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INTRODUCTION: THE ROLES OF LAW AND DIPLOMACY IN DISPUTE RESOLUTION - THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION AS A POSSIBLE MODEL

Hiram Chodosh

Good morning. My name is Hiram Chodosh. I am Director of the Frederick K. Cox International Law Center here at Case Western Reserve University School of Law. I will begin with a story about a fellow who confronts two workers at the construction site of a temple and asks each of them what they are doing. One says, “I am doing some digging and some heavy lifting.” When the other is asked he says, “I am building the greatest house of worship ever to be built.” Well, I think Henry and Sidney are very much in the category of the second worker. I want to let you know what they described for you is really just the tip of the iceberg of the rich programs that we now have here at the law school. I want to thank both of them for their unique combination of vision and energy.

Enough said about my heroes. I would like to introduce a very exciting panel of panelists to you. The title of this panel is “The Roles of Law and Diplomacy in Dispute Resolution – The International Joint Commission as a Possible Model.” As always, Henry attracts the perfect panelists. I would like to introduce the Canadian Chairman of the International Joint Commission, Leonard Legault, then former U.S. State Department Legal Advisor, Davis Robinson. Mr. Robinson will speak first and then we will move on to Mr. Legault’s comments.

Leonard Legault is a distinguished graduate from the University of Saskatchewan, having earned both a B.A. and an LL.B. prior to his current appointment to the Commission, Chairman Legault has held many prominent positions as an international lawyer, diplomat, negotiator, and arbitrator. From 1993 to 1997, he served as Canadian Ambassador to the Vatican and concurrently as Canada's representative and head of the Canadian delegation to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. From 1990 to 1993 he served as Senior Assistant Deputy Minister with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. From 1986 to 1990 he was Deputy Head of Mission and Minister (Economic) at the Canadian Embassy in Washington.

* Hiram Chodosh is a professor of law at Case Western Reserve University School of Law where he is also the Director of the Frederick K. Cox International Law Center.
From 1979 to 1986 he served as Legal Adviser to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

His leadership has been recognized with many awards for public service including an Outstanding Achievement Award of the Public Service of Canada and a John Read Medal for his distinguished contributions in international law and organizations. He has written numerous articles on international legal issues. You can see from his background how fortunate we are to have him with us today.

First to speak, from the United States, will be Mr. Davis Robinson, currently a partner at the New York firm of LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae, where he practices in a wide range of international and cross-border issue areas, including maritime and land boundary law, trade regulation, inbound and outbound investment, transnational litigation, and international arbitration. From 1985 to 1988 he was a D.C. based partner of Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro. From 1981 to 1985 he served with distinction as Legal Advisor in the U.S. Department of State where he was Chief Counsel to the Secretary of State and the Senior Attorney in the U.S. government in international matters.

He completed his B.A. at Yale with honors, and his J.D. at that other law school somewhere up in the Boston area, I cannot recall the name — Hattard, something like that. He is widely published in The American Journal of International Law, The International Lawyer and many other significant publications. Again, we are very lucky to have him with us today.