the Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark University and has published books about the Ottoman government’s central role in eliminating the Armenian population.

Magistrate Judge Peggy Kuo (2017)
From 1998 to 2002, Judge Kuo prosecuted war crimes and crimes against humanity at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Judge Kuo was one of three prosecutors for the Foča ‘rape camp’ trial. In July 1992, Foča, a town in Bosnia, was overrun by Serb paramilitary forces. They separated the women and girls, took them captive in various locations throughout the town, and subjected them to rape and sexual violence over a period of many weeks. Kuo and the other female attorneys prosecuted three of the Serb leaders. The men were found guilty and were convicted of crimes against humanity for their use of sexual violence. This was the first time that rape was labeled as a crime against humanity.

Claudia Paz y Paz (2016)
Claudia Paz y Paz served as Attorney General of Guatemala from 2010 to 2014 and was the first woman to hold the position. She is the first-ever Guatemalan law enforcement official to have brought to justice prominent human rights abusers from Guatemala’s civil war era. She prosecuted former Guatemalan president Efrain Rios Montt and the perpetrators of the brutal Dos Erres massacre. Paz y Paz also aggressively prosecuted organized crime. More drug traffickers were arrested in the first six months of her term than in the previous decade. Ten times more cases of violence against women and of homicides were resolved than in any previous administration.

Eli Rosenbaum (2015)
Eli Rosenbaum is the longest-serving prosecutor and investigator of Nazi criminals and other perpetrators of human rights violations in world history, having worked on these cases at the U.S. Department of Justice for nearly twenty-five years. He has taken unprecedented steps to prosecute perpetrators of current massacres, particularly the perpetrators of the genocide in Guatemala. Under Rosenbaum, the Human Rights Enforcement Strategy and Policy unit pursues war criminals from Bosnia, Guatemala, and Rwanda. Rosenbaum has also published a book about his investigation of Kurt Waldheim, a former Nazi who went on to become Secretary-General of the United Nations and President of Austria.