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Concluding Remarks

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CONCLUDING REMARKS
CHRISTOPHER P. BAUMAN*
LEO M. ROMERO**

Mr. Bauman: When we first started planning the U.S.-Mexico Law Institute, Leo Romero's predecessor, Ted Parnall, was the Dean of the University of New Mexico School of Law. When he left to help the country of Laos develop a legal system, he also left Dean Romero in midstream. We had to explain all over again what we are trying to do, but he was very excited about the project. We have him to thank for convincing Frank Gill to take over as Executive Director of the Institute, and we also have him to thank for convincing the State Bar of New Mexico to come up with the initial grant to get us on our feet. Finally, we have him to thank for getting the *New Mexico Law Review* to publish the proceeds of this conference. With that, I would like to present Dean Leo Romero to you.

Dean Romero: Thank you Chris. It is my pleasure to bring this first conference of the U.S.-Mexico Law Institute to a close. This Institute began several years ago as an idea to promote research on legal problems common to the United States and Mexico, to study the administration of justice of both countries, and to provide a regular forum for attorneys, judges, and legal scholars to meet and to share opinions with their counterparts from both countries.

The U.S.-Mexico Law Institute will carry out these purposes by organizing an annual conference on topics of current concern, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement, the subject of this particular Conference, and then by publishing the papers of the Conference in cooperation with the *New Mexico Law Review*. With the cooperation of the University of New Mexico School of Law, the Mexican Committee of the Section of International Law of the American Bar Association, and the State Bar of New Mexico, the U.S.-Mexico Law Institute is now a reality. Several individuals deserve special recognition and thanks for their efforts in helping to bring this U.S.-Mexico Law Institute into being and in planning and putting on this first Conference. First is Christopher Bauman, whose work with the Canada-U.S. Law Institute at Case Western

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University inspired us. Chris brought us a model that he thought would work well in terms of U.S. and Mexican law. His ideas started this dream that you now see as a reality.

Secondly, John Stephenson, the Chair of the Mexican Law Committee of the Section of International Law of the American Bar Association ("ABA") was very interested in this idea. I remember meeting him at a conference of the ABA in Chicago, over two years ago, when this idea was put forward to his committee through a presentation by our law school. It was favorably received, and it was from that point on that the momentum started.

Finally, I think the person who probably deserves the most credit for this right now is the man who donated his time and work. That person is Professor Franklin Gill, of our faculty here at the University of New Mexico Law School. He has taken and run with this idea, and has been instrumental in putting on this Conference. I can only say that from my perspective as Dean of the University of New Mexico School of Law, we were delighted that we were able to get someone who is able to devote the time and the energy to make this a reality.

As we conclude this first Conference, I am now confident that the U.S.-Mexico Law Institute will succeed in accomplishing its goals. I look forward to reviewing this Conference to see how it went, to assess critically its strengths and its weaknesses, and then to begin planning for the second annual conference sometime next year. I hope that you have profited by attending this Conference and we invite you to share your opinions concerning this Conference and this Institute.