

# United States - Mexico Law Journal

---

Volume 8 *Presentations at the Eighth Annual Conference*

Article 3


---

3-1-2000

## Welcome Remarks

Jose Luis Romero Hicks

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/usmexlj>

 Part of the [International Law Commons](#), [International Trade Law Commons](#), and the [Jurisprudence Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Jose L. Romero Hicks, *Welcome Remarks*, 8 U.S.-Mex. L.J. 1 (2000).  
Available at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/usmexlj/vol8/iss1/3>

This Introduction is brought to you for free and open access by the Law Journals at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in United States - Mexico Law Journal by an authorized editor of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [disc@unm.edu](mailto:disc@unm.edu).

  
SCHOOL  
OF LAW  
SMALL SCHOOL.  
BIG VALUE.

WELCOME REMARKS  
JOSÉ LUIS ROMERO HICKS\*

8TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE – U.S.-MEXICO LAW INSTITUTE  
GUANAJUATO, MEXICO

The 8th Annual U.S.-Mexico Law Institute Conference is taking place in Guanajuato; a city located in the heart of Mexico, as we are much farther from the border than one would think. However, our city is much more than a tourist attraction since our community of bubbling culture has over several centuries become a haven of human reflection.

Within the State of Guanajuato, justice and specific questions of law have been the subjects of discourse for quite some time. To those of you who are not acquainted with the history of Guanajuato and its participation in the history of Mexico, it is no accident that Guanajuato is the venue where the very concept of Mexico was born, subsequently fostering the movement towards independence and democracy. Thus, it is not surprising that Guanajuato serves as a primary legal receptor that has influenced the position and standards of the Supreme Court of Mexico.

Nor is it surprising to see Guanajuato host a conference of this magnitude specifically tailored to discuss subjects involving the rule of law not only here in Mexico, but across the border in the United States as well.

There are many countries, including the United States, in which the status and condition of that nation is measured by the status of its legal systems. In this regard, Guanajuato has pushed forward to consolidate its court system in an unprecedented manner with respect to governmental involvement in the formation of the rule of law. Many states or nations place an emphasis on the participation in government by their citizenry, but seem to overlook or forget about the rule of law. Nonetheless, our clients know and tell us continually that the principal condition for effective economic and commercial activity is the rule of law.

Thus, the principal condition for *successful* economic activity is the existence of clear regulations under the rule of law. In this context, budget appropriations to support the legal system in the State of Guanajuato have quadrupled and the investment in the legislative branch of government, with respect to the quality of the laws and human capital today, is twice that of what it was four years ago. Guanajuato is also a State where public investment in matters of general legal safety are five times greater than they were four years ago.

Needles to say, the results are very interesting. Four years ago, Guanajuato had one of the highest rates of unemployment in the country – more than 6%. Today, we have the lowest rate of unemployment in the country – less than one per cent. In 1995, the rate of growth in economic activity in the State of Guanajuato, its state gross product, was over half the national average, ranking Guanajuato fifth of all states in terms of Mexican production. Additionally, four years ago, Guanajuato

---

\* Secretary of Planning and Finance, State of Guanajuato, formerly Director of Planning, Universidad de Guanajuato and Economic Consultant, Secretary of Foreign Relations, Mexico; B.A. Lawrence College, Appleton, Wis; M.A., Southern Oregon College; Lic en Derecho, U. de Guanajuato.

saw itself stagnant or inactive with respect to exports. Today, exports from Guanajuato are growing not only in real terms (taking into account inflation), but also at twice the national average of Mexico.

Right now, Guanajuato is a working example of how, when used properly, the rule of law may help spawn a buoyant economy. Nevertheless, when we look to the future, we realize that there is still much more to be done. Guanajuato is a state in which the rule of law is a fundamental principle that will continue to be built upon in the face of the new challenges that globalization presents. Welcome to Guanajuato!