



The Woodrow Wilson Center Mexico Institute welcomes you to the launch of:

## **Police and Public Security in Mexico**

*With co-editors:*

DAVID A. SHIRK, Associate Professor, University of San Diego; Director, Trans-Border Institute and  
Fellow, Woodrow Wilson Center,  
ROBERT DONNELLY, Program Associate, Woodrow Wilson Center Mexico Institute

*With discussants:*

MARCELO BERGMAN, Scholar, Woodrow Wilson Center and Professor, CIDE  
MICHAEL MCCULLOUGH, Director, Latin America and Caribbean Division, ABA ROLI  
DANIEL SABET, Visiting Professor, Georgetown University

*Moderated by:*

ERIC OLSON, Senior Advisor, Security Initiative, Mexico Institute

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Tuesday, February 23, 2010

4:00-5:30 p.m.

5th Floor Conference Room

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center

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In recent years, Mexico has faced a grave public security crisis. From 2006 to 2009, rampant cartel-related violence has killed more than 13,000 people, including hundreds of police and military personnel. Given the inability of domestic law enforcement agencies to adequately address these challenges, Mexico has deployed tens of thousands of troops to restore order and combat violent organized crime groups. In addition, Mexican and U.S. officials initiated unprecedented measures to promote cross-border collaboration in law enforcement and security, including the multi-billion dollar Mérida Initiative to share responsibilities in fighting the war on drugs. These developments raise a host of questions about the course of Mexican public security and the prospects for strengthening the rule of law. This monograph brings together the works of nine exceptional scholars who present timely analysis of these questions, provide a thorough assessment of Mexico's principal domestic security challenges, and offer insights on how to tackle them.

There will be a webcast of this event archived at [wilsoncenter.org/mexico](http://wilsoncenter.org/mexico)

**David Shirk, Director, Trans-Border Institute, University of San Diego;  
Woodrow Wilson Center Fellow 2009-2010**

Currently a Woodrow Wilson Center Fellow, David A. Shirk is the Director of the Trans-Border Institute and Associate Professor in the Political Science Department at the University of San Diego. Dr. Shirk was a fellow at the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies from 1998-99 and 2001-2003. He conducts research on Mexican politics, U.S.-Mexican relations, and law enforcement and security along the U.S.-Mexican border. He is the principal investigator for the Justice in Mexico project, a bi-national research initiative on criminal justice and the rule of law in Mexico. Recent publications by Dr. Shirk include *Police and Public Security in Mexico*, co-edited with Robert Donnelly (Trans-Border Institute, 2009) and *Contemporary Mexican Politics*, co-authored with Emily Edmonds-Poli (Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2008). Shirk has a BA in International Studies from Lock Haven University and an MA and PhD in Political Science from the University of California-San Diego.

**Robert Donnelly, Program Associate, Mexico Institute**

Robert Donnelly is the Program Associate for the Mexico Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. As Program Associate, Donnelly manages a MacArthur-funded research project on the patterns and practices of civic engagement and political participation by Latin American immigrants in nine U.S. cities. He also manages the Institute's borderlands research project, examining ways for enhanced collaboration on joint management by the United States and Mexico. Donnelly contributed the chapter, "The U.S.-Mexico Border: Special Challenges, Special Opportunities," to the Mexico Institute's recent policy report, *The United States and Mexico: Towards a Strategic Partnership*, released in February 2009. With Dr. David Shirk, Donnelly co-edited the monograph, *Police and Public Security in Mexico* (University Readers, 2009). He holds a Master's in Latin American Studies from UCSD.

**Marcelo Bergman, Scholar, Woodrow Wilson Center and Professor, CIDE**

Marcelo Bergman is associate professor of law at Centro de Investigacion y Docencia Economicas (CIDE) in Mexico City. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California (San Diego) in the study of Sociology and Law. His recent works have dealt with Public security and the Rule of Law in Mexico and Latin America. He has published numerous articles on public security, the sociology of law, and tax evasion in academic journals in the United States, England, and Latin America. He is the author of *Public Security and Rule of Law in Mexico* and *Cheaters Suckers and Legalists: On Tax Evasion and the Rule of Law in Latin America*.

**Michael McCullough, Director of the Latin America and Caribbean Division,**

Michael McCullough joined ABA ROLI in October 2008. He previously served as chief of party for a USAID-funded justice administration program in La Paz, Bolivia, as well as deputy chief of party for a similar USAID-funded program in Bogotá, Colombia. He has criminal litigation experience as an attorney with the federal public defender for the District of Columbia and as a deputy public defender for Maricopa County, Arizona. He has trained attorneys, judges and academics in Colombia, Bolivia, Mexico, Peru, Ecuador and Venezuela on issues related to trial skills and the accusatorial system. He holds a B.A. in Spanish and political science and a J.D. and from the University of Arizona.

### **Daniel Sabet, Visiting Professor, Georgetown University**

Daniel Sabet is a visiting professor at Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. Sabet's current research focuses on the obstacles to professionalizing Mexico's municipal police forces. This study explores the reform challenges of policy design, implementation, and institutionalization; the formal and informal rules of police and municipal governance; the negative impact of organized crime; the ambivalent relationship between the police and civil society; and new incentives being created by the federal government. This research agenda emerged from Sabet's work coordinating rule of law educational programs for police throughout Latin America as part of the Culture of Lawfulness Project. Sabet's previous research, which recently has been published as a book titled *Nonprofits and their Networks: Cleaning the Waters along Mexico's Northern Border*, seeks to understand how civil society organizations emerge to address local policy concerns in a political environment that has traditionally favored clientelism. Sabet earned his PhD in political science from Indiana University.

### **Eric Olson, Senior Advisor, Security Initiative, Mexico Institute**

Eric L. Olson is a Senior Advisor to the Security Initiative at the Mexico Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. He has been involved in human rights and democracy promotion in United States policy for over 20 years. Olson has specialized in the Americas region, but has also worked on human rights issues in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Currently he is a consultant with several non-governmental organizations working on human rights and U.S. drug policy in Colombia and Mexico. Prior to this, he was a Senior Specialist in the Department for Promotion of Good Governance at the Organization of American States from 1996-1997. He served as the Interim-Director for Government Relations at Amnesty International USA for six months, and was Amnesty's Advocacy Director for the Americas from 2002-2006. Prior to Amnesty, he was the Senior Associate for Mexico, and Economic Policy at the Washington Office on Latin America for eight years. He worked at Augsburg College's Center for Global Education in Cuernavaca, Mexico from 1989-1993 where he was the program director. From 1986-1988, he worked and lived in Honduras Central America as a development specialist for several local development organizations. Eric Olson has a Masters Degree in International Affairs from American University in Washington, DC, with specializations in U.S.-Latin America relations and economic development.