

2015 REINHOLD NIEBUHR AWARD

Honoring a faculty member or administrator whose body of academic work and life promote or exemplify social justice, the Reinhold Niebuhr Award for 2015 goes to an authority on international law, particularly with respect to the morality of the use of force. She has been a vocal critic of torture and other dehumanizing interrogation techniques as well as of drone strikes outside of armed conflict. Her numerous publications range from the book *What is War? An Investigation in the Wake of 9/11*—for which she served as editor following five years as chair of the International Law Association’s Use of Force Committee—to opinion pieces for *The New York Times* and CNN. Having testified before Congress about the international legal restraints on the use of force and the origins of those restraints in the Catholic Church’s Just War Doctrine, she spent this past academic year as a senior research fellow at the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton, N.J. There, she helped lead a team of theologians and legal scholars exploring law and religious freedom, a fitting appointment for someone whose work was described by a colleague as “characteristically nonpartisan and deeply informed by her Catholic faith.”

The University of Notre Dame is proud to present the 2015 Reinhold Niebuhr Award to

Mary Ellen O’Connell

*Robert and Marion Short Professor of Law and
Research Professor of International Dispute Resolution*