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Comity is a term used in international law (and in the law governing relations between U.S. states) to describe an informal principle that nations will extend certain courtesies to other nations, particularly by recognizing the validity and effect of their executive, legislative, and judicial acts. **This principle is most frequently invoked by courts, which will not act in a way that demeans the jurisdiction, laws or judicial decisions of another country.** Also, comity in the context of professional licensure, refers to one jurisdiction granting credit for experience earned, and exams passed, in a different jurisdiction. (Emphasis added.)

from Law.com's online Real Life Dictionary of the Law.

comity

n. **when one court defers to the jurisdiction of another in a case in which both would have the right to handle the case.** Usually this is applied to a federal court allowing a state court to try a criminal case (either exclusively or first) in which both a state and federal crime has apparently been committed. Murder which also violates civil rights, kidnapping across state borders, murder of a federal official, fraud involving violations of both federal and state laws are examples of cases to which comity may apply. (Emphasis added.)