



# Recognising and Enforcing Swiss Civil Judgments in the US

Seminar with Prof. Louise Ellen Teitz  
Professor of Law at Roger Williams University, RI, USA

## **Spring Semester 2025:**

This seminar will introduce students to recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments under US law, touching also on the related issue of adjudicative or personal jurisdiction. The US common-law approach, constitutional overlay, and federal/state issues will be considered.

As Switzerland will become a party to the Hague 2005 Choice of Court Convention as of January 2025, the seminar will also provide an introduction to the convention, as well as the related Hague 2019 Judgments Convention.

The first part of the seminar will consist of lecture and class discussion of caselaw as applied to fact situations. During the semester, students are expected to research and write a paper of 40,000 characters (incl. spaces and footnotes, excl. title page, indexes; around 15 pages) on some aspect of recognition and enforcement of judgments. Students must turn in an outline for the paper and participate in an individual zoom conference with the professor prior to the mid-session. For the final presentations, students are expected to give 15–20 minute presentations on their topic. Following the presentation, a class discussion will be held.

## **Learning Objectives:**

Participants will explore topics related to recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments under US law. They will learn to work with US databases, caselaw and literature and gain an insight into the US law of jurisdiction.

## **Target Audience:**

The seminar is aimed at students of Law who are interested in gaining a new perspective on a common-law legal system or are interested in International Civil Procedure Law. Target audience are students in their Masters and Bachelors who attended the lecture “Zivilprozessrecht”. The seminar can work as preparation or in addition to the lecture “Internationales Zivilprozessrecht”. As an addition it allows for a deeper understanding by applying it in a different legal system and in a field which is relevant to current practice. The seminar is open to students participating in exchange programs.

## **Schedule:**

21.02.25: Introductory event 1/2, 9h – 12h

24.02.25: Introductory event 2/2, 16h–18h

28.03.25: Mid-session, 9h–12h

1.05.25: Final Presentations, 8h–12h

2.05.25: Final Presentations, 9h–16h

11.05.25: Submission of papers

Attendance is mandatory for all sessions.

## **Registration and Questions:**

Places are limited. Registrations are accepted immediately on a first-come, first-served basis. Register via email to [delphine.blanc@unibe.ch](mailto:delphine.blanc@unibe.ch).

For inquiries, contact Dominik Manz ([dominik.manz@unibe.ch](mailto:dominik.manz@unibe.ch)) or Prof. Louise Ellen Teitz ([lteitz@rwu.edu](mailto:lteitz@rwu.edu)).

Note: The seminar and papers will be in English.