

Curriculum Vitae (2 April 2026)

Prof. Weller, born 1971, married, two children, is a Director of the Institute for German and International Civil Procedural Law ([*Institut für deutsches und internationales Zivilverfahrensrecht*](#)) at the University of Bonn, Germany. The “Rhenish Friedrich Wilhelm University“, founded in 1818, is a top-ranking academic institution that belongs to the “Universities of Excellence“ (“*Exzellenzuniversitäten*”) selected by the German Government for special funding.



Prof. Weller took his legal education at the University of Heidelberg and at St. John’s College, Cambridge (UK), from 1992 to 1998, supported by the German National Scholarship Foundation. He was Joseph Story Fellow of Private International Law at the Harvard Law School at Cambridge (USA) in 1998/1999 and an associate of a leading law firm in Frankfurt in 2001 (Hengeler Mueller).

He continued his academic career as a Research Fellow at the Institute for Comparative Law, the Conflict of Laws and International Business Law at the University of Heidelberg from 2002 to 2010. During this time, he delivered a prizes-winning PhD (2004), funded by the German National Scholarship Foundation, on the public policy control of international choice of forum agreements. In 2006, he founded the “Institute for Art and Law” (“*Institut für Kunst und Recht IFKUR e.V.*”), the first institution at the intersection of art and law in Germany, and he acted as its co-chair until 2020. In this function, he organized, for 13 times, the annual “Heidelberg Art Law Conferences” (“*Heidelberger Kunstrechtstage*”) and as editor for the annual publication of the conference proceedings. From 2008 to 2009 he worked on more than 100 appeal cases in civil and commercial matters for an attorney of the German Federal Court of Justice (*Bundesgerichtshof*), Professor Dr Achim Krämer. He received his *Habilitation* in 2011 from the University of Heidelberg on the basis of a theoretical and comparative study on foundational structures of the law of obligations (“*Persönliche Leistungen*”) and obtained the *venia legendi* for Civil Law including European Private Law, Private International Law, Comparative Law, Civil Procedural Law and Copyright Law.

Still in 2011, he received his first call to a chair for civil law, civil procedure and private international law at the Law School of the EBS University of Wiesbaden. In 2014, he received another call to a chair for German and European Civil Law at the European Legal Studies Institute of the University of Osnabrück, which he turned down. Instead, he became a Member of the University Senate and Vice Dean at the University of Wiesbaden. He was invited to run for the position as a Dean of the EBS Law School and Vice-President of the EBS Wiesbaden University in 2017, but turned down this offer in favour of the call to the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Professorship for civil law, art and cultural property law, combined with the position of a Director of the Bonn University Institute for German and International Civil Procedural Law (*Institut für deutsches und internationales Zivilverfahrensrecht*), as of 1 April 2018.

In 2019, Prof. Weller received a € 1.1 Mio funding for his five year research project [“Restatement of Restitution Rules for Nazi-Confiscated Art”](#) from the German Government (*Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien*) in which he leads a team of twelve researchers who distill and comment on rules from the practice of the restitution of Nazi-looted art in six countries (Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, France, United Kingdom, Switzerland). This project, in the context of which Prof. Weller set up a joint online class together with the Tel Aviv University in 2021 and stayed as a guest researcher at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, Israel, in September 2023, is about to be completed, and a text of 1,100 pages, in a German and an English version, will be published in September 2024. He was invited to present on the results of his research at the New York University (NYU) on 16 September 2024.

In the context of this project, Prof. Weller was assigned by the German Government (*Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien*) to produce the [“International scientific Study to Strengthen the Advisory Commission”](#) ([“Internationale wissenschaftliche Studie ‘Stärkung der Beratenden Kommission’](#)”) in which he analysed potential for reforming and improving the restitution process for Nazi-confiscated Art in Germany, together with 9 leading experts from different jurisdictions and backgrounds. The Study comprises nearly 400 pages and was submitted on 28 March 2024. The core proposal of this Study was to set up an arbitral tribunal for proceedings about the restitution of Nazi-confiscated art. This proposal has been taken up by the Federal German Government and was implemented as of 1 December 2025. He has become one of the “Principal Investigators” of the University of Bonn’s “Centers of Excellency” for the next seven years and will continue researching on the restitution of cultural property in this context.

Prof. Weller is a member of a number of professional institutions and associations, including the Academia Europaea (MAE), the International Association of Procedural Law (IAPL), the European Law Institute (ELI), the German Association of Professors for Civil Procedural Law, the German Scientific Association for International Civil Procedural Law, the German Association for International Law (DGIR), the German Association of Comparative Law and the German Institution for Arbitration (DIS). He is listed as a specialised arbitrator at the Court of Arbitration for Arts (CAfA), a subdivision of the Netherlands Arbitration Institute (NAI). He is a participant of the global meetings of transnational commercial law teachers convened by Roy Goode and Herbert Kronke and presented there on international human rights and environmental litigations. He acted as German National Reporter to the XIXth International Academy of Comparative Law Congress in Vienna in 2014 and presented on his report on the civil law consequences of corruption for international commercial contracts. In 2018, he again acted as German National Reporter to the XXth International Academy of Comparative Law Congress in Fukuoka and presented on his report on optional choice of forum agreements. He served as the General Editor of one of the leading blogs on private international law (www.conflictoflaws.net) from 2017 – 2023 and continues working for the blog as regular editor.

He delivered a Special Course at the Hague Academy of International Law on „Mutual trust as a foundation for private international law of regional economic integration communities“ in 2019 and another Special Course in 2023 at the [Hague Academy's Advanced Courses Programme in Hong Kong on „Current Trends in International Dispute Resolution before Domestic Courts“](#), and he will give another Special Course in this series in December 2024. He was invited to present at the 100th conference of the German Association of Professors for Civil Procedural Law (*Vereinigung der Zivilprozessrechtslehrer*), at the 37th biannual conference of the German Association for International Law (*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationales Recht*), at the international conference in New York of the Washington Holocaust Claims Processing Office on the resolution of claims to Nazi-looted art (forthcoming) and at the 2nd EAPIL Conference in Wrocław in 2024. In 2022, he acted as founding member from the law faculty of the interdisciplinary [Bonn Center for Reconciliation Studies](#). In 2023, he convened a global conference, together with the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) as co-host, on its [HCCH 2019 Convention](#) on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments in June 2023. Currently, he is serving as a National Reporter for Germany in the ILA Committee on Conflict-of-Laws Issues in International Arbitration. At the moment, Professor Weller is establishing an institutional partnership between UNIDROIT and the University of Bonn, which has been approved by both sides and which is in the process of being formally executed.

Prof. Weller produced [more than 200 publications](#), mostly peer-reviewed, many of them in English, and delivered more than 100 presentations, nationally and internationally, on private law, private international law, international civil litigation, arbitration, transnational commercial law and cultural property law. He has gained a large experience as a legal expert witness, including cross examination, in international civil litigation (e.g. US class action; NL IP litigations, insolvency) and arbitration (e.g. corruption, defense industry, automotive), as well as for political and cultural institutions (e.g. European Parliament; German Government; Dutch Government, Israeli Government, leading museums in the USA, UK, Australia and Germany). He is also acting as arbitrator, in particular in cross-border disputes (e.g. UPICC, contract law, law of obligations, distribution).