

MEXICO AND ITS LEGAL SYSTEM

*Lawyers' Essays on the
Continuing Evolution*

Edited by

Yurixhi Gallardo

Patrick Del Duca

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Foreword

Eight Mexican lawyers and one *visitante extranjero*, all jurists knowledgeable concerning the legal challenges associated with the realities of contemporary Mexico, share their views on some of the most interesting issues of the legal framework and situation of Mexico, ranging from family law through agrarian law, and spanning as well across constitutional law, the organization of the legal profession, judicial review, and foreign investment.

Each of these respected specialists is related to the Faculty of Law of the *Universidad Panamericana*, Guadalajara campus. Each shares professional expertise to offer an up-to-date status of the disciplines just mentioned. This work was prepared in close collaboration with the Mexico Committee of the American Bar Association, Section of International Law, building on seven years of constructive interaction between the Faculty of Law and the Committee.

The legal profession in the United States is one of the most cultivated and organized of the Americas, and its close ties to Mexico reflect this valuable attribute. In affirmation of Steve Zamora's focus on the importance of developing an understanding in the United States of the legal profession in Mexico, appreciation of the legal practice and culture of Mexican law has been not only interesting but necessary for American legal scholars and practitioners. The growth in university curricula and bibliography present in the United States relative to Mexican law demonstrates this assertion. I hope that the example of this work published by the American Bar Association and its able contributors may also inspire the equivalent for Mexican lawyers, who likewise need to benefit from increased familiarity with law as practiced in the United States.

According to the groupings of contributions suggested by **Yurixhi Gallardo** in the Introduction to this book, the two contributions in the initial group are: first, a treatment of maternity and the workplace that delves deeply into the fabric of labor rights, gender discrimination, and social policies; and second, a review of the political rights of foreigners in Mexico, painting a picture that contrasts sharply with the situation in the United States.

By promoting measures through which women with children may develop their abilities in workplaces, but that are compatible also with the possibility

to work at home without their continuing presence in an office, so that they might devote more attention to their children, **María Isabel Álvarez Peña** depicts the achievement of gender equality policies in the broadest sense, in which equality may mean to accord distinct treatments to specific actors. In this regard, it is noteworthy to recall the 2003 adoption of Mexico's *Ley Federal para Prevenir y Eliminar la Discriminación* (Federal Law to Prevent and Eliminate Discrimination). That law proscribes the practice in the *maquiladora* industries through which potential women workers who might be pregnant were screened out of consideration by employer insistence on the conduct of prehire pregnancy tests.¹

Dealing with equality and differences between nationals, foreigners, and those whom **Guillermo Alejandro Gatt Corona** denominates as “Mexicans by choice,” that it is to say, those naturalized as Mexicans, he offers an interesting panorama of legal problems related to nationality that is far simpler than in other latitudes. The author advocates the full enjoyment of political rights for those who are Mexicans by choice and the possibility for them to run for elective office in Mexico. This is quite plausible taking into account Mexico's long tradition through which foreigners and nationals have enjoyed the same recognition of their fundamental rights since the nineteenth century. The enduring quality of this tradition is all the more remarkable in view of the frequency of foreign invasions of Mexico through the nineteenth century.

Jose Cecilio del Valle, born in Honduras and living in Guatemala, served as a representative in the Congress (1822), and as Minister of Foreign Affairs (1823), of Mexico. Vicente Rocafuerte, born in Ecuador, was a diplomat accredited by Mexico to represent it before various European powers (1834). A great example of Mexico's openness toward foreign citizens was the episode of colonization in Texas when Mexico gave the American *empresarios* citizenship and land to cultivate. Because of these concessions to US citizens then transformed into Mexican nationals (first and foremost, Stephen–*Esteban* Austin), they were eligible for Mexican elective office even prior to the Constituent Convention that approved the first Constitution of the states of Coahuila and Texas, as part of the Mexican Federation (1827).²

1. Natara Williams, *Pre-Hire Pregnancy Screening in Mexico's Maquiladoras: Is It Discrimination?*, 12 DUKE JOURNAL OF GENDER LAW & POLICY 131 (2005).

2. Manuel González Oropeza and Jesús Francisco de la Teja, *PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONSTITUENT CONGRESS OF COAHUILA AND TEXAS, 1824–1827: MEXICO'S ONLY BILINGUAL CONSTITUTION (Tribunal Electoral del Poder Judicial de la Federación, two volumes, 2016)*.

