Energizing the U.S.-Mexico Region
USMBA Annual Conference

U.S.-Mexico Bar Association
Barra de Abogados México-Estados Unidos

2015 Annual Meeting & Continuing Legal Education Event
Energizing the U.S.-Mexico Region
November 4 - 6, 2015
St. Regis Hotel in Houston, Texas

Thank you to our Title Sponsor

GARDERE
Thank you for attending the USMBA Annual Conference: Energizing the U.S.-Mexico Region. Our event gathers together over 100 professionals from across the United States and Mexico to hear specially selected experts and industry stakeholders discuss topics and share knowledge related to all facets of the energy market and how it relates to the judicial system. The speakers of the keynote panel on energy include Xavier Antonio de la Garza from Pemex, Patrick Appel, the Legal Counsel at Chevron as well as Daniel Aranda Rabago and Alfredo Ramos, Partners at Gardere. We are honored to present Carlos Morales Gil, the CEO of Petrobal, as this year’s keynote speaker.

In addition to the keynote address 13 unique presentation sessions will cover topics from cross-border anticorruption efforts to new technology employed by Nuevo León court system to NAFTA and Mexico’s energy reform to real estate and capital markets.

The USMBA would like to take this opportunity to voice our appreciation to our members for your support and dedication. It is a pleasure to host this event for so many professionals within our industry. Prepare for a conference packed with information set to excite and inspire!

Welcome!
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4th

5:30 - 7:00 pm  REGISTRATION
Astor Ballroom Foyer, upstairs at The St. Regis Hotel

5:30 - 9:00 pm  COCKTAIL WELCOME RECEPTION
St. Regis Hotel
1919 Briar Oaks Lane
Houston, Texas 77027

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5th

7:30 - 8:30 am  BREAKFAST
Astor Ballroom, upstairs at The St. Regis Hotel

8:45 - 8:55 am  WELCOMING REMARKS
USMBA Co-Chairs
Carlos Sugich | Partner at Snell & Wilmer, LLP
Luis Emilio Luján Sauri | Partner at Basham, Ringe y Correa, S.C.

9:00 - 9:25 am  KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Energizing the Border
Carlos Morales Gil | CEO of Petrobal

9:30 - 10:25 am  KEYNOTE PANEL: ENERGY
Round Two: Mexico Energy Reform’s Early Rounds
Xavier Antonio de la Garza | Assistant General Counsel at Pemex
Patrick Appel | Legal Counsel at Chevron
Daniel Aranda Rabago | Partner at Gardere
Moderator: Alfredo Ramos | Partner at Gardere

An up to the minute update from U.S. and Mexican participants in the bidding rounds under Mexico’s Energy Reform. Hear what’s happened to date, and more importantly, what’s next.

10:30 - 11:15 am  ADR
Cross-Border ADR: An Update
Francisco González de Cossío | Gonzalez de Cossio Abogados, S.C.
John P. Bowman | Partner at King & Spalding
Hugo Perezcano Diaz | Independent Legal Consultant
Moderator: Philip Robbins | Philip A. Robbins, P.C.

Current developments impacting the use of ADR to resolve cross-border disputes, with a special look at the energy sector, including tips on practice and procedure.

11:15 - 11:30 am  COFFEE BREAK
11:30 - 12:15 pm  ANTICORRUPTION  
Cross-Border Anticorruption Efforts: Increase Trends and Enforcement  
Brett W. Johnson | Partner at Snell & Wilmer, LLP  
Gilberto Valle | Partner at Basham, Ringe y Correa, S.C.  
Charles E. Meacham | Partner at Gardere  
Moderator: Luis Emilio Luján Sauri | Partner at Basham, Ringe y Correa, S.C.  

This panel will provide the background of anticorruption in the United States and Mexico, as well as, best practices and important cases to note.

12:15 - 1:30 pm  LUNCH BREAK

1:30 - 2:30 pm  REAL ESTATE  
Real Estate, Infrastructure & Energy Opportunities in Mexico: Trends and New Investment Alternatives  
Lars O. Lagerman | Partner at Bryan Cave  
Jorge Correa | Partner at Creel, García-Cuéllar, Aíza y Enríquez  
Rodrigo Castelao | Partner at Creel, García-Cuéllar, Aíza y Enríquez  
Diego Covarrubias Patiño | Plani Grupo  
Moderator: Manuel Pasero | Pasero Abogados, S.C.  

Over the past years we have seen numerous renewable energy projects go south to the border. Why this is happening is not a coincidence, the current reforms, as well as the environmental and geographical circumstances, have provided international companies confidence to invest in Mexico. The energy and other structural reforms, can make Mexico competitive in the sector, this considering the financial vehicles / structures that can also be implemented for such projects. Our panel will address testimony of U.S. attorneys going to Mexico to structure renewable energy projects, the opportunities this sector can promise, and the investment vehicles that should be considered in Mexico.

2:30 - 2:45 pm  COFFEE BREAK

2:45 - 3:25 pm  BANKRUPTCY  
Financial Reckoning in the Oil Patch: Restructuring Opportunities Under U.S. and Mexican Law  
Charles A. Beckham, Jr. | Partner at Haynes & Boone, LLP  
Lawrence Young | Managing Director at AlixPartners  
Salvador Fonseca-Gonzalez | Partner at Baker & McKenzie Abogados, S.C.  
Moderator: Jerrold L. Bregman | Partner at Ezra Brutzkus Gubner, LLP  

Topics to Include:
Industry Distress Flowing from Sub-US $50/Barrel Oil  
Restructuring Opportunities under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code (recent filings and industry specific relief)  
Restructuring Opportunities under Mexico’s Concurso Law and Financial Reforms
Conference Schedule

3:30 - 4:15 pm  CUSTOMS/TRADE
Protectionism vs Protection: NAFTA and Mexico’s Energy Reform
Beatriz Leycegui Gardoqui | Partner at SAI Law & Economics
Luis Martinez | Abogados Martinez Serna, S.C.
Alejandro Posados  Law Professor/Director of Postgraduate Studies at Tecnológico de Monterrey School of Government
Moderator: Lawrence Hanson | The Law Office of Lawrence W. Hanson, P.C.

