

the International Court of Justice and other United Nations bodies, there are those in the United States who appear unwilling to accept such an international rule of law for international trade. Section 301 still looms large on the horizon, despite the panoply of international rules now at the disposal of the United States.

The new rules will become useless pronouncements without the backing of the proper incentives and mechanisms to ensure their enforcement. As we witness the growth pains of a new and more muscular institution, we must nourish it by making strengthened dispute settlement a high priority. Indeed, the credibility of the WTO will hang on the success of its dispute settlement mechanism.

Someday in the not-too-distant future, we may have to consider whether the WTO dispute settlement system, even with all the improvements over the GATT regime that preceded it, is up to the task of guaranteeing respect for the rule of international trade law. In Europe, the architects of what has become the European Union recognized that significant economic integration had to be accompanied by a system through which rules could be enforced effectively. And they concluded that only by creating a European Court of Justice with supranational authority, and by giving its rulings direct effect in the domestic law of its member states, could respect for an open trade and investment environment be assured.

The legal community is particularly well suited to address these considerations and is therefore poised to occupy a unique and important place in the new international trading system. You will accordingly play an increasingly central role, not only in helping to write and to enforce the rules, but also in thinking strategically about where we are headed and keeping pace with developments as they unfold. New issues, including trade and environment, trade and competition, employment and labour standards, will increasingly require our attention, whether in the World Trade Organization, within the various regional groupings or within each member state.

But the role to be played by the legal community should not stop there. Lawyers should not be confined to a policing role with respect to the plethora of new rules in international trade — they should also benefit as new opportunities arise and new dimensions to their practice open up to them. The time has come for lawyers to catch the wave and to start exporting their services, alongside the goods and services offered by their clients. Freer trade in legal services should now be coming into full view.

For example, Canadian lawyers will soon be able to offer their clients a full range of international services in both the United