



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

James S. Gilmore, III  
Governor



Dear Friends:

On behalf of all Virginians, I extend warm greetings to all the readers of the *Virginia Lawyer* special issue dedicated to global trade.

Today's global economic landscape is defined by two prominent features – the vast impact of the information technology revolution and the dramatic expansion of international trade. Globalization is changing the nature of business and government, and has meaningful implications for our lives and our society. We live in an age and conduct business in a market that is accelerating transaction and communication, opening the doors of possibility, and eliminating geographic and political barriers. It is imperative that Virginians understand and are enabled to engage, lead, and benefit from the global economy.

My administration has been committed to creating opportunities and opening up markets for Virginia companies, encouraging foreign investment in Virginia, and marketing our Commonwealth as a world-class tourist destination. On trade missions to South America, Asia, and Europe, we have aggressively positioned Virginia as a leader in the global economy, and the results have been phenomenal. For instance, after my first trip to Germany, Boehringer Ingelheim Chemicals (BIC) announced a \$52 million investment and the creation of 104 new jobs on March 9, 2000; and after meeting with them again during my most recent trip, I was pleased to announce their investment of an additional \$20 million in their Petersburg facility. I met with executives of Hanmi International while in Seoul, South Korea last year, and was proud to announce that they are building a new manufacturing facility in Portsmouth, investing more than \$12 million and creating 170 new jobs. I have announced agreements for Chantilly, Virginia-based Environmental Products Corporation to export container-recycling equipment to Boa Hora/Tech Lix, a Brazilian environmental remediation firm, for Virginia Tech Library Systems, Inc. to supply library-cataloging software to the Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, for Lebanon, Virginia's Pittston Coal Company to export coal to Brazil's major steel companies, and the establishment of numerous other international economic ties for Virginia companies, workers, and communities. Thanks to efforts like these, it has been my pleasure to announce the creation of 275,000 new Virginia jobs during my administration, and Virginia can boast the nation's lowest unemployment rate. We are harnessing global trade for the benefit of all Virginians.

I commend the *International Practice* Section of the Virginia State Bar for making this the 10<sup>th</sup> issue dedicated to global trade and international law, and thank George Mason University's Dr. Stuart Malawar for his efforts as Special Editor for all of those issues. I join with you and your readers in studying the global economy as we encourage and partake in Virginia's continued growth and increasing prosperity.

Very truly yours,

James S. Gilmore, III  
Governor of Virginia

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