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Introductory Statement

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2006 INTERNATIONAL LAW
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COLLOQUIUM:
LAW, CULTURE, AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT:

Professor Joseph J. Norton:

AS we look around the world today we see that over 80 percent of the world is impoverished and is in need of significant reform in the development area and law as a means is a part of that developmental process. But it is a very complicated process as we will see today and it is complicated for many reasons, including divergent cultures. It is not just societal cultures but institutional cultures at all levels and even within particular societies that you can have very divergent institutional cultures. Here at this table we have people representing many different cultures, not just coming from different cultures but from different educational backgrounds and from different institutions that we represent. So I think this is a very significant topic for us as it affects international business and international trade, but more importantly it affects the growth and stability of our global world, which as we know is becoming smaller and smaller and more interdependent and more compressed.

