

INTERVIEW WITH CHRISTIAN VON BAR

ENTREVISTA COM CHRISTIAN VON BAR

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JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY PRIVATE LAW (REVISTA DE DIREITO CIVIL CONTEMPORÂNEO) – RDCC: Thank you for giving this interview to the *Journal of Contemporary Private Law / Revista de Direito Civil Contemporâneo* in Brazil. You began your legal training in 1970 and can now look back on 50 years of experience as a lawyer or legal scholar. How would you describe the panorama of “contemporary private law” now and where are the differences compared to when you were a student?

CHRISTIAN VON BAR: As far as the study of law is concerned, a lot has really changed in the past half century, and all of it for the better. When I started my studies, the universities did not provide any help to their first-year students. In Freiburg, I stood in front of a long wall of lecture announcements that I didn’t understand. I didn’t even know what the abbreviation “BGB” meant. The lecture hall where “BGB AT” (German Civil Code – General Part) was being held was completely overcrowded with hundreds of students. You could only listen with concentration after four weeks – when not even half of the students I had started with showed up in the morning. By far the majority of the students were male, and among them almost all had already done their military service. From the very first week, we heard “Roman” and “German” legal history, which was completely absurd. How could you understand the history of something you knew nothing about? On the other hand, I still