

BOB WESSELS



Bob Wessels (1949) is an independent legal counsel, advisor and arbitrator. From 2007-2014 he was a professor of International Insolvency Law, University of Leiden. Leiden Law School, The Netherlands. Prior to his Leiden chair, he was Professor of Civil and Commercial Law, Vrije University in Amsterdam (1988 - 2008), where he defended his PhD in 1988.

He served as consultant to IMF (Indonesia), World Bank (Georgia) and the Dutch Ministry of Justice and advises the European Commission for the revision of the EU Insolvency Regulation and the Recommendation on a new approach to business failure and insolvency. He advised with legal opinions or acted as an expert witness in European or international insolvency related questions in Dutch courts as well as in many courts outside the Netherlands.

Published (in Dutch) hundreds of articles in leading legal journals, (co-)authored six books in English and some twenty five books in Dutch. He is the single author of: Wessels *Insolventierecht* (Insolvency Law), a 10 Volume series, presently in its 4th edition.

He furthermore is:

- Deputy Justice at the Court of Appeal in The Hague
- Member of the Joint Board of Appeal of the three European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs; ESMA, EBA and EIOPA respectively)
- Chair of the International working group to assist the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI) in its programme to renew U.S. Bankruptcy Code's Chapter 11
- Chairman Netherlands Association for Comparative and International Insolvency Law.
- Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy
- Honorary Member of INSOL Europe
- Member and Co-reporter of the American Law Institute
- Past Chairman of the Academic Forum of INSOL Europe
- Former member of the Committee to renew the Dutch Bankruptcy Act
- Emeritus Director of International Insolvency Institute

In this valedictory lecture a picture is given of comparative and international insolvency research Leiden Law School currently is involved in: the European Law Institute (ELI) research on Business rescue in insolvency, the creation of professional principles for Insolvency Office Holders (a project initiated by INSOL Europe), as well as the creation of EU Cross-Border Insolvency Court-to-Court Cooperation Principles and Guidelines, a project funded by the European Commission and the International Insolvency Institute (III).

These examples of Leiden Law School research are unique in at least four ways: it is (in its method or application) cross-border, it is supported and reviewed by large groups of experienced experts from all over the globe, it focuses on the forefront of legal developments in creating new 'law' (which includes soft law), and last but not least: selected students are involved in its development, which will greatly enhance their knowledge and more generally will prepare them much better for legal practice. This type of research is original and creative with a unique output, with added value for practitioners and judges, for students and for the understanding and application of insolvency law at large.

Bob Wessels

Teaching and research in international insolvency law: challenges and opportunities



Universiteit
Leiden



Universiteit
Leiden