Topics to include:
What happens when Mexican Post-NAFTA reforms go beyond what was negotiated in the treaty?
Are investments in the Mexican Energy Sector protected under NAFTA?
Can rules and principles negotiated in other Industry Sectors and included in NAFTA apply to the Energy Sector even though it was expressly excluded from the negotiations?

4:15 - 4:25 pm  COFFEE BREAK

4:25 - 5:15 pm  GENERAL COUNSEL ROUNDTABLE
Automotive General Counsel
Rasmani Bhattacharya | General Counsel Gates Corporation
Victor Gutierrez | Regulatory Manager at Diamler Mexico
Coordinator: Hugo Hernandez-Ojeda | Partner at Hogan Lovells, BSTL
Moderator: Federico de Noriega Olea

5:20 - 6:00 pm  ENERGY REFORM
The Importance of the Administrative Rescission under the Energy Reform
Marco Tuilo Venegas | Partner at Von Wobeser y Sierra, S.C.
Timothy James Tyler | The Law Firm of Vinson & Elkins
Moderator: Luis Miguel Jimenez | Partner at Von Wobeser y Sierra, S.C.

Analyze the legal implications of the administrative rescission stated in the hydrocarbon exploration and extraction agreements that the National Hydrocarbon Commission may rule with the contractors that have been assigned with exploration and exploitation areas. This analysis will include both the Mexican Law perspective and the possible remedies granted by the NAFTA to the investors arisen from such kind of acts of government, which may be considered as expropriation.

6:00 - 7:00 pm  BREAK BEFORE DINNER

7:00 - 10:00 pm  GALA DINNER
Junior League of Houston
1811 Briar Oaks Lane
Houston, Texas 77027

Join us for drinks, dinner, and entertainment. The Junior League of Houston is a short walk from the St. Regis.
### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6th

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 - 8:30 am</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Astor Ballroom, upstairs at The St. Regis Hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 - 8:40 am</td>
<td>Welcoming Remarks</td>
<td>USMBA Co-Chairs</td>
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<td>Carlos Sugich</td>
<td>Partner at Snell &amp; Wilmer, LLP</td>
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<td>Luis Emilio Luján Sauri</td>
<td>Partner at Basham, Ringe y Correa, S.C.</td>
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<td>8:40 - 9:40 am</td>
<td>Alternative and Renewable Energy</td>
<td>The Power’s On!: Power and Alternative Energy Changes under Mexico’s Energy Reform</td>
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<td>Jorge Guadarrama-Yáñez</td>
<td>Partner at Baker &amp; McKenzie</td>
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<td>Mario Emilio Saenz Arroniz</td>
<td>Cemex</td>
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<td>Patrick Groomes</td>
<td>Head of Power and Energy at Norton Rose Fullbright U.S., LLP</td>
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<td>Arcie I. Jordan</td>
<td>Partner at Gardere</td>
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<td>9:45 - 10:15 am</td>
<td>Electronic Filings / Courts</td>
<td>“There’s an App for That” - Nuevo León Courts Go Electronic</td>
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<td>Juan Pablo Raigosa Trevino</td>
<td>Judiciary Commissioner of the State of Nuevo León</td>
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<td>10:15 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td>10:30 - 11:15 am</td>
<td>Immigration</td>
<td>Unlocking Immigration is Key to Energizing Cross-Border Investment and Business Development</td>
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<td>Richard Sindelar</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, University of St. Thomas Center for International Studies</td>
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<td>Terry Weir</td>
<td>Sr. Attorney at Dunbar Harder</td>
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Energy reform opened up development of traditional and alternative electricity markets in Mexico in ways that had not been possible. Industry leader and outside counsel will discuss these exciting new developments.

In the last years, the Judicial System of the State of Nuevo León has implemented technological tools in its interaction with litigators, other government offices and agencies, as well as parties to a lawsuit. The purpose of this session is to share the way in which it is making use of technology to become more efficient and transparent and briefly introduce the “Virtual Court” application available for all judicial processes carried out in our State.

### Topics to Include:
- Is US immigration in lock-down?
- Is Mexican immigration an open door?
- What has NAFTA done for immigration between Mexico and the US lately?
- What do US individuals and companies need to know when investing or opening businesses in Mexico?
- What do Mexican individuals and companies need to know when investing or opening businesses in the US?
## Conference Schedule

**11:20 - 12:05 pm LABOR**
**The Human Rights Recognition in the Mexican Constitution and its Impact on Labor Matters: A Quick Comparison between Mexican and U.S. Regulations on Discrimination and Right of Association**
Francisco J. Peniche Beguerisse | Partner at Creel, García-Cuéllar, Aiza y Enríquez
Mary Ellen Simonson | Partner at Lewis Roca Rothgerber, LLC
Nadia Maritza González Elizondo | Santamarina y Steta, S.C.
Sarah Hamilton | Partner at Hirschfel Kraemer
**Moderator:** Juan Carlos de la Vega Gómez | Partner at Santamarina y Steta, S.C.

This panel will analyze recent developments in Mexican employment law pertaining to the application of human rights, mainly in matters related to avoiding discrimination at the workplace and respect to employees' right of association and will compare how such matters are handled under U.S. employment and labor law. We will learn that Mexico is in a process of modernization on these topics and that at the same time it has a long way to go.

**12:10 - 12:25 pm CONSTITUTIONAL LAW**
**Mexican Supreme Court of Justice Relevant Criterias Granting Human Rights to Entities**
Jorge Carlos Toledo Sauri, MDC, PhD | Researcher at Universidad Marista de Mérida, A.C.
**Moderator:** Manuel Pasero | Pasero Abogados, S.C.

The Corporate Social Responsibility has gained a new dimension. The Mexican Supreme Court of Justice recently made new relevant criteria granting Human Rights to entities, considering the possibility that the company may be subject to liability for violations of human rights. The new criteria show the potential implications for law firms may be, as business enterprises with a responsibility to respect human rights themselves.