In accord with the full recognition of fundamental rights to all foreigners, in Mexico we do not label foreigners as “aliens,” a term that would imply an extraterrestrial quality of otherness to such persons. Indeed, more and more involvement of non-Mexicans is broadly accepted, even in political issues. Since the federal elections of 1994, foreign persons and institutions have been authorized to conduct electoral observation in Mexico. They are termed *visitantes extranjeros*. This is a label that we should replace with the regular terminology of “international election observer.” Our great friend, **Patrick Del Duca**, member of the California Bar, in this work expresses his insights into the election of 2015 as such a *visitante extranjero*. Regularly, Mexico and many other countries find compelling and legitimating the concept of incorporating into their electoral processes both domestic and international observations, whether to redress failures during the electoral implementation by administrative and judicial authorities or to address the defects of relevant regulation and legislation.

The second group of essays encompasses what it defines as the structural elements of the Mexican legal system, beginning first with commentary on the first century of Mexico’s Constitution. Technically, however, the 1917 Constitution is a set of amendments of an older Constitution (1857). As such, the first of these essays frames some key issues raised by the *writ of amparo*, Mexico’s predominant form of judicial review of the constitutionality of actions under color of law, with more than 170 years of practice in Mexico reaching back to constitutional developments in Mexico in the nineteenth century. Further essays in this group address developments relative to the modern techniques of alternative dispute resolution, as well as proposals to organize the legal profession.

From 1824, Mexico adopted a federal system with many contradictions that sharply divided the country in the first half of the nineteenth century. As of 1917, the political cleavages were resolved, but the Constitution continued, in the style of the constitutive document of a confederacy, to contain a detailed description of the legislative competences of the federal government. This form of drafting remains the subject of revision and future amendments. **Armando Cruz Covarrubias** articulates the dissatisfaction that is shared by the states before an all-encompassing federal government that once having touched a legislative subject, excludes the participation of the state governments, ever ratcheting up the degree of centralization of the system. How might this tendency that began from at least 1883 be reversed? This is the problem advanced during the celebration of the first century of the 1917 Constitution.

In the area of judicial review, the procedural rules and the various ways through which to challenge the constitutionality of any act, authority, or

legal norm have developed in such a complicated fashion, as explains **Alberto Estrella Quintero**, that many problems remain unsolved. Indeed, they await new legal reforms or clarifications of relevant Mexico legal doctrine expressed in Mexico's articulation of *stare decisis* doctrine through the formulation of *jurisprudencia* by its courts.

In the interesting article written by **Yurixhi Gallardo**, the American reader will encounter the approaches to the legal profession in Mexico that are distinct relative to those of the United States. In Mexico, a certified diploma by an accredited institution of higher education suffices to practice law throughout the country, once that title has been registered by the Ministry of Education. In contrast, in the United States, aspiring lawyers are accredited through passage of a state bar examination. The distinct approaches of each of Mexico and the United States have their own unique historical and cultural roots. In both countries, the link between the legal profession and the corresponding entitlement to practice has existed from the beginnings of the practice of law. In Mexico, the early practice was that aspiring lawyers were subject to an examination before the corresponding Supreme or Superior Court, submitting a paper and discussing it before the judges. As the number of would-be lawyers grew, the system evolved to fall under university responsibility. Throughout, the entitlement to practice law in Mexico has remained an individual relation, independent from the voluntary associations of lawyers in Mexico commonly known as *colegios* or *barras*.

In the last group of articles that are related to economic activities are two essays: one on foreign investment and the concluding contribution on land reform law. Since the beginning of the twentieth century, foreign investment has been fundamental to Mexico. However, in view of the dramatic declarations of change of economic policy expressed from the vantage of the United States, Mexico's approach to foreign investment and the revision of NAFTA merit thorough meditation. A key question is the extent to which foreign investment and NAFTA policies have created a dependency on foreign capital and goods (corn for example) that may be counterproductive to real development for our country.

A fundamental reform of agrarian law occurred in 1992. As **Isaías Rivera** explains, the reform transmuted the structure of the *ejido* and its approach to collective property ownership that were previously impervious to modification, so as to allow relevant landholdings to be owned as private property. However, agricultural productivity does not appear to have benefited significantly from the reform, notwithstanding the numerous governmental programs to support consumption and production.

