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INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF U.S.-MEXICO MARKET CONVERGENCE?

JIMMIE V. REYNA*

To what extent are globalization and market integration advances blurring social and legal boundaries between Mexico and the United States? Is it true, as some have observed, that future integration inevitably will involve more than trade? Are political and economic determinism forces at work? Two experts will address these issues and help us come, perhaps, to some answers. When this panel was first conceived, some thought was given as to what type of individuals we need to handle these issues. We needed individuals who had an international scope of concepts and theories, understood the legal factors of the United States and Mexico, and had a high degree of knowledge of international economy. And two individuals came to the forefront.

The first paper is by Dr. Rogelio Ramírez de la O, President of ECANAL, a private research company that publishes economic data, principally the Economic Report on Mexico and a Special Report on Mexico. I recall the time, back in the early '90s, when I first met Rogelio. He was supplying the trade data to the banks in Mexico upon which policy was being made. It's very difficult now to pick up a newspaper, without seeing the name of Dr. de la O. whether it is the *Financial Times*, published out of Europe, the *Wall Street Journal*, or papers in Latin America. I've been in Argentina, picked up a paper, and they're quoting Dr. Rogelio Ramírez de la O. He is a renowned international economist. He is now representing and has represented a large number of multinational corporations. He represents sectors: energy, glass, cement, and pharmaceuticals. He has published a number of articles. Dr. Ramírez de la O holds a Ph.D. in economics from Cambridge University, United Kingdom, and a Bachelor's degree in economics from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico.

The second paper is by Dr. Gustavo Vega Canovas. When I started casting about for a person to address these issues from a legal perspective. I asked the opinion of a very esteemed colleague whose opinion I respect very much in Mexico City. I

* Jimmie V. Reyna, Esq. is an international trade attorney and partner in the Washington office of Williams Mullen Clark & Dobbins, 900 17th St. NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC, 20006. Mr. Reyna has a wide range of experience in international trade related matters, including: trade policy and trade regulation (antidumping and countervailing duty cases); trade agreements (GATT, GATS, WTO, NAFTA, FTAA); investment and commercial law; technical barriers to trade (standards), and customs. Mr. Reyna is on the US roster of eligible panelists for NAFTA Chapter 19 disputes. In addition, Mr. Reyna is on the WTO (World Trade Organization) indicative list of non-governmental panelist candidates for dispute in both trade in goods and trade in services. Mr. Reyna is a frequent speaker on international trade issues, has written numerous articles on trade issues, and has authored two books (Passport to North American Trade, Rules of Origin and Customs Procedures Under the NAFTA; The GATT Uruguay Round: A Negotiating History 1986-1992: SERVICES. Mr. Reyna is a member of the Washington, D.C., and New Mexico State Bar Associations, the National Hispanic Bar Association (Chairman of the International Law Committee), the American Bar Association (International Law and Practice Section: former Chair of the Mexican Law Committee; Chair of the Subcommittee on U.S.-Mexico Foreign Trade) (Section on Dispute Resolution: Co-Chair of the Subcommittee on MERCOSUR of the International Committee). Mr. Reyna is licensed to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit; the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal District; the U.S. Court of International Trade; the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia; the U.S. District Court, District of New Mexico; and the Supreme Court, State of New Mexico. Mr. Reyna's practice primarily involves representation of clients in U.S., Mexico, and Central and South American international trade matters. He received the B.A. from the University of Rochester in 1975 and the J.D. from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 1978. He is admitted to the bars of New Mexico and the District of Columbia.

said I need someone who's an attorney, who understands law very, very well, but also who understands sociology. Prof. Gustavo Vega Canovas was recommended to me, and I spoke with him. He indeed is a man of many talents.

Prof. Vega Canovas is currently professor at the Center of International Studies at the Colegio de México. He has had a number of visiting professorships throughout the United States: Brown University, Duke University, Yale, Chapel Hill, University of Washington. He has done research and writing on U.S.-Mexico economic relations and also on North American integration. He has many publications, including a book published by the Center for Trade and Policy and Law in Ottawa, Canada at Carlton University. He also serves on a number of NAFTA binational panels, and here's where our paths have crossed as well. He's currently on the panel dealing with fructose sugar and has also reviewed one of the hardest panels in the NAFTA system—dealing with gray Portland cement. He received his law degree from UNAM and has a Ph.D. in Political Science from Yale University.