The Administration of Justice and Human Rights

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This article discusses the place of international human rights standards – as elaborated in global and regional treaties, other instruments, and authoritative interpretations – in the advancement of the administration of justice. The administration of justice includes the norms, institutions, and frameworks by which states seek to achieve fairness and efficiency in dispensing criminal, administrative, and civil justice. The United Nations, regional organizations, and other international structures have codified a substantial framework of fair trial and other administration of justice standards, which have been accepted, albeit not always followed, by most nations and which have begun to be used in the context of the International Criminal Court and other international criminal tribunals. In addition to the codified standards, several human rights institutions, including particularly the Human Rights Committee and the European Court of Human Rights, have interpreted and applied norms of justice to specific cases and have thus generated an impressive corpus of jurisprudence which lawyers and judges worldwide should and often do consult.

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