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INTRODUCTION TO 1982 SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE LOUISIANA LAW REVIEW

The State of Louisiana is the only state of the Union whose laws are derived principally from Romano/continental law. For the first time in history, the Louisiana legal community in 1975 formally paid tribute to its French legal sources in Paris. At that time, Bench and Bar recognized its French civil law sources by meeting with counterparts in Paris in an historic Congress. The "reunion" was an unqualified success.

Resulting chiefly from that Congress, the Louisiana State Bar Association, through then president William B. Baggett, kindly invited me to serve again as the president of a similar Congress which was held with Spanish Bench and Bar in Madrid in the autumn of 1981. In some ways perhaps even more significant than the Sesquicentennial in Paris, the Louisiana/Spain Congress in Madrid provided for the first time for Spanish and Louisiana jurists and lawyers, an historical, in-depth analysis and exchange of the reciprocal influences of the laws of Spain in Louisiana and, particularly as shown by the paper of Shael Herman, the influences of the laws of Louisiana in Spain.

While the Louisiana/Spain Congress is now an event in history, the foundation for significant interchange between Spanish and Louisiana legal authorities is firm and, I have no doubt, will continue for many years.

It is for this particular reason that I am grateful to the Center for Civil Law Studies and Prof. Saul Litvinoff, its Director, for sponsoring the publication of many of the significant papers which were delivered in Madrid.

A program such as this one involves many people, and it is almost impossible to name individually all who cooperated in the Madrid Congress. As President of the Congress, I was pleased to have worked with many interested people to accomplish our objective. Special recognition must be made to the Spanish Executive Committee, headed by Excmo. Sr. D. José María Álvarez Romero, and actively and ably assisted by Excmo. Sr. D. José M. Morenilla, Vice-President, and Excmo. Sr. D. Ramón Bela y Armada, the Committee Secretary who assumed an immense task and who saw to every detail to insure that the Congress was truly memorable.

The Instituto de Cooperación Iberoamericana gave unselfishly of its ideas, staff and time in this venture, and special thanks are owed to Ms. Pilar Gomez who ably headed the Institute's staff.

The Congress could not have been successful without the devotion and cooperation of Excmo. Sr. D. Iñigo Cavero (Barón de Carondelet), Ministerio de Cultura; Excmo. Sr. D. Miguel Ortega, Jefe del Gabinete, Ministro de Cultura; Excmo. Sr. D. Enrique Tierno

Galvan, Alcalde del Ayuntamiento de Madrid; Excmo. Sr. D. Antonio Hernández Gil, President de la Real Academia de Jurisprudencia y Legislación; Excmo. Sr. D. Federico Carlos Sáinz de Robles, Presidente del Consejo General del Poder Judicial; Excmo. Sr. D. Antonio Pedrol Rius, Decano del Colegio de Abogados de Madrid; Excmo. Sr. D. Manuel de Prado y Colón de Carvajal, Presidente del Institutio de Cooperación Iberoamericana; and Excmo. Sr. D. Pío Cabanillas Gallas, Ministro de Justicia.

Both the Tribunal Supermo of Spain and the Supreme Court of Louisiana, with invaluable participation by Chief Justice Dixon, contributed significantly to the success of our Congress.

Special thanks must also be given to the Hon. Terrence Todman, American Ambassador to Spain, for his active interest and participation in the Congress.

It goes without saying that those of use who were invited to meet with King Juan Carlos are grateful to him and to His Majesty's Government for a memorable occasion.

The President of the Louisiana State Bar Association, Mr. Edward F. Glusman, in spite of a serious injury which he received in Spain prior to his arrival in Madrid, comported himself with the conviviality and decorum of which we knew he was capable, assisted by President-Elect Henry B. Alsobrook. All Louisiana participants were aware of the invaluable assistance of Messrs. Thomas O. Collins, Jr. and Robert A. Young of our Association. The efforts of Mr. Robert Hodges, who in many instances served both formally and informally as our interpreter, were also greatly appreciated.

Given that the Congress was overwhelmingly successful, the lasting benefits of the Congress, however, appear in the scholarly papers delivered, and my greatest expression of gratitude goes to all of the Spanish and Louisiana speakers, under the able direction of Shael Herman, Vice-President of the Congress. Thanks to Mr. Herman, and Ms. Nancy Dunning of The Center for Civil Law Studies, the Louisiana Law Review now has the privilege of publishing papers which will forever be a most significant landmark in Louisiana legal and archival history.

David L. Campbell
President, Louisiana Executive Committee
Louisiana and Spain Commemorative Congress