



INTERNATIONAL LAW ASSOCIATION

AMERICAN BRANCH
EST. 1922

INTERNATIONAL LAW WEEKEND

OCTOBER 23-25,
2025



103RD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN BRANCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW ASSOCIATION

CRISIS AS CATALYST IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

ORGANIZED BY THE AMERICAN BRANCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW ASSOCIATION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025 | OPENING PLENARY AND RECEPTION

NEW YORK CITY BAR ASSOCIATION
42 West 44th St, New York, NY 10036

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24-25, 2025 | ILW PANELS, KEYNOTES, AND MEETINGS

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
150 West 62nd Street, New York, NY 10023

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2025 | UN MISSION RECEPTION

PERMANENT MISSION OF CANADA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
466 Lexington Ave 20th floor, New York, NY 10017

ILW Program Overview

Thursday, October 23, 2025 New York City Bar Association	
4:00 PM	2025 Emerging Voices <i>Sponsored by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation</i>
5:30 PM	Welcome to International Law Weekend 2025 Welcome Remarks: Leila Nadya Sadat , ABILA Chair, and Muhammad U. Faridi , President, New York City Bar Association In Conversation with Elinor Hammarskjöld , United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs Interviewed by Michael P. Scharf , ABILA President
6:45 PM	Opening Reception

Friday, October 24, 2025 Fordham University School of Law					
9:00 AM	Women's Networking Breakfast <i>Sponsored by ArbitralWomen and ASIL's WILIG</i>				
10:00 AM	Friday Opening Plenary Lucinda A. Low , Co-Founder, Low & Kinnear Dispute Resolution; Former ASIL President Meg Kinnear , Co-Founder, Low & Kinnear Dispute Resolution; Former ICSID Secretary-General Interviewed by Mélida Hodgson , Partner, Arnold & Porter LLP; President, ASIL				
11:00 AM	Coffee Break Soden Lounge				
11:30 AM	Customary International Law: What Role Can It Play in Responding to Contemporary Global Crises?* 2-02C	UN Roundtable: Leading Diplomats Reflect on the UN at 80 2-02B	The Digital Divide in International Cyber Law 2-02A	Crisis, Courts, and Sovereigns: Rethinking Immunity and Enforcement in a Shifting Global Order* 2-01B	Planning a Career in International Law 3-01
12:45 PM	Boxed Lunch Soden Lounge - <i>sponsored by the Leitner Center for International Law and Justice</i>				
12:45 PM	ABILA Board Meeting (12:30PM)			ABILA Committee Networking	
1:30 PM	International Tribunals and Cultural Heritage Destruction: War Crimes, Persecution, Genocide & Discrimination 2-01B	The International Criminal Court: Surviving the Onslaught? 2-02B	The WTO and the Pandemic Agreement: A Simulation of the TRIPS Council During a Pandemic Emergency 2-02A	General Counsel Roundtable: International Law as a Tool for Risk Mitigation* 2-02C	From Ambition to Action: The Sustainable Development Goals Ten Years On* 2-01A
2:45 PM	Coffee Break Soden Lounge				
3:00 PM	A "New" Role for the ICJ? 2-02B	Negotiating the Future Crimes Against Humanity treaty: Paradigm Shift or Half-Measure? 2-02C	Towards "Un-Crisis" Thinking in Global Migration Law 1-01	Taking Stock of the World Trading System* 2-01B	Progress in International IP? Implications of the Riyadh Design Law Treaty* 2-02A
4:15 PM	Coffee Break Soden Lounge				
4:30 PM	International Organization Secretariats as Crisis Managers and Change-Makers 2-01B	AI and International Humanitarian Law: Emerging Norms 2-02B	Creative Solutions for Accountability for Gender-Based Violence and Other Crimes in International Law* 2-02C	The Second Century of the Federal Arbitration Act* 1-01	Narrative Strategies in International Environmental Law 2-02A
6:00 PM	UN Mission Reception Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations Registration Required				

