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OH ROMEO, ¿DÓNDE ESTÁS?

JIMMIE V. REYNA*

Earlier I compared the U.S.-Mexico relationship to *Romeo and Juliet* and noted that the relationship is marked by antagonistic characteristics. We all know how the play *Romeo and Juliet* ends. We do not know yet how the U.S.-Mexico relationship will end. In fact, we do not know who Romeo or Juliet is in the U.S.-Mexico relationship. So when we hear “*Oh Romeo, ¿dónde estás?*”¹ we do not know who is speaking.

When we listen to concerns being voiced in the United States about Mexico, what are people really saying? If we listen real closely, we can detect that one of the reasons for conflicts between the United States and Mexico is that the United States needs Mexico, and Mexico needs the United States. I do not think we are at the point anymore where the United States can simply shrug off Mexico, or where Mexico can say, “*Yánqui, no te queremos.*”² We are beyond that.

The upcoming panel will take a look at the multi-faceted theme of the U.S.-Mexico relationship. We have two outstanding individuals with us, Dr. Raymundo Gil Rendón and Miguel Estrada Sámano. Mr. Samano is going to give us, in English, a survey of the current political situation in Mexico. Then, Dr. Gil Rendón will build on Mr. Sámano’s comments giving his presentation in Spanish. We will then all participate in an interactive discussion on another level—one that involves our personal backgrounds and cumulative knowledge, but all based on our respective legal foundations.

* Jimmie Reyna is an international trade attorney and partner in the Washington, D.C. office of Williams Mullen. His practice is primarily limited to international trade policy, international trade regulation, customs, and international commerce and investment. Mr. Reyna directs the firm’s trade and customs practice group and is the head of the firm’s Latin America Task Force. He has over 18 years of experience as an international trade practitioner. When the NAFTA entered into force, Mr. Reyna was appointed to the U.S. roster of panelists for NAFTA Chapter 19 disputes and later served as a panelist in the review of a Mexican antidumping duty determination. When the WTO became effective, the USTR nominated, and the WTO confirmed Mr. Reyna as a member of the U.S. roster of panelists for WTO disputes for both trade in goods and trade in services. He continues to serve on both the NAFTA and the WTO dispute settlement rosters. Mr. Reyna is a member of the ABA Section on International Law and Practice (Co-chair of the Mexican Law Committee), the ABA Section on Dispute Resolution (Co-Chair of the WTO Subcommittee), the Hispanic National Bar Association (member of the Board of Directors, President of Region V [MA, DC, VA, W.Va]), and Chair of the International Law Committee), and is a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S.-Mexico Law Institute. A graduate of the University of Rochester, Mr. Reyna received his law degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law.

1. “Oh, Romeo, where art thou?”
2. Yankee, we do not like you.

