8:30 a.m. Registration and Coffee

9:00 a.m. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
Rebecca H. White, Dean, University of Georgia School of Law
C. Donald Johnson, Director, Dean Rusk Center

9:15 a.m. PANEL 1—ASSESSING THE GOALS AND IMPACT OF THE CUBAN EMBARGO AFTER 50 YEARS
Panelists:
- Archibald R.M. Ritter, Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada
- Ricardo Torres, Deputy Director, Center for the Study of the Cuban Economy (CEEC), University of Havana, Cuba
Moderator:
- C. Donald Johnson, Director, Dean Rusk Center

10:45 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. PANEL 2—EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE PATHWAYS TO REMOVING SANCTIONS
Panelists:
- Daniel W. Fisk, Vice President for Policy and Strategic Planning, International Republican Institute, Washington, D.C.
- Vicki J. Huddleston, former Chief of Mission, Interests Section of U.S.A., Havana, Cuba
- Robert L. Muse, Attorney, Washington, D.C.
Moderator:
- Timothy L. Meyer, Assistant Professor, University of Georgia School of Law

12:30 p.m. Lunch

12:45 p.m. KEYNOTE ADDRESS
José R. Cabañas, Chief of Mission, Cuban Interests Section, Washington, D.C.

1:45 p.m. Break

2:00 p.m. PANEL 3—TRADE AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND THE U.S.-CUBAN ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP IN A POST EMBARGO REGIME
Panelists:
- Jonathan C. Benjamin-Alvarado, Professor of Political Science, University of Nebraska at Omaha
- Gary W. Black, Commissioner of Agriculture for the State of Georgia
- C. Parr Rossos, III, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University
- Jorge Mario Sánchez Egozcue, Senior Researcher and Professor, Center for the Study of the Cuban Economy (CEEC), University of Havana, Cuba
Moderator:
- Marisa Anne Pagnattaro, Professor of Legal Studies, Terry College of Business, University of Georgia

3:30 p.m. CLOSING
The Cuban Embargo: Policy Outlook After 50 Years

Distinguished Keynote Speaker
José R. Cabanás was appointed Chief of Mission of the Cuban Interests Section in the United States in November 2012. He began his career as a Special Assistant to the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1984. From 1990 to 1993, Cabanás served in the Cuban Embassy in Ottawa, Canada, before being appointed Deputy Director of the North American Affairs Division at the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 1994 to 1996, he headed the Division of Cuban Residents Abroad, and from 1996 to 2001, the Division of Cuban Residents Abroad and Consular Affairs. During that period, as a member of the negotiating team, he participated in the migration talks held between Cuba and Mexico, the Bahamas, the United Kingdom (Grand Cayman) and the Dominican Republic. From 2001 to 2005 he served as Ambassador to Austria and Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Vienna. From 2009 to 2012, he was Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Distinguished Panelists
Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado is a Professor of Political Science at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, with an emphasis on Foreign Policy, International Development and National Security, and a Faculty Associate with the University of Georgia’s Center for International Trade and Security. He has conducted research related to Cuba’s efforts to develop a nuclear energy capability and broader energy development issues. Since 1992, he has visited Cuba 26 times for field research on energy and economic development and has served as a technical advisor to a number of delegations to Cuba and Latin America on energy development, national security and strategic (nonproliferation) trade issues. In 2011, he edited Cuba’s Energy Future: Strategic Approaches to Cooperation (Brookings Institution Press). He is also the author of Power to the People: Energy and the Cuban Nuclear Program (Routledge, 2000).

Gary W. Black is the sixteenth Georgian to hold the office of Commissioner of Agriculture since the department’s inception in 1874. He began his career with the Georgia Farm Bureau leading the young farmer leadership development program and served 21 years as president of the Georgia Agribusiness Council, a chamber-like organization representing all facets of Georgia’s food and fiber industry. During his career, Black also led the development of Agrifund of Georgia, a renowned workers’ compensation insurance program for farmers and agricultural businesses. He has championed sound policies throughout Georgia ranging from private property rights to food safety, and from lower taxes to science-based environmental stewardship.

Daniel W. Fisk is Vice President for Policy and Strategic Planning at the International Republican Institute (IRI). Prior to joining IRI, Fisk served in a number of positions in the U.S. government, including as a Senior Advisor to the President and Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs on the National Security Council. In his prior positions, Fisk oversaw the development and implementation of policies to expand initiatives towards Latin America in the areas of good governance, economic development and trade, health, education and housing. His experience in the U.S. government also includes service as the Senior Foreign Policy and National Security Advisor to Senator Mel Martinez (R-FL); as Special Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs at the State Department; and as the Deputy Coordinator for Central American Public Diplomacy in the White House Office of Communications during the George W. Bush administration.

