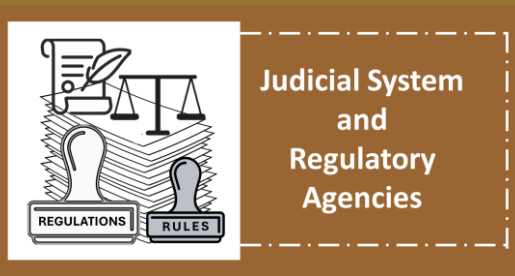




2025 MEXICAN LEGAL PERSPECTIVES SYMPOSIUM



May 8, 2025
Dallas, TX

2025 Mexican Legal Perspectives Symposium

On June 2, 2024, the Mexican electorate gave an overwhelming majority to Morena's presidential candidate, Claudia Sheinbaum, and her coalition's candidates for the houses of Congress. Morena also won 7 of the nine governorships under dispute, making it the ruling party in 24 of the 32 states that compose the Mexican Republic. With these numbers, Morena has consolidated itself as the new hegemonic party and achieved the necessary power to transform the country's constitution and legal system radically. The guideline for such changes was defined by President Andrés Manuel López Obrador last February in the so-called "Plan C," a set of initiatives for constitutional reform that aim to regularize the military's growing presence in all areas of government, increase the number of crimes that warrant mandatory pretrial imprisonment, eliminate regulatory and transparency agencies, restore state preponderance in the energy sector, weaken the national electoral institute, and replace the entire federal judiciary with judges appointed by popular vote. Taken together, these reforms entail the most radical transformation of Mexico's Constitution since 1917. Except for the electoral reform (which is still being discussed), all these changes have already been signed into law.

Among the different changes, judicial reform is probably the one with the largest repercussions in the long run. Ever since 1857, the main task of the federal judiciary has been to protect constitutional rights through the amparo suit (juicio de amparo), which allows any inhabitant of the republic to challenge a wide range of state actions, from laws to taxes and "definitive" rulings of state courts. As a result, federal rulings and jurisprudence have historically been among the most important instruments for interpreting and providing uniformity to the Mexican legal system. If the ruling party now has control of lawmaking chambers and the federal judiciary, and it openly announced a political agenda contrary to the reforms enacted over the last forty years, it is foreseeable that the entire legal system will suffer a dramatic transformation in the next few years.

The annual Symposium "Mexican Legal Perspectives," supported by The Mission Foods Texas-Mexico Center at Southern Methodist University (SMU), and in collaboration with the Robert B. Rowling Center for Business Law & Leadership at Southern Methodist University (SMU) and the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, aims to become a top-level forum to address the coming changes in the Mexican legal system, their multiple ramifications, and their effects in the areas that most affect the U.S.-Mexico relationship and particularly the U.S.-Texas border: bilateral trade, international investment, tariffs, natural resources management, and migration control. It is addressed primarily to international business lawyers, businesspeople in Texas and Mexico, and features selected speakers/specialists on each topic with the highest professional standing.

Symposium Agenda

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Registration

9:00 – 9:20 a.m. Introduction / Welcome Remarks

- **Pablo Mijangos**, SMU History Department / Texas-Mexico Center
- **David Salazar**, GRUMA/Mission Foods
- **Ana Pamela Romero**, Tecnológico de Monterrey

9:20 – 10:20 a.m. **PANEL I – Constitutional Reforms: Judicial System and Regulatory Agencies**

- **Francisca Pou**, UNAM
- **Alejandro Faya**, COFECE
- Moderator: **Eduardo Romero Tagle**, Ellwanger Henderson LLP; former clerk at SCJN

10:20 - 10:40 a.m. Coffee Break sponsored by the International Law Section of the State Bar of Texas

10:40 - 11:40 a.m. **PANEL II – Unpacking the Energy Reform: Its Legal Implications Across Borders**

- **Luis Alberto Serra Barragán**, School of Social Sciences and Government, Tecnológico de Monterrey
- **Juan M. Alcalá**, Holland & Knight LLP
- Moderator: **Monika U. Ehrman**, Dedman School of Law

11:40 -11:55 a.m. Room change

Symposium Agenda

12:00 – 1:25 p.m. Lunch and Keynote Address

- **José Ramón Cossío**, former Mexican Supreme Court Justice
- **Pablo Mijangos**, SMU History Department / Texas-Mexico Center
- Moderator: **Eric F. Hinton**, Rowling Center for Business Law and Leadership

1:25 - 1:35 p.m. Room change

1:35 - 2:45 p.m. PANEL III – Navigating Turbulent Waters: The Upcoming Review of USMCA

