

## **BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE LATIN AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW**

The third Biennial Conference of the Latin American Society of International Law (SLADI-LASIL), to be hosted by the Externado University of Colombia, will be held in Bogota on August 14-16, 2014. The conference topic is “Latin America and international jurisdiction.”

The three-day conference will include four plenary sessions and several panels. Conference organizers will invite speakers for the plenary sessions. Panelists will be selected according to the terms of this call for papers. The working languages for the conference will be Spanish, Portuguese, English and French.

### **Panels**

The panels have been organized to encourage constructive debate among conference participants as well as to provide a space where they can share their latest research on the following topics:

- Latin American Contribution to the Development of International Law From a Historical Perspective
- Latin America and the International Court of Justice
- Human Rights and International Jurisdiction
- Investment Arbitration
- Trade and Regional Integration
- International Courts and Law of the Sea
- The Individual's Access to International Jurisdiction

### **Selection Criteria**

We invite scholars, doctoral candidates, legal practitioners, and officials from governments and/or international organizations to submit proposals for presentation on one of the seven panels. In order to be considered, submit an abstract no more than 500 words stating which panel you are interested in. Along with the abstract, include a two-page summary of your curriculum vitae as well as your full contact details, including institutional affiliation. Send these materials to the following email: [lasil.sladi@uexternado.edu.co](mailto:lasil.sladi@uexternado.edu.co)

A two- or three-person committee will conduct a blind peer review of each submission and will chose the panelists. It is recommended that you take into account the panel topics and general topic of the conference. We hope to have geographical- and gender-balanced representation.

Selected panelists must submit a paper of publishable quality before the conference.

### **Deadlines**

The submission deadline for abstracts is March 8, 2014. Accepted proposals will be notified by April 8, 2014. Submission deadline for papers of accepted proposals is July 16, 2014.

## **Costs**

The conference registration fee will be waived for all selected speakers. The organization does not cover expenses for travel or accommodation.

## **CONFERENCE TOPIC: LATIN AMERICA AND INTERNATIONAL JURISDICTION**

Since the wars for independence, Latin America has become a major international actor in the development of international law. One of the most important developments has been the continent's strong, sustained position regarding its duty to settle disputes through peaceful means and with the law. This explains its frequent use of the jurisdictional mechanism. The conference aims to highlight this regional approach and Latin America's contribution to the consolidation and development of international jurisdiction.

### **Panel 1: Latin American Contribution to the Development of International Law From a Historical Perspective**

This panel will offer a stage for participants to lay claim to the region's contributions to the development and emergence of international jurisdiction by exploring them through a historical perspective.

### **Panel 2: Latin America and the International Court of Justice**

Latin America has submitted several cases to the International Court of Justice. These cases have had numerous effects. On one hand, they have given the ICJ the opportunity to review important topics on international law; on the other, the court's decisions have significantly affected the course of regional relations and the construction of a regional legal framework. This panel offers an opportunity to discuss this two-way relationship and to analyze the effects the Latin American cases have had on the general theory of international law and/or its specialized regimes as well as the impact of the ICJ's decisions over the region.

### **Panel 3: Human Rights and International Jurisdiction**

The judicialization of the international scene has had a strong impact on the protection of human rights at the national and international levels. First, international courts have permitted the re-reading of several features of the international system in order to ensure the protection of individuals. Strengthening the judiciary has meant the consolidation of international systems of protection. These issues have led to the reformulation of the relationship between international law and domestic law and, because of it, a growing interdependence between national and international protection mechanisms. Thus, humanization and judicialization of international law often go hand in hand. The questions become: What is the scope of this relationship? How was this link built, and what is the impact of the work of international jurisdiction over the protection of human rights?

### **Panel 4: Investment Arbitration**

What Latin America has seen in the last 25 years is a proliferation of investment

protection agreements. This has triggered nearly a hundred lawsuits against several countries in the region. This area of law is relatively new, but it has already raised a number of important questions about sovereignty over legitimate public policies, the system's transparency, the interpretation of methodology, the scope and impact on administrative law, and the independence of arbitrators, among other issues. This panel is an opportunity to discuss these and other related topics.

#### **Panel 5: Trade and Regional Integration**

All Latin American countries are members of the WTO, but each country joins with different approaches to legal issues and often brings with them intra-regional disputes. At the same time, the region's different visions for regional integration are converging. Some of the questions to be discussed during this panel include "How to reconcile these trends?" "What effect does consolidation have on trade agreements?" "Are these processes consistent or are they promoting further fragmentation?"

#### **Panel 6: International Courts and Law of the Sea**

The importance of international jurisdiction can be seen in the development and consolidation of the law of the sea. The Court of Hamburg is beginning to play an important role regarding the rules on this matter. However, this court is not the only one with jurisdiction. This panel will ask such questions as: "How do legal practitioners juggle the differing jurisdictions and rules? What roles do the courts play in the development of this area of international law? What are its main challenges?"

#### **Panel 7: The Individual's Access to International Jurisdiction**

The issue of international subjectivity of individuals and its scope has been one of the most debated issues in recent decades. The debate's significance varies depending on the area being studied; however, there is no doubt that the ability of individuals to participate in international judicial processes has greatly influenced the development of international law. This panel gives us an opportunity to discuss the role of *ius standi* and *locus standi* on individuals in the development and consolidation of international jurisdiction and, with it, on the legal system's evolution and its specialized regimes.