

We are grateful to the distinguished panelists giving us at this law school and university the benefit of their presence and contributions. I hope they enjoy our Georgia hospitality. I also wish to add my congratulations to the Georgia Society of International and Comparative Law and *Journal* for having put together this extremely important conference. We are proud of our international and comparative law program at this law school and the considerable number of students that take part in it.

I also wish to express my appreciation to the Institute for Continuing Legal Education for its wonderful assistance. Finally, I want to express my special appreciation to Professor Gabriel Wilner who had the vision, and I should add, the contacts, to convene this meeting. I wish you great success.

CONFERENCE OPENING

*Scott Birdwell**

Good morning. My name is Scott Birdwell, President of the Georgia Society of International and Comparative Law. After nearly a year of planning and preparation, it is my great pleasure to formally declare this conference underway. The first order of business is an expression of gratitude to this law school and particularly Dean Ellington who agreed to hold and fund a trade conference which the students would organize. Thank you, Dean Ellington for your confidence in the students and your steadfast support for this conference.

We also owe our thanks to Professor Wilner, advisor to the Society and the *Journal*, and a constant source of encouragement to students taking an active role in the international law programs on campus.

And my personal thanks to the Society and *Journal* officers and many other students who contributed many valuable law school hours to organizing this conference.

I would like to offer a brief student's perspective on this conference. This conference will cover what are becoming the most important areas for the future of the United States economy: intellectual property and trade in services. This conference is policy-oriented and forward-looking. For this reason, we have invited these outstanding panelists, experts in this developing area of the law, to share with us their

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views on the prospects for international agreement on the issues raised in these areas.

The proceedings of this conference will be published in the *Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law* and will thus be available to its subscribers throughout the United States and in forty-three different countries. We want to use this conference as a catalyst for information for policy makers on how the future agreements on trade in services and intellectual property should be structured, and to prepare practitioners and businesses for the type of agreements that can be expected. One of the main underlying issues in these areas and one that I am sure will be touched upon here, is the difference between the interests in these areas of the industrial countries like the United States, and the interests of the developing countries.

OPENING REMARKS

*Professor Gabriel M. Wilner**

The inclusion in the current Multilateral Trade Negotiations of major categories of trade never before considered has caught the imaginations of governments and business communities around the world. The institutional structure and framework of rules necessary to bring about this expansion of global cooperation in world trade is, of course, of particular interest to lawyers.

The organizers of this conference decided that discussion of the inclusion in the multilateral trading system of trade in services and trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights could provide an opportunity for an exchange of ideas by a varied group of experts on matters that are freshly on the agenda of the MTNs and that present a novel set of challenges to the further liberalization of the international trading system. The focus of discussion was first to be the possible global multilateral framework for the liberalization of the international trade in services and the rules necessary to bring about the increased protection of intellectual property rights in international trade. A second principal aspect of the discussion at this conference was to be the possible content of these distinct additions to the multilateral trading system.

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