First Issue of Lloyd's Maritime and Commercial Law Quarterly 2022

The first issue of the *Lloyd's Maritime and Commercial Law Quarterly* for 2022 was just published. It features the following case notes and articles on private international law respectively:

SYC Leung and M Suen, The Extensive Jurisdiction in the Action on an Arbitral Award (case note)

D Foxton, The Jurisdictional Gateways - some (very) modest proposals:

This article reviews the history of the gateways for service out of the jurisdiction in England and Wales, and seeks to identify the rationales which underpin them. The case for abolishing the gateways altogether, and applying only a forum conveniens test for service out purposes, is examined, the article concluding that there are reasons of principle and policy for maintaining the gateway requirement. The article identifies a number of variations or amendments to the current gateways which are consistent with their rationales, and which would better give effect to them.

A Kennedy, An Exploration of the Operation and Rebuttal of the Presumption in *Enka v Chubb*:

The Supreme Court in Enka v Chubb clarified the choice of law rules which help determine the governing law of an arbitration agreement when the law of the contract containing it differs from the law of the arbitral seat. According to that framework, where parties have chosen the law which governs the main contract, that law is presumed also to govern the arbitration agreement. This article identifies, and seeks to provide preliminary answers to, questions surrounding the operation of, and rebuttal of, that presumption, on the basis that such questions are most likely soon to require a judicial answer.

COMMENTARIES ON PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW: THE PILIG NEWSLETTER

A new issue of *Commentaries on Private International Law*, (Vol 4. Issue 1), the newsletter of the American Society of International Law (ASIL) Private International Law Interest Group (PILIG) has been released.

The primary *purpose* of the newsletter is to communicate new developments on PIL rather than provide substantive analysis, to provide specific and concise raw information that readers can then use in their daily work. These new developments on PIL may include information on new laws, rules and regulations; new judicial and arbitral decisions; new treaties and conventions; new scholarly work; new conferences; proposed new pieces of legislation; and the like.

Commentaries includes sections dealing with regional issues, edited by specialists on the field: Africa, edited by Lamine Balde & Sedat Sirmen; Asia, by Yao-Ming Hsu & Charles Mak; the Americas by Juan Pablo Gomez (Central and South America and Mexico), and Carrie Shu Shang (North America); Europe, by Patricia Snell, Charles Mak & Christos Liakis; and Oceania, by Jeanne Huang.

This issue of *Commentaries* covers more countries and includes recent developments in PIL in each area of the world. Each regional section consists of a particular chapter devoted to new scholarly work, which is particularly important for those areas of the world. Those are not necessarily linked to a specific region or country in the world but are truly transnational or global.

Commentaries would not have been possible without Cristian Gimenez Corte (Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Santa Fe, Argentina), Jeanne Huang (University of Sydney Law School), Sedat Sirmen (Ankara University Faculty of Law), Yao-Ming Hsu (National Cheng- Chi University), Patricia Snell (Covington & Burling LLP), Charles Mak (University of Glasgow), Juan Pablo Gómez- Moreno (Cartagena Refinery), Lamine Balde (Shanghai Jiao Tong University), Christos Liakis (National & Kapodistrian University of Athens), and is coordinated by PILIG Co-Chairs Rekha Rangachari (New York International Arbitration Center) and Carrie Shu Shang (California State Polytechnic University, Pomona). In addition,

PILIG is constantly looking forward to your suggestions to improve our services to our members.

Update: HCCH 2019 Judgments Convention Repository

In preparation of the Conference on the HCCH 2019 Judgments Convention on 9/10 September 2022, taking place on campus of the University of Bonn, Germany, we are offering here a Repository of contributions to the HCCH 2019 Judgments Convention. Please email us if you miss something in it, we will update immediately...

Update of 16 February 2022: New entries are printed bold.

Please also check the "official" Bibliography of the HCCH for the instrument.

