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Development in International Energy Law

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Introduction

Developments in International Energy Law

*David Van Zandt**

In recent history, international energy law has emerged at the forefront of academic, political and legal discussions. Whether a country is seeking new sources of energy, foreign direct investment in domestic energy resources or environmentally safer standards for energy use, international energy issues represent a growing concern for the future. Political instability in areas generally supplying crude oil and petroleum products to the world as well as multilateral agreements with significant energy law provisions continue to shape the global political economy.

International energy law embodies a matter of keen interest that affects the daily lives of citizens in developing and developed countries worldwide. Among numerous other effects, international energy law influences gas prices, wages, employment rates and domestic market regulations. The weight of these direct consequences of international energy law and policy led to the creation of this year's symposium topic. The goal of this year's symposium is to identify issues arising from various international energy laws as well as to understand the effects that recent international events, including the fall of Enron, the creation of NAFTA and the political unrest in the Middle East, have had on the formulation and implementation of international energy law. The papers in this issue examine the corporate, political, social, legal and other factors impacted by energy law and policy across the globe. Each article in the symposium issue addresses cross-cutting issues relating to the field of international energy law, in the hopes

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that every country may draw lessons from successful laws or policies as well as mistakes made.

This issue sheds light on the multitude of concerns surrounding a historically coveted resource. The world is entering an exciting period, where the ideas emerging will shape not only international energy law and policy, but these ideas will also shape the way citizens of the world live.

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to be part of this exciting and ground-breaking 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 international energy law and policy—a forum that will hopefully educate its audiences, as well as generate responses and discussion amongst its readers.

David Van Zandt
May 2007