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Welcome and Opening of 2008 Annual Conference

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WELCOME AND OPENING OF 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Session Chair – Dr. Henry T. King, Jr.
Speaker – Valerie McCall

INTRODUCTION

Dr. Henry T. King, Jr.

DR. KING: I am Henry King, the Chair of the Canada-U.S. Law Institute Executive Committee, Chair of the annual conference. On behalf of the Canada-U.S. Law Institute, Case Western Reserve University School of Law, and the University of Western Ontario Faculty of Law, I welcome you to our 24th annual conference which we have titled "The World's Longest Undefended Border, Gateway or Checkpoint?" It is my privilege and pleasure to now open the conference proceedings.

For the past 24 years, the Institute has assembled the leaders of government and industry, legal practitioners, scholars, and nongovernmental organizations in one forum to address the issues confronting the Canada-U.S. relationship.

There are three principles that govern our conference. First, the conference is multidisciplinary in nature. As I have just stated, there are actors from all of the various sectors of our bilateral relationship. This is designed to encourage frank and comprehensive discussion among our participants.

Second, the conference is designed to enforce our cross-border relationship. We encourage active dialogue with our panelists during the question and answer period as well as holding informal discussions between ourselves during breaks, meals, and at the hotel. I am happy to report that...
many professional and personal friendships have grown from this conference, including many of my own.

Finally, the subject of the annual conference is forward-looking in scope.\footnote{See id at Establishment of Annual Conference.} We look toward the future of Canada-U.S. relations as opposed to summarizing the past.\footnote{See id.} With that in mind, this year we address the post of 9/11 safe and secure border and the era of global supply chains.


I look forward to hearing from our distinguished panelists throughout the next two days as they address these issues. I offer my heartfelt appreciation to the session chairs and speakers for contributing to our conference. I also thank the administrations at Case Western Reserve University School of Law and the University of Western Ontario Faculty of Law for their longstanding support of the Institute and the annual conference. I offer my deepest thanks to the Institute's executive committee and advisory board for all of their efforts in making this conference a reality.

I offer my special appreciation and welcome to all of you for joining us throughout this weekend. A significant note, I welcome the representatives of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Public Safety Canada, the U.S. Department of Commerce, Industry Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Ohio's congressional delegation, including staff members from the office of U.S. Senator George Voinovich and U.S. Representative Dennis Kucinich.
I firmly extend our welcome to our staff, State and Provincial partners who are very important actors in these issues as well as the broader Canada-U.S. relationship. And I once again extend my great appreciation and welcome to the representatives of the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

The Department has been a long-standing supporter of the Institute in this conference. Indeed the Canadian Consul General in Detroit has supported each and every one of these conferences for the past 24 years. I thank Consul General Robert Noble together with his staff, George Costaris, Mary Lynn Becker, Dennis Moore, and Doug Bingeman. They have been instrumental in the success of our Institute. I also welcome our long-time friend of our Institute, the Canadian Consul General from Buffalo, Mr. Stephen Brereton.

Cleveland, Buffalo and Detroit have a bond joined by our geography, history, and challenges as well as opportunities for the future. This bond joins us together, and as we will see, to our greater friends in Canada.

I also wanted to welcome Dana Hicks, the Honorary Consul from Charlotte, North Carolina, and Mr. McIntosh from Tampa, Florida.

Beyond welcoming you to this conference at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, I welcome you to the city of Cleveland where I have spent the last 40 years of my life. I welcome our great friends from our city and region and particularly those representing the Cleveland consulate core, and the Greater Cleveland International Lawyers Group. Cleveland has unlimited potential and a bright future. As a result, it gives me great pleasure to introduce to you Ms. Valerie McCall representing the City of Cleveland. Valerie, the floor is yours.


14 See id.

MS. McCALL: Thank you.

Good morning everyone. On behalf of Mayor Frank Jackson, I just want to say it is a pleasure and an honor to be sitting here before you this morning. I actually was sitting here looking through the program book, and wish I would have cleared my calendar for the entire time because this is just phenomenal.

As we talk about the post-9/11 era on an international level, please keep in mind we are still discussing that on a local level. We have discussions about interoperability and what happens, what-if on a local level, that we all know we are first responders. How do we tie what is happening here locally to what is happening here globally?

And so I just want to reiterate Mayor Jackson's—not only his dedication and support to all of our international partners, but why this conference being here in the City of Cleveland on the campus of Case Western Reserve University is so important to us.

And I would be remiss if I did not tell you that because you are here—and you are from Canada, we ordered up great weather for you, so we hope you get out, take advantage, go walk around in the evening, take advantage of everything that is going on here. We appreciate you being here. We look forward to our continued partnership.

And as everyone knows, the reason why it is important for me to be here this morning in particular is just to reiterate and to continue to state that the City of Cleveland as a government is open for business in its international relations department, trust me.

I was discussing with my friend, Steve, that on Sunday morning, I am on a plane trip to China—I am coming to Canada, do not worry—but because there is an interest in what happens here in Cleveland. And as we begin to stimulate our own local economy, we know we cannot do that without global partnerships.

* Valarie J. McCall, Chief of Government Affairs for Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, was appointed to the RTA Board of Trustees in July 2006. Ms. McCall serves as the Administration’s primary liaison to the state government and federal government, and monitors mayoral appointments to internal and external boards and commissions. Previously, Ms. McCall served as Cleveland City Council’s youngest City Clerk, Clerk of Council in the City’s history. Sworn in to the office in May 2002, she streamlined the processing of legislation, installed an effective management team and reorganized the day-to-day operations of the office to maximize efficiency.
And so again, on behalf of Mayor Jackson, it is a privilege and an honor to be here. It is a privilege and an honor to sit next to you as well, my friend, as we work together to try to move this region forward. So thank you.

DR. KING: Thank you, Valerie. And also thank you to Mayor Jackson.

MS. McCALL: Absolutely.

DR. KING: My friends, the format of the conference is that each panel will be governed by a session chair. We will briefly introduce the panelists. The panel will then proceed with approximately 15- to 20-minute presentations per speaker. We will conclude with approximately a 15-minute question and answer period.

Our student reporters will bring microphones to each of you during the question and answer period. Please note that all comments are on the record, so please identify yourselves by name and the entity you represent.

We generally will have a short break after each panel for further discussion will follow. We respectfully request that you promptly return to the conference room upon hearing the call to order. I look forward to sharing this weekend with you.

So I now invite Kelly Tompkins, Garland Chow, and Paul Vandevert to the stage for our first panel.

Thank you.