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Center for U.S. and Mexican Law

ANNUAL MEETING OF
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The Center for U.S. and Mexican Law wishes to also thank Alan Crain, Senior Vice President, Chief Legal and Governance Officer, Baker Hughes and Will Marsh, General Counsel, Baker Hughes for hosting this annual meeting of our Advisory Board.
ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE ADVISORY BOARD

Thursday, June 6, 2013
5:00 P.M.

Baker Hughes Global Headquarters
Houston, Texas
Agenda

Welcome
William D. Marsh, General Counsel, Baker Hughes

Director’s Overview of Year One
Stephen Zamora, Executive Director

Discussion of Gulf of México Project
Miriam Grunstein, Affiliate Scholar

Discussion of Cross Border Legal Services Project
Ignacio Pinto-Léon, Assistant Director

México Briefings and Other Activities

Student Programs

Center Finances

Center Milestones & Appointments

Center Leadership

Becoming a Center Sponsor or Underwriter
Stephen Zamora, Executive Director
Dear Advisory Board Members,

This brief report recounts the activities undertaken by the Center for U.S. and Mexican Law during our first year of operations. We inaugurated the Center in June 2012 to promote greater understanding in the United States of the Mexican legal system, and of legal aspects of U.S.—México relations, as well as to study and contribute to the development of Mexican law. Our efforts are binational, as shown by our binational Advisory Board, and by the contributions of sponsors and underwriters from both México and the United States.

This first report shows as much promise as it does results. Our two major research projects are in their initial phases. We will continue to stress rigorous legal scholarship applied to well-designed research projects, carried out under conditions of academic independence. Most of our projects will be bi-national: we engage legal scholars, lawyers, judges and non-lawyers to study legal questions that have not been addressed by other entities, academic or governmental.

We are grateful to the advisers, sponsors, underwriters, affiliates and friends of the Center for your interest in and support of our efforts. I welcome your ideas and comments on this report, as well as on the projects and programs undertaken in our first year. We look forward to building on our record in the coming year with your continuing help.

Stephen Zamora
University of Houston Law Center
Leonard B. Rosenberg Professor of Law
Executive Director, Center for U.S. and Mexican Law
Director, North American Consortium on Legal Education (NACLE)
szamora@uh.edu
The Center for U.S. and Mexican Law is sponsoring a research project in collaboration with Professor Miriam Grunstein of CIDE University in México City and Professor Richard McLaughlin from the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of México Studies at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi. The project focuses on the legal and institutional issues relating to development of transboundary hydrocarbon resources in the Gulf of México (GOM). As a result of a recently signed international agreement between the United States and México concerning the development of transboundary oil and gas reservoirs in the GOM, interactions between the two nations will intensify. The bi-national research project will examine the significant legal, institutional and regulatory challenges that México and the U.S. will have to address before engaging in joint development activities.

The first phase of the project is currently being completed. It explores legal principles governing shared hydrocarbon resources. Important legal concepts relevant to the development of shared resources are identified and analyzed from each nation’s perspective. International legal principles that are applicable to transboundary energy development in the GOM are discussed and an inventory of existing international unitization efforts is described. Finally, the study will identify issues that need to be resolved to enhance unitization opportunities and improve cooperation between the two nations.
Cross-Border Legal Services Project  
Cross-Border Legal Services between the U.S. and México: Assessing Trade in Legal Services, the Effective Governance of Lawyers, and the Adequacy of Legal Education

The Center for U.S. and Mexican Law, in collaboration with the Centro de Estudios Sobre la Enseñanza y el Aprendizaje del Derecho (CEEAD), is conducting a research project on Cross-Border Legal Services between the U.S. and México: Assessing Trade in Legal Services, the Effective Governance of Lawyers, and the Adequacy of Legal Education.