ILW Program Overview

Saturday, October 25, 2025 Fordham University School of Law					
8:30 AM	Registration Second Floor Entrance & Complimentary Coffee Soden Lounge				
9:00 AM	ABILA's 103rd Annual Members Meeting, Elections, and Award Presentations - Room 1-01 Book of the Year Awards, Outstanding Achievement Award, & Charles Siegal Service Award Keynote Address: Recipient of the 2025 Outstanding Achievement Award				
10:15 AM	Coffee Break Soden Lounge				
10:30 AM	Public Health and Human Rights: New Tensions and Synergies 2-02A	What Today's Wars Mean for Tomorrow's International Legal Order 2-02B	Toward a Regional Human Rights Framework in the Middle East: Aspirations, Realities, and Lessons from Comparative Regionalism 2-02C	Global Energy Governance - Strategic Weapon or Tool for Peace?* 2-01B	Keeping Sinking States Afloat: The Crisis of Climate Change-Induced Sea-Level Rise and the International Legal Framework* 1-01
11:45 AM	Coffee Break Soden Lounge				
12:00 PM	 Combatting State Hostage-Taking through International Law 2-02B	Global Business at a Crossroads: Navigating a New Fragmented Reality* 2-02A	The Role of Civil Society in the Face of the Crisis of the International Legal Order 2-02C	Does Investor-State Arbitration Impede Responses to Climate Change?* 2-01A	Crimes Against the Environment, Nature, and Biodiversity – Progresses and Gaps in the Law of International and Transnational Crimes 2-01B
1:15 PM	Boxed Lunch Soden Lounge				
1:30 PM	Lunch Keynote: Crisis as Catalyst in International Law - Room 1-01 Sir Howard Morrison , Former Judge at the International Criminal Court and International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia				
2:15 PM					
2:30 PM	State Capture and Kleptocracy: Reimagining International Law On Anti-Corruption in an Age of Kleptocracy* 1-01	Prevention as a Fundamental Principle of International Law: Atrocity Prevention in a Time of Crisis 2-02C	The Force of Law for Good: Renewing the Global Commitment to Pro Bono 2-02A	Charting the Deep: An Oxford-Style Debate on the Future of Seabed Governance* 2-01B	Hot Topics 2-02B
3:50 PM	Pathways to Employment in International Law Room 1-01 With the ABA Section on International Law and ILSA				
5:00 PM	END OF ILW 2025				

*(an asterisk) signifies that this panel's CLE status is currently pending with the New York Bar Association.



*Jessup Compromis Session with the International Law Students Association. This session is designed to allow Jessup competitors to ask questions to a team of international law experts in preparation for the 2026 National Rounds. It will be livestreamed globally, providing international participants with the opportunity to participate in what is sure to be a fascinating and insightful session for Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Teams.

Statement on Conference Speakers:

The American Branch has a long history of organizing conferences that promote discourse about important international law topics. This often includes panels, speakers, and awardees who address controversial and sensitive issues. Our commitment to open debate remains unchanged, and ABILA does not engage in academic censorship. The program for International Law Weekend (ILW) does not reflect in any way the views of the Branch or any of our sponsor organizations. We continue to welcome broad and lively discussion at our conferences, as we have in past years.

2025 Keynote & Plenary Speakers



Elinor Hammarskjöld

United Nations Under Secretary
General for Legal Affairs



Mélida Hodgson

President, American Society of
International Law



Brenda Hollis

Principal Trial Lawyer, International
Criminal Court



Meg Kinnear

Co-Founder, Low & Kinnear
Dispute Resolution



Lucinda A. Low

Co-Founder, Low & Kinnear
Dispute Resolution



Judge Howard Morrison

Former International Criminal Court
Judge; Advisor, Ukrainian Prosecutor
General

Schedule



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Thursday, October 23

4:00PM-
5:00PM

Emerging Voices

CLE Room Room
New York City
Bar Association

While international law is changing, the scholars and practitioners who study and implement the law are also changing. This panel consists of individuals who have worked in the field of international law for five years or fewer. Their presentations represent recent scholarship on the theory and practice of international law. ILW attendees are encouraged to attend this panel and provide feedback to these emerging young legal scholars and practitioners.

