Introduction

Dealing in Virtue: International Commercial Arbitration and the Construction of a Transnational Legal order, Yves Dezalay and Bryant Garth, University of Chicago Press, 1996 A book on international arbitration published in 1996 should be somewhat obsolete and no longer worth a review. But, in my judgement, there is very little 'real-life' presentation of international commercial arbitration, in contrast to the 100+ books, guidelines and manuals on arbitration law, rules and procedures. This is the only book, so far, that aims to present international arbitration as it ...
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given them a central and powerful role in the global marketplace. In recent years, international business disputes have increasingly been resolved through private arbitration. The first book of its kind, Dealing in Virtue details how an elite group of transnational lawyers constructed an autonomous legal field that has given them a central and powerful role in the global marketplace. Building on Pierre Bourdieu’s structural approach, the authors show how an informal, settlement-oriented system became formalized and litigious. Integral to this new legal field is the intense personal competition among arbitrators to gain a reputation for virtue, hoping to