

## Acknowledgements

In 2017, I made the fateful decision of enrolling in the masters course Dutch Insolvency Law at the University of Amsterdam. Besides a general desire to better understand Dutch law, a large reason for my presence in that class was to improve my grasp of the Dutch language. After 10 years of living in the Netherlands and working as a lawyer, I continued to languish at the level of discussing the weather and participating in the quintessentially Dutch tradition of congratulating everyone plus the neighbours at birthday gatherings. Accordingly, I made my best efforts to avoid active class participation in order not to reveal that I was already a qualified lawyer, with a questionable Dutch accent. Unfortunately, I found the lectures rather interesting and promptly signed myself in to a second course taught in small groups, by the same Professor.

That Professor was Rolef de Weijs and in the next set of classes, there was no hiding. The flip the classroom approach to teaching had been fully embraced and rather than providing us with the traditional answer plan (*'stappenplan'*), Rolef preferred to ask us whether the law was well formulated and what we thought the law should be. Fortunately, this class was in English and I managed to answer questions. Apparently, I did this quite well because, after graduating with my Masters in Dutch private law, Rolef called to ask if I would be interested in teaching. And so it began. I was soon teaching on the course Securities Markets Regulation and, against my better judgment but with the ever encouraging support of Rolef, on the Dutch language Financial Law course. Talk of starting a PhD project swiftly followed and before I knew it I had submitted a proposal related to the recently released 2018 Sustainable Finance Action Plan and been admitted to the PhD track.

In short, had fate not conspired to have my path cross Rolef's, I can say with certainty that this PhD thesis would not exist. I am hugely indebted to and grateful for his support, encouragement, optimism, patience, wisdom and persistence. When I felt I was in choppy seas, not getting anywhere or not saying enough, Rolef carefully steered me back to clearer waters. When I was sinking under the combined weight of teaching, internal meetings, interim assignments and demanding teenagers, Rolef provided a life line in the form of a cheerful word (sometimes in Japanese) or a positive pep-talk. He also many times pulled me back from the over-use, mixed-use and mis-use of various metaphors, whether related to floating and drowning at sea or otherwise. For this, anyone reading my thesis should also probably be quite grateful.

I would also like to thank my co-promotor, Professor Arnoud Boot. Although getting the manuscript into his hands, wherever he was in Europe at any particular time, was sometimes complicated, Arnoud always provided constructive criticism and pushed me to think further. In particular, his lukewarm response to the way I initially presented my conclusions prompted me to embark on something of a re-write of the final two chapters. This was probably much to the frustration of Rolef, who has shown immense patience throughout the last four years in the face of my tendency to continuously re-draft and re-order my work. Nevertheless, I am convinced that this particular re-draft was extremely valuable to the development of my own opinions and thoughts as I reflected on the findings of my research.

Although Rolef was by far the driving force behind getting this PhD both started and finished and Arnoud's contributions were both insightful and challenging, many other people have helped me along the way, in ways they probably don't even realise.

First, my mom and dad have always been loyal supporters of my ability to do whatever I put my mind to. This was even the case when I announced I had decided to take up academia and leave private practice before ascending to the dizzy heights of partnership and therefore scuppering their chances

of the villa in Menorca I had promised to buy them when I made that particular milestone. So, for their support over many years and for their continuing willingness to endure holidays in Weston-super-Mare, I am truly grateful.

I would also like to thank my husband, Franck, and our three children. This is despite the fact that I'm willing to bet that neither Bruno, Stella or Lana could not actually name the subject of this book and despite the fact that Franck has successfully avoided reading most of its content. Nevertheless, they have each helped indirectly with their encouragement and their limitless patience when I have locked myself away for large portions of evenings and afternoons writing some boring book. Franck, in particular, has also supplied a high percentage of the coffee that made writing this book possible and has provided a listening ear many times - particularly during the corona lockdown when I interrupted his lunch breaks frequently with largely incomprehensible diagrams of possible assessment frameworks.

My friends have been equally useless in terms of content contribution but excellent in terms of distraction and encouragement. Without this, I have no doubt that the project may have become overwhelming and I may have given up before completing it. I would particularly like to thank Jemma and Sarah, who gladly accepted the invitation to act as my paranymphs even after Wikipedia pointed out that, traditionally, the role of the paranymph is to provide advice when the candidate is required to answer questions, or even to take over answering those questions, during the PhD defence.

Finally, my colleagues at the University of Amsterdam have been an invaluable source of support and inspiration. They have been generous with both their time and their advice on so many occasions, whether in the context of formal feedback, internal meetings or (perhaps most often) coffee breaks. During many dips, their knowledge and enthusiasm has motivated me to continue with my research. I would especially like to thank Anna, Aukje, Candide, Chantal, Heather, Jan Willem, Kinanya, Marija, Marco and Sjef, who all provided input, practical advice, helped me to navigate my way through the department of private law, or reached out through some difficult times as I worked on this thesis. Thank you also to Barbara who was a wonderful roommate and always available to offer me no-nonsense advice and the benefit of her experience.

Finally, thanks to my students over the years. Those who have engaged in class discussions about financial regulation and sustainable finance and those who have put their efforts into producing excellent masters theses have, in turn, helped me to further think through my own ideas. A special thanks to Freya Schmitz, who was so smart, gracious and talented.