

Preface

Consumers become more important in pushing economic recovery in developed countries and as a growing source of domestic demand in developing countries. Consumer law faces numerous challenges today. Globalization made international transaction of goods and services easier than ever before, and a joint international effort to develop fair, equitable, and nondiscriminatory principles to protect effectively consumers is needed.

For a long time, regulation and enforcement of consumer law issues focused essentially on the national level. In recent years, the international dimension of consumer protection has also been acknowledged. The United Nations General Assembly approved the revised UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection in December 2015 by setting a goal to promote international cooperation among Member States. The UNGCP incorporates new important issues, public utilities, data protection and privacy, e-commerce, financial services, tourism, energy, and others. International and regional endeavors mainly produce soft laws in order to assist states to deal with consumer issues and achieve a certain degree of harmonization by drafting principles, which can be incorporated in their national laws. Following the same line, some of the most important efforts undertaken by leading institutions, including the newly formed Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE), focus, among other aspects, on undertaking studies and research on consumer protection related to the UNGCP and providing capacity building and technical assistance to developing countries and economies in transition.

This book is presented as a contribution to such broader effort, taking an opportunity for the discussion and understanding of important consumer law issues, at national, regional, and international levels. It contains contributions from prominent scholars in the area; some of them play important roles in leading global and national academic societies. A number of chapters were written by the members of the Committee on International Protection of Consumers of the International Law Association (London), which well reflects the current Committee's mandate. The Committee has been accepted to act in the role of an observer, not only at UNCTAD IGE but also at the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

Together with the work of the Committee, the book also collected other contributions from experts from Brazil and China, in a joint effort of Brasilcon (*Instituto Brasileiro de Política e Direito do Consumidor*, Brasília); the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre (PPGdir./UFRGS); and the University of Macau, China. The chapters cover a considerable range of issues and take on different perspectives, from a look at the trends and challenges in the international protection of consumers to a reflection at experiences of some emerging economies' legal systems and to the issue of consumer protection in the context of financial crisis. We are confident that the works presented here will provide a meaningful contribution for the subject of consumer law by shedding light on complicated issues, highlighting the different dimensions of consumer law and bringing on a more updated view on them.

We would like to thank all the contributors and institutions, namely, the ILA and BRASILCON, for the support provided in different forms for the success of this work.

Porto Alegre, Brazil
Macau, Macau China

Claudia Lima Marques
Dan Wei

Consumer Law and Socioeconomic Development

National and International Dimensions

Lima Marques, C.; Wei, D. (Eds.)

2017, XX, 469 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-55623-9