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## Remarks

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# REMARKS BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA ON THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANADA-UNITED STATES LAW INSTITUTE

*The Right Honourable David Johnston*

Forty years ago, when I was a young law dean at Western University, I was privileged to be part of something very special: the birth of the Canada-United States Law Institute. This important collaboration between Western University in London, Ontario and Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio grew out of some enlightened thinking at both institutions which recognized the need for a binational association to study legal issues from the perspectives of both nations. Then as now, the Institute, along with the student-run Canada-United States Law Journal, provides an important forum for exploring a wide range of legal issues arising in the Canada-U.S. context. And then as now, this work is helping to build understanding and is strengthening the relationship between Canada and the United States.

The Canada-United States Law Institute is a wonderful example of the deep and enduring ties that exist between Canadians and Americans. This relationship forms part of what I would suggest is among the friendliest and most mutually beneficial relationships between two nations in history. Canada has been greatly strengthened by its ties to the United States; indeed, my own family is an example of that. My mother was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, just across the river from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, where I grew up. Years later, I had the privilege of spending some wonderful years studying at Harvard University. Several of my daughters have studied, lived and worked in the United States. And just recently, I returned from my fifth visit to the United States as Governor General, where I was visiting Washington, D.C. with a view to strengthening research and innovative collaboration between our two countries.

Despite all that has changed in the past forty years, the spirit of cooperation and learning that animated the creation of the Canada-United States Law Institute remains strong in the countless partnerships that exist between our two countries. We are all better off for such collaboration.

Today, a strong partnership and shared understanding between Canada and the United States is more necessary than ever, and this is particularly true in the realm of law. Over the past four decades, the complexity of our bilateral relationship has grown considerably, as have the regulatory frameworks that govern our societies and the North American continent. Rapid technological changes and profound social, economic and demographic shifts are combining to force our nations into uncharted territory. In this context, lawmakers and the legal profession have an essential role to play to ensure that our societies continue to evolve in accordance with the rule of law. By providing a forum to explore complex legal issues from diverse points of view, the Canada-United States Law Journal is helping to build understanding and consensus on both sides

of the border. I commend and congratulate all of the students, faculty and staff who have contributed to the success of the Canada-United States Law Institute and the Law Journal. Together, you are enhancing an important aspect of the relationship between our two nations. May your work continue for many years to come.

His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston  
Governor General of Canada