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Opening Remarks

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I. OPENING REMARKS

*Jon Mills**

Good morning and welcome to the third annual conference on “Legal and Policy Issues in the Americas.” Thank you for joining us. First, I would like to recognize the members of our alumni committee — Buddy MacKay and Josh Markus; I would like to also welcome my colleague in international programs — Terry McCoy; and our other committee members. For those of you who have any issues that you wish to raise: JoAnn Klein and Linda Baldwin are our organizers.

I would like to just briefly mention some of the programs at the University of Florida Levin College of Law that deal with the issues with which we are concerned today. This summer, our students and faculty again will participate in our summer abroad program in cooperation with the University of Costa Rica. Our international office is finalizing our exchange with Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. Our exchanges continue with Escuela Libre de Derecho in Mexico City. We recently hosted a delegation from Haiti as part of our conflict resolution program. Our LL.M. in comparative law has graduated students from throughout the Americas and this year we have three students from Latin America enrolled, one each from Mexico, Brazil and Venezuela. Our faculty annually make presentations, conduct workshops, collaborate and are published throughout this region. Our commitment to the region and to the topic is total and ongoing.

We urge you to share your ideas for future meetings, other concepts, and topics. We have a busy agenda today. After each panel discussion, we have allowed time for questions and answers.

Our first panel is organized and moderated by one of our very distinguished professors here at the College of Law, Professor Fletcher Baldwin, who is the Chesterfield Smith Professor of Law and Director of the Center for International Financial Crimes. Fletcher and his panel members have made presentations at conferences throughout the world on the timely issue of organized crime, terrorism, and money laundering.

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