
January 2010

Welcome and Opening of 2009 Annual Conference

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Recommended Citation

Daniel D. Ujcz, *Welcome and Opening of 2009 Annual Conference*, 34 Can.-U.S. L.J. 19 (2008)
Available at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.case.edu/cuslj/vol34/iss2/5>

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WELCOME AND OPENING OF 2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Speaker – Daniel D. Ujcz

INTRODUCTION

Daniel D. Ujcz

MR. UJCZO: Good morning. I am Dan Ujcz, the Managing Director of the Canada-United States Law Institute.¹ On behalf of the Institute, our two founding institutions, Case Western Reserve University School of Law² and The University of Western Ontario Faculty of Law³ and the members of our Executive Committee and Advisory Board,⁴ I again welcome you to the 2009 Annual Conference, “An Example of Cooperation and Common Cause.”

This annual conference marks the twenty-fifth Annual Conference.⁵ This is affectionately known as the “Henry King Conference,” as our legendary Chairman, Henry King, created it in 1984 as a way to bring together government officials from each side of the border, as well as, industry leaders, legal professionals, scholars, non-governmental organizations, and the media to discuss the issues confronting the Canada-United States relationship.⁶

As we discussed last evening, our Chairman is unfortunately unable to join us this weekend. As many of you know, Henry is undergoing some rehabilitation from a health issue that he suffered over the holidays, but he cer-

¹ See Canada-United States Law Institute, Executive Committee and Advisory Board, http://cusli.org/about/advisory_board.html (last visited Oct. 28, 2009).

² See Canada-United States Law Institute – About the Institute, http://cusli.org/about/founding_institutions.html (last visited Oct. 31, 2009) (discussing the creation and founding members of the Institute).

³ See *id.*

⁴ See generally Canada-United States Law Institute, *supra*, note 1.

⁵ See Canada-United States Law Institute, *An Example of Cooperation and Common Cause, Enhancing Canada-U.S. Security through the Great Lakes and North American Trade*, at 5, available at http://cusli.org/conferences/annual/annual_2009/documentation/2009_CUSLI_Conference_Program.pdf.

⁶ See *id.* at 3; see also Canada-United States Law Institute, Gateway or The World’s Longest undefended Checkpoint 15, http://cusli.org/conferences/annual/annual_2008/doc_apr_2008/2008Conf_Program.pdf (last visited Sept. 17, 2009) (describing Henry King’s role in the Institute).

tainly is in our hearts and in our minds as we move forward with this conference.

Just a quick introduction and I will quickly turn it over to our panel. Consul General Robert Noble set the perfect tone for this conference during last evening's opening dinner.⁷ I do know that a number of you came in on late flights last night. We tried, for as many of you that we knew were coming in late, to bring you dinner and a glass of wine over to the hotel. However, I add that it is not a customary service of the Glidden House to have a law student show up at your door at midnight with food in hand.

You will also see next to me the Niagara International Moot Court Competition Trophy. Beyond the Annual Conference, the Canada-United States Institute runs a number of other programs throughout the year, including periodic conferences held in places like Washington, Toronto, Ottawa, and Vancouver.⁸ We recently wrapped up a symposium focused on security and defense cooperation between Canada and the United States, and more specifically issues that arise when our young men and women fight shoulder-to-shoulder in places like Afghanistan, and issues such as arctic sovereignty and the cooperation on the Great Lakes.⁹

One of our other crown jewel programs is the Niagara International Moot Court Competition, which draws law students from throughout Canada and the United States to moot a hypothetical problem.¹⁰ This year's problem addressed arctic sovereignty.¹¹ Some of you may have actually judged the competition that was held in Toronto.¹² It was a challenging problem to say the least. I am somewhat hesitant to say that one of our founding institutions actually won this year's competition, because it always puts us in that awkward position when we award the trophy. Anyways, Case Western Reserve

⁷ See *supra*, Robert Noble, Welcoming Remarks at the Opening Dinner – The Canada-United States Relationship – The Common Cause Agenda, in *The Canada-United States Relationship-The Common Cause Agenda*.

⁸ See Canada-United States Law Institute, Upcoming Conferences and Events, http://cusli.org/conferences/conferences_events.html (last visited Sept. 17, 2009) (noting Canada-United States Law Institute's past and future events).