**12:25 - 12:40 pm USMBA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
USMBA Co-Chairs
Carlos Sugich | Partner at Snell & Wilmer, LLP
Luis Emilio Luján Sauri | Partner at Basham, Ringe y Correa, S.C.
SUPPORTING CROSS-BORDER BUSINESS

Gardere has been providing its clients with seamless representation across borders for over 20 years. Our award-winning Mexico and Latin America Practice, now operating in Mexico as Gardere, Arena y Asociados, S.C., represents U.S., European and Pacific Rim clients with business and investment opportunities into Mexico and advises Mexican private and publicly traded corporations in domestic and international matters. Our lawyers also represent clients involved in domestic and cross-border disputes. Our core focus includes corporate, energy, environmental, financial services, hospitality, international arbitration and disputes, intellectual property, labor and employment, litigation, mergers and acquisitions, real estate, tax and transportation. Gardere’s strength and success have been achieved through the combination of comprehensive resources of a large law firm with the expertise of over 230 lawyers in 40 distinct practice areas.
ALEJANDRO POSADAS | Director of Postgraduate Studies at Tecnológico de Monterrey School of Government
Alejandro Posadas is a Lawyer committed with contributing to strengthening an effective Rule of Law in Mexico that facilitates equal opportunities, sustainable development and justice. He is a Law Professor and director of postgraduate studies at Tecnológico de Monterrey School of Government. He teaches courses on public and private international law, international economic law, ethics and professional standards, and legal reasoning, among others. His current research agenda includes compliance and regulatory issues at the intersection of social and environmental justice, strengthening judicial decision making, and innovative legal justice education and lawyering.

ALFREDO RAMOS | Partner at Gardere
Alfredo Ramos is an experienced energy/international project development attorney, and former in-house counsel, focused primarily on serving the energy industry and business interests in Latin America. Alfredo represents clients of all sizes in drafting and negotiating sophisticated commercial transactions.

Clients value Alfredo’s bilingual, bicultural abilities and perspectives. He frequently travels to Latin America to represent his clients’ interests and provides legal advice in Spanish in all areas of business. He is a recognized leader in energy policy, and has testified before the Texas Senate Natural Resource Committee on Mexico’s energy reforms and its impact on Texas.

ARCIE I. JORDAN | Partner at Gardere
Arcie Jordan is a seasoned, bilingual corporate lawyer, who handles complex international transactional, transportation, trade and immigration matters for U.S. companies expanding abroad, and foreign entities seeking to invest or expand into the U.S. Clients expanding internationally regard Arcie as a trusted advisor who helps them navigate foreign investment restrictions, corporate structuring and formation, corporate governance, permitting and compliance, labor and employment, trade and immigration issues affecting their cross-border acquisitions and divestitures, operations and activities.

For several U.S. clients, Arcie has developed Foreign Corrupt Practices Act compliance policies and conducted FCPA due diligence and training. Arcie has developed expatriate and global employment-related policies for the cross-border movement of personnel (among others to Australia, Brazil, China, the Czech Republic, India, Mexico, Norway, Singapore and South Korea). She has also advised clients regarding international supply chain issues (including vendor-managed inventory matters and creation of shipping associations) and helped foreign subsidiaries structure related-party pricing and intercompany agreements.

BEATRIZ LEYCEGUI GARDOQUI | Partner at SAI Law & Economics
Beatriz has over 20 years of professional experience on international trade in the private, public and academic sectors. On April 2013, she rejoined SAI Law & Economics as a partner, where she headed the International Trade Law Practice Group from 1999 to 2006.

She is a member of the Global Agenda Council on Global Trade and Foreign Direct Investment of the World Economic Forum; Senior Fellow of the International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development; founding member of the Consejo Mexicano de Asuntos Internacionales (COMEXI); and is a panelist in a World Trade Organization case.

BRETT W. JOHNSON | Partner at Snell & Wilmer, LLP
Brett Johnson represents businesses and individuals in government relations matters. He has experience handling internal investigations and compliance audits for clients on a wide range of matters. Brett also provides training to businesses and governmental agencies concerning compliance matters and the drafting of related corporate policies.

In addition to representing large and small businesses, individuals and pro bono clients, he is the co-chair of the firm’s International Industry Group and the editor of the firm’s International Industry Group’s Global Connection newsletter. Brett also serves on the firm’s Attorney Development Committee.
CARLOS MORALES-GIL | CEO of Petrobal
He is a Petroleum Engineer from the University of Mexico, earned a Master Degree from Stanford University and a Diploma on Project Appraisal and Management from Harvard University. He served in the state own oil company Pemex, during 32 years where he held positions as reservoir engineer, reservoir management deputy manager, production and planning manager, south region vice-president, planning vice-president and from 2004 to February 2014 he was CEO of the Exploration and Production division. His experience includes research and teaching positions at the Mexican Petroleum Institute and The University of México, and management positions at Solar Turbines and the marine transportation company TMM.

In February 2015 he was appointed CEO of the new Mexican oil company PetroBal. He Is a member of professional organizations, Mexico’s Engineering Academy, the Society of Petroleum Engineers, the Colegio de Ingenieros Petroleros de México and the World Energy Council, where he has occupied several leadership positions and received recognition awards.

CARLOS SUGICH | USMBA Co-Chair, Partner at Snell & Wilmer, LLP
Carlos Sugich is a partner in the firm’s Real Estate and Commercial Finance practice group and manages the firm's Los Cabos Office. He is admitted to practice law in both the United States (Arizona) and throughout Mexico and is currently the U.S. chair of the U.S. Mexico Bar Association. Carlos practices primarily in the areas of real estate investment, financing, leasing and development in both the U.S. and Mexico. In addition, he regularly advises domestic and foreign clients in the documentation and organization of a variety of cross-border ventures in the U.S., Mexico and Latin America. Carlos has been selected by his peers to The Best Lawyers in America® since 2013.

CHARLES A. BECKHAM, JR. | Partner at Haynes & Boone, LLP
Charles Beckham has more than thirty years experience helping a broad spectrum of clients with bankruptcy and insolvency problems.
He has assisted in a variety of transactions including:
• Represents Houston Regional Sports Network, LP in its Chapter 11 in Houston, Texas
• Represents Agent for DIP Lenders in ATP Oil and Gas Corp. Chapter 11 pending in Houston, Texas
• Represented Agent for Senior Secure Lenders in Chapter 11 of Trinity Coal Corporation pending in Lexington, Kentucky

CHARLES E. MEACHAM | Partner at Gardere
Charlie Meacham, a bi-lingual and bi-cultural corporate lawyer born and raised in Caracas, helps U.S., Asian and European clients with transactional projects throughout Latin America. Charlie opened the Gardere office in Mexico City in 1992, and was the resident U.S. partner in charge until 1996. He regularly advises clients doing business or seeking to do business in Mexico and Latin America on how to structure investments, including:
• Acquisitions and divestitures
• Creation of equity joint ventures
• Participation in public bids for government procurement
• International contracting matters.

Charlie also represents Latin American and other foreign investors in the U.S., and advises clients worldwide on compliance with the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, export controls and the application of U.S. trade sanctions. Clients rely on Charlie’s ability to quickly gain entrée and to navigate the business communities, governments and regulations of nations with emerging economies.
**Speaker Biographies**

**DANIEL ARANDA RABAGO | Partner at Gardere**
Daniel Aranda is a bilingual, bicultural corporate lawyer serving clients in the United States, Mexican and international energy, pipeline, banking and finance sectors. Mr. Aranda is also the leader of Gardere’s Energy and Government Procurement Practice in Mexico City.

Mr. Aranda represents foreign and domestic clients with all aspects of their energy business needs, including:
- Representation before the Mexican energy authorities (CRE, CNH, Ministry of Energy, Pemex and CFE)
- Mergers and acquisitions
- Project development and project finance transactions
- Infrastructure and government procurement
- Divestitures and buyouts
- Strategic alliances
- Corporate reorganizations

He handles sophisticated contracts and business matters involving both domestic and cross-border deals. His financing work focuses primarily on structuring, documenting and negotiating debt-related transactions. These include workouts representing developers, lenders and borrowers on asset-based and unsecured lending.

**DIEGO COVARRUBIAS PATIÑO | Planí Grupo**
Diego Covarrubias Patiño is currently General Counsel and Chief Investor Relations Officer of Planigrupo LATAM, S.A.P.I. de C.V.-an affiliate of Southern Cross- (leader shopping center developer in Mexico with more than 35 shopping centers in Mexico).

Diego joined Planigrupo in 2010 and has actively participated in the process of acquiring properties to be developed by Planigrupo, as well as in the acquisition of asset portfolios for the Company. In 2012, he led the issuance of a CKD Fund (public offering before the Mexican Stock Exchange of certificates with Mexican Pension Funds). As a result of this issuance, Diego also took on the role of Chief Investor Relations Officer, which he actively performs. Before joining Planigrupo, Diego worked in the shopping center development division of Hines Interests (real estate private equity fund) and for law firms such as Creel, García-Cuéllar, Aiza y Enríquez, S.C and Galicia Abogados, S.C., where he participated in numerous real estate transactions. Diego has a law degree from the Iberoamerican University (Universidad Iberoamericana) and a Master’s Degree in Real Estate Development from Colombia University in New York. He has taken postgraduate courses at the Mexican Autonomous Institute of Technology (Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México - ITAM) and Harvard University. Diego has been a professor of Real Estate Law at the ITAM, teaching courses in strategy and planning for real estate investment and in real estate and tourism law. He has also been a law professor of corporate law at the Iberoamerican University.

**FREDERICO DE NORIEGA OLEA | Partner at Hogan Lovells, BSTL**
Federico de Noriega Olea concentrates on commercial law, mergers and acquisitions, corporate financing, and data privacy.

He was a foreign associate at a global law firm’s New York office in 2007 and 2008, after which he re-joined Barrera Siqueiros y Torres Landa (now Hogan Lovells BSTL).

He was awarded Academic Excellence by the Universidad Iberoamericana for scoring the highest GPA of his graduating class, and Chambers and Partners Latin America 2012 and 2013 editions ranked him as an Associate to Watch in Banking and Finance.

**FRANCISCO GONZÁLEZ DE COSSÍO | Gonzalez de Cossío Abogados, S.C.**
Law Degree, Universidad Iberoamericana. Master’s (LLM) and Doctorate (JSD), University of Chicago. Business (OPM) degree, Harvard Business School. Professor of arbitration (including Investment and Sports arbitration), Universidad Iberoamericana, Escuela Libre de Derecho and Universidad Panamericana. Visiting professor on arbitration, University of Miami. Arbitrator, advocate, mediator and expert. Court Member, London Court of International Arbitration. Arbitrator, Court of Arbitration for Sport (Tribunal Arbitral du Sport). President, Arbitration Centre of the Construction Industry (Centro de Arbitraje de la Industria de la Construcción (CAIC). One of the most active arbitrators in Latin America.
FRANCISCO J. PENICHE BEGUERISSE | Partner at Creel, García-Cuéllar, Aíza y Enriquez
Francisco Peniche B., is a partner with Creel, García-Cuéllar, Aíza y Enriquez, S.C., where he heads the Labor and Employment practice area. Mr. Peniche advises client on labor and employment matters, including but not limited to, hiring, transfer and termination of executives, employment matters related to corporate transactions, reorganizations and negotiation and execution of collective bargaining agreements. He also represents clients in major downsizings and has been recently engaged for several opinions in connection with the application of Data Privacy laws to employers in Mexico.

GILBERTO VALLE | Partner at Basham, Ringe y Correa, S.C.
His practice has focused in areas of criminal litigation, representing the interests of victims or injured parties in the preliminary criminal investigations and prosecutions, both at local and federal level. He also has extensive and broad experience in corporate security as well as in audits and research processes related to compliance with anticorruption and FCPA policies and likewise, in proceedings of agricultural matter.

HUGO HERNÁNDEZ-OJEDA | Partner at Hogan Lovells, BSTL
Hugo Hernández-Ojeda focuses on labor and social security law. He began his professional career in 1991 as an intern at Barrera, Siqueiros y Torres Landa (now Hogan Lovells BSTL) in civil and immigration law. In 1992, he joined another firm as an intern in the labor and social security department, and some time later he became an associate attorney in the firm. In 2001, he became senior partner in another firm, heading the labor and social security department. In 2008, he rejoined BSTL as partner heading the labor and social security department.

