

# New Memorium in Nuremberg

*John Q. Barrett\**

Copyright © 2010 by John Q. Barrett.  
All rights reserved.

From fall 1945 until spring 1949, Courtroom 600 in the Palace of Justice, a large courthouse in Nuremberg, was the site of criminal trials of Nazi war criminals. In 1945-1946, the International Military Tribunal presided there over the international trial of the principal defendants. During the next three years, the United States, occupying the zone of the former Germany that included Nuremberg, used Courtroom 600 (plus, as trials overlapped, other Palace of Justice rooms) to try twelve subsequent cases against almost 200 more Nazi war criminals.

Courtroom 600 continues to be in active use today as the largest courtroom of the Regional Court Nürnberg-Fürth. But the room also is, because of its trials sixty and more years ago, a place of history and, indeed, humanity's courtroom.

Effective November 22, 2010, the Palace of Justice and Courtroom 600 are available daily to visitors as part of the City of Nuremberg's new museum, *Memorium Nürnberger Prozesse* (Memorium Nuremberg Trials). The *Memorium* was dedicated on November 21 in a powerful ceremony that featured speeches by German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, former French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, United Kingdom Attorney General Dominic Grieve, U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Stephen Rapp, and the former chief prosecutor at Nuremberg of the U.S. case against leaders of Nazi *Einsatzgruppen* death squads, Benjamin B. Ferencz.

To learn more about the *Memorium* project, the public exhibition that now is open, and details of visiting the Palace of Justice, click here: [www.memorium-nuremberg.de/index.html](http://www.memorium-nuremberg.de/index.html).

---

\* Professor of Law, St. John's University School of Law, New York City, and Elizabeth S. Lenna Fellow, Robert H. Jackson Center, Jamestown, New York ([www.roberthjackson.org](http://www.roberthjackson.org)). An earlier version of this essay was posted to my Jackson Email List on November 22, 2010.

For an archive of selected Jackson List posts, many of which have document images attached, visit [www.stjohns.edu/academics/graduate/law/faculty/profiles/Barrett/JacksonList.sju](http://www.stjohns.edu/academics/graduate/law/faculty/profiles/Barrett/JacksonList.sju).

To subscribe to the Jackson List, which does not display recipient identities or distribute their email addresses, send a note to [barrettj@stjohns.edu](mailto:barrettj@stjohns.edu).

---

*NEW MEMORIUM IN NUREMBERG*

---

The *Memorium* joins Nuremberg's Documentation Center at the former Nazi Party Rally Grounds as an excellent, educational and deeply sobering site for visit and reflection. The Documentation Center website is <http://museums.nuremberg.de/documentation-centre/>.

For information on all museums in Nuremberg, which continues to build very seriously and impressively its modern legacy as a city of human rights, click here: <http://museums.nuremberg.de/index.html?stylesheet=back>.