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INTRODUCTION: THE MEXICAN VIEW ON THE
OPERATION OF NAFTA FOR THE RESOLUTION OF
CANADA-U.S.-MEXICO DISPUTES

Nicholas J. DeRoma

Good afternoon. I am Nick DeRoma, the general counsel of Nortel Networks. This is my first conference. I am very pleased to be here. Clive Allen, who I succeeded in Nortel as the senior legal advisor to the corporation, regrets that he cannot be here. I understand he was quite provocative last year.

I will try, as a moderator here to be more moderate. I am very, very delighted to be here. I am about to introduce our next guest speaker, Guillermo Aguilar Alvarez. We had a chance to get to know each other at lunch, and we were very careful not to have any export of technical data between us. So we discussed the salad and things like that. The topic is the Mexican view on the operation of NAFTA for the resolution of Canada, U.S., and Mexico disputes. Mr. Alvarez is eminently qualified to speak on this subject. He served as the chief legal counsel for the government of Mexico during the NAFTA negotiations. He was responsible for the legal review on behalf of Mexico of NAFTA's final text and its legal implementation. He participated in the negotiation of investment, intellectual property, and the dispute settlement chapters.

He was counsel and general counsel of the International Court of Arbitration (ICC) in Paris. He participates in domestic and international arbitration procedures as a co-arbitrator, chairman of the arbitral unit, counsel, and as an expert witness. I think those are all billable activities, as far as I know. He advises foreign countries in connection with the enforcement of arbitral awards in Mexico. He participates as a panelist in WTO disputes, and as an arbitrator in procedures under International Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) rules.

Mr. Alvarez's professional practice also includes advice in matters of antitrust, investment, and international trade. He has taught at schools in Mexico, France, the Netherlands, and the United States. I am very, very honored to introduce our luncheon speaker and very pleased to meet you for the first time this afternoon. I hope our paths will continue to cross.

