

Paper#: K065

**THE REGULATION OF STATUTORY AUDITORS
IN ADVANCED CAPITALISM**

C. Richard Baker

Adelphi University
Baker3@Adelphi.edu

Jean Bédard

Laval University
jean.bedard@ctb.ulaval.ca

Christian Prat dit Hauret

University of Bordeaux IV
pratdit@club-internet.fr

ABSTRACT

This paper addresses the regulation of statutory auditing in advanced capitalism through a comparison of the regulatory structures for statutory auditing in the United States, France and Canada. Using publicly available documents and legal records, this paper seeks to understand how the regulatory structures for statutory auditing have evolved and are evolving through a comparison of regulation in the United States, France and Canada. These three countries were chosen for analysis because their regulatory structures were until recently quite distinct, whereas, following the US Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002, the structures appear to be becoming relatively We interpret the growing similarity among the regulatory structures to be the result of external pressures from global capital markets for standardized regulatory practices which transcend national boundaries. However, this apparent similarity in the regulatory structures may be a form of “decoupling”, whereby actors in the institutional field of professional regulation, under pressure from powerful external forces, seek to enhance their legitimacy in the field of professional regulation while maintaining internal flexibility and a certain capacity for resistance against pressures existing in the institutional field.

Keywords: statutory auditing, professional regulation, institutional theory