This book is important for its content and its timeliness. It is published in the context of crossroads for two changing nations, each of which appears launched on its own, distinct transformation. Mexico after one hundred years under its Constitution of 1917, marked by abundant constitutional and legal redefinitions, needs to find its new path, while accommodating the changes, whether for better or worse, undertaken by the United States. This is a challenge to which legal scholars, and in particular those writing in this work, may usefully contribute through their reflections in reasoned dialog with their counterparts in the corresponding profession of our neighboring partner.

Mexico City, May 2017

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Investigador Nacional
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Manuel González Oropeza served Mexico as a *magistrado* of the *Sala Superior* of its *Tribunal Electoral* for a ten-year term concluded 2016. From 1982 he has been a research professor at the *Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas* of the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México*, distinguishing himself as a scholar of comparative constitutional law, human rights, electoral law, history, and political science. Apart from his judicial and academic roles, he has assisted a number of Mexican states with study and reform of their constitutions, and he has served Mexico in respect of its contributions to the Council of Europe's Venice Commission, focused on democracy, human rights, and the rule of law issues with particular reference to the countries of central Europe and Eurasia. In addition to his teaching in various universities throughout Mexico, he has been a visiting professor at the University of Montreal, UCLA Law School, Michigan State, and the University of Texas.

Manuel González Oropeza earned a law degree in 1980 (with honors) from the law faculty of the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México*. In 1982, he obtained a master's degree in public law from the University of California at Los Angeles; and in December 1995 he received the Doctor of Law degree from the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México*. In 2007, the *Universidad Autónoma de Baja California* awarded him the title of *Doctor Honoris Causa*.

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From *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México*, he holds a PhD in Law and a master's degree in taxation. His undergraduate studies were at *Universidad de Guadalajara*. He has completed the specialization in Anthropology and Ethics at *Universidad Panamericana*, and has practiced law as a trial attorney.

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He is trained in common law, having earned a JD degree from Harvard Law School, and civil law, having earned a *laurea in giurisprudenza* from the *Università di Bologna* law faculty. He received a PhD in law from the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. He earned a *Diplôme des Etudes Approfondies en Economie Publique des Transports et de l'Aménagement du Territoire* from the *Université de Lyon II, Faculté de Sciences Économiques*. He is a graduate of Harvard College. Following law school, he clerked for Judge Alfred T. Goodwin of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and then for Justice Antonio La Pergola of Italy's *Corte Costituzionale*.

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She earned her PhD at *Universidad Panamericana*, Guadalajara campus. She has master's degrees in Humanistic Studies from the *Universidad Abat Oliba CEU*, Barcelona, and in History of Thought from *Universidad Panamericana*, Mexico City campus. She has completed a specialization in Anthropology and Ethics at *Universidad Panamericana*, Guadalajara campus, where she also earned her law degree.

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He holds a law degree with honors from *Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Occidente*, and has earned a master's degree in International and Comparative Law from the University of Notre Dame, London campus, England, where he studied holding a scholarship of the Foundation *Becas Magdalena Obregón Vda. de Brockmann, A.C.*, graduating *summa cum laude*. He is a doctor in Law with honors from *Universidad Panamericana*, Mexico City campus.

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He earned his first law degree from the *Universidad de Guadalajara*. He is a doctor in Law from the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México*. He has undertaken graduate studies in agricultural cooperatives in Israel, and a diploma course in Public Policies for the agricultural sector and rural development at *Instituto Nacional de Administración Pública* (National Institute of Public Administration).

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Introduction

The Faculty of Law at the *Universidad Panamericana*, Guadalajara campus, has prepared its students to pursue legal careers for some thirty years. Since 2010, the Faculty has collaborated with the Mexico Committee of the American Bar Association Section of International Law in publishing the newsletter MEXICO UPDATE, which offers Committee members, and broadly lawyers whose practice pertains to Mexico, timely information on important and challenging issues of Mexican law.¹ The current work is a fruit of that now long-standing collaboration.

