



## Canada-United States Law Journal

Volume 24 | Issue

Article 20

January 1998

# Introduction: The Information Revolution-- Culture and Sovereignty

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### Recommended Citation

Dorinda Dallmeyer, *Introduction: The Information Revolution--Culture and Sovereignty*, 24 Can.-U.S. L.J. 145 (1998)  
Available at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.case.edu/cuslj/vol24/iss/20>

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# INTRODUCTION

## THE INFORMATION REVOLUTION -- CULTURE AND SOVEREIGNTY

*Dorinda Dallmeyer*<sup>\*</sup>

We are all that is standing between you and the cocktail hour. Nevertheless, I know that the two fellows from whom you are about to hear will make the wait worthwhile, just as raspberries, salmon, lobster, and mushrooms nourish the development of the body of trade law and policy between the United States and Canada, ongoing disputes concerning the cultural icons that none of us can do without, *Sports Illustrated*, ESPN, and Country Music Television, are providing the framework in which we now sit, the discussion of culture, sovereignty, investment, and the information revolution. John Ragosta and Mike Robinson are going to lead us through these complex issues.

I will go ahead and introduce both of them to you. Michael Robinson, our first speaker, is a senior partner in the Toronto office of Fasken Campbell Godfrey and is the director of the firm's International Practice Group. His practice emphasizes capital markets in several dimensions, domestic and international banking and other finance, as well as regulation and trade investment, including joint ventures and private infrastructure projects.

He is Chairman of the Capital Markets Forum Advisory Board of the Section of Business Law for the International Bar Association and is immediate past Co-Chairman of the Capital Markets Forum. He has also served as a member of the advisory boards for the Ontario Center for International Business, the Center for International Studies, the Asia Pacific Center for the Resolution of International Business Disputes of the American Bar Association. And in his spare time, he has served as a faculty member of the Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto. Mr. Robinson received his B.A. from the University of Western Ontario and his LL.B. from the University of Toronto.

John Ragosta is a partner in the law firm of Dewey Ballantine in Washington, D.C. and is representing corporations, associations, and governments

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with respect to some of the most complex trade litigation and negotiations of 1980s and 1990s. Some of the cases you have already heard mentioned today. He was intimately involved with the successful prosecution of the Super 301 case against Japan, brought by the U.S. Alliance for Wood Products Exports, and he was also involved in the 1992 and 1996 countervailing duty cases against Canada brought on by the U.S. Coalition for Fair Lumber Imports. He was instrumental in the subsequent negotiation of the U.S./Japan Wood Products Agreement, the U.S./Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement, and the relevant provisions of the U.S./Canada Free Trade Agreement, and FTA implementing legislation. And he has advised a number of clients on various aspects of the Uruguay Round of GATT and NAFTA, including the NAFTA and GATT settlement proceedings. He is also an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center. He received his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law and his B.S. from Grove City College.

We are going to have a slightly different type of series of presentations. Michael Robinson, as I said, is going to go first with a response to John Ragosta's presentation from last year, and then John will pick up where he left off. I do not know what to expect exactly, but it is going to be somewhere on the spectrum between liturgical reading and a Texas death match wrestling contest, so with that, I will give you Michael Robinson.