

2024

Introductory Remarks

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Recommended Citation

Amb. Mark Green, Michael P. Scharf, and Christopher Sands, *Introductory Remarks*, 48 Can.-U.S. L.J. 115 (2024)

Available at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.case.edu/cuslj/vol48/iss1/12>

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

CHRISTOPHER SANDS: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, very good to see you here today. My name is Christopher Sands, and I am the Director of the Canada Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. I want to extend a warm welcome to the people in the room, the people who are watching us live streamed, and who will watch the recording later on.

This is the first Wilson Kennedy Canada-U.S. legal issue symposium. It would not be possible without our partners, the Canada-United States Law Institute. You'll hear about both of those organizations. Without further ado I want to introduce Mark Green. Mark Green is a former congressman, a former U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania, a former USAID Administrator—that's the U.S. Agency for International Development. He's also the President and the CEO of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. But appropriately today, I can also introduce him as a proud Law School graduate of the University Wisconsin. Over to you, Mark.

AMBASSADOR MARK GREEN: Thanks, Chris, and welcome everyone, physically and virtually to the Wilson Center. As many of you know, we're truly a unique institution in foreign policy. We are congressionally chartered, scholarship driven, and fiercely nonpartisan and independent. That special status, I think, brings with it certain obligations: not to duplicate what others are doing, but instead to prioritize the most important issues and opportunities, and to do so in ways where we can add value and make a difference.

In 1919, as the world reckoned with the horrors of World War I, Woodrow Wilson emerged as the leading advocate for economic sanctions as a nonviolent alternative to war. Speaking in Indianapolis, he said that "A nation boycotted is a nation that is in sight of surrender. Apply this economic peaceful, silent, and deadly remedy, and there will be no need for force." One hundred years on from that speech, sanctions have become a mainstream policy tool used to target not only adversarial governments but also foreign organizations, institutions, and entities. In modern times, the widespread adoption and implementation of Magnitsky legislation has made sanctions even more powerful, enabling nations to target foreign individuals and their assets. But as the use of economic sanctions has become more widespread, questions on their utility and effectiveness have become more pointed. Sanctions have not eliminated war, as we know all too well. In fact, in spite of global sanctions regimes, communities in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, the Caribbean, and beyond are suffering some of the worst conflict that we have seen in decades.

Questions have also been raised about the humanitarian impact of sanctions, a topic I know our experts will turn to this morning. We are bearing witness to a sea change in the global order. Amidst this transformation, it's imperative—really, really important—that those nations which share our democratic values and respect for a rules-based international system closely coordinate foreign policy strategies and tools. Canada and the U.S., longstanding security partners with one

of the most robust bilateral trade relationships in the world, can and should be a model for the cooperative implementation of sanctions in pursuit of a better world.

Achieving alignment, as we know, is not a simple task. It will involve working through two different systems against the backdrop of increasing global instability. Lawyers, many of whom are in this room, and as Chris noted, I'm a recovering attorney myself, will be called on to lead critical debates on the refinement, implementation, and interpretation of economic sanctions legislation. I'm hoping today's presentations and the discussions which ensue can serve as a first step towards that noble purpose. I would like to specifically thank the Canada-United States Law Institute, Western University Faculty of Law, and Case Western University School of Law, for joining us today. In short, these discussions truly matter. Back to you, Chris.

CHRISTOPHER SANDS: Thank you very much, Mark. It's now my honor to introduce the Dean of the Case Western University Law School, Michael Scharf.

DEAN MICHAEL SCHARF: Just a very brief welcome. Case Western Reserve University School of Law, for the past forty-seven years, has partnered with the University of Western Ontario Faculty of Law in hosting the Canada-U.S. Law Institute. With the help of Chris Sands and so many others, we've been able to do these amazing programs, both in Cleveland and in Toronto, at Western Ontario, and lately in Washington, DC. We're very excited to be partnering with this symposium. Thank you all for being here.