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CONTENTS

From the Desk of the Co-Editors-in-Chief .......................... v

PART I  DONALD C. BRACE MEMORIAL LECTURE
From Paralysis to Progress: The (Useful)
Art of Copyright Pragmatism ...... Shira Perlmutter 561

PART II  ARTICLES
Copyright Tradition in Latin America:
From Independence to
Internationalization .......... Alberto J. Cerda Silva 577

Copyright, Causality, and
the Courts ..................... Michael Einhorn 615

Free Trade in Books: The 1878
Royal Commission on Copyright .... Barbara Lauriat 635

PART III  COMMENTS MADE AT THE 60th ANNIVERSARY
SOCIETY GALA
The 60th Anniversary of the
Copyright Society of the
United States of America .......... Maria A. Pallante 677

PART IV  BOOK REVIEW
Overlapping Intellectual
Property Rights ................. Andrea Rush 683

PART V  ADMINISTRATIVE DEVELOPMENTS .......... 687

PART VI BIBLIOGRAPHY .................................. 691
COPYRIGHT TRADITION IN LATIN AMERICA: FROM INDEPENDENCE TO INTERNATIONALIZATION

by Alberto J. Cerda Silva*

CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION .................................................. 577
II. INITIAL DOMESTIC COPYRIGHT PROTECTION IN LATIN AMERICA .......................... 579
III. LATIN AMERICA UNDER THE INTER AMERICAN COPYRIGHT SYSTEM ................. 589
IV. ENTERING INTO THE INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT REGIME ........................... 598
V. CONCLUSIONS .................................................. 612
VI. ANNEXES .................................................... 613

I. INTRODUCTION

Scholarship on the history of copyright in Latin America is extremely limited, particularly with regard to its development during the nineteenth century. Although in recent years a new generation of scholars has tried to fill that gap, there is still widespread ignorance on the subject, which has reinforced different misconceptions around the evolution of copyright in the region. Some scholars have assumed that Latin American copyright lacks any peculiarity and distinctiveness from the European system. This view has been criticized as "the illusion of a harmonized evolution of the copyright system throughout the countries," that denies local identity, ex-

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2 Jhonny Antonio Pabón Cadavid, De los Privilegios a la Propiedad Intelectual: La Protección en Colombia a las Obras Literarias, Artísticas y Científicas en el Siglo XIX, at 23 (2010); Jhonny Antonio Pabón Cadavid, Aproximación a la Historia del Derecho de Autor: