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2005 Conference Introduction

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2005 CONFERENCE INTRODUCTION

Dr. Henry T. King, Jr.

Well, Sidney, that was just a great background on what we are doing. And you are the one who knows it because you started it. We have styled this year's annual conference as the Canada-U.S. Law Institute Conference, Understanding Each Other Across the Largest Undefended Border in History. By this, we mean to explain each other's position on issues, which may be divisive between us.

We also want to ensure that Canadian and U.S. perspectives on common problems are understood. We will start off with a session on Canada-U.S. approaches to free trade agreements. Our speakers will be Ambassador Susan Esserman, a former deputy U.S. trade representative, and Simon Potter of Canada. Mr. Potter is a former president of the Canadian Bar Association.

Canada and U.S. approaches to particular trade sanctions may be different. In our next session, we will be looking at these variances and the conflicts that may arise between the two countries because of them. Here Rick Newcomb, who formerly headed the U.S. Treasury's Foreign Assets Control Division, and Navin Joneja of Canada will be our speakers.

Our luncheon session will be Beyond NAFTA: A New Partnership for Common Security and Prosperity in North America. Here we are, indeed, fortunate to have Ted Kassinger, who is Deputy U.S. Secretary of Commerce as our speaker.

After lunch, we will be looking at Canada and U.S. approaches to trade and agriculture. Our speakers will be James McLandress, who is General Counsel to the Canadian Wheat Board, and Kevin Brosch, a Washington lawyer, well versed in international and agricultural trade matters.

Canada and U.S. approaches to the movement of people will be the subject of our late afternoon session on day one of the conference. We shall rely on Ellen Yost of Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy of New York, and Catherine Sas of Vancouver to enlighten us on these approaches.

Our evening session on day one of the conference will be devoted to U.S. and Canada media approaches to Canada-U.S. trade issues. In the U.S., coverage of these issues is relatively limited, while in Canada, just the reverse is true. Jack Lessenberry of Wayne State University, formerly with the NEW YORK TIMES and the DETROIT FREE PRESS and currently ombudsman for THE TOLEDO BLADE together with Barrie McKenna of the TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL will be our speakers for this session.

We will open day two of the conference with a session on Canada and U.S. approaches to the evolving North American energy relationship in the aftermath of the 2003 electricity blackout. Here we will be dealing with two approaches to handling this issue, namely, market forces and Government regulation.

An overriding issue that both Canada and the U.S. face is that of healthcare. In the second session of day two, we will be looking at how the Canadian and U.S. political, regulatory, and legal systems impact healthcare. This is a complex subject, and we are, indeed, fortunate to have Jon Johnson of Canada, and Ted Theofrastous of The Cleveland Clinic Foundation to deal with this issue.

Our luncheon session on day two of the conference will be Canada and U.S. Approaches to the Great Lakes-Environmental and Economic Aspects. Here we are, indeed, fortunate to have Herb Gray, the Canadian Chair of the International Joint Commission as our speaker. Mr. Gray is a former Deputy Prime Minister of Canada.

Our afternoon session will deal with Canada and U.S. approaches to cross-border sales of pharmaceuticals. This has been a controversial area, and we are pleased to have Sara Rosenbaum of George Washington University Medical Center School of Public Health and Health Service, together with Jennifer Orange of Torys, LLP as our speakers.

In our late afternoon session, we will be tackling another controversial subject. We have styled this session as Canada and U.S. Approaches – Outsourcing, Offshoring, Nearshoring, Legal Aspects, Possible Conflicts, Economic Impact, and Job Effects. On these issues, we will be looking to Marcelo Halpern of Latham & Watkins, and Glen Hodgson of the Conference Board of Canada for amplification.

The climax session, which is set for the evening of day two of the conference, will involve a look into the future. Marlene Jennings, the Prime Minister's Parliamentary Secretary for U.S.-Canada Relations and a member of the Privy Council will be our guide. Here she will be looking at the future of this evolving special Canada-U.S. relationship, new dimensions, possible future progress and concerns, differing approaches to our common values and experience in the law, the democratic process, et cetera.

Let's start now. Dick Cunningham of Steptoe & Johnson is our presider for our first session, and I will turn the microphone over to him now. Dick, the floor is yours, and I will get off the stage.