⁹ See *Government of Canada Officials To Address U.S.-Canada Security Partnership in Colorado Springs*, BUSINESS WIRE, Oct. 27, 2008, available at http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0EIN/is_2008_Oct_27/ai_n30937871/?tag=content;coll (detailing the symposium topics).

¹⁰ See generally 2009-2010 Niagara International Moot Court Competition, <http://cusli.org/niagara/index.html> (last visited Sept. 17, 2009).

¹¹ See 2008-2009 Niagara International Moot Court Competition, *A Dispute Arising under the Statute of the International Court of Justice* (2008), available at <http://cusli.org/niagara/memorials/2009/2009-02R.pdf>.

¹² See 2008-2009 Niagara International Moot Court Competition Agenda and Guide (2009), available at http://www.cusli.org/niagara/documents/2008_2009docs/NIMC_2009_Agenda_Guide.pdf.

University School of Law's Moot Team actually won the competition this year for the first time since 2001, and they did a remarkable job.¹³

Further, the Institute publishes the *Canada-United States Law Journal*, the leading legal publication addressing the Canada-United States legal relationship.¹⁴ As you can see, we have court reporters taking everything that is said down on record. Our students take the transcripts from the conference proceedings; add a little bit of polish, footnotes, and publish it. The most recent edition of the journal, addressing our border difference,¹⁵ is available at the front of the room. The journal was published later than usual this year as some of our authors wanted to revise their remarks from last year's conference in light of recent events.

Throughout the day, I encourage you to visit the front tables. Many of our speakers left information out at the tables including copies of their PowerPoints, et cetera. There is also information regarding the Great Lakes Manufacturing Council,¹⁶ an organization with which our students perform summer internships for, that I do encourage you to pick up.

Subject to the author's approval, all PowerPoint presentations will be available on our website following the conference.¹⁷ Also, as I noted last night, in an effort to become more energy efficient, we have put all of the conference background materials on a flip drive that is available in your red bag.

In terms of housekeeping, we will be here throughout the day today until about 4:30 p.m. We will then break and head back to the hotels. For those of you staying at the Intercontinental, there will be a shuttle at the end of the day taking you back. For those of you at the Glidden House, the weather changed pretty quickly, but it is supposed to clear up, so we will be able to walk back. We also have vehicles taking you back to the Glidden House. There will be shuttles arriving at 5:15 p.m. at each hotel to bring you to the reception and dinner this evening at the Park Lane Villa.

As I noted last night, we encourage you to not walk to the Park Lane Villa. It is a complicated walk, so I encourage you to utilize the shuttles. For

¹³ See Canada-United States Law Institute, 2008-2009 Awards List, http://www.cusli.org/niagara/2009_niagara_results.html?lec_id=192 (last visited Sept. 17, 2009).

¹⁴ See Canada-United States Law Institute, Canada-United States Law Journal, <http://www.cusli.org/lawjournals/lawjournal.html> (last visited Oct. 28, 2009).

¹⁵ See *The World's Longest Border: Gateway or Checkpoint? The Post 9/11 "Safe and Secure" Canada-United States Border in the Era of Global Supply Chains*, 34 CAN.-U.S. L. J. 1 (2009).

¹⁶ See generally Great Lakes Manufacturing Council, <http://www.greatlakesmanufacturing.org> (last visited Sept. 17, 2009).

¹⁷ See Canada-United States Law Institute, 2009 Annual Conference Presentations, http://www.cusli.org/conferences/annual/annual_2009/presentations.html (last visited Oct. 28, 2009).

those of you driving, you can park here, or there is valet parking at the Park Lane Villa. We will be repeating some of this throughout the day, but just for your planning purposes, please be aware that we do have transportation in mind in terms of getting you to and fro.

If you do need to get back to the hotel at any time, we have vehicles available to run you back over to the hotel, so please, do not hesitate to ask. In addition, for those of you at the Intercontinental Hotel, we also have a car on standby to get you back there if you need to.

So, without further ado, I turn it over to our first panel and introduce Dan Kolundzic of the Consulate General in Buffalo and Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Buffalo to introduce our speakers.¹⁸

¹⁸ See generally University at Buffalo, Graduate Certificate in Canadian Studies: Faculty, <http://www.canadianstudies.buffalo.edu/faculty/> (last visited Oct. 28, 2009) (providing Mr. Kolundzic's biographical information).