Vicki J. Huddleston was the U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs in the Office of the Secretary of Defense from 2009-11. Prior to joining the U.S. Department of Defense, she was a visiting scholar at the Brookings Institution. Ambassador Huddleston is a former U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, U.S. Ambassador to Madagascar and to Mali, Principal Officer of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana from 1999-2002, and Charge d’affaires ad interim in Ethiopia. In addition, she served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Haiti, and Director and Deputy Director of Cuban Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. Ambassador Huddleston is the co-author of Learning to Salsa – New Steps in U.S.-Cuba Relations (Brookings Institution Press, 2010), has written opinion pieces in the New York Times, the Miami Herald, and the Washington Post, and is a former commentator for NBC-Universal.

Robert L. Muse is a lawyer in Washington, D.C. with substantial experience in U.S. laws relating to Cuba. Among his clients are major corporations engaged in international trade and foreign direct investment. He has testified on legal issues involving Cuba before the Foreign Relations Committee of the United States Senate; the Foreign Affairs and International Trade Standing Committee of the Canadian House of Commons; the Trade Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and the External Economic Relations Committee of the European Parliament (Brussels) as well as the Parliament’s inter-party group on Cuba (Strasbourg). Muse has delivered papers on the Helms-Burton Act and other U.S. embargo laws pertaining to Cuba at conferences sponsored by various legal and international relations foundations around the world.

Archibald R.M. Ritter is a Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus in the Department of Economics and the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University in Ottawa. His experience also includes the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago Chile (1973-1974) and the Canadian Department of Energy Mines and Resources (1979-1981). He has visited Cuba frequently since 1965 and was an initiator on the Canadian side and was the Canadian coordinator from 1994 to 1999 of the Masters in Economics Program provided with the University of Havana for young Cuban professors, financed by the International Development Research Centre and Canada’s Aid Agency. He has published a variety of works on Cuba’s development policies.

C. Parr Rosson, III is Professor and Head, and Director of the Center for North American Studies, Department of Agricultural Economics, at Texas A&M University. His extension responsibilities and applied research activities focus on economic impacts of trade and trade agreements, trade policy analysis, and other trade-related issues. Rosson also chairs the Education Committee of the Texas-Cuba Trade Alliance. Prior to coming to Texas A&M in 1989, Rosson spent seven years at Clemson University where he was Associate Professor and Extension Agricultural Economist and Director of International Programs.

Jorge Mario Sánchez Eguezco is a Senior Researcher and Professor at the University of Havana’s Center for the Study of the Cuban Economy (CEEC). From 1990 to 2010, he served as Senior Researcher at the Center for U.S. Studies. His research focuses on foreign policy and economic development. Currently, he is co-president of the Cuba Section of the Latin American Studies Association in the U.S. Among other appointments abroad, he has been a research fellow at Columbia University, a visiting scholar at Harvard University, and a visiting professor at the Institut des hautes études de l’Amérique latine (IHEAL) at the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle and at the Institut d’études politiques de Paris (SciencesPo). He has also served as a consultant to the United Nations Development Program in Cuba and the Canadian Agency for International Development (ACDI). Sánchez Eguezco has published widely and his work on the Cuban economy is included most recently in Delating U.S.-Cuban Relations, Shall We Play Ball? (Routledge, 2012).

Ricardo Torres is an Associate Professor of Economics and Deputy Director of the Center for the Study of the Cuban Economy (CEEC) at the University of Havana and an Adjunct Research Scholar at the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. He was a government scholar at Hitotsubashi University in Japan (2007-2009) and visiting researcher at Harvard University and Ohio State University (2012). He has published in the Harvard International Review and has chapters in several books, including Cincuenta años de la economía cubana (Editorial Ciencias Sociales, Havana, 2010) and Cuba: hacia una estrategia de desarrollo para los años del siglo XXI (Editorial Universidad Javeriana de Cali, 2012).

Ray Walser is a Senior Policy Analyst at the Heritage Foundation. He has authored numerous studies on U.S.-Latin American policy and testified before the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. He is a frequent guest commentator with major media outlets. Walser served as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State for 28 years. As a specialist in political affairs, he was assigned to Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Nicaragua, and South Africa. He also served in the Bureaus of African, European, and Western Hemisphere Affairs in the Department. From 2005-2007, Walser directed the program of Western Hemisphere Area Studies at the Foreign Service Institute.