HUGO PEREZCANO DIAZ | Independent Legal Consultant
Mr. Perezcano is an independent consultant in areas of international arbitration, international trade regulation, international law and corporate and transactional law. He is also very knowledgeable and experienced on trade remedies. He worked for the Mexican Government for nearly 20 years: He headed Mexico’s Trade Remedy Authority from January 2007 through October 2011. He was General Counsel for International Trade Negotiations at the Ministry of Economy from December 1994 to December 2006. In such capacity, he was the principal legal advisor for the Government on international trade negotiations and foreign trade and investment matters arising under the WTO, NAFTA and other free trade and bilateral investment agreements. He was lead counsel for Mexico in State-State dispute settlement proceedings initiated under the WTO and NAFTA, as well as in disputes brought by investors under the NAFTA and bilateral investment agreements. Prior to being appointed General Counsel for Trade Negotiations, Mr. Perezcano was part of the Mexico’s legal team during the NAFTA and Uruguay Round Negotiations and was designated lead counsel for Mexico in trade negotiations with several Latin American countries. Mr. Perezcano also advised Mexico’s Ministry of Energy on the recent Energy Reform.

JERROLD BREGMAN | Partner at Ezra Brutzkus Gubner, LLP
Jerry is a financial restructuring lawyer and business advisor with more than 20 years of experience representing public and private companies in out-of-court restructurings, “prepackaged” bankruptcies and traditional Chapter 11 cases. Jerry has also represented lenders, vendors, secured and unsecured creditors, landlords, fiduciaries, indenture trustees, GOB liquidators, HNWIs, hedge fund managers, private equity sponsors, government agencies, asset purchasers, and plaintiffs and defendants in bankruptcy litigation.

He has represented major parties in interest in Chapter 11 cases and complex and high stakes litigation matters, as well as middle market and small business restructurings, in numerous industries and jurisdictions.

Jerry is a Specialist in Bankruptcy Law (California Board of Legal Specialization, 1995), a Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent-rated lawyer, and has been named a New York Super Lawyer by Thomson Reuters.
JOHN P. BOWMAN | Partner at King & Spalding

John P. Bowman is a Partner with King & Spalding LLP in Houston, where he is engaged in an arbitration and litigation practice representing primarily international oil companies and service companies in a wide range of commercial and investment disputes. He is a frequent writer and speaker on international arbitration and international oil and gas topics. He is currently Immediate Past President and member of the Board of Directors of the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators and a member of the governing Council of the Texas State Bar Oil, Gas and Energy Resources Law Section. Increasingly, he is called upon to assist IOCs and international NOCs design, draft, negotiate, and assess stabilization mechanisms and dispute resolution provisions in upstream and project agreements with host governments and NOCs.

JORGE CARLOS TOLEDO SAURI | Researcher at Universidad Marista de Mérida, A.C.

Dr. Jorge Carlos Toledo Sauri is currently the head of the research line of human rights at the Universidad Marista de Mérida. He received the award of “Outstanding Contribution to the Competition” from Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at American University Washington College of Law. Dr. Toledo is a founding partner of the law firm Toledo Sauri Abogados performing in litigation and legal advice in Corporate Law, Civil Law, International Law, Protection and Human Rights. Dr. Toledo received his PhD from Universidad Marista de México, a Masters in Civil Law from Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán, and he is a graduate in Commercial Mediation from Universidad de Barcelona, Spain, and a graduate in Mediation from the Institute of Mediation in Mexico. He is a founding member of the Civil Association “Proyección Jurídica” AC and a member of the Bar Association of Yucatan.

JORGE CORREA | Partner at Creel, García-Cuéllar, Aiza y Enríquez

Jorge Correa is a Partner of Creel, García-Cuéllar, Aiza y Enríquez (Creel). Clients rely on Jorge’s experience on corporate and international tax with an emphasis on capital markets & financial products (including insurance), cross-border structuring (including private equity), M&A, energy, and estate planning (including FATCA & CRS). Jorge is an active member of the International Fiscal Association (IFA), the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators (AIPN), the Business Advisory Group on FATCA & CRS (FATCA/CRS BAG) of the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC), the Tax Subcommittee of the Mexican Securities Industry Association (AMIB) and the Mexican Bar Association (BMA).

JORGE GUADARRAMA YÁÑEZ | Partner at Baker & McKenzie

Jorge Guadarrama Yáñez is a member of the Firm’s Real Estate and Infrastructure practice groups. He currently coordinates these practice groups in Mexico City. He has more than 14 years of experience working on infrastructure and other Major Projects. Mr. Guadarrama obtained his law degree from the Universidad Anáhuac del Sur and completed his master’s degree in International Commercial Law at the University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom.

JUAN CARLOS DE LA VEGA GÓMEZ | Partner at Santamarina y Steta, S.C.

Juan Carlos de la Vega joined Santamarina y Steta in 1986 and became a partner in 1997. Juan Carlos is currently responsible for coordinating the employment practice at the Firm including the offices of Mexico City, Monterrey, Tijuana and Querétaro. Prior to that, in 1992, he collaborated with Baker and Botts in Houston, Texas at the labor and employment group. Juan Carlos is part of the Employment Law Alliance and member of its Board of Directors. This is the only worldwide organization of labor and employment lawyers representing management. He is part of the Barra Mexicana Colegio de Abogados.

JUAN PABLO RAIGOSA TREVIÑO | Judiciary Commissioner of the State of Nuevo León

Juan Pablo Raigosa Treviño was appointed by the Congress of the State of Nuevo Leon as Judiciary Commissioner of such State on December 2014. Juan Pablo has handled complex business transactions, including divestitures, asset and stock acquisitions and corporate restructurings, as well as significant multi-national joint venture structurings involving numerous jurisdictions. He has significant experience in the drafting and negotiation of corporate governing documents. Furthermore, he has led legal due diligence efforts in significant transactions in Mexico and abroad, and has provided counsel in the corporate restructuring of Mexican and US companies.
LARS O. LAGERMAN | Partner at Bryan Cave

Lars Lagerman’s practice emphasizes all aspects of commercial and residential real property development and financing. Mr. Lagerman has negotiated and documented all types of loans for the acquisition, development and construction of single family residential subdivisions, shopping centers, hotels and office buildings. He also has negotiated and documented major credit facilities for the acquisition, development and construction of master planned communities and golf courses, and revolving credit lines for builders and developers in numerous jurisdictions, including Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Georgia, Florida, Maryland and New York. In addition, Mr. Lagerman has represented lenders in connection with real estate loan workouts and foreclosures, receiverships and guarantee enforcement.

LAWRENCE HANSON | The Law Office of Lawrence W. Hanson, P.C.