The binational research project will examine the provision of legal services by Mexican lawyers to U.S. clients and by U.S. lawyers to Mexican clients; the regulation of the practice of law in México and in the United States; the limitations applicable to the professional practice of a foreign–licensed attorney in both countries; and the sanctions for ethical shortcomings in the provision of legal services in both countries.

Phase one of the project is currently under way. In this initial phase, the project will define what constitutes cross-border legal services between México and the United States; examine the regulatory framework for the practice of law in México and the United States; will analyze the reach and limitations of the practice of law by Mexican–licensed attorneys in the United States, and by American–licensed lawyers in México; and will identify the methodologies needed to create a database on cross-border legal services between México and the United States.

Project Leadership

Ignacio Pinto-Léon  
Project Co-Director, USA  
Director of JurisMex Corp.

Dr. Oscar Cruz Barney  
Project Co-Director, México  
Research Fellow of the Institute for Legal Research at the National Autonomous University of México (UNAM)
México Briefings

The Center initiated a speaker series, México Briefings, to provide opportunities for friends of the Center to meet with leading experts on Mexican law and on U.S.-México relations, to engage in private discussions of issues of current importance, with attendance limited to invited guests of the Center, its Sponsors and Advisers.

The Center held three México Briefings, all of excellent quality and great response from the audience. The first México Briefing was held Friday, October 26, 2012 at the North American headquarters of Weatherford Corporation, the multinational oilfield services company and Underwriter of our Center. The subject was timely – Prospects for Energy Reform in México - and it featured Juan Carlos Zepeda, the President of Comisión Nacional de Hidrocarburos, México’s oil and gas regulatory agency, and Dr. Miriam Grunstein, a Mexican law professor and expert on energy law, as well as an Affiliate Scholar of the Center for U.S. and Mexican Law.

Mr. Zepeda outlined both the challenges and the opportunities for increasing México's oil and gas development, in light of recent Mexican elections, which offer the opportunity for new directions in spurring investment, including private investment. Dr. Grunstein pointed out that this change would be vigorously opposed by political parties. Much depends on the approach to be taken by the new government of then President-elect Enrique Peña Nieto, who has yet to indicate the stance that he will take.

The second México Briefing — US-México Relations After the Elections: New Administrations, New Policies? — took place on November 11, 2012 at the Houston offices of the international law firm of Haynes & Boone, LLP, and featured Professor Robert Pastor, Founding Director of the Center for North American Studies at American University in D.C. Professor Pastor emphasized the relevance of U.S.-México relations and expressed hope that the bilateral agenda between both countries will strengthen with the second term of President Barak Obama and the term of newly elected Mexican President, Enrique Peña Nieto. Professor

Robert Pastor speaks at the November 19, 2012 México Briefing.
Pastor reminded the audience the path that led to the completion of the North American Free Trade Agreement —NAFTA— between the U.S., Canada and México, the dramatic increase in trade between the U.S. and México, and stressed why the Southern neighbor should play a preeminent role in the U.S. agenda, both for economical and national security reasons.

The Center’s third México Briefing, *The New Politics of Mexico and the United States*, co-sponsored by the Latin America Initiative of the Baker Institute at Rice University, was presented on February 25, 2013, at the Houston offices of the international law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski. The event featured Mexican Congressman Agustín Barrios Gómez, U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar and Mexican professor and member of the Center’s advisory Board, Dr. Luis Rubio. Dr. Tony Payan, visiting Scholar at the Baker Institute, moderated the session.

The format of the event allowed the panel members to make their presentation, respond briefly to the co-panelists expositions, and to entertain questions from the audience — which was composed primarily by attorneys, members of the judiciary, economists, political scientists and law students. Diputado Agustín Barrios Gómez sustained that México and the United States are, for historical, geographical and demographic reasons, the most integrated countries in the world. U.S. Representative Henry Cuellar stressed the importance of the trade relationship between the neighboring countries, and specifically pointed out the relevance of the exchange for Texas. Dr. Luis Rubio, for his part, explained why the current Mexican presidential administration has incentives to push for change and reform rather than continue the status quo: the PRI naturally wants to stay in power; the honeymoon between the new administration and the public is over; and it is impossible for the PRI to go to the past, since Mexican society has changed and freedoms have expanded.

