

BOOK REVIEW

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TRANSNATIONAL LABOUR LAW

by: *Antonio Ojeda Avilés*

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Professor Ojeda Avilés' work "Transnational Labour Law", published by Wolters Kluwer, New York December 2014, is the revised version of a book originally published in Spanish by Tirant lo Blanch Publications in 2013. Although recently retired from teaching duties at the University of Seville, Professor Ojeda has not retired from the field of research that has earned him a reputation both nationally and internationally. This book is the result of a decentralised international work-chain, involving the use of cross-border electronic media and the Internet, characteristic of the globalised activities of today's major publishing houses, such as Wolters Kluwer.

This work examines International Labour Law from a previously unexplored viewpoint: the transnational nature of workers problems in relation with employers at a supranational level. This is an important aspect as the author points out in his preface, given that "the transnational context implies a horizontal view of the global instruments, something quite different from the international view as synonymous with 'inter-state'". Transnational Law is different from Private International Law, since the former takes into account the leading role of multinational companies and new forms of private regulation covering economic and production relations. Transnational Law covers the legal jurisdiction of multinationals and their means of interaction with international subjects, to which we must add the enormous rise in international trade unionism.

The author outlines the three areas of analysis of this work, each with a differentiated treatment: a) ILO Conventions and specialized committees on the implementation of standards; b) European Union Directives, Regulations, tripartite social dialogue and other institutions; and c) the broad deregulated and anomic state that nevertheless is beginning to take on some type of regulation.

The work is divided into eleven well-written chapters, each of them with a valuable educational content. For instance, we find countless summaries of relevant court judgments or milestones that add a rich pedagogical value to each chapter. It is a work that exudes the experience and investigative wisdom of this Professor of Labour Law and Social Security who owns well-deserved international recognition.

The chapters are: 1) Labor Law and transnational scope of application; 2) Conflict-of-law rules in Labour Law; 3) European Union conflict rules; 4) Transnational rules on employment relations (I); 5) Transnational rules on employment relations (II); 6) Fundamental transnational rights in employment relationships; 7) Company crisis and offshoring; 8) Participation of employees in business management; 9) Transnational collective bargaining; 10) Transnational collective conflicts; and 11) Corporate social responsibility and codes of conduct.

Professor Ojeda has taught "European Community Social Law" for the *Degree in Labor Relations and Human Resources*, and "Transnational Labour Law" for the *Masters in Labour Sciences*, both at the Faculty of Labour Sciences at the University of Seville. I have had the opportunity of sharing the teaching of these two subjects with him during the last two years of his career, and have always greatly appreciated his wise and generous advice.

This work has been the primary reference tool in studies of the above mentioned subjects, European Community Social Law and Transnational Labour Law. Available now in English, the presentation is found in two of the most universal languages, that of Cervantes and that of Shakespeare, and who knows if also in the near future the language of Confucius. I highly recommend it to Labour Law professionals and scholars alike, and wish you all an enjoyable read.

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