Discussants and Moderator:

- **Christine Carpenter**, PhD Candidate and ILW 2025 Organizing Committee Member, University of Cambridge
- TBC

Speakers:

- **Kazım Berkay Arslan**, Associate, Kabine Law Office LLP - *'Foregrounding Local Community Perspectives in Investment Arbitration'*
- **Annika Knauer**, Research Fellow and PhD Candidate, Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg - *'Disinformation: Gendered and Violent'*
- **Emmanuel O. Osayande**, dual JD-PhD Candidate, Columbia Law School and Harvard University - *'Justice Transferred: Strategic Litigation on Climate Change at Africa's International Courts'*
- **Naida Softić**, PhD Candidate and Teaching Instructor, Loyola University, Chicago - *'Mandate at the Margins: Crisis, Refusal, and Legal Accountability in Migration Governance'*

5:30PM-
6:45PM

Welcome to International Law Weekend 2025

Meeting Hall
2nd Floor
New York City
Bar Association

*From **Leila Nadya Sadat**, James Carr Professor of International Criminal Law, Washington University in St. Louis School of Law; Chair, International Law Association, American Branch and **Muhammad U. Faridi**, President of the New York City Bar Association*

President's Opening Plenary: In Conversation with Elinor Hammarskjöld

Elinor Hammarskjöld is the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs. Ms. Hammarskjöld has over 30 years of experience in security policy, international law, human rights, and treaty law. She has been a member of the Ministry's senior management team for over 10 years, serving in various capacities — including as Director-General for Political Affairs, Deputy Director in the Department for European Security Policy, Human Resources Director, and Ambassador of Sweden to Israel. She also served at the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations in New York.

Moderators:

- **Michael P. Scharf**, Associate Dean for Global Legal Studies and Joseph C. Hostetler -- BakerHostetler Professor of Law, Case Western Reserve University School of Law; President, International Law Association (American Branch)

Speaker:

- **Elinor Hammarskjöld**, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs

Schedule

Thursday, October 23



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6:45PM-
8:00PM

Opening Reception

Reception Area
New York City
Bar Association

The reception at the New York City Bar Association is open to all ILW attendees.

8:00PM

Early Career Drinks

Everything's
Jake Bar, 54 E
13th Street,
New York

ABILA is hosting a social for all early career lawyers - JD, LLM, JSD/SJD/PhD students, VAPs, Associates, etc., are welcome! The venue is 15 minutes away from the NYC Bar Association on public transit. Reservations are not required; ABILA will have several tables, and the bar will have ample additional space. Ask for 'ABILA' (uh-beela) at the door.



Schedule

Friday, October 25



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8:30AM

Registration Opens

Second Floor
Fordham Law

Pick up your name tag and ILW 2025 program from the registration tables at any time throughout the conference.

9:00AM-
10:00AM

Women's Networking Breakfast

Soden Lounge

Join us for our pre-Friday Plenary for bagels, fruit, coffee, and more. Together with *ArbitralWomen* and the American Society of International Law's *Women in International Law Interest Group*, the Women's Networking Breakfast is designed to be a welcoming space for women at all stages of their careers to connect, share insights, and foster mentorship. Everyone is free to attend.



10:00AM-
11:00AM

Friday Opening Plenary: The Future of International Arbitration

Constantino
Room (2-02)

Join **Mélida Hodgson** as she interviews **Lucinda A. Low** and **Meg Kinnear**, Co-Founders of Low & Kinnear Dispute Resolution, about their incredible work in the world of international arbitration. Meg and Lucinda each have over 40 years of experience practicing international and domestic law. Both are widely recognized as highly effective, capable, strategic, and knowledgeable problem solvers, who manage complex legal and factual cases efficiently and collegially. They bring extensive international experience, pragmatism, and sound judgment to every matter they take on.