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III. Recordings of Events Related to the HCCH 2019 Judgments Convention

НССН	"HCCH a Bridged: Innovation in Transnational
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UIHJ; HCCH	"3 rd training webinar on the Hague Conventions on service of documents (1965) and recognition and enforcement of judgements (2019)", 15/18 March 2021 (full recording available here in French and here in English)

ASADIP; HCCH	"Conferencia Internacional: Convención HCCH 2019 sobre Reconocimiento y Ejecución de Sentencias Extranjeras", 3 December 2020 (full recording available here and here)
ASIL	"The Promise and Prospects of the 2019 Hague Convention", 25-26 June 2020 (full recording available here and here)
JPRI; HCCH; UNIDROIT; UNCITRAL	"2020 Judicial Policy Research Institute International Conference - International Commercial Litigation: Recent Developments and Future Challenges, Session 3: Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments", 12 November 2020 (recording available here)
University of Bonn; HCCH	"Pre-Conference Video Roundtable on the HCCH 2019 Judgments Convention: Prospects for Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial Matters between the EU and Third Countries", 29 October 2020 (full recording available here)
Department of Justice Hong Kong; HCCH	"Inaugural Global Conference - 2019 HCCH Judgments Convention: Global Enforcement of Civil and Commercial Judgments", 9 September 2019 (recording available here)
НССН	"22 nd Diplomatic Session of the HCCH: The Adoption of the 2019 Judgments Convention", 2 July 2020 (short documentary video available here)

Are the Chapter 2 General

Protections in the Australian Consumer Law Mandatory Laws?

Neerav Srivastava, a Ph.D. candidate at Monash University offers an analysis on whether the Chapter 2 general protections in the Australia's Competition and Consumer Act 2010 are mandatory laws.

Online Australian consumer transactions on multinational platforms have grown rapidly. Online Australian consumers contract typically include exclusive jurisdiction clauses (EJC) and foreign choice of law clauses (FCL). The EJC and FCL, respectively, are often in favour of a US jurisdiction. Particularly when an Australian consumer is involved, the EJC might be void or an Australian court may refuse to enforce it.[1] And the 'consumer guarantees' in Chap 3 of the *Australian Consumer Law* ('ACL') are explicitly 'mandatory laws'^[2] that the contract cannot exclude. It is less clear whether the general protections at Chap 2 of the *ACL* are non-excludable. Unlike the consumer guarantees, it is not stated that the Chap 2 protections are mandatory. As Davies et al and Douglas^[3] rightly point out that *may* imply they are not mandatory. In 'Indie Law For Youtubers: Youtube And The Legality Of Demonetisation' (2021) 42 *Adelaide Law Review*503, I argue that the Chap 2 protections are mandatory laws.

The Chap 2 protections, which are not limited to consumers, are against:

- misleading or deceptive conduct under s 18
- unconscionable conduct under s 21
- unfair contract terms under s 23

I. PRACTICALLY SIGNIFICANT

If the Chap 2 protections are mandatory laws, that is practically significant. Australian consumers and others can rely on the protections, and multinational platforms need to calibrate their approach accordingly. Australia places a greater emphasis on consumer protection, whereas the US gives primacy to freedom of contract. Part 2 may give a different answer to US law. For example, the YouTube business model is built on advertising revenue generated from content uploaded by YouTubers. Under the YouTube contract, advertising revenue is split

between a YouTuber (55%) and YouTube (45%). When a YouTuber does not meet the minimum threshold hours, or YouTube deems content as inappropriate, a YouTuber cannot monetise that content. This is known as demonetisation. On the assumption that the Chap 2 protections apply, the article argues that

- not providing reasons to a Youtuber for demonetisation is unconscionable
- in the US, it has been held that clauses that allow YouTube to unilaterally vary its terms, eg changing its demonetisation policy, are enforceable. Under Chap 2 of the *ACL*, such a clause is probably void.

If that is correct, it is relevant to Australian YouTubers. It may also affect the tactical landscape globally regarding the demonetisation dispute.

II. WHETHER MANDATORY

As to why the Chap 2 protections are mandatory laws, first, the *ACL* does not state that they are not mandatory. The Chap 2 protections have been characterised as rights that cannot be excluded.[6]

The objects of the ACL, namely to enhance the welfare of Australians and consumer protection, suggest^[7] that Chap 2 is mandatory. A FCL, sometimes combined with an EJC, may alienate Australian consumers, the weaker party, from legal remedies.[8] Allowing this to proliferate would be inconsistent with the ACL's objects. If Chap 2 is not mandatory, all businesses — Australian and international — could start using FCLs to avoid Chap 2 and render it otiose.

