Mexican Supreme Court justice will serve as first Distinguished Jurist in Residence

Mexican Supreme Court Justice José Ramón Cossío Díaz has accepted an appointment as the first Distinguished Jurist in Residence at the Center for U.S. and Mexican Law, a new research center of the University of Houston Law Center. Cossío has served on the Mexican high court since 2004, while also teaching Constitutional Law at the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico (ITAM) in Mexico City, where he served as Dean of the Law School from 1995 to 2003.

The recently launched Center for U.S. and Mexican Law 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. It also will promote cross-border education of law students, lawyers, judges and other professionals from both Mexico and Canada, conduct studies and research projects; organize periodic symposia; and participate in collaborative projects to promote cooperation among U.S. and Mexican lawyers, judges and scholars.

Professor Stephen Zamora, director of the Center, emphasized the importance of having a jurist such as Justice Cossío participate in the academic life of the University of Houston Law Center. “As one of Mexico’s leading constitutional scholars, Dr. Cossío has played an important role in the development of Mexican constitutional law. As a law professor and dean of an elite law school, Dr. Cossío served as an adviser to the Mexican Congress and to the executive branch on both legal and judicial reforms. As a Supreme Court justice, in addition to deciding cases with historical significance, he has continued to teach, to undertake legal research, and to write scholarly articles – a testament to his commitment not only to academic pursuits, but also to the needs for legal reform that Mexico faces.”
“His involvement in research and other academic projects will be of vast benefit to the Center for U.S. and Mexican Law. His work will be entirely pro bono – he will receive no compensation whatsoever – but he will add immeasurably to our sense of direction and academic rigor.”

Dr. Cossío’s professional experience has combined teaching, legal research and public service. He began as a law professor in 1983 and has held teaching positions in several Mexican law schools in addition to his tenure at ITAM. Although the main focus of his work is constitutional law, he has also done extensive research and writing in other legal fields. He has supervised more than 50 dissertations and has given more than 350 speeches, courses, seminars and conferences in national and foreign universities. He has authored 19 books and more than 500 articles published in academic journals, law reviews, digests and newspapers.

Justice Cossío has received many distinguishing awards and acknowledgments, among them the National Research Prize in the Social Sciences from the Mexican Academy of Sciences in 1998 and the National Science and Arts Award in 2009. The National Academy of Medicine granted him a special recognition in 2010 for his contribution to the strengthening of the links between law and medicine. He is member of distinguished academic, scientific and professional institutes and boards, such as the National Research Network, the American Law Institute, the Mexican Bar Association, the Sciences Advisory Board, the National Institute of Genomic Medicine and the Mexican Foundation for Health. He also participates in the editing boards of several specialized reviews, both domestic and international.

Dr. Cossío was born in Mexico City in 1960 and graduated with honors in 1984 from the law school at the University of Colima. In 1987 he completed a master’s degree in Constitutional Law and Political Science at the Center of Constitutional Studies of Madrid (Spain) and in 1988 he received a doctorate *summa cum laude* from the Complutense University of Madrid.