



International Symposium on the  
**Judiciary and Environmental Law**  
in Mexico, United States and Canada

co-organized with Panamerican University and UNEP Regional Office for Latin-America

29–30 November 2005

Universidad Panamericana  
Mexico City

**29 November 2005**

**8:30 Registration**

**9:00 Welcome and opening remarks**

- Panamericana University
- Mexico's Supreme Court of Justice
- Commission for Environmental Cooperation

**9:30 Presentation on environmental issues and the need for the legal protection of natural resources and the environment**

**Topics to be addressed:**

- Environmental issues, the evolution of environmental problems and the greatest challenges, both worldwide and regional
- The legal standpoint: approaching the environment and natural resources as legal properties under the stewardship of the law

**10:15 Speakers panel: How the North American countries have introduced environmental protection into their legal systems**

**Topics to be addressed:**

- Environmental protection in the legal systems of the North American countries (constitutional basis, principal environmental laws, principal environmental policy instruments, novel or singular legal concepts, etc.)
- The environmental law enforcement regimes in Canada, Mexico and United States, and how environmental cases move from the investigative stage to the procedural stage in administrative and judicial courts

**12:00 Break**

**12:15 Speakers panel: The role of judicial decisions in environmental protection**

**Topics to be addressed:**

- Presentation of actual cases where court decisions have influenced a country's legal system and subsequently on environmental protection in North America

**1:45 Lunch Break**

**3:00 Speakers panel: Specific aspects of environmental enforcement cases in judicial tribunals**

**Topics to be addressed:**

- Overview of the different legal actions on which administrative and judicial administrative courts may rule
- Characteristic aspects of environmental matters before the courts and how they are different from other areas of law (e.g., environmental damages and assessment techniques, remediation, alternative dispute resolution, complex scientific and environmental policy aspects, handling of evidence in environmental cases, application of general principles of law, penalties)

**5:00 End of session for day 1**

**30 November 2005**

**9:00 Speakers panel: Addressing the different contexts in which administrative and judicial civil courts may review agency actions**

**Topics to be addressed:**

- The different contexts in which administrative and judicial civil courts may review agency actions in Canada, Mexico and United States

**11:00 Break**

**11:30 Speakers panel: Judges' specialization and training in environmental law**

**Topics to be addressed:**

- The need for and opportunities to institutionalize environmental training for judges
- International cooperation to develop environmental capacity building initiatives for judges, and the need to include court support staff and prosecutors in such initiatives
- Initiatives/programs being undertaken by international and governmental entities

**1:00 Closing remarks**

- Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources