The Case for an International Court of Civil Justice

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When multinational corporations cause mass harms to lives, livelihoods, and the environment in developing countries, it is nearly impossible for victims to find a court that can and will issue an enforceable judgment. In this work, Professor Maya Steinitz presents a detailed rationale for the creation of an International Court of Civil Justice (ICCJ) to hear such transnational mass tort cases. The world’s legal systems were not designed to solve these kinds of complex transnational disputes, and the absence of mechanisms to ensure coordination means that victims try, but fail, to find justice in country after country, court after court. The Case for an International Court of Civil Justice explains how an ICCJ would provide victims with access to justice and corporate defendants with a non-corrupt forum and an end to the cost and uncertainty of unending litigation - more efficiently resolving the most complicated types of civil litigation.

Introduction; 1. How new international courts come into being; 2. The stories behind the cases: the Bhopal disaster, the devastation of the Ecuadorian Amazon, and the abuse and murder of Dr Kiobel; 3. The problem of the missing forum; 4. The business case for the ICCJ; 5. Institutional and procedural features of an ICCJ; Conclusion.

Advance Praise

‘At a time when the wind blows against international courts and tribunals and states seem to have turned their back to the idea of international justice, Steinitz gets us back on track and boldly charts the way forward. This brilliant, visionary book makes a compelling case for a missing key component of an ideal international judicial system.’

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