

## CBFL SEMINAR SERIES

# Digital Assets and the Conflict of Laws — In Search for the 'Ideal Rule'

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University of Vienna/University of Nijmegen



Matthias Lehmann is a full professor for private law, private international and comparative law at the University of Vienna (Austria), as well as professor for European and comparative business law at the University of Nijmegen (Netherlands). His main interest lies in international and comparative aspects of financial law. He is regularly invited as a guest professor at the Sorbonne University (France), the University of Fribourg (Switzerland), and the Universidad Pablo de Olavide (Spain). Matthias is a member of the Council of the European Law Institute (ELI), of the American Law Institute (ALI), of the Academia Europaea (AE), of the Academic Board of the European Banking Institute (EBI), and of the International Academy of Comparative Law (IACL). He has been visiting the London School of Economics, Oxford University, Stanford University, and is now visiting the National University of Singapore. Matthias has participated in the European Commission's Expert Group on Conflict of Laws Regarding Securities and Claims and in various UNIDROIT Working Groups, inter alia the one on Digital Assets and Private Law.



**Public CPD Points: 1**  
Area: Banking and Finance  
Training Level: General

Participants who wish to obtain CPD Points are reminded that they must comply strictly with the Attendance Policy set out in the CPD Guidelines. For this activity, this includes signing in on arrival and signing out at the conclusion of the activity in the manner required by the organiser, and not being absent from the entire activity for more than 15 minutes. Participants who do not comply with the Attendance Policy will not be able to obtain CPD Points for attending the activity. Please refer to <http://www.sileCPDcentre.sg> for more information.

For enquiries, email [cbfl@nus.edu.sg](mailto:cbfl@nus.edu.sg)

**Tuesday Thursday, 30 January 2024 | 4.00PM TO 5.15PM (SGT)**  
**Lee Sheridan Conference Room, NUS Law, Bukit Timah Campus**

### ABOUT THE SEMINAR

Which law governs private disputes over assets recorded on the blockchain, such as Bitcoin, Ether or stablecoins? This question has long eluded legal academia and practice. Now, states have begun to enact hard and fast rules. In this seminar, I will compare legislative provisions and judicial rulings from the US, England, Germany, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein, as well as the recently adopted UNIDROIT Principles on Digital Assets and Private Law.

My analysis shows a new emerging gulf in the conflict of laws because of the law governing blockchain assets being determined in different ways. This risks undermining even further the functioning of the crypto economy. That is why I suggest a novel approach.

To this end, I will distil from the various national and international approaches an 'ideal' conflict-of-laws rule, which can serve as a blueprint for national legislators and/or courts. The hope is that this may lead to more consensus around the world on the law governing digital assets. This is dearly needed if the blockchain is to fulfil its promise as a trusted storage of value, a catalyst of global commerce, and a means of furthering financial inclusion.

### PROGRAMME

3.30pm - Registration  
4.00pm - Start of Seminar  
5.00pm - Discussion (Moderated Q&A)  
5.15pm - End of Seminar

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Attorneys, judges, academics and students interested in blockchain issues

### REGISTRATION

**S\$98.10** (inclusive of 9% GST)\*

*Complimentary for full-time NUS academic staff and students*

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/cbflss30Jan24reg>

or scan the QR code

Closing date: **25 January 2024**



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