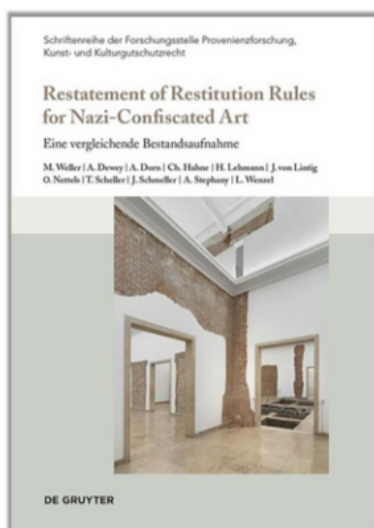


# Restituting Nazi-confiscated Art: A Restatement - Conference at the University of Bonn, 4 September 2024, 7 pm, and Talk at the New York University, 16 September 2024, 6 pm



For an English translation see below



## „Restatement of Restitution Rules for Nazi-Confiscated Art“

### Abschlussveranstaltung

Universität Bonn  
Juridicum, Hörsaal D  
4. September 2024, 19 Uhr s.t.

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Kindly allow us to invite you to two events that mark the completion of a research project carried out at the University of Bonn in respect to the Washington Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art: The elaboration of a “Restatement of Restitution Rules for Nazi-Confiscated Art“. The formal Closing Event of the Project (proceedings in German language) will take place at the **University of Bonn on 4 September 2024 (7:00 p.m.)**. An international presentation will follow and take place at **New York University (NYU) on 16 September 2024**

**(6:00-8:30 p.m.), organised by the Center for Transnational Litigation, Arbitration and Commercial Law.**



THE CENTER FOR TRANSNATIONAL LITIGATION,  
ARBITRATION, AND COMMERCIAL LAW PRESENTS

# Restituting Nazi-confiscated Art: A Restatement

presented by Professor Matthias Weller

with comments by Professor Francesca Ragno, Professor Clayton P. Gillette, and Mr. Alfred Fass, convened and moderated by Professor Franco Ferrari

In 1998, 44 States endorsed the “Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art”, 11 soft-law principles to encourage “just and fair solutions” for artworks and cultural property that had been taken from Jewish people in the Holocaust. These principles have set in motion a far-reaching process of restitution of artworks outside court proceedings producing thousands of decisions in the six most active countries: Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, France, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland – good reasons to distill from this practice a “Restatement of Restitution Rules for Nazi-Confiscated Art” in order to identify recurring issues, tipping points, and a “grammar of reasons” that will help to address recurring points of controversy. And it is this “Restatement”, elaborated by Professor Matthias Weller and his team of PhD researchers over the last five years, that Professor Weller will present. He will focus on the concept behind and the results of this research project, possible implications for international practice, as well as the context of his work in Germany, where the Government is currently undertaking a major reform of the restitution process.

**Monday, September 16, 2024 - 6:00-8:30 pm**  
**NYU Furman Hall 900, 245 Sullivan Street, NY, NY 10012**

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To register, cut and paste this link: <https://forms.gle/EGGQa68YHdjfyYhp8>

Five years ago, fundamental research started in Bonn to develop a “**Restatement of Restitution Rules for Nazi-Confiscated Art**” (RRR). This research was funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (“BKM”). Since then, around **1,300 cases from six jurisdictions** – Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, France, the United Kingdom and Switzerland – have been recorded and their normative content comparatively scrutinized: Which „tipping points“ for evaluation recur? How have these points been handled in each case and why? Which arguments are systematically convincing in relation to others (“grammar of reasons”), which are less so? What are the principles that guide the decision-making process? Which procedural building blocks from current practice are convincing according to general procedural theory (“best practices”), which less so? The fundamental experience to be taken from the project is one that has always been described in comparative legal studies: **only a comparison with others enables a true understanding of one’s own.**

Our comparative work has resulted in a **project text of around 1,100 pages**: Eight articles – Art. 1 RRR to Art. 8 RRR – outline the central recurring issues in formulated rules, which are intended to reflect the normative essence of the issues. Some rules are rather concise, others concern a highly complex set of issues and therefore contain many paragraphs. The text of **each rule is followed by a commentary** explaining how the proposed rule was generated from practice, which tendencies in practice support the rule and which other tendencies appear to run counter to it. **Country reports** subsequently analyze the respective practice of the individual jurisdictions, always starting with an abstract overview of the respective issue. The case material referred to is then systematically organized in **abstract summaries**.

At our **Closing Event at the University of Bonn** on 4 September (in German language) we would like to present to you the results of our project, and we feel greatly privileged that core supporters of our project will honour us with their welcome notes. At the **Talk at New York University**, we will further elaborate on these results and add our views on the proposed transformation of the restitution process into an arbitration framework, and we feel greatly honoured by the comments of academic and other speakers.

If you are interested, please register: For the Talk in New York here, for the Closing Event in Bonn with sekretariat.weller@jura.uni-bonn.de. Regarding further information, please consult our institute’s homepage or refer to the

attached pdf Programme (NYU;Bonn). We would be very pleased to see you.