



THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

presents

The Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA): A panel discussion

CAFTA is an extremely controversial free trade agreement between the United States and several Central American countries and the Dominican Republic, originally ratified in the US in 2005 and by other partners through 2007. This panel discussion will review the impact of CAFTA on economies in the US and Central America and examine a case study of a dispute brought under CAFTA by Pittsburgh-based Railroad Development Corporation.

“The Economics of Preferential Trading Arrangements: The Impact of CAFTA”

James H. Cassing

“Railroad Development Corporation vs the Government of Guatemala: The first claim under CAFTA”

Henry Posner, III

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

12:00-1:00 p.m.

4217 Wesley W. Posvar Hall

James H. Cassing, PhD, is Professor of Economics at the University of Pittsburgh. His specialty is international trade theory and policy, and he has worked extensively on trade issues in developing countries. He is the author of the forthcoming paper: “Trade Dispute Diversion: The Economics of Conflicting Dispute Settlement Procedures between Regional Trade Agreements and the WTO”.

Henry Posner, III is Chairman of Railroad Development Corporation (www.rrdc.com). RDC invests in and operates railroads worldwide, and in Latin America is an investor in Argentina, Peru, and Guatemala. RDC, with Guatemalan investors, is the operator of Ferrovías Guatemala, a narrow gauge railroad in Guatemala that was abandoned by the public sector and restored to operation in 1999, primarily moving freight until forced to suspend operations in 2007 as the result of actions taken against it by the Government. As a result, RDC filed the first-ever claim under CAFTA against the Government of Guatemala. The case is still pending.