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Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law's Law Institute of the Americas

(formerly SMU Centre for NAFTA and Latin American Legal Studies)*

Established in 1952, the LAW INSTITUTE OF THE AMERICAS at Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law was originally designed to promote good will and to improve relations among the peoples of the Americas through the study of comparative laws, institutions and governments respecting the American Republics, and to train lawyers in handling legal matters pertaining to the nations of the Western Hemisphere. Today, in reviving this institution, the Law Institute of the Americas comprises meaningful academic research, teaching and programs pertaining to the "NAFTA/FTAA processes" and other Western Hemispheric integration efforts; to Latin and Central American law and judicial reform, particularly focusing on Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela; and, to a more limited extent, to Canadian legal issues, particularly as they interrelate to the NAFTA/FTAA. The Law Institute of the Americas also is concerned with increasing (regional and hemispheric) legal and economic interconnections between the "NAFTA/FTAA processes" and European and Asia-Pacific integration activities.

The officers of the Institute are as follows: the HONORABLE ROBERTO MACLEAN, President; PROFESSOR JOSEPH J. NORTON, Executive Director; and PROFESSOR GEORGE A. MARTINEZ, Associate Executive Director. The Institute is also supported by a distinguished group of Professorial Fellows, Senior Research Scholars, Professional Fellows, and Student Research Fellows.

As the Institute focuses primarily on issues pertaining to the North American Free Trade Agreement and the pending Free Trade Area of the Americas, and the broader economic, political, legal, and social integration processes underway in the Western Hemisphere, *Law and Business Review of the Americas* is one of its publications, and is produced jointly by the Law Institute of the Americas and the International Law Review Association of SMU. Other parties involved in the production of the journal are the SMU Cox School of Business, the SMU Departments of Economics and Political Science, the London Forum, and the American Bar Association Section of International Law and Practice.

* From 1952 through the early 1970s, the name was the Law Institute of the Americas; in 1993, it was reactivated as the Centre for NAFTA and Latin American Legal Studies; and in 1998, it returned to its original name. For further detailed historical information on the Law Institute of the Americas, please refer to the Law Institute of the Americas' website at <http://www.law.smu.edu/lia>.

Perspective

