12th Biennial Conference of the International Academy of Commercial and Consumer Law: Globalization, Regionalization and Transplants in Commercial and Consumer Law

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Introduction

"Globalization, Regionalization and Transplants in Commercial and Consumer Law" was the theme of the 12th Biennial Meeting of the International Academy of Commercial and Consumer Law at the Riga Graduate School of Law in Riga, Latvia from August 11 to August 14, 2004. The articles in this symposium are based on papers presented at the Riga Meeting. They continue the Academy tradition initiated at its founding in 1980 to contribute to development of a more rational world order by "identifying the international nature of commerce, the common problems faced across jurisdictions and the benefits in solving

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commercial and consumer problems by attention to approaches elsewhere."

The Riga Graduate School of Law was the ideal site for a meeting focusing on the impact of globalization, regionalization and transplants and convergence phenomena in the developing new legal world order. We note the success of the newly founded Riga Graduate School of Law in achieving its initial mission of providing specialized training for legal graduates of the Baltic States as their countries became members of the European Union. Under its expanded mission, the School is now open to all graduates and its core programs offer LL.M. and Doctorate Programs in International and European Law. This growth of the Riga Graduate School of Law under the able leadership of Deans Jan Ramberg and Norbert Reich (distinguished members of the International Academy of Commercial and Consumer Law) and its current Dean John JA Burke, exemplifies the many new education initiatives underway world-wide responding to the legal needs of the new world order.

The International Academy of Commercial and Consumer Law at its 12th Biennial Meeting also honored Ole Lando, Professor of Comparative Law at the Copenhagen Business School, President of the Commission on European Contract Law and member of the Working Group for the Preparation of the UNIDRIOT Principles on International Commercial Contracts in recognition of his outstanding work in negotiating, preparing and implementing the Principles of European Contract Law. The Penn State International Law Review and the Penn State Dickinson School of Law Center for International and Comparative Law are also privileged to dedicate this issue of the Penn State International Law Review to Professor Ole Lando for his outstanding contributions and leadership.

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