Further there is a public dimension to the Chap 2 protections,[9] in that they are subject to regulatory enforcement. It can be ordered that pecuniary penalties be paid to the government and compensation be awarded to non-parties. In this respect, Chap 3 is similar to criminal laws, which are generally understood to have a strict territorial application.[10]

As for policy being 'particularly' important where there is an inequality of bargaining power, both ss 21[11] and 23 are specifically directed at redressing inequality.^[12]

Regarding the specific provisions:

Authority on, at least, s 18 suggests that it is mandatory.[13]

- Section 21 on unconscionable conduct has been held to be a mandatory law, although that conclusion was not a detailed judicial consideration.[14] In any event, it is arguable that 'conduct' is broader than a contract, and parties cannot exclude 'conduct' provisions.[15] Unconscionability is determined by reference to 'norms' of Australian society and is, therefore, not an issue exclusively between the parties.^[16]
- Whether s 23 on unfair contract terms is a mandatory law is debatable. [17] At common law, the proper law governs all aspects of a contractual obligation, including its validity. The counterargument is that s 23 is a statutory regime that supersedes the common law. As a matter of policy, Australia is one of the few jurisdictions to extend unfair terms protection to small businesses expressly, for example, a YouTuber. An interpretation that s 23 can be disapplied by a FCL would be problematic. A FCL designed to evade the operation of ss 21 or 23 might itself be unconscionable or unfair.[18] If s 23 is not mandatory, Australian consumers may not have the benefit of an important protection. Section 23 also has a public interest element, in that under s 250 the regulator can apply to have a term declared unfair. On balance, it is more likely than not that s 21 is a mandatory law.

The Chap 2 protections are an integral part of the Australian legal landscape and the market culture. This piece argues that the Chap 2 protections *are* mandatory laws. Whether or not that is correct, as a matter of policy, they should be.

FOOTNOTES

- [1] A possibility implicitly left open by *Epic Games Inc v Apple Inc* [2021] FCA 338, [17]. See too *Knight v Adventure Associates Pty Ltd* [1999] NSWSC 861, [32]-[36] (Master Malpass); *Quinlan v Safe International Försäkrings AB* [2005] FCA 1362, [46] (Nicholson J), *Home Ice Cream Pty Ltd v McNabb Technologies LLC* [2018] FCA 1033, [19].
- [2] 'laws the respect for which is regarded by a country as so crucial for safeguarding public interests (political, social, or economic organization) that they are applicable to any contract falling within their scope, regardless of the law which might otherwise be applied'. See Adrian Briggs, *The Conflict of Laws* (Oxford University Press, 3rd ed, 2013) 248.

- [3] M Davies et al, Nygh's Conflict of Laws in Australia (LexisNexis Butterworths,
- 10th ed, 2019) 492 [19.48], Michael Douglas, 'Choice of Law in the Age of Statutes: A Defence of Statutory Interpretation After *Valve*' in Michael Douglas et al (eds), *Commercial Issues in Private International Law: A Common Law Perspective* (Hart Publishing, 2019) 201, 226-7.
- [4] Richard Garnett, 'Arbitration of Cross-Border Consumer Transactions in Australia: A Way Forward?' (2017) 39(4) *Sydney Law Review* 569, 570, 599.
- [5] Sweet v Google Inc (ND Cal, Case No 17-cv-03953-EMC, 7 March 2018).
- [6] Home Ice Cream Pty Ltd v McNabb Technologies LLC [2018] FCA 1033, [19].
- [7] M Davies et al, *Nygh's Conflict of Laws in Australia* (LexisNexis Butterworths, 10^{th} ed, 2019) 470-2 [19.10].
- [8] See, eg, Océano Grupo Editorial SA v Murciano Quintero (C-240/98) [2000] ECR I-4963.
- [9] Epic Games Inc v Apple Inc (2021) 392 ALR 66, 72 [23] (Middleton, Jagot and Moshinsky JJ).
- [10] John Goldring, 'Globalisation and Consumer Protection Laws' (2008) 8(1) Macquarie Law Journal 79, 87-8
- [11] Historically, the essence of unconscionability is the exploitation of a weaker party. *Australian Securities and Investments Commission v Kobelt* (2019) 267 CLR 1, 36 [81] (Gageler J) ('ASIC v Kobelt').
- [12] M Davies et al, Nygh's Conflict of Laws in Australia (LexisNexis Butterworths, 10^{th} ed, 2019) 470-2 [19.10], 492 [19.48].
- [13] Home Ice Cream Pty Ltd v McNabb Technologies LLC [2018] FCA 1033, [19].
- [14] *Epic Games Inc v Apple Inc* [2021] FCA 338, [19] (Perram J). On appeal, the Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia exercised its discretion afresh and refused the stay: *Epic Games Inc v Apple Inc* (2021) 392 ALR 66. That said, Perram J's conclusion that s 21 was a mandatory law was not challenged on appeal.

[15] Analogical support for a 'conduct' analysis can be found from cases on s 18 like Australian Competition and Consumer Commission v Valve Corporation [No 3] (2016) 337 ALR 647 (Edelman J, at first instance). In Valve it was reiterated that the test for s 18 was objective. See 689 [212]-[213]. A contractual term might neutralise the misleading or deceptive conduct, but it cannot be contracted out of. See Medical Benefits Fund of Australia Ltd v Cassidy (2003) 135 FCR 1, 17 [37] (Stone J, Moore J agreeing at 4 [1], Mansfield J agreeing at 11 [17]); Downey v Carlson Hotels Asia Pacific Pty Ltd [2005] QCA 199, 29-30 [83] (Keane JA, Williams JA agreeing at [1], Atkinson J agreeing at [145]).

- [16] Australian Competition and Consumer Commission v Get Qualified Australia Pty Ltd (in liq) [No 2] [2017] FCA 709, [60]-[62] (Beach J).
- [17] M Davies et al, Nygh's Conflict of Laws in Australia (LexisNexis Butterworths, 10^{th} ed, 2019) 463 [19.1], 492 [19.48].
- [18] M Davies et al, *Nygh's Conflict of Laws in Australia* (LexisNexis Butterworths, 10th ed, 2019) 470-2 [19.10]. While a consumer might be able to challenge a proper law of contract clause on the grounds of unconscionability, it would be harder for a commercial party to do so.

Excess of authority as a ground of refusal for an AAA award in Greece

Introduction

The case arises from a a long-running family dispute of the parties over the distribution of assets left by their late brother in the USA. Z. is the sister, and M. the brother of the deceased. Over the course of several years, the parties entered into a series of agreements with an eye towards efficiently dividing the assets and providing for the effective management of the properties and businesses included in the estate. All attempts to settle the dispute amicably failed. Eventually, the

case was decided in favour of Z. by arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association in accordance with its Commercial Arbitration Rules. The efforts of M. to vacate the award failed. As a next step, Z. sought recognition and enforcement of the US award in Greece. First and second instance courts decided in favour of Z. Upon second appeal (cassation) of M., the Supreme Court ruled that the Athens Court of Appeal failed to examine two grounds of appeal raised by M. The case was sent back to the appellate court [Supreme Court nr. 635/20.5.2021]

Stage 1: USA

The parties entered into an agreement known as the "U.S. Agreement," which set out a process for: (1) an accounting of the affairs of the . . . [U.S. Companies] during the relevant time period leading to a report detailing [an] auditor's findings; (2) . . . [setting] a period in which the Parties would 'confer amicably and in good faith to agree on the amount of any distributions or payments that should be made in order to' realize the objective of equal distribution of the assets or their proceeds and of the earnings of the assets in the relevant period; (3) [and making] a determination as a result of this process as to 'the extent to which [either Party] has received a disproportionate share of prior income or other distributions in respect of [the U.S. Companies] and the amount of such excess benefit.

The U.S. Agreement further provided that, if the parties failed to agree on the amount of the Party Distribution by way of the auditor's report, "the amount of the D. Distribution, the P. Distribution, the T. D. and/or the Party Distribution as applicable shall be determined by an arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association in accordance with its Commercial Arbitration Rules," subject to confirmation by any court having appropriate jurisdiction.

The audit contemplated in the U.S. Agreement was never completed, and the parties were unable to come to reach an agreement on the amount of the Party Distribution. After several years of litigation in both federal and state courts, Z. instituted the subject arbitration in 2009. The arbitration panel issued its Final Award on March 20, 2014, finding in favor of Z. in the amount of approximately \$10.8 million, inclusive of approximately \$4.8 million of prejudgment interest.

1. filed a petition to vacate the Final Award on June 16, 2014, and on August

- 29, 2014, he filed the instant motion in support of that petition. The Petitioner's Arguments for Vacatur were the following:
- 2. a) Failure to Determine the U.S. Company Distributions.
- 3. b) Manifest Disregard of the Law and Agreement "Redefining" the Term "Received".
- 4. c) Award of Prejudgment Interest as Exceeding Authority.

The Southern District Of New York decided that the Petitioner's motion to vacate the arbitration panel's Final Award is denied and Respondent's cross-motion to confirm the award is granted.

Stage 2: Greece

The application to recognize and enforce the US award was granted by the Athens Court of 1st Instance [nr. 443/2018, published in: Epitheorissi Politikis Dikonomias (*Civil Procedure Law Review*) 2017, 643 et seq, note *Kastanidis*]. The appeal against the first instance court was dismissed [Athens Court of Appeal 5625/2018, unreported]. The final appeal was successful. The Supreme Court ruled that the appellate court did not examine two cassation grounds:

- 1. No reference is made in the judgment of the Athens CoA in regards to the lack of an arbitration agreement, as evidenced by points 1-9 of the US Agreement, which refer to an arbitral *determination*, not an award.
- 2. No reference is made in the judgment of the Athens CoA in regards to the excess of authority by the arbitrators.

As a result, the Supreme Court reversed the judgment of the Athens CoA, and ordered Z. to pay the costs of the proceedings.

Comments

An issue that was not examined by the Supreme Court was the conduct of M. during the arbitral proceedings, and the grounds invoked for vacating the AAA award. There is no evidence that M. challenged the authority of the arbitration panel to issue an award. In addition, the arguments for vacatur do not challenge the panel's authority, save the award of Prejudgment Interest under (c), which was dismissed by the Greek instance courts as contrary to the principle of non-revision on the merits.

The question has been addresses by legal scholarship as follows:

One issue that is not dealt with in the Convention is what happens if a party to an arbitration is aware of a defect in the arbitration procedure but does not object in the course of the arbitration. The same issue arises in connection with jurisdictional objections that are raised at the enforcement stage for the first time. The general principle of good faith (also sometimes referred to as waiver or estoppel), that applies to procedural as well as to substantive matters, should prevent parties from keeping points up their sleeves [ICCA Guide to the NYC, 2011, p. 81].

The Federal Arbitrazh (Commercial) Court for the Northwestern District in the Russian Federation considered that an objection of lack of arbitral jurisdiction that had not been raised in the arbitration could not be raised for the first time in the enforcement proceedings; The Spanish Supreme Court said that it could not understand that the respondent "now rejects the arbitration agreement on grounds it could have raised in the arbitration" [ICCA Guide to the NYC, 2011, p. 82]

It is generally accepted that the party resisting enforcement of the award may, under certain circumstances, be barred from raising a defense under Article V(1)(c) in the exequatur proceedings. Preclusion may, in particular, occur if the party resisting enforcement has taken part in the arbitral proceedings without objecting to the jurisdiction or competence of the arbitral tribunal when it had the opportunity to do so [Wolff/(Borris/Hennecke), New York Convention, Second Edition, 2019, p. 340 nr. 257].

Conclusion

It is not entirely clear whether the judgment of the Athens Court of Appeal did in fact fail to take into account the grounds aforementioned. As mentioned above, the judgment has not been published in the legal press. However, the extracts reproduced in the ruling of the Supreme Court allow the reader to have some doubts. In any event, the case will be re-examined by the Court of Appeal, and most probably, will end up again before the Supreme Court...

New Journal: "The Italian Review of International and Comparative Law"

Brill launched a new Journal, The Italian Review of International and Comparative Law, which is managed by a group of professors from the University of Naples and the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Pisa.

The aim of the Journal is to publish contributions on International law, private International law, EU law and comparative law. In this regard, see the recently launched a call for papers on "The European Union and International Arbitration".

Out now: Zeitschrift für vergleichende Rechtswissenschaft (ZVglRWiss) 120 (2021) No. 4

The most recent issue of the German Journal of Comparative Law (Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Rechtswissenschaft) features the following articles on private international and comparative law:

Jürgen Samtleben: Internationales Privatrecht in Guatemala

Guatemala's rules on private international law of Guatemala are found in the Law of Judicial Organization of 1989. But conflict-of-law questions are also regulated in other laws. All these legislative texts are based on older laws, since Guatemala has a rich legal tradition on this subject. It is only against the background of this

tradition that one can understand the meaning of the laws actually in force. The article discusses the different aspects of Guatemalan private international law, which today is generally based on the principle of domicile. The law of 1989 introduces two innovations which are worth emphasizing: the application of foreign law ex officio and the principle of party autonomy for international contracts.

Christoph Wendelstein: Eigenes und Fremdes im Kollisionsrecht

The article sheds light on the relationship between the conflict of laws and the substantive laws (potentially) called upon to apply. In doing so, the question is addressed whether the substantive law influences the conflict of laws. The focus is on the question of characterisation, which traditionally represents a kind of crystallization point between conflict of laws and substantive law. If the conflict of laws rules apply to foreign substantive law, the question may arise as to whether this completely displaces the own domestic substantive law or whether it is still relevant in some way. This refers to the ordre public and the overriding mandatory provisions (Eingriffsnormen), which are also object of the study. The focus lies on their functioning.

Jean Mohamed: Die aktienrechtliche actio pro socio im globalen Kontext -Zur Abgrenzung von materiellem Recht und Verfahrensrecht im angloamerikanischen Rechtskreis am Beispiel der derivative action in New York

The German procedure for the admission of corporate claims (derivative claims), a special institution based on stock corporation law for the so-called actio pro socio, has taken a long journey all the way to New York at present. In keeping with the verse by Frank Sinatra: "If I can make it here, I'll make it anywhere", the subject is whether an international movement of the shareholder action – i. e. claims of the corporation asserted in the shareholder's own name – may be imminent. In the New York proceeding Zahava Rosenfeld, derivatively as a shareholder of Deutsche Bank AG and on behalf of Deutsche Bank AG v. Paul Achleitner et al., the conflict of laws matches the German system known in § 148 of the German Stock Corporation Act with the New York's (and the US) concept of the related derivative suit, also known as derivative action or derivative claim.

Given the potential risks involved, it seems highly relevant from a legal, academic, and political point of view to discuss and model this quite complex but so far barely studied issue. In the following, the global procedural rules of derivative actions will therefore be discussed.

David B. Adler: Extraterritoriale US-Discovery für Schieds- und Gerichtsverfahren im Ausland

For decades, 28 U.S.C. § 1782(a) has offered a powerful tool for parties to obtain discovery through U.S. courts for use in foreign proceedings. Referring to the statute's twin goals to provide "efficient assistance to participants in international litigation and encourag[e] foreign countries by example to provide similar assistance to our courts", U.S. courts have time and again demonstrated that they are willing to readily grant respective discovery requests from foreign applicants. While the U.S. Supreme Court has answered various guestions regarding the applicability and scope of § 1782(a) in its Intel Corp. v. Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. decision, two key issues remained undecided. The first issue U.S. courts have been grappling with, and which has been an ongoing topic of interest among international arbitration practitioners and scholars for several decades, is whether the statute allows parties of foreign private arbitration proceedings to seek discovery via § 1782(a), or if § 1782(a) is limited to parties that seek support for a foreign court or administrative proceedings. The second issue concerns the extraterritorial reach of § 1782(a). Courts have issued diverging rulings on whether Section 1782 allows an applicant to seek the production of documents that are located outside the U.S. and on whether § 1782(a) contains a per se bar to its extraterritorial application. This article analyzes the recent appellate decisions of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second, Fourth and Sixth Circuit - which are the first appellate rulings since Intel to weigh in on these issues in detail. This article further discusses whether there should be a per se bar to the extraterritorial application of Section 1782 and explains the broad implications that the recent appellate courts' decisions on both issues have for foreign litigants and entities that are subject to the United States' jurisdiction.

Mexican Journal of Private International and Comparative Law - issue No 46 is out



The Mexican Academy of Private International and Comparative Law (AMEDIP) has published issue No 46 of the *Revista Mexicana de Derecho Internacional Privado y Comparado* (Mexican Journal of Private International and Comparative Law). It is available here.

Click here to access the Journal page.

A call for papers has been issued for the next number, whose theme will be "Matrimonio poliamoroso en el Derecho internacional privado". Contributions must be sent before 25 February 2022 to the following email address: < graham@jamesgraham.legal >. For more information, see the last page of the current issue.

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(Bruselas, Bruylant, 2021, 890 pp.)

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(Uruguay, FCU, 2021, 280 pp.)

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CONTRATOS ENTRE COMERCIANTES CON PARTE CONTRACTUALMENTE DÉBIL (PROPUESTA AL COMITÉ JURÍDICO INTERAMERICANO)

(presentado por la doctora Cecilia Fresnedo de Aguirre)

Third Issue of Journal of Private International Law for 2021

The third issue of the *Journal of Private International law* for 2021 was released today. It features the following articles:

Jonannes Ungerer, "Explicit legislative characterisation of overriding mandatory provisions in EU Directives: Seeking for but struggling to achieve legal certainty"

Traditionally, the judiciary has been tasked with characterising a provision in EU secondary law as an overriding mandatory provision ("OMP") in the sense of Art 9(1) Rome I Regulation. This paradigm has however shifted recently as the legislator has started setting out such OMP characterisation explicitly, which this

paper addresses with regard to EU Directives. The analysis of two Directives on unfair trading practices in the food supply chain and on the resolution of financial institutions reveals that their explicit legislative characterisations of OMPs can benefit legal certainty if properly drafted by the EU and correctly transposed into national law by the Member States. These requirements have not yet been fully met as there are inconsistencies and confusion with only domestically mandatory provisions, which need to be resolved. More generally, the paper elucidates the tensions of competence between legislators and courts on both the EU and national levels due to the explicit legislative characterisation. It also considers the side effects on pre-existing and future provisions in Directives without explicit legislative characterisation. Finally, it acknowledges that the extraterritorial effect of OMPs is intensified and therefore requires the legislator to seek international alignment.

Patrick Ostendorf, "The choice of foreign law in (predominantly) domestic contracts and the controversial quest for a genuine international element: potential for future judicial conflicts between the UK and the EU?"

The valid choice of a (foreign) governing law in commercial contracts presupposes, pursuant to EU private international law, a genuine international element to the transaction in question. Given that the underlying rationale of this requirement stipulated in Article 3(3) of the Rome I Regulation has yet to be fully explored, the normative foundations as to the properties that a genuine international element must possess remain unsettled. The particularly low threshold applied by more recent English case law in favour of almost unfettered party autonomy in choice of law at first glance avoids legal uncertainty. However, such a liberal interpretation not only robs Article 3(3) Rome I Regulation almost entirely of its meaning but also appears to be rooted in a basic misunderstanding of both the function and rationale of Article 3(3) Rome I Regulation in the overall system of EU private international law. Consequently, legal tensions with courts based in EU member states maintaining a more restrictive approach may become inevitable in the future due to Brexit.

Darius Chan & Jim Yang Teo, "Re-formulating the test for ascertaining the proper

law of an arbitration agreement: a comparative common law analysis"

Following two recent decisions from the apex courts in England and Singapore on the appropriate methodology to ascertain the proper law of an arbitration agreement, the positions in these two leading arbitration destinations have now converged in some respects. But other issues of conceptual and practical significance have not been fully addressed, including the extent to which the true nature of the inquiry into whether the parties had made a choice of law is in substance an exercise in contractual interpretation, the applicability of a validation principle, and the extent to which the choice of a neutral seat may affect the court's determination of the proper law of the arbitration agreement. We propose a re-formulation of the common law's traditional three-stage test for determining the proper law of an arbitration agreement that can be applied by courts and tribunals alike.

Amin Dawwas, "Dépeçage of contract in choice of law: Hague Principles and Arab laws compared"

This paper discusses the extent to which the parties may use their freedom to choose the law governing their contract under the Hague Principles on Choice of Law in International Commercial Contracts and Arab laws, namely whether they can make a partial or multiple choice of laws. While this question is straightforwardly answered in the affirmative by the Hague Principles, it is debatable under (most) Arab laws. After discussion of the definition of dépeçage of contract, this paper presents the provisions of dépeçage of contract under comparative and international law, including the Hague Principles, and then under Arab laws. It concludes that Arab conflict of laws rules concerning contract should be reformed according to the best practices embodied in this regard by the Hague Principles.

Jan Ciaptacz, "Actio pauliana under the Brussels Ia Regulation - a challenge for principles, objectives and policies of EU private international law"

The paper discusses international jurisdiction in cases based on *actio* pauliana under the Brussels Ia Regulation, especially with regard to the

principles, objectives and policies of EU private international law. It concentrates on the assessment of various heads of jurisdiction that could possibly apply to *actio pauliana*. To that end, the CJEU case law was thoroughly analysed alongside international legal scholarship. As to the jurisdictional characterisation of *actio pauliana*, the primary role should be assigned to teleological and systematic considerations. *Actio pauliana* can neither be characterised as an issue relating to torts nor as a right *in rem* in immovable property. Contrary to the recent position adopted by the CJEU, it should also be deemed not to fall within matters relating to a contract. The characterisation of *actio pauliana* as a provisional measure or an enforcement mechanism for jurisdictional purposes is equally incorrect.

Harry Stratton, "Against renvoi in commercial law"

The doctrine of renvoi is rightly described as "a subject loved by academics, hated by students and ignored (when noticed) by practising lawyers (including judges)". This article argues that the students have much the better of the argument. English commercial law has rightly rejected renvoi as a general rule, because it multiplies the expense and complexity of proceedings, while doing little to deter forum-shopping and enable enforcement. It should go even further to reject renvoi in questions of immovable property, because the special justification that this enables enforcement of English judgments against foreign land ignores the fact that title or possession of such land is generally not justiciable in English courts and such judgments will not be enforced irrespective of whether renvoi is applied.

Yun Zhao, "The Singapore mediation convention: A version of the New York convention for mediation?"