Moderator:

- **Mélida Hodgson**, President, American Society of International Law; Partner, Arnold & Porter LLP

Speakers:

- **Lucinda A. Low**, Co-Founder of Low & Kinnear Dispute Resolution; Former President of the American Society of International Law
- **Meg Kinnear**, Co-Founder of Low & Kinnear Dispute Resolution; Former Secretary-General of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

11:00AM-
11:30AM

Coffee Break

Soden Lounge

Have coffee and tea in the Soden Lounge between panels.

Schedule



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Friday, October 25

11:30AM-
12:45PM

Room 2-02C

*Sponsored by
the ABILA
Formation of
Rules of
Customary
International
Law Committee*

Customary International Law: What Role Can It Play in Responding to Contemporary Global Crises?*

Today, multiple crises affect international economic relations, the environment, human rights, and global peace and security. This panel will examine the role of such crises in challenging existing customary international law norms, creating new ones, or reaffirming established norms as a bedrock for preserving peace and respecting human rights. In particular, the panel will investigate the extent to which customary international law has unique virtues in responding to crises. For example, it can serve as a stabilizing force when states create crises or respond to them by withdrawing from or flouting treaties. At the same time, it has weaknesses, such as being slow to adapt to crisis-induced changes. The panelists will explore these themes in relation to various contemporary crises.

Moderator:

- **Brian D. Lepard**, Harold W. Conroy Distinguished Professor of Law, University of Nebraska College of Law

Speakers:

- **Noora Arajärvi**, Coordinator of the Legal Advisor's Office, European University Institute, Florence, Italy
- **Oona A. Hathaway**, Gerard C. and Bernice Latrobe Smith Professor of International Law, Yale Law School
- **Adil Haque**, Distinguished Professor of Law and Judge Jon O. Newman Scholar, Rutgers Law School
- **Sir Michael Wood KC**, Twenty Essex Chambers

11:30AM-
12:45PM

Room 2-02B

*Sponsored by
the ABILA
International
Arbitration
Committee*

UN Roundtable: Leading Diplomats Reflect on the UN at 80

As the United Nations marks its 80th anniversary, international law remains a cornerstone of the multilateral system. This roundtable will bring together leading diplomats to examine concrete proposals to strengthen the UN system, drawing on national experiences and regional perspectives. Panelists will explore how the UN Charter and the International Court of Justice can contribute to institutional reform, clarify mandates, and enhance accountability. The discussion will also address initiatives featured in the Pact for the Future and other intergovernmental processes, focusing on how international legal frameworks can help the UN respond to modern threats.

Moderator:

- **Floriane Lavaud**, Senior Partner, Withers LLP; Co-Chair, ABILA International Arbitration Committee

Speakers:

- **H.E. Ambassador Milan Mehtarbhan**, Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations
- **Pablo Adrián Arrocha Olabuenaga**, Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico
- **H.E. Ambassador Christian Wenaweser**, Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein to the United Nations
- TBC

Schedule



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Friday, October 25

11:30AM-
12:45PM

Room 2-02A

The Digital Divide in International Cyber Law

This panel examines the impacts of the digital divide on state cyber relations, specifically how disparities in global digital infrastructure risk reinforcing and reproducing long-standing colonial-era power imbalances. Panelists will discuss how international cyber law—through treaties, regulatory frameworks, and the design of digital infrastructure, among other mediums—may inadvertently replicate the core-periphery dynamics entrenched through colonial history. The panels will critically examine the concrete measures required of states in positions of historical influence and privilege to catalyze the development of a global cyber order that diverges from the physical one, and with intentionality and diligence craft an international cyber infrastructure rooted in values of equity, inclusivity, and digital sovereignty.

