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American Private International Law



Synopsis

This volume is an authoritative and complete yet compact presentation of private international law "or "conflict of laws" in the United States of America. Its author is a "conflicts giant" (60 Stanford Law Review 247 at 249 (2007)) and "the world's leading expert on comparative conflicts law today." (M. Reimann, "Comparative Law and Private International Law," in The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Law 1363 at 1380 (2006)). Having studied and taught law in both Europe and the United States, the author is uniquely qualified to identify and explain in language understandable to readers outside the U.S. the American peculiarities of the subject. His three-decades experience in writing on thousands of American judicial decisions is particularly valuable in understanding and presenting the practical essentials of the subject to practitioners and academics alike. American courts encounter, at a rate of more than two thousand per year, conflicts among the laws of the fifty U.S. states (interstate conflicts) and between state or federal laws and those of foreign countries (international conflicts), thus making American conflicts law one of the richest and most complex in the world. This volume explains the differences between the two categories and presents the established and emerging jurisprudence in a concise and clear manner, while also providing an enlightening discussion of the multifaceted role of U.S. federalism, which is essential to the foreign reader's understanding of American conflicts law. Dr Symeonides has done a great service in collecting and organizing this scattered material into a coherent but non-technical and readily usable whole that offers all interested lawyers an easy-to-use but authoritative overview of the subject. The discussion includes: " the federal-state allocation of lawmaking and judicial powers; " the constitutional limitations on state choice of law; " the resolution of conflicts between federal and foreign law; " judicial jurisdiction in interstate and international conflicts; " recognition of sister-state and foreign-country judgments; " the choice-of-law revolution and its aftermath; and " choice of law in torts, products liability, contracts, status and domestic relations, property, marital property, successions, and statutes of limitation.

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