



**Quo Vadis civil justice?**  
**Filling the gaps in civil justice in the U.S. and Europe**  
Spring 2021 -- A Three-Part Zoom Event

**The first panel discussion: 'Current trends in civil litigation'**

Friday March 26<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am-12:00 pm Eastern U.S. time

**PANELISTS:**

**SEAN FARHANG:**



Sean Farhang is Elizabeth Josselyn Boalt Professor of Law, and Professor of Political Science and Public Policy at Berkeley Law. His research interests focus mainly on civil litigation, and the role of litigation and courts in regulatory implementation, with a particular interest in the political and institutional forces that shape it. His first book, *The Litigation State: Public Regulation and Private Lawsuits in the U.S.* (Princeton University Press, 2010), examines the sources of private litigation in the enforcement of federal law, stressing Congress's role in enacting incentives calculated to mobilize this form of regulatory implementation in the American separation of powers context. The book won the American Political Science Association's Kammerer Award for the best book in the field of U.S. national policy. His second book, *Rights and Retrenchment: The Counterrevolution Against Federal Litigation* (with Stephen Burbank, Cambridge University Press, 2017), examines the emergence and development of the political and legal movement to restrict opportunities and incentives for private enforcement of federal law through litigation. His work on the institutional and political dimensions of American civil justice has also appeared in numerous social science and law journals.

#### XANDRA KRAMER:



Xandra Kramer ([www.xandrakramer.eu](http://www.xandrakramer.eu)) is Professor of Private Law and Civil Justice at Erasmus School of Law, Erasmus University Rotterdam; Professor of Private International Law in the Faculty of Law, Economics, and Governance at Utrecht University (the Netherlands); and Deputy Judge in the District Court of Rotterdam. She is particularly interested in the crossroads between procedural justice and economic efficiency; the functioning of civil justice systems, transnational complex litigation and enforcement; and the harmonisation of EU private international law and civil procedure. She is Principal Investigator of the ERC consolidator project 'Building EU civil justice: challenges of procedural innovations - bridging access to justice' ([www.euciviljustic.eu](http://www.euciviljustic.eu)) (2017-2022) and the Vici project financed by Dutch Research Council 'Affordable access to justice: towards sustainable cost and funding mechanisms for civil litigation in Europe' (2020-2025). She has been in charge of and involved in multiple studies for the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security. She was co-reporter and reporter of working groups of the project that resulted in the adoption of the ELI-Unidroit Model European Rules of Civil Procedure in 2020. She is an elected member to the Dutch Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW).

#### MALGORZATA POSNOW-WURM:



Małgorzata Posnow-Wurm is a Policy Officer in the European Commission specializing in collective redress in the area of consumer protection. She participated in the drafting of the European Commission 2013 Recommendation on collective redress, the work on the 2017 Fitness Check of EU Consumer and Marketing Law, as well as the legislative process of the adoption of the Representative Actions Directive (EU) 2020/1828. Before joining the European Commission in 2012, Małgorzata was a barrister in Kancelaria Budnik Posnow i Partnerzy in Poland and lecturer at the Université Libre de Bruxelles in Belgium.

#### JOHN SORABJI:



John Sorabji is a barrister. He also lectures on civil justice and ADR at University College London, and has been a visiting professor at Paris-II. He is General Editor of *The White Book* and has published widely on civil justice, including *English Civil Justice after Woolf and Jackson*, and, as a contributing author, *Foskett on Compromise* and *Civil Litigation in a Comparative Context* and *Zuckerman on Civil Procedure*. He was a member of the ELI-UNIDROIT project, that developed model rules of European Civil Procedure. Formerly he was the Principal Legal Adviser to the Lord Chief Justice and Master of the Rolls.

#### STEFAN VOET:



Stefan Voet studied law at Ghent University (2001). In 2011 he wrote his PhD thesis about complex litigation in Belgium, for which he received in 2014 the Triannual Price of Civil Procedure awarded by the vzw Algemene Modellenverzameling voor de Rechtspraak. Since 2015 he is an associate professor of civil procedure at the University of Leuven and a host professor at the University of Hasselt.

Stefan is also a Programme Affiliate at the CMS/Swiss Re Research Programme on Civil Justice Systems at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies at the University of Oxford, member of the Class Actions Exchange Network spearheaded by the universities of Stanford, Oxford and Tilburg and affiliate at the Class Action Lab of the University of Montréal. He is also a member of different working groups of the European Law Institute.

Stefan was a visiting scholar at the Law Center University of Houston (2009) and Stanford Law School (2014). He was a visiting lecturer/professor at the Law Center University of Houston, SMU Dedman School of Law in Dallas, College of Law University of Tennessee, Syracuse University College of Law, China-EU School of Law in Beijing, University of Pavia and the University of Pretoria. In 2016-2017 he held the TPR (*Tijdschrift voor Privaatrecht*) Chair at the University of Utrecht (Molengraaff Institute for Private Law). Stefan is also a substitute justice of the peace in Bruges and chairman of the monitoring committee of the Ombudsman for Retail.