The Center for U.S. and Mexican Law will continue to conduct México Briefings on topics relevant to improve the understanding in the United States of Mexican laws and legal institutions, with the continued support of its underwriters and sponsors.
The Center for U.S. and Mexican Law has the following Mutual Cooperation Agreements:

**Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs). In 1989, the University of Houston Law Center concluded a Mutual Cooperation Agreement with the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since that time, the Law Center has provided tuition scholarships to over 20 lawyers from the Ministry, permitting them to matriculate and complete the Master of Laws degree at the Law Center. After completing their law studies in Houston, the lawyers have all returned to the Mexican Foreign Service; two Law Center alumni have served as Legal Adviser to the Foreign Minister, several have served as Ambassadors, and many other Foreign Service Officers work in embassies around the world. In addition, for many years, the Ministry has received University of Houston Law students as summer interns in the Office of the Legal Adviser in México City, as discussed below.

**Petróleos Mexicanos** (PEMEX). In 1993, UH Law Center signed a Mutual Cooperation Agreement with PEMEX that is similar to the Agreement with the Foreign Ministry. Since that time, over 20 PEMEX attorneys have completed the Master of Laws degree. As the eighth largest oil company in the world, PEMEX has found this method training its legal staff to be an essential tool in competing in the international energy sector. In addition, as part of the agreement, PEMEX has each year received UH law students as legal interns in the summer, working at the PEMEX headquarters in México City.

The Center is currently working with México’s **Comisión Nacional de Hidrocarburos** (CNH) to finalize a collaboration agreement that would provide for similar opportunities for CNH’s staff attorneys and UHLC law students. This summer, three UHLC students will be interning CHN’s legal department.

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"[As a PEMEX intern, I] had access to on-going development and strategic projects of the [energy] industry, international litigation, research projects, conferences and much more, and at the same time I have had the privilege to work with an extraordinary team of professionals."

- Mariana Avendaño
PEMEX Intern, Summer 2012
International Internships

The Center for U.S. and Mexican Law is continuing a long-standing practice of arranging summer legal internships for University of Houston Law Center students who work with Mexican government agencies in México City. During the summer of 2013, the Center for U.S. and Mexican Law has arranged eight legal internships for students in México City. Three of these students will be at the Office of the Legal Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs; three interns will be in the legal department at the PEMEX headquarters; and two interns will work at the Comisión Nacional de Hidrocarburos, the Mexican government’s agency that regulates oil and gas production.

This past year, the Center received its first international intern in 2013. Shara Beltrán, a law student in her final year of studies at Tecnológico de Monterrey Campus Puebla, spent the Spring semester collaborating as a law clerk for the Center in Houston. Under the direction of Ignacio Pinto-Léon, the Center’s Assistant Director, Beltrán participated in several research projects, including a study of the limitations on Mexican dual nationality, and the first draft of an electronic research guide on Mexican law. Beltrán also attended the course of Transnational Petroleum Law in Latin America held at the Law Center, and collaborated in meetings, conferences and events.

Left to right, Shara Beltrán, Dr. Luis Rubio and Veronica Bernal at the February 25, 2013 México Briefing.

2012 Interns Paige Cantrell and Mariana Avendano with Professor Zamora and PEMEX General Counsel Marco Antonio de la Peña, with PEMEX UH Law alumni.

2012 Intern Rochelle Garza with Professor Zamora and Ambassador Arturo Dáger, UH Law alumnus and Legal Advisor to the Foreign Ministry, with UH Law Alumni.
The University of Houston Law Center launched the Center for U.S. and Mexican Law in April 3, 2012. The Center is the first independent research center in the United States dedicated to the study of Mexican law and legal aspects of U.S.–Mexico relations. The launching was widely commented on by the press in the U.S. and in Mexico.

