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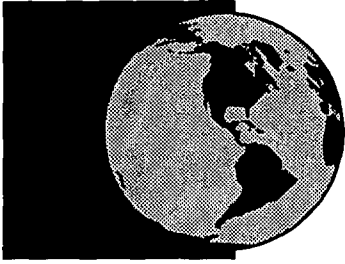
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Established in 1952, the **Law Institute of the Americas** at Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law was originally designed to promote good will and to improve relations among the peoples of the Americas through the study of comparative 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. **Professor Julio C. Cueto-Rua** of Argentina, and one of the first SMU international LL.M. (then MCL) graduates, serves as Honorary President of the Institute. The Institute is also supported by a distinguished group of Professorial Fellows, Senior Research Scholars, Professional Fellows, and Student Research Fellows. Corporate sponsorship of the Institute has been provided by H.D. Vest Financial Services.

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 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.

* 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 LIA's Web site, <http://www.law.smu.edu/lia>.