Since going into private practice in 1989, Mr. Hanson has worked with three of the nation’s prominent law firms specializing in international trade and import and export regulations. For each of these law firms, Mr. Hanson was the attorney in residence in charge of their Houston, Texas office until he opened his own practice, The Law Office of Lawrence W. Hanson, P.C., in 2001.

Mr. Hanson assists clients in the handling of penalty and liquidated damage claims, the detention, seizure and forfeiture of merchandise and audits, civil and criminal investigations, and similar actions taken by Customs and other governmental agencies that regulate imports and exports. Mr. Hanson also assists in licensing, permit and registration requirements before various governmental agencies including BIS, OFAC, DDTC, and others.

LAWRENCE YOUNG | Managing Director at AlixPartners

Lawrence Young is a Managing Director in AlixPartners’ Turnaround & Restructuring Services practice and coheads the firm’s Latin American expansion initiative. He joined AlixPartners’ Dallas office in 1998. Lawrence has served in several executive roles, including as chief executive officer, chief financial officer, and chief restructuring officer for a number of global companies ranging in sales from $500 million to over $5 billion. With more than 25 years of experience in senior corporate management, Lawrence has a successful track record of improving financial returns by driving efficiencies, reducing costs, improving asset utilization, and refocusing operations. The changes he has implemented have led to material improvements in key performance metrics, including top-line and cash flow growth. Lawrence has demonstrated expertise in skillfully managing companies during periods of transition, and he has led in the resolutions of challenging situations in a broad cross section of industries such as telecommunications, real estate, and consumer products.

LUIS EMILIO LUJÁN SAURI | USMBA Co-Chair, Partner at Basham, Ringe y Correa, S.C.

Partner of the Firm since 2008 in Corporate area and responsible for the Queretaro office. His practice has developed in general in the areas of Corporate, Mergers and Acquisitions, Cross-Border Contracts, Liquidations, Aeronautics, Private International and Corporate Legislation, Foreign Investment, Real Estate and Strategic Associations. Has worked in the Mexico City, Monterrey and Queretaro offices. Member and active participant in the International Bar Association, the Mexican Bar of the College of Lawyers, was member of the Board of the Mexican Bar of the College of Lawyers, Monterrey Chapter and Coordinator of the Commercial and Civil Law Practice of that Association.

LUIS MARTINEZ | Abogados Martinez Serna, S.C.

Luis F. Martinez is a trade and customs specialist with over 15 years of private practice. He started as a researcher in international at Tec de Monterrey and at the National Law Center do Inter-American Trade in Tucson Arizona. After many years practicing in large multinational firms he opened his own law office where he advises large domestic and foreign clients in trade and customs regulations, large complex transactions, export programs, customs seizures, non tariff restrictions, labeling requirements, among other topics. He has published many articles in law journals and other publications in Mexico and the U.S. He has a Law degree from Tec de Monterrey (1997) and LLM in International Trade Law from the University of Arizona (1999).
Speaker Biographies

LUIS MIGUEL JIMÉNEZ | Partner of Von Wobeser y Sierra, S.C.
Partner of Von Wobeser y Sierra, S.C. he is an International Trade, Customs and Bankruptcy expert with a very solid knowledge of Arbitration and Taxation with more than 16 years of experience working with a broad range of multinational Fortune 500 clients that are establishing, expanding and operating in Mexico and Latin America. He is an expert in cross-border issues and also has a very solid background in tax related matters and has assisted a large range of clients in solving the complexities of establishing and or operating businesses in Mexico.

MANUEL PASERO | Pasero Abogados, S.C.
Education: Universidad de Monterrey, Nuevo León, México. (Attorney at Law 2003); Master Degree in International Corporate Law, Universidad Iberoamericana, 2006-2008.

Author: “Comparative Study Between the Different Corporations that Exists in Mexico and United States of America” and “Legal Framework for the Maquiladora Industry”

Board Member of the Tijuana Economic Development Corporation; Japan Society of San Diego & Tijuana; U.S.-Mexico Bar Association; Rosarito Economic Development Corporation; National Association of Corporate Attorneys (ANADE). Member of the Inter-Pacific Bar Association and International Bar Association.

PRACTICE AREAS: Corporate; Transactional; Administrative; Environmental; Immigration; Foreign Investment, Real Estate and Labor.

MARCO TULIO VENEGAS | Partner at Von Wobeser y Sierra, S.C.
Currently, Mr. Venegas is the partner in charge of the area of litigation and arbitration of the firm Von Wobeser y Sierra, S.C. As responsible partner he is in charge of the International Commercial Arbitration and Investment Arbitration cases, as well as of the Administrative and Intellectual Property Litigation, Civil and Commercial Litigation; Constitutional (Amparo) Litigation.

Mr. Venegas experience includes the participation in the largest commercial arbitration (considering the amount claimed) in Mexican history as representative of the party who prevailed in the case. In addition, Mr. Venegas has participated as counsel in three arbitrations related to construction disputes involving private parties and governmental entities.

MARIO EMILIO SAENZ ARRONIZ | Cemex
Emilio Sáenz has a law degree from the Escuela Libre de Derecho and LLM from Northwestern University and Kellog University’s Graduate program in Law and Business.

He served as legal director of bankruptcy proceedings and payments suspensions in Grupo Financiero Bancomer, where he participated in the restructuring of more than 800 million dollars of debt. He also served as legal director of syndicated loans in the same institution, participating in transactions for over 1.3 billion dollars.

He joined CEMEX initially in the area of mercantile, administrative and civil litigation and afterwards participated in M&A transactions for CEMEX in Asia and Latin America.
He currently is the senior legal director for the energy, sustainability, planning, international procurement, shipping and trading areas in CEMEX.

He has participated in the development and financing of wind farms and thermoelectric projects in Mexico for up to 750MW as well as in the negotiation of power supply agreements for the energy produced in such projects. He represents CEMEX in the negotiation of the procurement contracts for fuels connected to energy projects in Mexico and abroad and has taught the Energy Law seminar in the Facultad Libre de Derecho de Monterrey.
MARY ELLEN SIMONSON | Partner at Lewis Roca Rothgerber, LLC
Mary Ellen Simonson has 28 years experience in federal and state courts, representing a variety of businesses and employers in both litigation and counseling, including serving as outside national employment counsel for a multi-billion dollar company. She routinely handles a wide variety of litigation matters on business and employment disputes, including defending/enforcing restrictive covenants, litigating Title VII, ADA, ADEA, FMLA, and wrongful termination issues; and providing advice to employers on compliance with federal, state and local employment laws, drafting and advising on executive employment agreements, handling EEOC and DOL matters.

