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Comparative Law Series

Meaning of the expression "Common Law"

Professor Mark Gillen
University of Victoria - Faculty of Law

October 23, 2020 09:00 am (Vancouver)

Whether one is immersed in the study of a civil law system or a common law system, a question that may arise is just what does the expression "common law" mean. This is a question Professor Gillen has examined in the context of teaching a course in the "Historical Foundations of the Common Law" in which one arguably needs to begin with some sense of the meaning of "common law" if one is to examine its historical foundations. In this thirty minute talk, Professor Gillen explained that the expression "common law" has been given several different meanings. He presented some of the typical alleged differences between the civil law tradition and the common law tradition and critiqued those alleged differences from his study and experience in the common law context. This approach can provide an opportunity for all of us from different legal traditions to engage, with a critical eye, on these and other differences between common law and civil law.

<https://uvic.zoom.us/j/82531608642?pwd=akY5MGxXY1BiTy8wL3FzRGd0Z0ZRQT09>

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