

TRANSNATIONAL CIVIL LITIGATION (2 Credits)

Professor Jeff Rensberger, South Texas College of Law Houston

Daily 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

It is increasingly important, as international commerce becomes more routine, for American lawyers to know the procedures for litigating disputes in which one or both of the parties is outside the United States (either physically or as a matter of citizenship or both). This course gives some basics of U.S law relating to transnational litigation. At the same time, we will look at the corresponding law of the European Union for a comparative perspective. We will begin with a refresher on the U.S. law of personal jurisdiction, focusing in detail on jurisdiction in U.S. courts over foreign Defendants. We will then cover some advanced topics of federal subject matter jurisdiction relating to suits for damages arising from violations of International Law in other countries and also suits against foreign states. We will study how to effect service abroad for an action pending in a U.S. court. Finally, we will look at the problem of parallel litigation and the enforceability of foreign judgements in the U.S. and in Europe.