A sharp distinction is usually drawn between public international law, concerned with the rights and obligations of states with respect to other states and individuals, and private international law, concerned with issues of jurisdiction, applicable law and the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments in international private law disputes before national courts. Through the adoption of an international systemic perspective, Dr Alex Mills challenges this distinction by exploring the ways in which norms of public international law shape and are given effect through private international law. Based on an analysis of the history of private international law, its role in US, EU, Australian and Canadian federal constitutional law, and its relationship with international constitutional law, he rejects its conventional characterisation as purely national law. He argues instead that private international law effects an international ordering of regulatory authority in private law, structured by international principles of justice, pluralism and subsidiarity.

Alex Mills is the Slaughter and May Lecturer in Law at Selwyn College, University of Cambridge.
THE CONFLUENCE OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW

Justice, Pluralism and Subsidiarity in the International Constitutional Ordering of Private Law

ALEX MILLS
Any one watching keenly the stealthy convergence of human lots, sees a slow preparation of effects from one life on another, which tells like a calculated irony on the indifference or the frozen stare with which we look at our unintroduced neighbour.

George Eliot, *Middlemarch* (1874), Chapter XI
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book is based on a doctoral thesis completed at the Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge. It benefited from research funding provided by Gonville and Caius College and the Faculty of Law in Cambridge, and from the hospitality and generous assistance of Professors Jürgen Basedow and Reinhard Zimmermann during a period at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg, and of Professor George Bermann during a period as a Visiting Scholar at Columbia University.

I would like to thank Finola O’Sullivan and Tom O’Reilly at Cambridge University Press for their guidance and strong support of this project, and the anonymous referees who offered comments on the manuscript. An earlier version of Chapter 2 was published as ‘The Private History of International Law’ (2006) 55 International and Comparative Law Quarterly 1. A small section of Chapter 5 was included in ‘The Dimensions of Public Policy in Private International Law’ (2008) 4 Journal of Private International Law 201. Both are reproduced here with thanks to their publishers and referees.

This book would not have been possible without the support of my family, and it has been greatly enriched by the influence of colleagues and friends, near and far, who help make academic life in Cambridge so inspiring and rewarding. I am especially grateful to Professor Philip Allott, Professor James Crawford, Dr Geert De Baere, Dr Douglas Guilfoyle, Dr Daniel Joyce, Professor Vaughan Lowe, Professor Susan Marks, Professor Brian Opeskin, Dr Pippa Rogerson, Dr Tim Stephens, Dr Kimberley Trapp, Dr Isabelle Van Damme, and to my doctoral supervisor, Richard Fentiman, whose encouragement and assistance were at all times generous and cheerfully administered.

Alex Mills
March 2009
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ABBREVIATIONS

ECHR  European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms 1950
ECJ  European Court of Justice
ICCPR  International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966
ICJ  International Court of Justice
ICSID  International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
ICTY  International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia
ILC  International Law Commission
PCIJ  Permanent Court of International Justice
WTO  World Trade Organization