

CALIFORNIA WESTERN INTERNATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

VOLUME 20

1989-1990

NUMBER 1

MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES: A JUDICIAL DIALOGUE

INTRODUCTION

Nancy L. Myers

In the spirit of international legal understanding and cooperation, California Western School of Law hosted a conference between judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and judges of the Supreme Court of Mexico on March 27, 1989.

For the first time in the history of Mexico and the United States, federal judges from both countries met in an effort to share a working knowledge of their respective legal systems.

The conference was the brainchild of The Honorable Alfred T. Goodwin, Chief Justice of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. As Judge Goodwin stated: “. . . there is a wonderful resource here in this law school that we haven’t known anything about. There is a faculty interested in international law, there is a student body interested in a community that is next door to a great and helpful neighbor that we don’t know much about because of the language barrier. . . . So, I thought those folks down there in San Diego are on to something and why don’t we get some high level judges from the two countries to talk about opening up communications and perhaps set in motion a planning conference.”

Echoing the sentiments of Judge Goodwin, Dean Michael Des- sent stated in his opening remarks “. . . International law has always been a major strength in this school. We have one of the oldest International Law Journals in the country. It is logical that this first meeting be held here where we have a lot of good friends with the local judges who are very familiar with us, and with the international practice as well.”

Much of the success of the conference was due to the efforts of the California Western International Law Journal's faculty advisor, Professor Chin Kim. A leading authority in international law and the head of California Western's Masters of Comparative Law Program, Professor Kim was eminently qualified to organize the conference. Professor Kim has previously developed and directed training programs for judges and attorneys both in the United States and Korea, organized and chaired a symposium on industrial property rights in Latin American countries, and has translated the Chinese criminal procedure code into English.

Contributing to the dialogue was Adjunct Professor Dr. Zack Chayet. An international attorney, Dr. Chayet was educated in both the United States and Mexico and has offices in both countries. Dr. Chayet presented a brief overview which compared the legal systems of United States and Mexico and the political systems from which each developed.

Attending and contributing from the United States were three other Ninth Circuit Judges, Arthur Alarcon, David Thompson, and J. Clifford Wallace, as well as Judge John L. Rhoades of the United States District Court. From Mexico, participants were Lic. Manuel Gutiérrez de Velasco, speaking on *amparos* procedures and Lic. Carlos del Río Roderíguez, President of the Supreme Court of Mexico. The California Western International Law Journal was honored to participate in the conference and we are pleased to present President del Río's lecture on Mexican Judicial Review.

As a frame of reference for President Del Río's address, a short comparison of the process by which federal judges are selected in the United States and Mexico is presented by Dr. Zack V. Chayet.