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*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).*

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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 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. McKenniery (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 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 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.