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## Competition Law and Policy in Flux: The Developing Country Experience Symposium on Competition Law and Policy in Developing Countries: Introduction

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# Introduction

## Competition Law And Policy In Flux: The Developing Country Experience

*David Van Zandt\**

The most developed nations of today have prospered in large part due to an increasingly sophisticated set of competition policies and competition law. The successful implementation of competition policy has led to the thriving economies of developed countries, and developing countries aiming to do the same can benefit from the lessons of the developed world. The benefits include the stellar growth, efficiency and stability of today's world powers. The ability to successfully ensure the operation of competitive market forces is a technique and skill which many economies are still endeavoring to master.

Competition policy and competition law are major forces that will continue to shape global economies. The intrigue behind these trends led to the creation of this year's symposium topic. The goal of this year's symposium is to identify the factors that have facilitated or impeded the successful implementation of competition law in selected developing countries. Paying due regard to the legal regime and the circumstances in which it was enacted, the country-specific papers in this issue examine the corporate, political, social, legal and other factors that have conditioned the enforcement of competition law. Lessons might be drawn from the contents of competition laws, the nature (including the independence) of the implementing agency or agencies, expertise required, case selection, and

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measures to bolster support for the enforcement of competition law. The countries that have been chosen for analysis in this symposium are ones which are known to have interesting enforcement records. In addition to the country-specific papers, the symposium issue has an article on cross-cutting issues.

This issue sheds light on the meaningful themes which are the driving forces in the global sphere of competition law and policy. It is also pertinent to note that the timing of this symposium is unique and coincides with the annual conference of the International Competition Network (ICN) to be held in South Africa in May 2006. The ICN is the only international body devoted exclusively to competition law enforcement and it consists of some ninety-four competition authorities from eighty-three countries. It has also become the premier international discussion forum on competition issues.

With great pride, I invite you to be part of this symposium issue. Northwestern University's *Journal of International Law and Business* has always strived to keep abreast the foremost issues that fall within the nexus of international, legal and business issues. This special symposium issue continues to uphold this tradition while serving as a forum that has gathered different perspectives on the topic of competition law and policy in developing countries—a forum that will hopefully educate its audiences, as well as generate responses and discussion amongst its readers.

David Van Zandt  
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