



**American University
Center for North American Studies and
Washington College of Law
Sponsor**

***“A North American Legal System:
Is It Possible? Desirable?”***

**February 16, 2007
9:00 am-5:30 pm**

The Center for North American Studies and the Washington College of Law of American University are co-sponsoring a conference on whether a uniform legal system for all three countries of North America is conceivable, desirable, or possible. The conference will be held on February 16, 2007, 9:00 AM-5:30 PM at the Washington College of Law, in the Mooers-Morella Ceremonial Courtroom (Room 603), 4801 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC.

Some of the most distinguished legal scholars and practitioners from Canada, Mexico, and the United States will address the issues in comparative terms by examining the example of Europe and the tensions caused by federalism but, also, by focusing on applied legal areas, such as trade, the environment, and family law. Admission to the conference is free. The conference lunch will require a small fee and attendees who wish to attend the lunch need to send an RSVP by January 31, 2007. For more information or to confirm attendance, contact Dr. James T. McHugh, Associate Director, Center for North American Studies of American University at mchugh@american.edu.

This event is supported by the American Society of Comparative Law, the American Society of International Law, and L'Association québécoise de droit comparé.

Conference Agenda

February 16, 2007

9:00 Introductory Remarks

- Robert Pastor, Director, Center for North American Studies
- Claudio Grossman, Dean, Washington College of Law, American University

9:30 Panel 1 – The “Idea” of a North American Legal System

- Chair: Robert Pastor, Director, CNAS
- Stephen Zamora, Dean, University of Houston Law School
- Patrick Glenn, Peter M. Laing Professor of Law, McGill University

11:00 Panel 2 – Comparative Experiences of Legal Harmonization Across and Within National Boundaries

- *The European Union*
 - Michelle Egan, American University, School of International Service
 - Fernanda Nicola, Washington College of Law, American University
- *National vs. Provincial/State Governance in North America*
 - Alan Tarr, Director, Center for State Constitutional Studies, Rutgers University
 - James T. McHugh, Associate Director and Visiting Professor, CNAS

12:30 Lunch

- **Speaker:** The Honorable Gordon Giffin, United States Ambassador to Canada, 1997-2001

1:30 Panel 3 – Applied Laws

- Chair: James Holbein, Washington College of Law, American University
- Christine Haight Farley, Professor, Washington College of Law, American University, *Intellectual Property Law*
- Arthur Cockfield, Queens University, Kingston, *Taxation and Regulation*
- Durwood Zaelke, Washington College of Law, American University, *Environmental Law*

3:00 Panel 4 – Towards a North American Law

- Chair: Robert Pastor, Center for North American Studies, AU
- Alberto Szekely, Career Ambassador and Advisor to the Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs for International Legal Issues, International Law Professor
- Jay Westbrook, University of Houston School of Law
- Susan Karamanian, George Washington University School of Law
- Discussant: Claudio Grossman, Dean, Washington College of Law, American University

Summary Report

- Tom Farer, Dean, Graduate School of International Studies, University of Denver

5:00 Reception