MEXICO AND ITS LEGAL SYSTEM: LAWYERS' ESSAYS ON THE CONTINUING EVOLUTION shares the visions that a group of Mexican lawyers (and one US lawyer) have of the law of Mexico. These visions paint a critical view of the reality of Mexico, perceived from the vantage of an examination of legal topics. The lawyers who have authored the present contributions have deep experience in varied facets of how law is practiced in Mexico. These lawyers share characteristics in addition to their legal profession. First, each combines professional activity with teaching and scholarship. Indeed, each has a continuing association with the *Universidad Panamericana*. Second, the contributions reveal the insights of Mexican lawyers who deeply love their country and are committed through the legal profession to achieve the changes that Mexico requires. The exception to the foregoing is the contributor of the chapter on the conduct of elections in Mexico—a member of the California bar who through the American Bar Association has collaborated closely in publication of MEXICO UPDATE. Although not a Mexican lawyer, his contribution reveals a kindred spirit.

Today more than ever, it is important to know Mexico as a nation, and what there is to know is increasingly attractive. Mexico's history, people, geographic position, natural wealth, entrepreneurs, poor, jurists, politicians, laws, strengths, problems, politics, and foreign relations and trade agreements are just a few of the notes that make Mexico a unique and globally strategic

1. MEXICO UPDATE is available at http://www.americanbar.org/groups/international_law/committees/newsletters.html.

nation. Perusal of any international newspaper reveals that no one can be indifferent to what transpires in Mexico. Mexico's links to the world transcend border issues, migration issues, its entrepreneurs, whether multinationals invest, Mexico's treaties, Mexico's colonial heritage, the pre-Hispanic roots of Mexican culture, and its beaches. These links transcend whoever may be the president in a given moment.

Mexico's links to the world are multifaceted. To discover Mexico requires to overcome stereotypes, prejudices, myths, and clichés, and to set aside mere skimming of the latest headline in favor of reflecting on the numerous facets of Mexico, which although many, pertain ultimately to a single country. Here is the reality of Mexico. Although it may not easily be told, it is intelligible. Mexico is the Mexico of Carlos Slim, but also the Mexico of the millions of poor. Mexico is transnational, and it is the Mexico of both the entrepreneurs and the unemployed. It is the Mexico of Octavio Paz, and the Mexico of the illiterate. It is the Mexico of the indigenous, and the Mexico of those who have become its nationals from other roots. It is the Mexico of *El Chapo*, but also the Mexico of those who work honestly every day, transforming the country.

Mexico being thus, the reader through this work discovers this country of contrasts. This work seeks to present not just the contrasts, but also what creates the contrasts. Although the nuances of Mexican reality are readily perceptible to any visitor or even someone casually perusing the Mexican press, this work uses the law to offer explanations even beyond sociological or political causalities. The law is a powerful instrument that can accelerate or impede the development of a country. It is also a language for the construction of bridges through which varied ideas may flourish and contrasting visions of reality be assessed. This book explains Mexico through the language of the law.

The contributions comprising this work invite the reader to consider three aspects of Mexican reality. A first group of contributions invites the reader to know Mexico's people, a second sets forth challenges facing the Mexican legal system through exposition of structural elements of that system, and the third analyzes Mexico's conception of the enterprise (*empresa*) and its unique form of agrarian collective, the *ejido*.

In the first group of contributions PERSONAL STATUS (ESSAYS ON FAMILY/WORK, CITIZENSHIP AND VOTING), the reader will discover three realities that directly touch people.

The first contribution in this group invites reflection on how Mexican men and women reconcile their professional and personal lives. Through the contribution *Keeping It Together — Reconciling Work and Family in a Country*

Like Mexico, the reader learns the role that governmental labor and welfare structures play in relation to the topic, as well implications of the norms pertaining to maternity and the workplace. The terms of the current public debates of the topic are also presented. Mexico is its culture and culture finds a channel in the law. The rules relating to work-family conciliation accordingly offer an insight into this material aspect of Mexican culture.

The contribution *Political Rights of Mexicans by Choice* examines a further aspect of the personal realities of Mexicans. It lays out the regulatory framework around nationality, as well as differences in the rights of foreigners and nationals. In addition, it highlights the distinctions made between Mexicans by birth and by naturalization. The distinction is that Mexico is of the Mexicans born in Mexico, but there are also many others who have decided to be Mexicans, who deeply love Mexico and fight for this country. It asks whether there is a difference between being born Mexican and deciding to be Mexican. It poses the question: Could Madeleine Albright have been secretary of state in Mexico?

