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Dedication to Rafael C. Benitez

The Editorial Board of *Lawyer of the Americas* is proud to dedicate this issue to Dean Rafael C. Benitez on the occasion of his retirement from the University of Miami. As the founder and first Editor-in-Chief of the *Lawyer*, Dean Benitez envisioned the journal as a clearinghouse for the exchange of legal information in the Western Hemisphere. This goal has been achieved through the perseverance, attention and guidance of Dean Benitez. The same sense of dedication has been evident throughout Dean Benitez's illustrious career.

Following graduation from the United States Naval Academy, Dean Benitez served in the United States Navy, ultimately retiring as a Rear Admiral. During his twenty years of devoted service, the impressive naval career of Rafael Benitez was highlighted by several important posts including, Chief of Foreign Training, Chief of the United States Naval Mission to Cuba and Member of the United States Delegation to the 1958 Law of the Sea Conference in Geneva. Upon retirement from the Navy, Dean Benitez joined Pan American World Airways, eventually becoming Vice President for Latin American Affairs.

In 1967, Dean Benitez joined the University of Miami as Assistant Dean of the Law School, Director of the Law Center and Chairman of Graduate Studies. Appointed Associate Dean in 1969, Dean Benitez later resigned that position to assume full time teaching duties as a member of the International and Comparative Law faculty and eventually to preside over the Foreign Student Program. Most recently, Dean Benitez served as the first Acting Dean of the University of Miami's new Graduate School of International Studies.

Nowhere, however, has the influence of Dean Benitez had more significance than at the *Lawyer*. The journal owes its success to the lasting contribution of Dean Benitez. Fifteen years ago, Dean Benitez, along with a skeletal staff, labored tirelessly to publish the premier issue of the *Lawyer*. Since then, the *Lawyer* has grown into a major publication that figures prominently in the international and inter-American arena, particularly in its role as the official publication of the Inter-American Bar Association. Although Dean Benitez is no longer active in the publication of the *Lawyer*, his influence continues to guide the journal forward.