

SECESSION FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION AND PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW

Professor Adrian Briggs QC (Hon)

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TUESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2016, 18:30 – 20:00

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE ROOM, 11/F

CHENG YU TUNG TOWER, CENTENNIAL CAMPUS

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

The decision of the United Kingdom government to act as advised by a majority of those who voted in the June referendum presents private international lawyers with an opportunity which none had seen coming. The government will need to be advised on whether post-EU rules of private international law should replicate to the extent possible those rules which were part of the corpus iuris of European law, or should act as though the common law was suddenly free from 40 years of imprisonment. It is rare to have the opportunity to think on so grand a scale, and whether we like it or not - and most of us don't - the task is now before us. What should we do, and why?



Professor Adrian Briggs is the Sir Richard Gozney Fellow and Tutor at St Edmund Hall. He has been teaching in Oxford since 1980. His main interest has always been in private international law, and within that, in questions of civil jurisdiction and the effect of foreign judgments. He spent 15 years as one of the editors of Dicey, Morris and Collins, *The Conflict of Laws*, but his own perspective on the subject, in its increasingly European guise, was published as *Private International Law in English Courts*, the first - and, one now supposes, only - edition of which came out in October 2014 and took its place alongside his several other books on private international law, of which *Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments* is the most established. No doubt when the dust settles, and it is possible to see the outlines of private international law after secession from the European Union, it will be time to return to the task of writing monographs on the subject. In the meantime, his *Private International Law in Myanmar* (now published) and *The Law of Contract in Myanmar* (almost finished) are keeping him busy. He also practises from chambers in the Temple, and finds that the problems which arise in legal practice provide an endless source of raw material for reflecting on and refining one's understanding of the law.

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