

Novedades



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HONDURAN SECURED TRANSACTIONS REGISTRY GOES LIVE

The Honduran secured transactions registry became operational on January 28, 2011 – and the Tegucigalpa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIT) serves as the permanent host of the registry (www.garantiasmobiliarias.hn). The successful implementation of the registry is the culmination of the Honduran secured transactions reform initiative undertaken by the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade (NLCIFT), in close collaboration with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), the Millennium Challenge Account-Honduras (MCA-Honduras) and CCIT, among other project partners. As of March 18, 2011 there have already been some 600 registrations in the new registry.

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Cutting the ribbon at the official inauguration of the Honduran Secured Transactions Registry in Tegucigalpa (March 17, 2011). (L. to R.): Honduran Vice-President Samuel Reyes, NLCIFT President Dr. Boris Kozolchyk, CCIT President Aline Flores, and MCA-Honduras Executive Director Marco Bográn.

TRAINING OF JUDGES: ORAL TRIALS FOR CIVIL MATTERS IN MEXICO



Mexico City judges and NLCIFT team at January 2011 training session at the Judicial Training Institute of the Superior Court of Justice of the Federal District

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judges), practice simulations on each aspect of the trial process (direct and cross-examination of witnesses, expert witness testimony, presentation of material evidence, etc.), as well as two mock trials conducted by the Mexican judges.

The NLCIFT's next training session for the 12 Mexican judges was held on February 24-25, 2011 and focused on pre-trial settlement conferences (conciliation).

Members of the NLCIFT training team include the Honorable Barbara Mundell, the Honorable Gilbert Veliz, the Honorable Louis Araneta, attorney D. Michael Mandig, attorney Philip A. Robbins (also the NLCIFT's board chairman), NLCIFT researcher Cristina Castaneda, and NLCIFT deputy director Kevin J. O'Shea.

HONDURAN SECURED TRANSACTIONS REGISTRY GOES LIVE

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A nearly-finalized version of this registry was presented to a group of public and private sector representatives from Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala and Panama at the offices of the NLCIFT in early October 2010 – as part of that group's secured transactions study tour arranged by the U.S. Department of State. It was the feeling of most of these countries that Honduras should serve as the model for their region. The Honduran registry was also showcased at the World Bank during the October 19-20 Fin Net 2010 conference organized by the International Finance Corporation (IFC). It was praised as a model of the desirable registry functionality for developing nations. The Honduran registry was also showcased in March 2011 in Rio de Janeiro at the IFC's Financial Infrastructure Week 2011 program: Increasing Access to Credit through Secured Transactions Reform.

Modernized secured transactions is a priority item to promote economic development, enhance financial inclusion and reduce poverty in the Western Hemisphere under the March 2010 Pathways to Prosperity Third Ministerial Declaration. Secured transactions reform initiatives are also underway in other countries (at various stages), including El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica and Peru. Chile has enacted both a secured transactions law and registry regulations — inspired as was the Honduran law by the OAS Model Law of Secured Transactions. Other countries, such as Colombia and Ecuador, have indicated they will be embarking on similar reform efforts.

The NLCIFT's team for the Honduran project has been led by NLCIFT executive director and president Dr. Boris Kozolchyk and has included project coordinator Marek Dubovec, registry expert Tom Ose, research director Mariana Silveira, researcher Cristina Castaneda, deputy director Kevin J. O'Shea, and Honduran-based expert Octavio Sanchez, among others.

TRAINING OF JUDGES: ORAL TRIALS FOR CIVIL MATTERS IN MEXICO

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As Mexico's Federal District prepares for the entry into force of reforms to their Code of Civil Procedure that introduce an adversarial oral trial process for certain civil matters, the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade (NLCIFT) in coordination with the Judicial Training Institute of the Superior Court of Justice of the Federal District and under the NLCIFT's Global Development Alliance with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is providing training specifically designed for judges in Mexico.

The first such training session was conducted over a three-day period in January 2011 and was delivered to the initial group of 12 Mexican judges that have been appointed (through a competitive selection process) as oral trial judges. The sessions were designed consistent with a learn-from-practice methodology, including open dialogue between the 12 Mexican judges and the NLCIFT training team (which included, among others, 3 bilingual Arizona

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TRAINING OF JUDGES: ORAL TRIALS FOR CIVIL MATTERS IN MEXICO

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In September 2009, the Legislature of the Federal District published significant reforms to their Code of Civil Procedure introducing an oral trial process by which disputes up to the approximate equivalent of US\$17,000 would be decided. These reforms only pertain to civil matters arising or being disputed under the jurisdiction of the Federal District courts. A Commission consisting of trial and appellate-level judges was initially formed to research and draft the reforms. This Commission is also overseeing the implementation process for the reforms, including training for judges and their staff, as well as developing required technology and infrastructure.

NLCIFT ORIGINAL BOARD MEMBER JOEL VALDEZ HONORED BY TUCSON COMMUNITY



The Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce has honored long-time NLCIFT board member Joel Valdez with its Founders Award for his significant long-term community involvement. University of Arizona president Robert Shelton said, "If you want to know how things work in Tucson, you talk to Joel Valdez."

Joel is a graduate of the University of Arizona with a degree in education. He worked for several years at the Pima County Juvenile Court and then began his career in City of Tucson administration, culminating in his service as City Manager for 16 years. Thereafter, he served for 20 years as the Senior Vice President for Business Affairs at the University of Arizona. He retired from that position in June 2010 and is now working at the University of Arizona Foundation. In 1990, the Tucson Mayor and City Council named what is now the Joel Valdez Main Library in downtown Tucson in his honor.

Joel has been a member of the NLCIFT's board of directors since its inception in 1992.

InterAmSM Database



The Center's *Inter-Am_{sm}* Database is a unique online service providing **Latin American legal and regulatory information**. Subscribers to the database receive same-day electronic access to Mexico's *Diario Oficial de la Federación*, the equivalent of the U.S. Federal Register. The *Inter-Am_{sm}* Database contains laws, regulations and secondary source materials for 25 countries in the Americas — primarily original language text (Spanish or Portuguese), but with some key legislation translated into English, especially for Mexico. The collection is arranged in 26 substantive areas and now includes case law for many countries.

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**JAMES E. ROGERS COLLEGE OF LAW AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA –
NEW J.D. WITH ADVANCED STANDING
PROGRAM FOR FOREIGN LAWYERS**

The James E. Rogers College of Law at the University of Arizona (with which the NLCIFT is affiliated) will begin offering a J.D. with Advanced Standing (JDAS) program for foreign lawyers in the Fall of 2011. One of only four such programs in the United States (and the only one located in the western United States), this University of Arizona JDAS option for foreign lawyers offers candidates the opportunity to graduate with a J.D. degree in two years (rather than three years) by crediting up to one year of study (29 units) based on their first law degree in their home country.

For those foreign lawyers who also have an LL.M. degree from an ABA-accredited law school, the JDAS program at the University of Arizona will consider granting up to two years of credit, thereby reducing additional study time for the J.D. to two or, at most, three semesters.

All University of Arizona J.D. candidates begin their studies in the Fall term. The JDAS program will begin several weeks prior to the Fall term (in late July) with an intensive program in legal and academic writing, analysis and research, and specialized orientation programs.

Those interested in this unique and innovative program can learn more by visiting the James E. Rogers College of Law website at www.law.arizona.edu.

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