

YEARBOOK OF PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW

YEARBOOK OF
PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW
VOLUME XI – 2009

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PUBLISHED IN ASSOCIATION WITH
SWISS INSTITUTE OF COMPARATIVE LAW
LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND

sellier.elp 

ISBN (print) 978-3-86653-160-4
ISBN (eBook) 978-3-86653-917-4

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie;
detailed bibliographic data are available in the Internet at <http://dnb.d-nb.de>.

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Swiss Institute of Comparative Law.

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Production: Karina Hack, Munich. Printing and binding: Friedrich Pustet KG, Regensburg.
Printed on acid-free, non-ageing paper. Printed in Germany.

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FOREWORD

The current volume of the *Yearbook* attempts to strike a balance in the multifaceted expressions of the increasing importance of private international law at national and supranational levels.

The vitality of private international law within the European Union is evidenced by both legislative projects and the rich case law of the European Court of Justice. Among the former, one should first mention the recent Commission draft for a Regulation on succession, which probably constitutes the most detailed and ambitious attempt ever to codify private international law in this area. The draft not only covers conflict of laws and conflict of jurisdictions with respect to succession, but also ventures on the very delicate ground of the administration of estates, including, among others, the project of a European Succession Certificate. While this draft begins its legislative process, a new initiative on the application of foreign law is being considered by the European institutions. Both of these developments are discussed in the Doctrine section. In the section on court decisions, we report on some interesting judgments of the ECJ interpreting existing regulations (such as Brussels I and the insolvency regulation).

While the European institutions' efforts towards the creation of a European private international law system steadily continue, interesting developments are also taking place on other continents. For example, the present volume includes a special section focusing on Chinese private international law. A codification of conflict of law rules will probably be adopted in China in the next few years, but the existing case law, as well as the interpretation rules issued in certain areas by the Supreme People's Court, deserve increased, contemporary attention from foreign scholars. The *Yearbook* also reports on the renewed interest with conflict of laws in the U.S. doctrine and a new draft codification in Uruguay. National reports from Japan, Panama and the Nordic countries should also be mentioned.

Among the highlights of this volume, we will also mention some important theoretical contributions on the new role of party autonomy and on the controversial relationship between private international law and comparative law.

Finally, the Forum section includes very interesting essays on two classical and continuously disputed topics, *lis alibi pendens* and the private international law aspects of money, and on the relatively new and challenging question of the relationship between intellectual property and state immunity.

Andrea Bonomi,
Paul Volken

ABBREVIATIONS

Am. J. Comp. L.	American Journal of Comparative Law
Am. J. Int. L.	American Journal of International Law
Clunet	Journal de droit international
ECR	European Court Reports
I.C.L.Q.	International and Comparative Law Quarterly
I.L.M.	International Legal Materials
id.	idem
IPRax	Praxis des internationalen Privat- und Verfahrensrechts
OJ	Official Journal
PIL	Private International Law
RabelsZ	Rabels Zeitschrift für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht
Recueil des Cours	Recueil des Cours de l'Académie de la Haye de droit international = Collected Courses of The Hague Academy of International Law
Rev. crit. dr. int. pr.	Revue critique de droit international privé
REDI	Revista española de derecho internacional
Riv. dir. int. priv. proc.	Rivista di diritto internazionale privato e processuale
Riv. dir. int.	Rivista di diritto internazionale
RIW	Recht internationaler Wirtschaft
RSDIE	Revue suisse de droit international et européen = Schweizerische Zeitschrift für internationales und europäisches Recht