Moderator:

- **Christine Carpenter**, PhD Candidate, University of Cambridge; ILW 2025 Organizing Committee

Speakers:

- **Fabian Rogers**, National Urban Fellow; Tech Policy Consultant
- **Jennifer Tridgell**, PhD Candidate, University of Cambridge
- **Roxana Vatanparast**, Assistant Professor, Capital University Law School
- **Rosey Wong**, Counsel, AHALI Dispute Resolution

11:30AM-
12:45PM

Room 2-01B

Crisis, Courts, and Sovereigns: Rethinking Immunity and Enforcement in a Shifting Global Order*

This panel will examine the evolving contours of sovereign immunity in U.S. courts. Sovereign immunity litigation has become a flashpoint for questions at the heart of international law: how state actors are held accountable, how international arbitration intersects with public interests, and what role domestic courts play in global dispute resolution. The panel will explore this dynamic legal terrain through the lens of recent cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and appellate courts—such as *Devas v. Antrix*, *Spain v. Blasket Renewables/NextEra*, *Hungary v. Simon*, and *Fuld v. PLO*. A key question will guide discussion: Are U.S. courts opening or closing their doors to suits involving foreign sovereigns?

Moderators:

- **Alec Albright**, Associate, White & Case LLP
- **Beatrice Walton**, Associate, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

Speakers:

- **Andrea Bjorklund**, L. Yves Fortier Chair in International Arbitration and International Commercial Law, McGill University Faculty of Law
- **Ingrid (Wuerth) Brunk**, Helen Strong Curry Chair in International Law, Vanderbilt University Law School
- **Nicolle Kownacki**, Partner, White & Case LLP
- **Natalie Reid**, Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

Schedule



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Friday, October 25

11:30AM-
12:45PM

Room 3-01

Planning a Career in International Law

The market for legal jobs is challenging, and specializing in a particular issue, like international law, can make your job search even more frustrating. This session will discuss the steps that students and graduates can take while still in law school or in their early careers to help themselves stand out in the search for an international law position. Topics covered will include targeted job searching, managing one's professional contacts, identifying appropriate international experiences, pursuing valuable volunteer and professional membership opportunities, and other practical issues that students can pursue.

- **Taylor Kilpatrick**, Senior Program Manager, American Society of International Law

12:30PM-
1:30PM

Room

ABILA Board Meeting

Lunch will be provided for members of the ABILA Board. Please leave the last panel session 15 minutes early to arrive on time.

12:45PM-
1:30PM

Soden Lounge

Boxed Lunch

Sponsored by the Leitner Center for International Law and Justice



Leitner Center
for International Law and Justice
AT FORDHAM LAW SCHOOL, NEW YORK CITY

12:45PM-
1:15PM

ABILA Committee Networking

TBC

Schedule



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Friday, October 25

1:30PM-
2:45PM

International Tribunals and Cultural Heritage Destruction: War Crimes, Persecution, Genocide & Discrimination

Room 2-01B

*Sponsored by
the ABILA
International
Cultural
Heritage
Committee*

This panel explores the evolving role of cultural heritage in cases before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC). Panelists will examine how the destruction and misappropriation of cultural heritage are increasingly framed as war crimes and targeted attacks on community identity. The discussion will highlight how cultural heritage features in ICJ and ICC cases under the Genocide Convention, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), and as persecution under the Rome Statute. Panelists will also consider the future role of cultural heritage in ICJ proceedings under the draft treaty on crimes against humanity and in future genocide prosecutions before the ICC.

Moderator:

- **Emily Behzadi Cárdenas**, Associate Professor, California Western School of Law

Speakers:

- **Anne-Marie Carstens**, Associate Professor, University of Baltimore School of Law
- **Kristin Hausler**, Director, the Centre for International Law, British Institute of International and Comparative Law
- **Jane Levine**, Managing Partner, The ArtRisk Group; Board of Directors, U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield

1:30PM-
2:45PM

The International Criminal Court: Surviving the Onslaught?