Settlement agreements have traditionally been enforced as binding contracts under national rules, a situation considered less than ideal for the promotion of mediation. Drawing on the experience of the 1958 New York Convention on international arbitration, the 2019 Singapore Mediation Convention provides for the enforcement of settlement agreements in international commercial disputes. Based on its provisions and the characteristics and procedures of mediation, this

article discusses the impact of the Singapore Mediation Convention on the promotion of mediation and its acceptance by the international community. It is argued that the achievements of the New York Convention do not necessarily promise the same success for the Singapore Mediation Convention.

Jakub Pawliczak, "Reformed Polish court proceedings for the return of a child under the 1980 Hague Convention in the light of the Brussels IIb Regulation"

In recent years a significant increase in applications sent to Polish institutions to obtain the return of abducted children under the 1980 Hague Abduction Convention can be observed. Simultaneously, Poland has struggled with a problem of excessively long court proceedings in those cases and the lack of specialisation among family judges. Taking these difficulties into consideration, in 2018 the Polish Parliament introduced a reform aimed at improving the effectiveness of the court proceedings for the return of abducted children. The work on the amendment of the Polish legal regulations was carried out in parallel to the EU legislative process in the field of international child abduction. Although the Polish reform had been introduced before Council Regulation (EU) 2019/1111 of 25 June 2019 (Brussels IIb) was adopted, the 2016 proposal for this Regulation had been known to the national legislature. When discussing the amended Polish legal regulations, it should be considered whether they meet their goals and whether they are in line with the new EU law.

Elaine O'Callaghan, "Return travel and Covid-19 as a grave risk of harm in Hague Child Abduction Convention cases"

Since February, 2020, courts have been faced with many novel arguments concerning the Covid-19 pandemic in return proceedings under the "grave risk exception" provided in Article 13(1)(b) of the 1980 Hague Convention. This article presents an analysis of judgments delivered by courts internationally which concern arguments regarding the safety of international travel in return proceedings during the Covid-19 pandemic. While courts have largely taken a restrictive approach, important clarity has been provided regarding the risk of contracting Covid-19 as against the grave risk of harm, as well as other factors such as ensuring a prompt return despite practical impediments raised by

Covid-19 and about quarantine requirements in the context of return orders. Given that the pandemic is ongoing, it is important to reflect on this case law and anticipate possible future issues.

Chukwudi Paschal Ojiegbe, "The overview of private international law in Nigeria" (Review Article)

EUI Conference on Appellate Review and Rule of Law In International Trade and Investment Law

Tommorow, **20 January 2022**, the Department of Law of the European University Institute organizes a Conference on Appellate Review and Rule of Law In International Trade and Investment Law. The event will take place in a hybrid format that may be attended online via zoom or offline in person at the Badia Fiesolana-Refettorio.

The organzizers characterise the purpose of the Conference as follows:

"Do regulatory competition, geopolitical rivalries, climate change, regionalism and plurilateral agreements risk undermining the UN and WTO legal orders and sustainable development objectives? How should the EU respond? This conference aims to create an interactive and targeted discussion on these intricate questions, with presentations by esteemed scholars in international economic law and policy

Why is it that the EU promotes judicialization and appellate review in trade and investment relations while the US government has unilaterally disrupted the

appellate review system of the Word Trade Organization and seeks to limit judicial remedies in trade and investment agreements? Is appellate review necessary for protecting rule of law, sustainable development and prevention of trade, investment and climate conflicts? Answers to these questions are influenced by the prevailing conceptions of international economic law. Commercial law conceptions and Anglo-Saxon neo-liberalism often prioritize private autonomy and business-driven arbitration and market regulation. Authoritarian governments tend to prioritize state sovereignty and intergovernmental dispute settlements. European ordo-liberalism emphasizes the need for embedding economic markets into multilevel human and constitutional rights and judicial remedies.

This conference aims to create an interactive and targeted discussion on these intricate questions, with presentations by esteemed scholars in international economic law and policy. The International Economic Law and Policy Working Group is therefore delighted to invite you to join this discussion on Thursday, 20th January 2022 at 14.30 (CET).

Speakers:

Professor Ernst-Ulrich Petersmann, European University Institute,

Professor Fabrizio Marrella, Ca' Foscari University of Venice,

Dr Maria Laura Marceddu, European University Institute, and

Professor Bernard Hoekman, European University Institute"

This event is open to all. Please register via the following link by Wednesday, 19th January 2022, indicating whether you would like to attend the event in person or online. The Zoom link as well as the participants allowed to attend the event in person will be shared with registered participants prior to the event."

For the programme and further information on the EUI Conference please consult the attached programme as well as the event's website.