

FOREWORD

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, the Institute for Juridical Investigations of the National Autonomous University of Mexico and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation have agreed to publish a journal that provides a panoramic view of the reception that international human rights law, and specifically the jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, has had among the highest judicial bodies in American states. Thus, *Jurisprudential Dialogue* was born; its first edition corresponds to the July-December 2006 semester.

One of the most relevant trends in the present development of international human rights law, concerning the necessary incorporation of international human rights law into national practice and regulation, is the judicial reception observed through pronouncements of various kinds by Supreme Courts, Constitutional Courts and Constitutional Courtrooms in an increasing number of countries.

Accordingly, the Inter-American Court's jurisprudence acquires true transcendence in the jurisdictional sphere, which is of the utmost importance. This international or supranational Tribunal does not constitute an appellate court to decisions made by national courts. As interpreter and applier of the American Convention on Human Rights and other international texts that confer upon it material jurisdiction, the Court is called to examine the rights and freedoms stipulated within those instruments and to establish their meaning and reach. Once the international judicial body has developed said interpretation, national courts must adopt it as an authoritative interpretation that binds countries that have ratified those in-

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struments, and thus creates obligations for those states and defines individual rights.

The publication of the journal *Jurisprudential Dialogue* serves to provide an understanding of the developments in this field in an array of America's jurisdictions, in order that judicial authorities, professors, investigators and law students may draw knowledge and reflection from this source. Such diffusion may encourage new developments in other countries as well. The final objective is, clearly, to encourage the national integration of international human rights law and to strengthen and improve the "contemporaneous status of the human being" as a beneficiary of national and international norms that recognize these rights and liberties and assure their effective exercise.

In the eighth edition of the journal, now in the hands of readers, ten judgments are provided—in part through an appropriate selection of paragraphs—that correspond to Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala, México Panamá, Paraguay and Peru. The editors thank attorneys Yuria Saavedra Álvarez (México), Ana Belem García Chavarría (México) y Mariana Clemente Fábrega (Venezuela) for the support provided in the preparation of these materials.