

INTRODUCTION AND EDITORIAL CONTENT OF JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY PRIVATE LAW

1. EDITORIAL CONTENT AND FOCUS OF THE JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY PRIVATE LAW

Private law, the most traditional and all-encompassing of legal subjects, has undergone significant changes over the past 100 years. Much was written in the twentieth century about the crisis in Private Law, especially concerning the inadequacy of classic civilistic solutions in addressing the problems that afflicted the short and conflictual 1900s, with all the wars, revolutions and changes in customs and social morality that occurred within that period. Yet the conflict surrounding private law actually dates back to the nineteenth century. In its early stages, there was a controversy between Romanists and historicists, who rejected codification, and the defenders of *ius comune*, who defended that Germany should have a civil code in line with the French one. At the end of the 1800s, however, these same groups were on opposite camps. Ironically, Romanists and historicists had now been placed in charge of codifying the German Private Law while the Germanists were excluded from the process. Many of them, such as Otto von Gierke, became critics of the Civil Code project, which they deemed individualistic and anti-social.

In Brazil, the 1930 Revolution and the dictatorial government of 1964-1984 transformed the relations between the public and private spheres through the creation of a set of social laws and through the introduction of new principles and general clauses into the Constitution and legislation, such as the social function of property and state intervention in the economic domain and in contractual matters.

With the ensuing redemocratization, which happened in a historical setting where circumstances led to compromises between political transition forces, the National Constituent Assembly of 1987-1988 produced the 1988 Constitution. The new constitution enshrined various fields of Private Law, especially those pertaining to family law.

Due to this new constitutional framework, which also consolidated innovations in the fundamental texts of 1934, 1946 and 1967-1969, Private Law went through a redefinition of its spheres of regulation and its relationship with other subjects.

The post-1988 civilistic legal studies were renewed under the influence of the Constitution, of the new Civil Code (2002) and of a historical combination arising from a civil-legal model based on general clauses and principles. This renewal found a favorable social setting in which to bloom due to the increased judicialization and the growing role of the Supreme Court as an arbiter of social conflicts whose solution in the political field and in the parliamentary arena had hitherto been in a state of permanent paralysis.

With little over two decades of a political constitution that, due to its broad scope, has been dubbed a driving constitution, and one decade of the civil code in force, social inequalities remain and the inadequacy of existing judicialization models become increasingly evident. Similarly, the interconnections between Private Law and the diverse legal fields expand at the same pace as the citizen, the core of Private Law, and his relations with himself and his peers, become more complex and conflicting.

If a centuries-old Private Law tradition cannot be ignored, it seems only natural that the colloquy be updated and that a methodological review be carried out while taking advantage of the post-constitutional experience.

It is precisely with this objective in mind that we bring to you the Journal of Contemporary Private Law- RDCC, a quarterly periodical driven towards private law studies and related subjects, as well as case law critique, with the imprint of the prestigious Thomson Reuters/Revista dos Tribunais.

RDCC comes into existence to comprehensively explore a wide array of themes stemming from the traditional fields of Private Law, while also including the History of Private Law, Comparative Law, Roman Law, Legal Education and Private Law, Private Law and Fundamental Rights, Private Law and new Rights, Private Law and Consumer Law, Copyright Law, Industrial Property Law, as well as Private Law in its relations with institutions and concepts of Labour Law, Procedural Law, Commercial Law and Private International Law.

Guiding this new publication, which comes to join the group of traditional and reputable Private Law journals, are internationalization,

comparatism, critique of legislation and of precedents and, above all, the pluralism of ideas and visions on Private law.

The publication of papers by authors who have made history in Private Law as well as interviews with national and international professors is another significant distinguishing feature of RDCC.

RDCC also aims to faithfully adhere to the qualificative rules for journals so that its texts achieve a high impact factor in academic and social circles.

At the forefront of RDCC is the concept of a *Contemporary Private Law* along with the efforts of many research groups connected to Brazilian and foreign universities guided by methodological rigor and open to diverse views on the epistemological status, the principles and the function of the law in Private Law interpretation. The contribution of these universities and of their researchers is pivotal to RDCC's editorial policies.

2. UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH GROUPS BEHIND THE JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY PRIVATE LAW

RDCC is the official publication of the “Rede de Pesquisa de Direito Civil Contemporâneo” (Research Network of Contemporary Private Law), which is composed of groups that include seven of the largest universities in Brazil. Said research groups are coordinated by professors of Private Law, Roman Law, Comparative Law, Commercial Law and Legal History.

The research groups and universities along with their respective coordinators are as follows:

1) Comparative Contemporary Private Law and Law Reform – Universidade de São Paulo – Full Prof. Dr. Ignacio Poveda Velasco and Assistant Prof. Dr. Otavio Luiz Rodrigues Junior;

2) Fundamentals of Contemporary Private Law – Universidade Federal do Pernambuco – Full Prof. Torquato Castro Jr. and. Assistant Prof. Larissa Leal;

3) Private Law in the Contemporary World – Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina – Assistant Prof. Rafael Peteffi da Silva;

4) Fundamentals of Contemporary Private Law – Universidade Federal do Ceará – Assistant Prof. Dr. Maria Vital da Rocha;

5) Contemporary Business Law and Freedom of Contract – Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul – Assistant Prof. Dr. Gerson Branco;

6) Comparative Private Law – Universidade Federal do Paraná – Full Prof. Dr. José Antonio Peres Gediel and Assistant Prof. Dr. Rodrigo Xavier Leonardo;

7) Business, Law and Society in the Contemporary World – Universidade Federal Fluminense – Full Prof. Dr. Edson Alvisi Neves.

The journal will also feature international collaborators from several universities and research centers.

3. EDITORIAL BOARD

RDCC's editorial board is composed exclusively of full and emeritus professors from Brazilian and foreign institutions, all of whom are renowned in their respective fields.

Editorial board members do not pertain predominantly to a single region or university, which ensures pluralism in the composition of the board.

4. BLIND PEER REVIEW

Papers sent to *RDCC* must satisfy the criteria established in the public call for papers, which is published periodically and expressly provides for blind peer review.

Peer review is carried out by means of opinion reports prepared by Brazilian and foreign scholars who are on the editorial review board (board of reviewers). *RDCC's* editors then make use of these opinion reports to ground their decision as to which papers to publish.

5. PERIODICITY, TIMELINESS, BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE STANDARDIZATION, DIVERSITY OF AUTHOR AFFILIATIONS

RDCC will be a quarterly journal and editors take on the responsibility to guarantee the timeliness of the publications.

A minimum of 18 papers will be published in each of the four annual issues.

Authors are informed in advance of the rules regarding bibliographic reference standards during the public call for papers. Said rules meet the criteria of the Brazilian Association of Technical Standards – ABNT.

All articles feature a title, an abstract and keywords in both Portuguese and English. The Journal accepts articles written in Portuguese, Spanish, French, Italian, English and German.

Besides the peer review, *RDCC* is also proofread and standardized by the publisher.

6. COPYRIGHT POLICY

The copyright policy is provided under the Publication Guidelines for unpublished authors.

7. FORMS OF PUBLICATION

The journal will be released in two formats: print and digital. In the latter format, the *RDCC* will be available at *Revista dos Tribunais Online*—www.revistadostribunais.com.br and www.direitocivilcontemporaneo.com (with information on content, introductory texts and editorial policies and boards).

8. CONCLUSION

The coordinators of *RDCC* are honored to invite the legal community to join this new project, which aims at strengthening Contemporary Private Law and producing legal theory.

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Editor