

Global Trade Law

Global trade has grown immensely since the end of the Second World War. Globalization accelerated exponentially after the fall of the Berlin Wall and after the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

The World Trade Organization was founded in the midst of these momentous changes. Its principal objective was to develop a rules-based international system of trade. Shortly after the formation of the WTO, new and powerful players emerged in the global trading system, which gave rise to economic and political anxiety within the United States and worldwide. After 9/11 this anxiety was heightened when countries such as Russia, China, India, Brazil, and the United Arab Emirates exploded onto the global stage with their great economic booms, supercharged with trade surpluses, petrodollars, and surging commodity prices. Managing this new order has become a central problem of global politics.

The International Practice Section presents feature articles in this issue of *Virginia Lawyer* to explore legal dimensions of this new global landscape.

Two articles examine the World Trade Organization by assessing U.S. trade litigation against China and reflecting upon the current stalemate of WTO trade negotiations. Other articles appraise the trade policies of Virginia and Gov. Timothy M. Kaine's vision of "embracing globalization." Another article assesses the challenge that bilateral agreements pose to the multilateral system. Finally, two shorter pieces provide research assistance to professionals examining international trade law and undertakings by major universities aimed at commercializing research and promoting technology transfer to the private sector.

Global trade cuts across sectors and disciplines. Contributors are from George Mason University's schools of public policy and information technology, the Virginia Association of Law Libraries, the Department of Trade and Economic Development in the Office of the Virginia Governor, and the U.S. International Trade Commission in Washington, D.C.



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