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Comments

THE UNIVERSALITY OF A CURSE: "FUTURE INTERESTS" IN THE FRENCH LAW

A plague o' both your houses!

Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet, Act iii, sc. 1, l. 94.

The property systems of civil law jurisdictions in sharp contrast with those of common law origin, have long enjoyed a reputation for remarkable simplicity. That "wonderful calculus" of possessory estates and future interests, commonly known simply as "future interests,"¹ is the doctrinal structure responsi-

1. The standard definition of a "future interest" is more redundant than informative. For instance, 1 Simes, *The Law of Future Interests* (1936) 2, § 1, describes a "future interest" as "an interest in land or other things in which the privilege of possession or of enjoyment is future and not present."