On June 1, the Center celebrated its inaugural event. Mexico’s Ambassador to the United States, the Honorable Arturo Sarukhán, was the keynote speaker, delivering a powerful luncheon address speech on “U.S.-Mexico Relations in 2012: Challenges and Opportunities.” Earlier in the day, Justice José Ramón Cossío Díaz gave his first lecture as Distinguished Jurist in Residence at the University of Houston Law Center. On the same date, our Advisory Board held its initial meeting, with board members from Mexico and the United States in attendance.

Dr. José Ramón Cossío Díaz, Mexican Supreme Court Justice, accepted an appointment as the first Distinguished Jurist in Residence at the Center for U.S. and Mexican Law. Justice Cossío is also a member of the Center’s advisory board and executive committee.

The Center also named Professor Miriam Grunstein, an energy law scholar at CIDE University in Mexico City, to be an Affiliate Scholar of the Center.

Dr. Alberto Abad Suárez Avila is a Full-time Professor-Researcher at the Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) in Mexico city, where he specializes in constitutional law and human rights.

Robert Lutz is Professor of Law at Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles, where he specializes in International Business, and International Trade Law and Public International Law. A frequent arbitrator for international public and private disputes, he serves on many international law committees, and is past Chair of the ABA Section of International Law (SIL), and has chaired the SIL’s Transnational Legal Practice Committee.

Dr. Richard McLaughlin holds the Endowed Chair for Marine Policy and Law at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A & M University (Corpus Christi). A renowned expert in international law of the sea and ocean governance, he is an active participant in many institutional initiatives to preserve and manage ocean resources around the world.
Center Leadership

Mexican Advisors

Cecilia Azar
Founding Partner, AZAR Abogados, México City

Dr. Gabriel Cavazos Villanueva
Associate Dean of the School of Business, Social Sciences and Humanities of the Tecnológico de Monterrey (Campus Monterrey), Monterrey

Dr. José Ramón Cossio Díaz
Justice of the Mexican Supreme Court, and Distinguished Jurist in Residence, University of Houston Law Center

Ambassador Arturo Dáger
Mexican Foreign Ministry (Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores)

Dr. David Enriquez
Goodrich Riquelme y Asociados and ITAM Law School, México City

Dr. Héctor Fix Fierro
Director, Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), México City

Ambassador Miguel Ángel González Félix
Despacho Maney & Gonzalez Félix, Houston, TX – Mexico City

Alejandro Landa Thierry
International Partner, Chadbourne & Parke, México City

Dr. Sergio López Ayllón
Chancellor (Director General) of México’s Centro de Investigación y Docencia Economicas (CIDE), México City

Rogelio López Velarde
Founding partner and energy law expert, López Velarde, Hefiye y Soria, México City

Cristina Massa
Commissioner, Comisión Federal de Competencia, México City

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U.S. House of Representatives (D-TX, 28th District)

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Tim Johnson
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David Lopez
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William D. Marsh
General Counsel, Baker Hughes

Charles E. Meacham
Partner, Gardere Wynne Sewell, Houston

Judge Margaret McKeown
United States Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit, San Diego

Ewell E. Murphy, Jr.
Former partner, Baker Botts; Distinguished Lecturer, University of Houston Law Center

Dallas Parker
Partner, Mayer Brown LLP, Houston

Robert Pastor
Director, Center for North American Studies, American University, Washington, D.C.

Judge Josefina Rendón
Assoc. Judge, City of Houston Municipal Courts

Doris Rodriguez
Partner, Andrews Kurth, Houston

Judge Lee Rosenthal
United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Houston

Carlos Soltero
Partner, McGinnis Lochridge & Kilgore, Austin

Peter K. Taaffe
Of Counsel, The Buzbee Law Firm, Houston

Judge Vaughn Walker
United States District Court (retired), Northern District of California, San Francisco

William Wood
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Executive Director, Center for US and Mexican Law
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