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CONTENTS

PAGE

Judicial Lawmaking at the WTO: Discursive, Constitutional, and Political

Constraints

Richard H. Steinberg

247

Judicial lawmaking in the WTO is marked by elastic interpretive discourse and constitutional rules that do not serve as a meaningful restraint. Politics, however, constrains both discursive and constitutional latitude, which should alleviate concerns that WTO judicial lawmaking is so expansive as to undermine the sovereignty of powerful states, create a serious democratic deficit for their citizens, or catalyze withdrawal of their support for the organization.

Common but Differentiated Responsibilities in International Law

Christopher D. Stone

276

Multinational agreements are increasingly adopting “common but differentiated responsibilities” that impose obligations more heavily on some nations—typically the Rich—than on others—most often the Poor. While the notion of a “differential” obligation remains ill-defined, there are many reasons for negotiators to offer heterogeneous terms as a way of attracting heterogeneous parties. The author explores the circumstances under which various sorts of differentiation are desirable.

Editorial Comment

Sovereign Bankruptcy: *In re Germany* (1953), *In re Iraq* (2004) *Detlev F. Vagts*

302

Former Legal Advisers’ Letter on Accession to the Law of the Sea Convention

307

Current Developments

The 2003 Judicial Activity of the International Court of Justice *John R. Crook*

309

The Fifty-fifth Session of the International Law Commission

Michael J. Matheson and Sara Bickler

317

International Decisions

Edited by David D. Caron

Prosecutor v. Nahimana, Barayagwiza, & Ngeze (Catharine A. MacKinnon)

325

ICTR judgment and sentence on crimes against humanity and incitement to genocide through broadcast and press outlets

<i>Access to Information Under Article 9 of the OSPAR Convention (Ireland v. United Kingdom)</i> (Ted L. McDorman)	330
Arbitral award regarding duty to provide access to information about nuclear facility under treaty on marine environmental protection	
<i>S.D. Myers, Inc. v. Canada, and Attorney General of Canada v. S.D. Myers, Inc.</i> (Charles H. Brower II)	339
ICSID Additional Facility arbitral award under NAFTA Chapter 11 regarding claimed investment loss due to PCB export ban; Federal Court of Canada ruling on challenge to the award	

Contemporary Practice of the United States Relating to International Law

Edited by Sean D. Murphy

<i>D.C. Circuit Interpretation of Scope of FSIA “Flatow Amendment”</i>	349
<i>Adoption of Central American Free Trade Agreement</i>	350
<i>U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement</i>	352
<i>Reviews, Release, and Trials of Detainees at Guantánamo Bay</i>	353
<i>“Proliferation Security Initiative” for Searching Potential WMD Vessels</i>	355
<i>Adoption of Fifth CCW Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War</i>	357
<i>ICJ Advisory Opinion on Israeli Security Fence</i>	361
<i>ICJ Decision Regarding Mexicans on Death Row in United States</i>	364
<i>U.S. Signing of UNCITRAL Convention on Assignment of Receivables</i>	368

Recent Books on International Law

Edited by Richard B. Bilder

Book Reviews

Simma, Bruno, Hermann Mosler, Andreas Paulus, and Eleni Chaitidou (eds.). <i>The Charter of the United Nations: A Commentary</i> (2d ed.) (Yoram Dinstein)	371
Deflem, Mathieu. <i>Policing World Society: Historical Foundations of International Police Cooperation</i> (David Bryan Sullivan)	374
Lalonde, Suzanne N. <i>Determining Boundaries in a Conflicted World: The Role of Uti Possidetis</i> (Marcelo G. Kohen)	379
Provost, René. <i>International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law</i> (Michael Bothe)	383
Rodley, Nigel S. <i>The Treatment of Prisoners Under International Law</i> (2d ed.) (Ralph G. Steinhardt)	387
Ramcharan, Bertrand G. <i>The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: The Challenges of International Protection</i> (Felice D. Gaer)	391
Franckx, Erik, and Philippe Gautier (eds.). <i>The Exclusive Economic Zone and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982–2000: A Preliminary Assessment of State Practice</i> (Jaye Ellis)	395
Darrow, Mac. <i>Between Light and Shadow: The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and International Human Rights Law</i> (Galit A. Sarfaty)	398
Lillich, Richard B.; Wingfield, Thomas C., and James E. Meyen (eds.). <i>Lillich on the Forcible Protection of Nationals Abroad</i> (Gordon A. Christenson)	401

Books Received

International Legal Materials. Contents, Vol. XLIII, No. 2 (March 2004)	406
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