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Front Matter

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American Bar Association

Section of International Law and Practice

Southern Methodist University School of Law

(SMUDepartments of Economics and Political Science, and the Centre for Commercial Law Studies (Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London).

A journal of law, business and policy, co-sponsored by the ABA Section of International Law and Practice, Southern Methodist University School of Law (and Law Institute of the Americas), with the SMU School of Business, the SMU Departments of Economics and Political Science, and the Centre for Commercial Law Studies (Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London).
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.

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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.

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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.

The officers of the Institute are as follows: the Honorable Roberto MacLean, President; Professor Joseph J. Norton, Executive Director; Professor George A. Martinez, Associate Executive Director; Professor Rosa Lara (of the UNAM Law Research Institute), Acting Assistant Director; Professor C. Paul Rogers, III, Acting Chair; the Honorable Raul Granillo O'Campo (Minister of Justice of Argentina), Honorary Chair; the Honorable John S. McKennery (Executive Director of the NAFTA Labor Commission), Honorary Chair; and Professor Julio C. Cueto-Rua of Argentina, Honorary President of the Institute. The Institute also is supported by a distinguished group of Professorial Fellows, Senior Research Scholars, Professional Fellows, and Student Research Fellows. Corporate sponsorship of the Institute is provided by H.D. Vest Financial Services.

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.

* 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.