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A common law of international adjudication

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The proliferation of international courts and tribunals in the past decade has attracted a wide range of scholarly analysis from academics as well as from judges and arbitrators who are facing the practical problems associated with this development. While the first-generation analysis focused on mapping out the actual existence and extent of the proliferation of international courts and tribunals (Romano), the standard view today of customary international law (CIL) is that it arises from the widespread and consistent practice of states followed out of a sense of legal obligation. Although commonly recited, this account is plagued by evidentiary, normative, and conceptual difficulties, and it has been subjected to increasing criticism in recent years. This chapter suggests that these difficulties stem in part from the effort to formulate one conception of CIL that applies across all institutional contexts. This chapter posits a particular account of CIL, considered from the perspective of intern...