

PRELIMINARY NOTE

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In recent times, the School of Law of Universidad Panamericana has pursued several important projects. One of them deserves special commentary and consisted in hosting the Annual Meeting of the International Association of Teachers and Researchers in Intellectual Property (ATRIP) at the School of Law of the University. Before this Meeting, ATRIP had met at other universities and research centers such as The George Washington University in Washington, D.C., University of Washington in Seattle, University of Cambridge in England, University of Salamanca in Spain, University of Stockholm in Sweden and University of Paris II in France. ATRIP has also met at the headquarters of the European Patent Office in Munich and of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva, and in other cities like Casablanca, Morocco and San José, Costa Rica. The first time that an ATRIP Meeting takes place in Mexico, the School of Law of Universidad Panamericana takes pride in being the host of a distinguished group of scholars in the intellectual property world on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of this organization, whose current President teaches intellectual property law at the School of Law of Universidad Panamericana since 1982. During the Mexico City Meeting, we had the privilege to welcome approximately 100 participants from 30 countries of four continents.

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ATRIP is a private international organization founded in 1981 in Geneva with the participation of 70 intellectual property teachers and researchers from 30 countries. At present, 400 teachers and researchers from 70 countries in five continents congregate in ATRIP. The first President of ATRIP is the German Professor Dr. Friederich Karl BEIER (1926-1997), former Director of the Max-Planck Institut in Munich. An In Memoriam Tribute was offered to Prof BEIER in Mexico City including a special presentation by the Mexican scholar Prof. Dr. David RANGEL-MEDINA, founding member of ATRIP and one of the fathers of our Association. Afterwards, the office of President has been held by the scholars Prof. Dr. Ernesto ARACAMA-ZORRAQUIN (Argentina), Prof Dr. Glen E. WESTON (U.S.A.), Prof Dr. William CORNISH (U.K.), Prof. Dr. Joseph STRAUS (Germany), Prof Dr. Gunnar KARNELL (Sweden), Prof. Dr. Alberto BERCOVITZ (Spain) and Prof. Dr. André FRANCON.

The academic program of the Meeting held in Mexico City included a discussion some of the most sophisticated topics of intellectual property law, with the active participation of scholars from different parts of the world that only ATRIP has been able to get together for three consecutive days, year after year since 1981 when the Association was founded. Before ATRIP was founded, the fathers of the Association met in an informal fashion in round tables in Geneva during 1979 and 1980.

The reputation of the speakers, as well as the high quality work of the papers submitted to the Annual Meeting held in Mexico City from August 24 to August 26, 1998, and the indisputable application in day-to-day life situations of the notions discussed in the papers, are all of them reasons to preserve this treasure of information in a special issue of ARS IURIS, pursuant to, a unanimous accord reached by the Members of the Editorial Board of the legal periodical of the School of Law of Universidad Panamericana, in the last meeting of the Board during 1998.

Special reference must be made here to Prof. Dr. Roberto IBÁÑEZ-MARIEL. As Dean of the School of Law of Universidad Panamericana, Prof. IBÁÑEZ has been a permanent supporter of projects associated to the study and spread of the scientific knowledge of the rules governing the protection of the most valuable assets of enterprise, represented by intellectual property rights. The international academic community, through its President, hereby expresses its gratitude to Prof. IBÁÑEZ for the support received from him in implementing these projects, which now form a part of the memories of Universidad Panamericana.

Following an ATRIP tradition, the papers published in this issue show up in the language in which they were originally submitted by their authors, namely Spanish, English and French.