NADIA MARITZA GONZÁLEZ ELIZONDO | Santamarina y Steta, S.C.
Senior Associate at Santamarina y Steta, firm that she joined in 2008. Her practice is focused in labor and employment consultancy, including employment discrimination and human rights. She graduated with honors from the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey in 1998. Nadia has post-graduate studies in Labor Law and Business Law. She obtained her LLM degree from Columbia University in the city of New York in 2013. Since 2014, she is also a Law School Professor at the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey teaching Employment Law. She is an active member of the Mexican Bar Association (Barra Mexicana, Colegio de Abogados) and speaks Spanish and English.

PATRICK APPEL | Legal Counsel at Chevron
Patrick Appel is Lead Counsel in the Frontier Exploration and Appraisal Business Unit for Chevron based in Houston, Texas. Previously, Mr. Appel was a litigation partner at Adams & Reese LLP and Meyer Orlando & Evans in Houston. He belongs to the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators. Mr. Appel holds his J.D. from the University of Houston College of Law and is a graduate of The University of Texas, Austin with a Bachelors in Finance.

PATRICK GROOMES | Head of Power and Energy at Norton Rose Fulbright U.S., LLP
Patrick brings substantial experience in transactional, commercial, development and regulatory matters. His transactional practice includes advising clients on mergers and acquisitions, divestitures, equity investments, financings and workouts and restructurings within the electric power, midstream and commodity and basic material industries. In the area of marketing and trading, Patrick has advised clients in structured and standardized transactions, including energy, capacity, ancillary services, renewable energy credits, natural gas, liquefied natural gas, crude, fuel oil, coal, agricultural products, coal combustion products, pet coke, ethanol, biodiesel and precious metals.

Patrick also advises clients on rail, barge, vessel, truck and pipeline transportation matters. With regard to rail transportation, Patrick advises clients on railcar leases (operating, leveraged and synthetic) and rail transportation agreements. In the area of transportation logistics, he also advises clients on ground and tank storage, throughput and terminaling agreements.

PHILIP ROBBINS | Philip A. Robbins, P.C.
Engaged in civil litigation, arbitration and mediation in Phoenix, Arizona since 1958. Practice has included jury and court trials in the state and federal courts in Arizona, California, and other states, and arbitration and mediation of a wide cross-section of civil cases. Practice has included representation of U.S. and Mexican clients in cross border cases arising in the U.S., Mexico and other parts of Latin America. He has served arbitrator and mediator in a variety of civil cases, including international disputes. Speaker and instructor at conferences and seminars in the US, Canada, Mexico, Chile, Honduras and Costa Rica and author of papers on trial practices and alternative dispute resolution.
Speaker Biographies

RASMANI BHATTACHARYA | General Counsel at Gates Corporation
Rasmani Bhattacharya was appointed Executive Vice President and General Counsel of the Gates Corporation in February, 2015. Prior to her appointment, Rash served as Assistant General Counsel after joining the company in 2011. In her role, Rash oversees all legal matters, corporate governance, and M&A activities for the organization, and the insurance, compliance, real estate, and environmental functions of the Gates Law Department. She holds a BA in Economics and Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia, as well as a JD from the University of Virginia. Prior to joining Gates, Rash served as a transactional attorney at Vinson & Elkins, a major international law firm.

RICHARD SINDELAR | Assistant Professor, University of St. Thomas Center for International Studies
H. Richard Sindelar, III is Assistant Professor of International Studies at the University of St. Thomas, with a focus on American Foreign Policy, International Security, International Law and Global Trade. Prof. Sindelar received his law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center, and served over 22 years as a diplomatic officer with the U.S. State Department Foreign Service; his overseas posts included Tel Aviv (1974), Jerusalem as Vice Consul and Economic/Commercial officer (1974-76), Montreal (1988-91) where he was responsible for promoting investment in the U.S under the then-FTA, and Monterrey, Mexico (1994-1995) where he served as Deputy U.S. Consul General and Chief of Consular Operations for a five state region of north-central Mexico. He also served as liaison officer at the U.S. Sinai Field Mission (1978-1979), which included peacekeeping duties both in Cairo and Tel Aviv, and served a temporary duty tour in Havana, Cuba (1995).

RODRIGO CASTELAZO DE LA FUENTE | Partner at Creel, García-Cuéllar, Aíza y Enriquez
Rodrigo Castelazo is a partner with Creel, García-Cuéllar, Aíza y Enriquez, S.C., where he is a member of the Financial Services and Capital Markets practice groups. He practices in the areas of banking and securities law with an emphasis in capital markets, fund formation, real estate finance, corporate and structured finance, project finance, asset securitization, derivatives and workouts.

Mr. Castelazo obtained the distinction of Excelencia Académica during his JD at the Universidad Iberoamericana. He was awarded the Client Choice Award 2014 and the Client Choice Award 2015 in the Securitization and Structured Finance category for Mexico by Client Choice International. Mr. Castelazo has been featured by the Legal 500 2014 Edition as “a recognized expert in his field and a strong leader who gets his team to produce quality results.” The 2015 Edition of Chambers & Partners Latin America recognized him as a “Notable Practitioner” and ranked him as “Up and coming” in the field of Capital Markets.

SALVADOR FONSECA-GONZALEZ | Partner at Baker & McKenzie Abogados, S.C.
Salvador Fonseca has more than 19 years of experience representing corporate and individual clients in complex domestic and international litigation and arbitration. Mr. Fonseca coordinates the Dispute Resolution practice of Baker & McKenzie in Mexico City.

