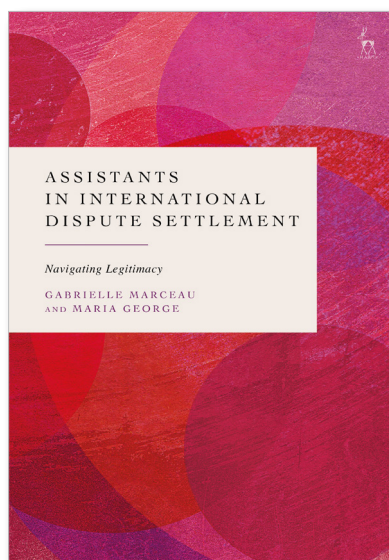




Assistants in International Dispute Settlement

Navigating Legitimacy

*Gabrielle Marceau
and Maria George*

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Referred to as 'Dispute Assistants', they include legal officers, référendaires, jurisconsults, and other registry or secretariat staff. Their functions are studied through doctrinal research, supplemented by discussions with relevant actors, so as to capture their actual influence on the adjudication process. The book highlights the widespread nature of their contribution. It also addresses legitimacy concerns about their potential undue influence on the mandate of adjudicators, drawing on case law, critiques from states, scholars, practitioners, and informal interviews with insiders. The last part of the book focuses on the WTO; inspired by various practices in other systems, it offers suggestions to address concerns over the quality and credibility of dispute actors, and to enhance the legitimacy of the WTO DSS and other systems.

Gabrielle Marceau is Honorary Professor (Emeritus) at the University of Geneva, Switzerland, and Visiting Professor at the University of Ottawa, Canada. She worked at the World Trade Organization Secretariat for over 30 years, serving as a legal adviser in international disputes, in the Cabinet of Director-General Pascal Lamy, and in the Economic Research and Statistics Division.

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