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## Front Matter

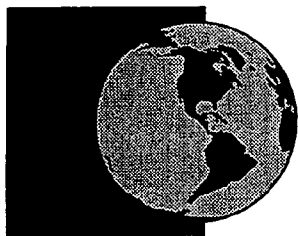
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This journal is a quarterly publication produced by Kluwer Law International in association with the Section of International Law and Practice of the American Bar Association, and Southern Methodist University School of Law (and its Law Institute of the Americas). The journal relies on the ongoing cooperation of the SMU School of Business, the SMU Departments of Economics and Political Science, and the Centre for Commercial Law Studies and its London Institute of International Banking, Finance and Development Law at Queen Mary & Westfield College at the University of London.

### Aims and Publication Policy:

This journal addresses the legal, business, economic, political and social policy dimensions of NAFTA, its implementation, its future evolution and expansion and its overall impact on doing business in the Americas. The journal will combine practical and policy implications of NAFTA; 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 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: (i) free trade, direct investment, licensing, finance, taxation, litigation and dispute resolution, and organizational aspects of NAFTA and its specific implementation. For practical reasons, English is used as the language of communication; and (ii) subject matter involving economic, legal, political, and social integration and reform effects in Latin and Central American and in the Caribbean Basin.

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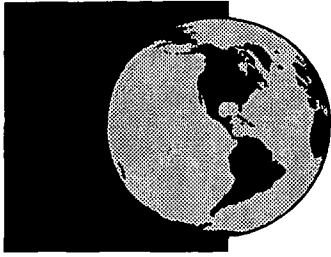
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# Southern Methodist University School of Law's Law Institute of the Americas

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

Established in 1952, the Law Institute of the Americas at Southern Methodist University 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 Process" and 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. The Law Institute of the Americas also is concerned with increasing (regional and hemispheric) legal and economic interconnections between the "NAFTA Process" and European and Asia-Pacific integration activities.

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As the Institute focuses on issues pertaining to the North American Free Trade Agreement and the broader economic, political, legal and social integration process underway in the Western Hemisphere, the *NAFTA: 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 School of Business, the SMU Departments of Economics and Political Science, the University of London, Centre for Commercial Law Studies, the American Bar Association Section of International Law and Practice and Kluwer Law International.

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\* From 1952 through the early 1970's, 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 information on the Law Institute of the Americas, please refer to the Winter 1998 issue of the NAFTA Review, pages 5 through 36; this information is substantially current except for the new name change referred to above.

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