

## FOREWORD

Dean Joel Seligman\*

One of the great pleasures of being dean at the University of Arizona College of Law is the opportunity to initiate events like this by welcoming everyone to sunny Tucson. Today, unfortunately, Mother Nature has attempted to demonstrate we're capable of a precipitation system as well, but the warmth of my introduction and joy at all of you being here is just as sincere as it would have been had Mother Nature better cooperated.

This conference today is in a narrow sense yet another realization of the foresight and vision of Boris Kozolchyk and David Gantz. These two gentlemen have collectively worked over the past several years, Boris somewhat longer than David, to create an identity for our school in the particular area of international trade. Boris founded the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade and has kept it thriving for several years now. David as the Director of the Masters in International Trade Program has created a program that has already begun to receive international recognition. These are two parts of a concerted effort this school has made in developing international trade as a signature area. We're very proud of the Arizona Journal of International and Comparative Law. We're also very, very proud of a library collection in international and foreign law which has become an outstanding collection in our library which was recently memorialized in a new floor.

Collectively each of these efforts symbolize the extraordinary commitment this school has made to international trade. The reason for this is quite simple. In a fundamental sense one can view the twenty-first century as being the Century of the Americas. A century in which the possibility of a true common market stretching from Canada to the tip of South America is feasible. This will represent a maturing in United States politics which were, I think, unfortunately epitomized by such references as Henry Luce's to an American Century which was a far more jingoistic vision he spawned fifty years ago. The Century of the Americas will represent a recognition that the trade future of this country is less oriented toward Europe and the Pacific Rim and more oriented towards our neighbors north and south. It is a vision that is easy to propound but as we've learned in Europe with the experience of the European Union, the hard part is realizing that vision. It was in that spirit some months ago when I talked to David and Boris that this conference was spawned. It was in an effort to say not just how can you imagine a twenty-first century with free trade but rather how do you get there.

This conference will address a series of the tough issues with respect to the question of realizing that vision. The first session will touch on the political dimension of the expansion of the NAFTA. In the short term politics has been a factor which certainly in the European experience, has made it more difficult to

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realize their vision of a European common market. After lunch there will be a session dealing with expansion of credit. At that session Boris will be speaking. Boris, as many of you know, is one of the world's leading authorities on letters of credit. How one pays for realizing a vision is a fundamental aspect of moving into this new twenty-first century. A third session today will focus on dispute resolution. This is a topic for many of us in this room which has both domestic and international implications. In this country, it is increasingly recognized that mechanisms such as arbitration, mediation, and early neutral evaluation are claiming an increasingly important role in the resolution of disputes. Part of the NAFTA's mission is how it can evolve a system for resolution of trade disputes. As you'll see in the third session there are a variety of mechanisms being explored.

Tomorrow there will be a fourth session dealing with trade and labor relations succeeded by a discussion of trade and the environment. These are among the most difficult issues that the expansion of the NAFTA will have to confront. We have a special treat tomorrow as well. There will be a luncheon dialog featuring our Congressman Jim Kolbe with the Minister of Trade from the Mexican Embassy, Luis Fernando de la Calle.

We hope that collectively the papers and remarks assembled today, when reflected in the symposium issue of the *Arizona Journal of International and Comparative Law*, will represent a contribution to an on-going evolution of the NAFTA. I think all of us has the privilege of being here at the dawn of the growth of an important international economic and political institution. It's one that the law school and many of you in your daily lives, are privileged to watch grow like a child into maturity in the not so distant future. Thank you.

