Front Matter
Law and Business Review of the Americas

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PERSPECTIVE
Remarks by Ambassador Michael Froman at the Council on Foreign Relations: The Strategic Logic of Trade.............. 373

ARTICLES
The Right to Health Versus the Right to Property: Conflicts Between Public Welfare and Private Interests, the Brazilian Approach
Lilian Martins, Wilson Almeida, and Dr. Marcos Aurélio Pereira Valadão ....................... 381

Environmental Regulation & Automotive Industrial Policies in Brazil: The Case of “INOVAR-AUTO”
José Marcos Domingues, Luiz Artur Pecorelli-Peres, and Ronaldo Seroa da Motta.......................... 399

COMMENT
Repealing Birthright Citizenship: How the Dominican Republic’s Recent Court Decision Reflects an International Trend
Natalie Sears .............................................. 423

UPDATES
Reference re Senate Reform and the Supreme Court of Canada’s Clarification of the Constitutional Procedure for Reforming the Canadian Parliament’s Upper House Christopher Cornell................................. 451

Brazil’s Legal Settling for the World Cup
Tony Godfrey ............................................. 463

NAFTA Chapter 11: Are the Dispute Resolution Procedures Worth the Investment?
Natalie Sears .............................................. 473

DOCUMENT
Sixth BRICS Summit-Fortaleza Declaration ................... 483
Editorial and Submission Policies:

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.

Aims and Publication Policy:

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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(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.

* 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 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