Mr. Fonseca has ample experience in international and local commercial arbitration and in civil, commercial and administrative litigation before local and federal courts in Mexico and has obtained many favorable rulings in high profile and precedent-setting cases. He has participated in arbitrations under the rules of the major arbitral institutions and is knowledgeable in dealing with dispute boards and other methods of solving disputes. He has served as sole arbitrator and chairman of arbitral tribunals in several international and local cases. Mr. Fonseca also regularly counsels clients in class action matters, bankruptcy and financial restructuring issues, and on local and international corporate compliance matters (including FCPA investigations).
SARAH HAMILTON | Partner at Hirschfeld Kraemer
Ms. Hamilton is a Partner in the San Francisco office of Hirschfeld Kraemer LLP. She represents management in a wide-variety of industries. Her practice includes all aspects of labor and employment law and litigation.

A significant portion of Sarah’s practice includes representing management in labor relations matters. She has represented employers in numerous National Labor Relations Board unfair labor practice proceedings, labor arbitrations (both contract interpretation and discipline matters), as well as in representation campaigns, and in litigation involving hybrid wrongful termination/duty of fair representation claims.

Sarah also represents employers in single plaintiff and collective-action employment matters, including discrimination, wage and hour, sex harassment, and wrongful termination cases, before state and federal courts, administrative agencies, and in arbitration and mediation. Sarah’s practice also includes counseling clients in litigation avoidance. She frequently assists companies in investigations, policy reviews, management training, and in the settlement and negotiation of employment-related claims.

TERRY WEIR | Sr. Attorney at Dunbar Harder
Terry Weir is a senior attorney with Dunbar Harder, PLLC. She specializes in immigration and nationality law, particularly business immigration. Ms. Weir has been licensed to practice law in the State of Texas since 1996 and is certified in Immigration and Nationality Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Ms. Weir has a wealth of immigration law experience. Since 2002, Ms. Weir has focused on business immigration, representing companies ranging from Fortune 500 companies to start-up companies; educational institutions; technology, biotech, oil and gas, medical, manufacturing and many other types of companies and organizations. Ms. Weir also represents entertainment groups; individuals of extraordinary ability in business, science, the arts and athletics; as well as outstanding professors and persons performing work in the national interest. From 1998 until 2002, her immigration practice was primarily in the areas of family-based, asylum, deportation, litigation, appeals, and citizenship and nationality law.

TIMOTHY JAMES TYLER | The Law Firm of Vinson & Elkins
Tim practices international commercial arbitration, investor-state arbitration under treaties and state contracts, and associated U.S. litigation. He represents clients in many industries (most frequently in the energy value chain), drafts international dispute-resolution clauses and procedures, and counsels clients on how to structure investment holdings into emerging markets to maximize investment-treaty protection.

Tim has been involved in arbitrations under all major rules, in the major seats, under numerous applicable laws. He has advised on, or been counsel in, investors-state cases under tens of bilateral investment treaties or free-trade agreements. As an Adjunct Professor at The University of Texas School of Law, Tim has taught international commercial arbitration since 2005 and investorstate arbitration since 2010.

VICTOR GUTIÉRREZ CUBRÍA | Legal Regulatory Manager, Head of Antitrust and Procurement, Daimler Commercial Vehicles México (DVCM)
Victor Gutierrez, is responsible of ensuring that the company comply with all of the regulations regarding the automotive industry. Victor is responsible of implementing and develop safer strategies of the procurement team in order to fulfill the law and company standards with the vision of becoming the undisputed leader in the Mexican Truck and Buses market. Victor is also responsible of the trainings on antitrust and procurement for all employees in the company.

Previously, Victor served as a the litigation Lawyer of DVCM for 1 year and he was appointed Legal Manager on Procurement issues. He served as a Lawyer of PriceWaterHouseCoopers for 6 years in Tax Litigation.
XAVIER ANTONIO DE LA GARZA | Pemex

Xavier Antonio de la Garza, is an attorney graduated from the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de México with a Master’s degree in International Law from the University of Houston Law Center. He is currently working as Assistant General Counsel for Structuring Projects and International Affairs at Pemex Legal Department. He advises PEMEX and its subsidiaries in E&P and downstream projects and in international legal matters.

He has 24 years of experience in the oil & gas sector, particularly as an attorney at Pemex, and among other relevant positions occupied throughout his career, he has been General Counsel for Pemex Exploration and Production and Pemex Petrochemicals. He has been representative of Pemex in negotiations of International Treaties, such as the Agreement between the United States and Mexico Concerning Transboundary Hydrocarbon Reservoirs in the Gulf of Mexico and recently the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement.

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HISTORY
In February 1994, representatives of the legal profession from throughout the State of Texas and the Mexican States of Chihuahua, Tamaulipas, Nuevo León and Coahuila, met in San Antonio and established the Texas-México Bar Association (to be known in México as the Barra de Abogados de México y Texas). Initially, membership was limited to attorneys and law students from the State of Texas and the four Mexican States that border Texas, but interest in the Association quickly spread beyond the Texas-México border area. Since 1996, membership in the Association has been open to attorneys and law students from throughout México and the United States. On 30 September 2005 the name of the association was changed to the U.S.-Mexico Bar Association (to be known in México as the Barra de Abogados México-Estados Unidos). The Association, which has its permanent office in Austin, Texas, is led by a bi-national board of directors, consisting of nine officers and directors from the U.S. and nine officers and directors from Mexico, including two Chairs from the U.S. and Mexico, two Vice-Chairs from the U.S. and Mexico, a Treasurer, and a Secretary.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS
• Unique networking opportunities with attorneys throughout Mexico and the United States
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• Discounts to outstanding bilingual educational programs with attorneys from Mexico and the United States.
• Opportunities to participate in bi-national committees in a number of substantive practice areas.
• Access to the MEMBERS AREA of this website, which includes a searchable Membership Directory, Member Forums, extensive links to other web resources, and a library of published articles on a variety of cross-border legal topics.
• An Electronic Newsletter delivered to your inbox monthly, including messages from the Chairs, information about USMBA activities and events, updates on current legal issues, and much more

PURPOSE
The purpose of the Association is to develop and promote understanding of the legal systems and practices and cultural differences of the two nations; to exchange professional information among its members, concerning issues of law that affect common interest, such as commerce, investment, and immigration, among others, to enable lawyers in the two countries, those in private practice as well as those serving in the judicial system, to better serve their communities and clients; to promote development of infrastructure for the provision of legal services and the solution of controversies; to share experiences in dealing with matters of common interest, and avoid unnecessary conflicts, without adopting or favoring any particular political standing.

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