

PREFACE

How and to what degree do federations produce uniform law within their system? This comparative empirical study addresses this question comprehensively for the first time, by examining legal unification in twenty federal systems around the world.

An earlier version of the General Report was presented at the Thematic Congress of the International Academy of Comparative Law on The Impact of Uniform Law in National Law: Possibilities and Limits, Mexico City, November 13-15, 2008. The General Report presents the means and methods of legal unification, the degree of legal unification of each system (and of particular areas of the law within each system), and a first attempt to explain the driving forces of legal unity and diversity in federations more generally.

Each federation is presented in a National Report structured along the lines of a questionnaire that was distributed to the reporters (and is included in Appendix 3 of the General Report). While some reporters hewed close to the questionnaire, others took up the invitation to provide a broader analysis of legal unification in their federation.

We are grateful for the efforts and talent of Professors Halberstam and Reimann in conducting this inquiry, and thereby enhancing the Mexico City Congress and, more importantly, our understanding of a crucial comparative law enterprise. We also join them in thanking the National Reporters for their indispensable contributions to the project, as well as the additional experts – too numerous to mention here – for taking the time to provide the underlying data.

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George A. Bermann, President of the International Academy of Comparative Law.
Jorge A. Sánchez Cordero, Director of the Mexican Center of Uniform Law.