John Bassett Moore
Jurist (1860–1947)

Moore was an authority on international law who was a member of the Hague Tribunal and the first U.S. judge to serve on the Permanent Court of International Justice.

He was born in Delaware and graduated from the University of Virginia in 1880. In 1891, he took the first full professorship of international law at Columbia, staying there until 1924. While at Columbia, Moore was frequently granted leaves of absence to accept appointments in the public interest. For part of 1898 he served as Assistant Secretary and Acting Secretary of State, and after the close of the war with Spain was secretary and council to the American Peace Commission at Paris.

In 1901, he served as professor of International Law at the United States Naval War College. Subsequently Moore represented the government as agent before the U.S. and Dominican Arbitration Tribunal (1904), as delegate to the Fourth International American Conference at Buenos Aires and special plenipotentiary to the Chilean centenary (both 1910), and as delegate to the International Commission of Jurists at Rio de Janeiro (1912). He was on the Hague Tribunal from 1912 to 1938, and the International Court from 1921 to 1928.

Moore was a proponent of neutrality, believing that the post-World War I system of alliances would tend to broaden wars into global conflicts. Moore died in 1947, a member of the Century since 1892.