- **Francisco Peña**, Cacheaux, Cavazos & Newton LLP
- **Pedro Alfonso Elizalde**, Tecnológico de Monterrey
- **William Hornberger**, Jackson Walker LLP
- Moderator: **Iliana Rodríguez Santibañez**, Tecnológico de Monterrey

2:45 - 3:00 p.m. Closing Remarks

- **Jim Hollifield**, SMU Mission Foods Texas-Mexico Center

Introduction / Welcome Remarks



PABLO MIJANGOS
SMU HISTORY DEPARTMENT / TEXAS-MEXICO CENTER

Professor Mijangos is a historian of politics, religion, and the law in modern Latin America. He first completed his bachelor's in law in Mexico in 2001 and then decided to pursue a PhD in history at the University of Texas at Austin, which he received in 2009. After his graduation, he joined the faculty of the Center for Research and Teaching in Economics (CIDE), one of the leading public research centers for social science and the humanities in Mexico. He stayed there for 14 years, becoming a level II member of Mexico's National System of Researchers (SNI) and serving as Chair of the History Department between 2020 and 2022. He has published five books and five edited volumes. His most recent work is "Historia mínima de la Suprema Corte de Justicia de México" (Concise History of the Mexican Supreme Court), published in the prestigious collection Historias mínimas by the Colegio de México. He also directs a book series, Legal History of Latin America, published by the Spanish press Tirant Lo Blanch, now numbering over 20 titles.



David Salazar
GRUMA/Mission Foods

David Salazar is the Vice-Chairman of the Mission Foods Texas-Mexico Center. He currently serves as the Vice President of Legal and Governmental Affairs for Mission Foods, where he has held various positions since 2005. He holds a Juris Doctor degree from the Facultad Libre de Derecho de Monterrey and a Master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and The Wharton School.



ANA PAMELA ROMERO
DIRECTORA NACIONAL DEL PROGRAMA DE DERECHO, TECNOLÓGICO DE MONTERREY

Ana Pamela Romero Guerra graduated with a Master's Degree in Law from the National Autonomous University of Mexico. She is an expert in Field Criminalistics and in adversarial systems, accredited by the Center for Legal Studies of the Americas (2008). She is a full-time researcher and professor at the National Institute of Criminal Sciences. She has been trained by Chilean professors and Colombian and North American prosecutors in various courses on the adversarial system and litigation techniques. She is a permanent professor at the federal level of the Public Ministry of Mexico and in various states of the Republic. She has certification based on her merits as a trainer of the adversarial criminal system, granted by the Training Committee of the SETEC (Technical Secretariat of the Coordination Council for the Implementation of the Criminal Justice System).

Panel I – Constitutional Reforms: Judicial System and Regulatory Agencies



FRANCISCA POU GIMÉNEZ
SENIOR RESEARCHER, INSTITUTE FOR LEGAL RESEARCH, UNAM

Francisca Pou Giménez is a Senior Researcher at the Institute for Legal Research at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and a Lecturer in Law at the Autonomous Technological Institute of México (ITAM). She is a member of Mexico's National System of Researchers (Level III). Before becoming a full-time professor, she served as a Law Clerk to Justice José Ramón Cossío Díaz at the Mexican Supreme Court. She holds a PhD and an LLM from Yale Law School, as well as law degrees from Pompeu Fabra University and the Autonomous University of Tlaxcala. Her research focuses on constitutional law, judicial studies, and fundamental rights, with particular attention to anti-discrimination law, gender, and constitutional change.



ALEJANDRO FAYA RODRIGUEZ
COFECE

Alejandro Faya was appointed Commissioner of the Federal Economic Competition Commission on March 2017. He is also a professor at Universidad Iberoamericana and has previously taught at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE). Before being Commissioner, he served as Head of Planning and International Affairs Unit at the Commission. Previous to that, he worked at the Ministry of Economy, holding several senior positions in the areas of international affairs, foreign investment, and public policy. In the private sector he has worked for prestigious law firms and as an independent consultant, advising think-tanks, consulting firms, the Federal Congress and international organizations such as the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).