The contribution *Observations of a Visitante Extranjero* lays out the experience of a visit to Mexican polling places on an election day. It illustrates the granular workings and achievements of a successful effort to advance Mexican democracy on the foundation of an electoral process worthy of trust.

Four contributions, LEGAL STRUCTURE (ESSAYS ON FEDERALISM, AMPARO, ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION, AND PROFESSIONALIZATION), comprise the essays that set forth challenges facing the Mexican legal system through exposition of structural elements of that system.

Through *Federalism: A Review on the Hundredth Anniversary of Mexico's Constitution*, the reader will be able to appreciate Mexican federalism and the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States, one hundred years following its promulgation. Among the questions raised is whether Mexico needs a new Constitution, and indeed whether it in fact has in substance achieved a new Constitution as a result of the developments of recent decades. The reader will be able to understand federalism in a contemporary Mexican version, different from the federalism of previous periods of Mexican history and of the United States that gave rise to it. The reader will come to know Mexican federalism in respect of electoral and judicial matters. The contribution makes the point that the Constitution in Mexico is more than simply the norm on which the Mexican legal system is based. To speak of the Constitution in Mexico means for some to reference a culmination of the values contested in the Mexican Revolution. Doubtless, the Constitution has been more than a meeting point between the political

and the legal. It is also an element of unity and national identity. It has legal, but also political, value.

Through the second contribution, *Reflections on Amparo Directo*, the reader will understand the paradigmatic figure of *amparo*, key piece to the functioning of the whole legal system. Denial of an *amparo* allowed extradition of *El Chapo* to the United States. An *amparo* allowed release of French citizen Florence Cassez. It is also through *amparo* that Elba Esther Gordillo, ex-secretary general of the National Union of Education Workers (SNTE), was exonerated of criminal tax fraud.

In the third contribution, *Alternative Dispute Resolution—Access to Justice, Institutional Dysfunction*, the reader will understand how Mexico is pursuing reforms to overcome the lag in its judicial system. The reader will understand the role that alternative means of dispute resolution, in particular mediation, conciliation, and arbitration, can play.

Through the fourth contribution, *Professionalization—an Instrument to Overcome Voids in Rule of Law*, the reader will understand who are the professionals engaged in the operation of Mexico's legal system. In addition, the reader will learn the training received by those engaged in the practice of the profession, an issue crucial to operation of the system. Moreover, the present is a historic moment in respect of efforts to establish regulation and oversight of the profession. In particular, the state of Jalisco (where Guadalajara, the second city of the country is located) already has a legal framework that will allow certification of legal professionals on condition that they fulfill certain requirements, beyond having completed the required threshold of legal study at university.

The third group of contributions, *ECONOMY (ESSAYS ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND AGRARIAN LAW)*, broadly focuses on economic activity.

Through the contribution *Foreign Investment in Mexican Companies*, the reader will approach the legal reality of a topic recently much discussed in the country, the foreign investments in it. The contribution explains the participation of foreigners in Mexican companies; neutral investment; multiple nationality; the charter requirements of a Mexican company required to allow foreign investment; investment through foreign moral persons; and, the participation of foreign individuals in Mexican companies; among others.

Through the contribution *Elements of a Next Revolution in Mexico's Agrarian Law*, the reader will understand the figure of the *ejido*—Mexico's iconic rural collective, learning what it is, the clichés about it, and its importance throughout the country as a property regime. Moreover, the reader will learn the history of the figure and its constitutional foundation. In addition, the reader will learn the nature of the reforms needed in this area.

The glimpses of Mexico's reality presented in this book are just that, glimpses. But the essence of looking is to fix one's eyes on something, and in doing so to discover what is there, which, perhaps because of lack of time or without the pause involved in looking, had not been seen. Moreover, an ordinary observer may miss things apparent to one able to look through the lenses of the law. Each of the contributors to this book examines an aspect of the reality of Mexico with the keen eyes of an able lawyer. These contributors offer the gaze of one able to describe the reality of Mexico with the tools of legal language. They present Mexico in terms intended to establish bridges of understanding among legal professionals of varied countries. Their use of the language of lawyers is distinct from the language employed by a sociologist or a journalist, and in a globalizing world ever more transcendent in respect of the legal community, their insights will find broad resonance among those within Mexico and abroad.

