

# Law and Business Review of the Americas

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Volume 18 | Number 3

Article 1

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2012

## Front Matter

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### Recommended Citation

*Front Matter*, 18 LAW & BUS. REV. AM. [i] (2012)  
<https://scholar.smu.edu/lbra/vol18/iss3/1>

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# Law and Business Review of the Americas

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VOLUME 18

SUMMER 2012

NUMBER 3

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### PERSPECTIVE

- Remarks at the Connecting the Americas 2022 Ministerial ... 271

### ARTICLES

- Class Actions in Chile  
Agustín Barroilhet ..... 275
- The BRIC Context in a Globalized World and Foreign Direct  
Investment in Brazil  
Antonio de Moura Borges,  
Marcos Aurélio Pereira Valadao, and Natacha Ward Sá .... 329
- Violence, Criminal Defamation, and Censorship Laws:  
Threatening Freedom of Expression in Chile and Ecuador  
Ashley Mason ..... 369

### UPDATES

- Alternative Drug Policies in the Americas  
Fernando Avelar ..... 403
- Canada Update: A New Framework for Determining  
Jurisdiction, The Application of the Doctrine of *Forum  
Non Conveniens*, and Limitations of the Solicitor-Client  
Privilege  
David Paulson ..... 411
- NAFTA Update and Trade News Highlights for Spring 2012  
Sarah Bridges ..... 421

### DOCUMENT

- Joint Statement from the Fourth U.S.-Brazil Global  
Partnership Dialogue ..... 431

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This journal is a quarterly, professional peer-reviewed publication produced by the Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law's International Law Review Association (and its Law Institute of the Americas), as well as the Section of International Law and Practice of the American Bar Association). The journal relies on the ongoing cooperation of the SMU School of Business, the SMU Departments of Economics and Political Science, and the London Forum of International Economic and Financial Law at the Centre for Commercial Law Studies at Queen Mary College, University of London.

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This journal addresses the legal, business, economic, political and social dimensions of Western Hemispheric integration efforts (e.g., NAFTA, FTAA, MERCOSUR, etc), their implementation, their future evolution and expansion, and their overall impact on doing business in the Americas. The journal will combine practical and policy implications of these integration processes. As such, it will cover not only matters of immediate concern and interest, but also matters respecting reform of legal, business, economic, political and social structures (including human rights, gender, labor, and environmental issues) within the various countries in the Western Hemisphere. Subject matter concerning other regional integration efforts in the world and various other comparative topics in the international trade and investment areas will also be addressed, from time to time.

However, topics of *particular concern* to the journal will include: (1) free trade, direct investment, licensing, finance, taxation, labor, environmental, litigation and dispute resolution, and organizational aspects of NAFTA and other specific integration efforts and their specific implementation. For practical reasons, English is used as the language of communication; (2) subject matter involving economic, legal, political and social integration, and reform effects in Latin and Central America and in the Caribbean Basin; and (3) FTAA implications.

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lbra-eic@list.smu.edu.

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ISSN 1571-9537

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***(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 people 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 the 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 Martinez**, Associate Executive Director. The Institute is also supported by 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 the International Law Review Association of SMU. Other parties of the journal are the 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.

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\* 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/ia>.

# **Perspective**