EDUARDO ROMERO TAGLE
ELLWANGER HENDERSON LLLP; FORMER CLERK AT SCJN

Eduardo Romero Tagle is a Partner at Ellwanger Henderson, where he focuses on appellate advocacy and creating constitutional and statutory precedents through the judiciary. Admitted to practice law in all Mexican Courts and the Texas State Bar, he originally practiced law in Mexico for 10 years, primarily within the Federal Judiciary. Previously, he clerked and acted as Chief of Staff for a Justice of the Mexican Supreme Court, authoring nearly 200 opinions on diverse legal matters. He also clerked for a Court of Appeals specializing in telecommunications and economic competition law. Eduardo has been an adjunct professor in various Mexican Law Schools and a guest lecturer for courses organized by the Mexican Supreme Court, the Council of the Mexican Federal Judiciary, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. He holds an LL.B. with honors from Universidad Panamericana, School of Law, and an LL.M. from The University of Texas at Austin, School of Law. He has also conducted research stays at the University Carlos III of Madrid and the Federal Judicial Center in Washington D.C.

Panel II – Unpacking the Energy Reform: Its Legal Implications Across Borders



LUIS ALBERTO SERRA BARRAGÁN

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND GOVERNMENT, TECNOLÓGICO DE MONTERREY

Luis Serra is the Associate Dean of Research and Faculty Development of the School of Social Sciences and Government of Tecnológico de Monterrey. Previously, as Executive Director of the Energy Initiative of Tecnológico de Monterrey, Luis led multidisciplinary teams to conduct applied research and consulting projects for firms and federal government agencies in North America in energy, economic development, and sustainability themes. He is also a member of the Energy Taskforce of Agenda 2030 of the United Nations Global Compact's Mexico Chapter. He is also a member of the group of experts (ExpertODS) of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network in Mexico.



JUAN M. ALCALÁ

HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

Juan M. Alcalá is a trial attorney who focuses his practice on international arbitration and litigation with a particular emphasis on disputes involving Latin America, including matters pending in international tribunals, foreign courts and U.S. courts. Mr. Alcalá also has extensive U.S. trial and appellate experience, having tried multiple cases to verdict and settlement and appearing as strategic appellate counsel in several dozen high-exposure cases. His representation spans across various industries. In the energy sector, he has represented energy and energy-related companies in commercial, environmental and intellectual property (IP) disputes. In addition, Mr. Alcalá represents auto, tire, medical device and other manufacturing companies in product liability cases; financial institutions in asset recovery and complex investment disputes; software companies in trade secret, copyright and trademark disputes; and several other middle-market clients in a wide range of business and real estate disputes.



MONIKA U. EHRMAN

Dedman School of Law

Monika U. Ehrman is Professor of Law at SMU Dedman School of Law. Prior to joining SMU, Professor Ehrman taught at the University of North Texas at Dallas and at the University of Oklahoma, where she led the energy and natural resources program and served as the Faculty Director of the Oil & Gas, Natural Resources, and Energy Center at the College of Law. While at the University of Oklahoma, she also held a courtesy appointment at the Michael F. Price College of Business, where she taught in the Executive MBA and Energy Management programs. She also served as general counsel of a privately held energy company; senior counsel with Pioneer Natural Resources; and associate attorney at Locke Lord LLP. Professor Ehrman also worked as a petroleum engineer in the upstream, midstream, and pipeline sectors of the energy industry. In addition to her experience with the technical aspects of the industry, she also worked as an analyst in the areas of commodity risk management and energy trading.

Lunch and Keynote Address



JOSÉ RAMÓN COSSÍO
FORMER MEXICAN SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

José Ramón Cossío Díaz is a Mexican lawyer who served as Minister of the Supreme Court of Justice of Mexico from December 2003 to November 2018. He has been a professor at various institutions such as the National Preparatory School of UNAM, the Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey -Unidad Colima-, and the Faculty of Law of the UNAM. Throughout his career, he has received various recognitions such as the Benito Juárez-Peña Colorada Award, the Research Award from the Mexican Academy of Sciences and the National Award for Sciences and Arts in the area of History, Social Sciences and Philosophy. He has written many books and published articles and memoirs in a variety of journals, magazines and newspapers. Since 2014 he has been a member of the National College.



ERIC F. HINTON
ROWLING CENTER FOR BUSINESS LAW AND LEADERSHIP

Eric F. Hinton is the founding Director of the Robert B. Rowling Center for Business Law & Leadership at SMU Dedman School of Law. In addition to directing the Rowling Center, he teaches international business law, European Union law, and ethics and compliance law at SMU Dedman School of Law and Loyola Chicago University Corboy School of Law. Hinton has developed innovative law courses in international business practice and corporate compliance law and regularly speaks at business law and compliance events and conferences. During his career, he has worked on legal and compliance matters in all parts of the world, based in Illinois, Texas, and Brussels, Belgium. He is the founder and past chair of the North Texas Ethics & Compliance Council and past chair of the ABA Export Controls and Economic Sanctions Committee.

Panel III – Navigating Turbulent Waters: The Upcoming Review of USMCA



FRANCISCO PEÑA, CACHEAUX
CAVAZOS & NEWTON LLP

Francisco has been a Partner at CCN since 2009 and is Co-Director of the Labor and Employment Practice. His professional practice has focused predominantly on representing clients in the United States and other countries in establishing and maintaining manufacturing operations in the USMCA region, as well as creating strategic alliances to assist companies in soft-landing in Mexico and the United States. In his professional practice, he represents foreign investors with a focus on cross-border operations between the United States of America, Mexico, and other Latin American countries in environmental matters, Compliance, Mergers & Acquisitions, Labor and Employment Litigation, Health and Safety, government relations, and contractual areas. He has extensive experience in negotiating collective bargaining agreements with unions before the Mexican labor authorities, as well as in representing companies in their compliance obligations before the different agencies and government offices in Mexico.

Panel III – Navigating Turbulent Waters: The Upcoming Review of USMCA



PEDRO ALFONSO ELIZALDE MONTEAGUDO
TECNOLÓGICO DE MONTERREY

Dr. Elizalde Monteagudo is currently the Associate Director of the Department of Law at the Guadalajara Campus. Additionally, he serves as a full-time professor for the courses Private International Law, Public International Law, Foreign Trade Legislation, and Maritime Law. He has conducted research on legislation for digital transformation and cybersecurity, port legislation, maritime transport, international commercial law, and illicit acts committed in Mexican marine spaces. Furthermore, from July to December 2022, he served as a visiting researcher at the Faculty of Law of the University of Buenos Aires, where he developed a study on digital transformation in Latin American ports with the support of the Inter-American Committee on Ports of the OAS.



WILLIAM HORNBERGER
Jackson Walker LLP

William Hornberger is passionate about the practice of law and about helping people and enterprises achieve business goals. He is extremely grateful to his mentors, Larry Bean and Vester Hughes, because they not only taught him to be passionate about the law, they also modeled for him character and class and taught him how to have a rich and fulfilling life outside of the office. For nearly 30 years, he has practiced in the areas of tax, transactional, international and corporate law at Jackson Walker. His tax practice has touched nearly every area of the tax law, including corporate, partnerships and LLCs, international, real estate, corporate, oil and gas, bankruptcy, tax credit and tax controversy and procedural matters.



ILIANA RODRÍGUEZ SANTIBÁÑEZ
TECNOLÓGICO DE MONTERREY

Dr. Iliana Rodríguez Santibáñez is a well-known professor of international law at Tecnológico de Monterrey, recognized for her expertise on free trade, globalization and human rights. She has a PhD in Law and a Master's in International Relations from UNAM, both of which are summa cum laude, and her work combines academic rigor with practical experience. Dr. Rodríguez Santibáñez began her career at PricewaterhouseCoopers, where she helped companies adopt NAFTA at the business level. She is currently a member of Mexico's diplomatic corps admission commission, which shapes the country's future foreign representatives. Dr. Rodríguez Santibáñez has certificates from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government in Leadership and Georgetown University in the US legal system, broadening her worldwide viewpoint. As a frequent analyst in international media and an advocate for linking academia, business, and public service, she delivers an authoritative and forward-thinking opinion on the difficulties and prospects of free markets in today's quickly changing environment.

Closing Remarks



JAMES HOLLIFIELD
DIRECTOR, SMU TOWER CENTER

James F. Hollifield is Ora Nixon Arnold Fellow in International Political Economy, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Tower Center at Southern Methodist University. He also is a Global Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center in Washington, D.C., and a member of the New York Council on Foreign Relations. Hollifield is a scholar of international and comparative political economy, and he has written widely on issues of political and economic development, with a focus on migration. His major books are *Immigrants, Markets and States* (Harvard UP 1992), *L'Immigration et l'Etat Nation* (L'Harmattan 1997), *Pathways to Democracy* (Routledge, 2000), *Migration, Trade and Development* (Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas 2009), 2000), *Herausforderung Migration— Perspektiven der vergleichenden Politikwissenschaft* (Lit Verlag 2006). Hollifield has served as an advisor for governments around the world and for many international organizations on matters of migration and human and economic development. In 2016, Hollifield received a Distinguished Scholar Award from the International Studies Association. In 2021-22 he was named as a Fellow of the French Institute for Advanced Studies in Paris, and in 2023 he will receive a Career Achievement Award from the American Political Science Association.



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