Yurixhi Gallardo

Translator's Note

Three contributing authors chose to write directly in English (Guillermo Alejandro Gatt Corona, Edgardo Muñoz, and me). As a translator of the further contributions and an English language editor of the full manuscript, it has been a privilege to appreciate the voice of each contributor.

The voices of the contributors are those of experienced lawyers who have taken the time, each in his or her area of professional and academic focus, to explain the workings of the living law. Collectively, they offer a panoramic vision of Mexico and its legal system, valuable to any of the political scientist, captain of industry, or international relations maven who wishes better to appreciate the country. Individually, each drills into a specific subject matter with a clarity of exposition and analysis that will empower the practicing lawyer concerned with any and all of a cross-border corporate control contest, navigating a complex litigation, or simply conducting business with a Mexican enterprise. This is a work for non-Mexican lawyers who have dealings with Mexico. It is also a work for Mexican lawyers, by virtue of the novelty of its sociological and anthropological approaches to description of the workings of bodies of law and approaches to the challenges of improvement. And, it is a fascinating read for those who are not lawyers, but who will appreciate the insight into a dynamic and evolving society, of which the legal system is a critical element.

This work springs in part from conversation over lunch three years ago in Guadalajara, a lunch in which Dean Rivera communicated to Professor Gallardo and me his shared interest in defining not simply the challenges that Mexico's dynamic legal system must confront, but also what might be next steps in addressing those challenges. Each of the essays here collected combines the presentation of specific challenges with indications of the steps to meet them. Prof. Gallardo, with the sustained support of her dean, has marshalled her law faculty colleagues in presenting a spectacularly illuminating set of perspectives on the functioning of multiple dimensions of Mexico's legal system. This work enriches a far too restricted body of writings in English about the development of Mexican law, but it merits attention not just as a work on Mexican law published in English. It affords a unique set of perspectives on long-standing, but also immensely current fault lines traversing Mexico's

legal system and the associated society. As such, it merits attention for its contributions to Mexico's legal literature, across Spanish, English, and whatever other languages may offer works on Mexico and its law.

Another source of this work is the Mexico Committee of the American Bar Association's Section of International Law. Proudly a continuing member of that group, as well as a former cochair, I affirm the good things that can flow from lawyers reaching across boundaries of language and legal systems to collaborate. This special community of Mexican, US, and other lawyers has collaborated to improve the law, increase the professional abilities of its members, and advance the careers of rising lawyers. An important part of that collaboration has been its relationship with the law faculty of the *Universidad Panamericana*, Guadalajara campus, in respect of the newsletter MEXICO UPDATE as a joint initiative of the Committee and the law faculty. MEXICO UPDATE and its preparation have apprised the Committee of key developments in Mexican law, while offering Mexican and US lawyers (and students at the law faculty) the opportunity to collaborate on prompt publications in English about those developments. The instant work is a maturation of that collaboration, treating its subject matter in the depth that a full length book affords.

Two works about Mexico that I have enjoyed are Denise Dresser's GRITOS Y SUSURROS I: EXPERIENCIAS INTEMPESTIVAS DE 38 MUJERES and MEXICAN LAW by Stephen Zamora, José Ramón Cossío, Leonel Pereznieto, José Roldán-Xopa, and David Lopez. The first is written in Spanish and is a collection of essays by thirty-eight Mexican women, friends of Prof. Dresser, laying out moments of epiphany in their professional and personal lives. The second is a learned treatise in English on Mexican law by leading Mexican and US legal scholars. The present work blends aspects of these two. Like Prof. Dresser's work, its multiple authors have unique and distinct insights — and how could they not given the variety of their academic and professional focuses? Like the treatise, the Mexican lawyers who have contributed to this work are deeply grounded in their areas of legal expertise, but open and indeed eager to share their insights not only into what works well, but also what could work better.

If it appears to the reader that I have enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate in the preparation of this work, indeed I have. My hope is that its readers will sense the passion of its contributors for their subject matters. Takeaways from this work will range from understanding the technical workings of specific, but transcendently important features of Mexican law, to gaining appreciation of how the law underpins what transpires in Mexican society.

Patrick Del Duca