

1995

Editor's Welcome

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Recommended Citation

Joseph J. Norton, *Editor's Welcome*, 1 LAW & BUS. REV. AM. 3 (1995)
<https://scholar.smu.edu/lbra/vol1/iss1/2>

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Editor's Welcome

I wish to welcome each of you personally as readers (and hopefully subscribers) to our new quarterly journal, *NAFTA: Law and Business Review of the Americas*. Our publisher, Kluwer Law International, and our co-sponsors — The American Bar Association Section on International Law Practice; Southern Methodist University and its Schools of Law and Business, its Economics and Political Departments and its longstanding (since the 1950s) Institute of the Americas; and the Centre for Commercial Law Studies and its external arm, the London Institute of International Banking, Finance, and Development Law at Queen Mary & Westfield College, University of London — also wish to welcome you to what we all believe will prove to be a most important and distinctive journal.

This journal is designed to be interdisciplinary in nature — covering legal, business, economic, political and social policy dimensions of NAFTA, its implementation, its expansion, and its overall impact on doing business in the Americas. The journal will address both practical and policy aspects (immediate and longer term). The journal will also, from time to time, address the NAFTA implications vis-à-vis other regions of the world and also may contain various comparative materials in the international trade and investment areas. As such, this journal should be of particular interest to all business persons, lawyers, accountants, consultants, government officials, academics, students and other parties interested in the NAFTA and its impact on doing business within the Americas.

All those associated with the journal are well aware that the NAFTA is a first stage of an evolving framework for economic cooperation in the Americas. From the recent Miami Summit, it appears NAFTA will be a springboard for an eventual comprehensive free trade area covering the entire Western Hemisphere; thus, the reason for the "Review of the Americas" portion of our journal's title. Our journal will be particularly attuned to these expansionary efforts and reforms with respect to the Latin and Central American nations and to those in the Caribbean Basin area. If history smiles favorably upon the "NAFTA Process," the next ten years should prove a most exciting and productive period in the lives of Western Hemispheric nations.

We view this journal as a "companion" to the ABA Section on International Law and Practice's flagship publication, *The International Lawyer*, and to Kluwer's longstanding journal, *The Common Market Law Review*. We believe that associated links among the relevant co-sponsors of these journals and among the journals themselves can bring a true "informational synergy" in providing comprehensive, insightful and interconnected information and analyses respecting international and regional, business and economic activities.

In producing this professional journal, we are fortunate to have a highly competent Board of Professional Editors which is guided by a distinguished Board of Editorial Advisors selected by the ABA Section, SMU and the CCLS. In addition, our editors are assisted by a Student Editorial Board drawn from highly qualified law and other students at SMU. We are also fortunate to have secured the voluntary, but significant, editorial and administrative support of both SMU and the firm of Jenkins & Gilchrist, P.C. (Dallas) with respect to the actual processing of the journal.

In future issues, over the next year, we hope to be able to publish special pieces in the following areas: dispute and alternative dispute resolution, labor/immigration, finance/financing, and environmental. In addition to close cooperation with various institutional co-sponsors, we intend to develop close relations with other institutions concerned with

economic integration in the Western Hemisphere. For example, Professor Frank Gill of the U.S.-Mexico Law Institute (University of New Mexico); Professor Boris Kozolchyk of the National Center for Inter-American Free Trade (Tucson, Arizona); Professor Riordan Roett of SAIS; Dr. Sergio Le Pera of the Graduate Law Program of the University of Buenos Aires; and Andrea Bonime-Blanc, Editor of *Focus America*, are all members of our distinguished advisory board.

We hope you will enjoy this and future issues of *NAFTA: Law and Policy Review of the Americas*, and we welcome any comments that you may have with respect to how to improve this journal and to make it more responsive to your professional and academic needs. Our goal is to make this the premiere journal of its kind, and we all are committed to this end.

In the event you or others with whom you are acquainted have a serious interest in submitting publications to this journal, I would like to refer you to our submission guidelines and publication policies, located on the inside cover page.

In closing, I would like to express my personal thanks to the following individuals, each of whom have made this inaugural issue possible: Jay Vogelsson, Michael Sandler, Lucinda Low, John Stephenson and Susan Frensilli Williams of the ABA Section of International Law and Practice; Associate Provost Mark Sherouse, and Dean C. Paul Rogers of the SMU Law School; Professor Graham Zellick, Principal of Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London; and Professor Ian Fletcher, Director of the CCLS at QMW-London. I look forward to a longstanding cooperative and productive working relationship with each of our co-sponsors. Our special thanks go to Selma Hoedt, Petra Rector, and John Berger of Kluwer Law International.

Again, thank you for reading our journal. We would be most appreciative of your continued readership.

Joseph J. Norton
Editor-in-Chief
