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Foreward

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FOREWORD

EXECUTIVE BOARD

On March 17 & 18, 2005, the authors of the articles in this issue presented their remarks during a symposium at the University of Richmond. The *Richmond Journal of Global Law & Business* would like to express its appreciation to all of the panelists for their participation and remarks during the Symposium.

Based on the great success of the symposium, the *Journal* decided to publish articles authored by a number of the Symposium's speakers. The three articles contained in this Symposium edition cover a wide range of issues within the *Journal's* general purview. The *Journal* extends a special thanks to these presenters for their willingness to work with our Board in preparing this Symposium issue.

The first article contains the remarks of William Clatanoff entitled, "Labor Standards in Recent U.S. Trade Agreements." In his former duties as Assistant United States Trade Representative for Labor, William Clatanoff negotiated bi-lateral and multi-lateral free trade agreements with other nation-states impacting labor. Within two months of the Symposium, the United States proposed new trade agreements with six different Central American countries. His timely comments contain significant insights, revealing the cooperation required between different countries and the various branches of government in our own democracy when negotiating free trade agreements.

Mr. Clatanoff's remarks begin with a review of labor standards in the United States, where he outlines the history of major trade legislation. This background begins with the McKinley Tariff Act of 1890 and continues through to the United States-Jordan Free Trade Agreement, which still awaits the approval of Congress. Mr. Clatanoff then addresses seven common misunderstandings of the current United States' approach to free trade agreements. His analysis indicates the United States' approach ensures that current agreements contain enforceable labor standards binding on all involved nation-states.

Stephen B. Moldof authored the second article, "Union Responses to the Challenges of an Increasingly Globalized Economy." Mr. Moldof is currently a senior partner at Cohen, Weiss and Simon LLP in New York City. His law practice includes representing a variety of international, national and local labor unions, pension and benefit funds, and employees. His article focuses on the effects of the increased interdependence of American business on foreign suppliers, producers and consumers.

Mr. Moldof's article begins with background material on the formation of alliances and global networks. He reviews different businesses, including the airline industry to illustrate his point. He ultimately concludes that the American labor movement faces various difficulties caused by the globalization of the world's economies.

The third article, "Business, Labor and Law in the Global Economy: Resolution of International Employment and Labor Disputes," is authored by William K. Slate II. Mr. Slate is President and CEO of the American Arbitration Association. The Association is the world's leading provider of conflict management and dispute resolution services. The article argues that American businesses utilize traditional methodologies in the resolution of employment related disputes. In his articles, he discusses two basic scenarios, the labor context and individually negotiated employment contracts.

Mr. Slate's article analyzes what makes a specific transaction international in nature and how domestic labor disputes may have international consequences. Mr. Slate next examines how globalization has affected developing countries by allowing various multi-national entities entry into budding domestic markets around the globe. He concludes by noting that most disputes, no matter the country in which they occur, can be resolved by mediation and arbitration.

Ultimately, the Symposium's success depended upon the presenters' insightful remarks. The *Journal* reiterates its thanks to everyone for their contributions. The *Journal* hopes that every reader, whether a member of the bench, bar, academic or business communities, finds this issue valuable.