

PROLOGUE: A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The *California Western International Law Journal* is proud to present its Spring 2000 edition-*Latin America in the Twenty-First Century*-which focuses solely on issues confronting Latin America as the region enters the twenty-first century.

The *International Law Journal* decided to dedicate this edition to issues dealing exclusively with Latin America for various reasons. First, although close in proximity to the United States, Latin America seldom receives the attention that more distant regions, like Europe and Asia, receive. The *International Law Journal* believes that this edition will lead to a greater understanding of the major issues facing Latin America and thus provide creative solutions to the regions problems.

Second, the large and growing Latin American population in the United States continues to influence this country at all levels and areas of society. Currently, in the United States, Latinos make up about one in every nine residents. Furthermore, population projections from the United States Census Bureau indicate that by the year 2005, Latinos will comprise thirteen percent of the United States population, making them the largest minority group.

Finally, the *International Law Journal* saw a need to present issues and possible solutions facing Latin America from an "Americas" perspective. Therefore, this edition contains articles not only from scholars in the United States, but also from the viewpoint of Latin American practitioners and scholars who have a different perspective on the major issues challenging the region.

As you read the articles that follow, and reflect on the future of Latin America, it is fitting to meditate on the vivid imagery of Pablo Neruda in his poem "*America, I Do Not Call Your Name Without Hope*" (*América, No Invoco Tu Nombre en Vano*). Neruda's expressive contemplation of hope for Latin America is a key to understanding and solving many of the issues facing the region today- because hope will inspire action, which in turn will spur solutions for the many issues facing Latin America in the twenty-first century.¹

1. Pablo Neruda, *America, I Do Not Call Your Name Without Hope*, in TWENTIETH-CENTURY LATIN AMERICAN POETRY 214-15 (Stephen Tapscott ed., Robert Bly trans., 1996).

*America, I do not call your name
without hope.
When I hold the sword against the
heart,
when I live with the faulty roof in the
soul,
when one of your new days
pierces me coming through the win-
dows,
I am and I stand in the light that pro-
duces me,
I live in the darkness which makes me
what I am,
I sleep and awake in your fundamen-
tal sunrise:
as mild as the grapes, and as terrible,
carrier of sugar and the whip,
soaked in the sperm of your species,
Nursed on the blood of your inheritance.*

*América, no invoco tu nombre en
vano.
Cuando sujeto al corazón la espada,
Cuando aguento en el alma la
gotera,
Cundo por las ventanas
Un nuevo día tuyo me penetra,
Soy y estoy en la luz que me produce,
Vivo en la sombra que me determina,
Duermo y despierto en tu esencial
aurora:
Dulce como las uvas, y el terrible,
Conductor del azúcar y el castigo,
Empapado en esperma de tu especie,
Amamantado en sangre de tu heren-
cia.*

The *International Law Journal* would like to thank the following individuals for their generous assistance and support in this project: Professor Jamie Cooper, Professor William J. Aceves, Professor John Noyes, Dean Steven Smith, and Professor Janeen Kerper.

International Law Journal Executive Board

* Abel Yanez, Executive Editor, *International Law Journal* 1999-2000, J.D. 2000, California Western School of Law; B.A. Secondary Education, 1997, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Gabriela Brannan, Executive Lead Articles Editor, *International Law Journal* 1999-2000, J.D. 2000, California Western School of Law; B.A. Psychology, 1996, San Diego State University.