Room 2-02B

*Sponsored by
the ABILA
International
Criminal Court
Committee*

The panel will examine the work of the International Criminal Court ("ICC"), which continues despite the imposition of sanctions by the United States and the Russian Federation. How well is the ICC performing? Is it living up to expectations? Is it achieving gender justice? Why isn't it prosecuting the crime of aggression? How were powerful states during the July 2025 Special Session of the ICC's Assembly of States Parties able to defeat a proposal to harmonize the ICC's jurisdiction over all four Rome Statute crimes? What can the court achieve through its policy papers on cyber and Rome Statute crimes and environmental crimes? The panelists will address these and other issues.

Moderator:

- **Patrick J. Keenan**, Professor of Law, University of Illinois College of Law; Co-Chair, ABILA International Criminal Court Committee

Speakers:

- **Valerie Oosterveld**, Professor and Research Chair in International Criminal Justice, University of Western Ontario Faculty of Law
- **Rebecca Shoot**, Impact Coalition on Strengthening International Judicial Institutions; Co-Convenor, Washington Working Group on the ICC; Advocacy Director, ABILA International Criminal Court Committee
- **Jennifer Trahan**, Professor, New York University Center for Global Affairs & Director of the Concentration in International Law & Human Rights; Convenor, The Global Institute for the Prevention of Aggression; Co-Chair ABILA International Criminal Court Committee
- **Maria Elena Vignoli**, Senior Counsel, International Justice Program, Human Rights Watch

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Friday, October 25

1:30PM-
2:45PM

The WTO and the Pandemic Agreement: A Simulation of the TRIPS Council During a Pandemic Emergency

Room 2-02A

*Sponsored by
the ABILA
Global Health
Committee*

January 1, 2025, marked the 30th anniversary of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) coming into effect. Over the last three decades, the global governance of intellectual property (IP) has played a significant role in international response to health emergencies. The relationship between IP and pandemic preparedness and response was particularly evident during the COVID-19 pandemic, with growing uncertainty surrounding the scope for domestic measures to override patent rights during a public health crisis. In light of the adopted Pandemic Agreement, this session simulates a meeting of the WTO TRIPS Council, with key global health law scholars representing different scenarios and perspectives countries might use in the wake of the next public health crisis.

Moderator:

- **Ana Santos Rutschman**, Professor of Law, Villanova University School of Law; Co-Chair, ABILA Global Health Law Committee

Speakers:

- **Matthew Carvalho**, Fellow (Global Governance and Diplomacy), Sunway Centre for Planetary Health, Sunway University; Co-Chair, Global Health Law Committee
- **Alexandra Finch**, Senior Associate, O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Georgetown University Law Center
- **Sam Halabi**, Director, Center for Transformational Health Law, O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Georgetown University Law Center
- **Benjamin Mason Meier**, Professor of Global Health Policy, Department of Health Policy and Management, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- **Srividhya Ragavan**, Professor of Law & Director of International Programs, Texas A&M School of Law

1:30PM-
2:45PM

General Counsel Roundtable: Local Practice on a Global Scale

Room 2-02C

*Sponsored by
Womble Bond
Dickinson LLP*

General counsel play an increasingly critical and demanding role at global companies. They must carefully navigate a complex legal landscape spanning multiple jurisdictions. They must balance the need to harmonize practices across their organization with the reality of legal requirements and local differences. They have to prioritize the effective allocation of resources, deciding which legal expertise to develop in-house and which is best handled externally. At the same time, they guide senior executives through the legal and regulatory frameworks that shape strategy and operations worldwide. This panel will bring together experienced GCs to share how they tackle these challenges in practice, offering candid insights and actionable lessons that resonate across industries and with the outside counsel who advise them.

Moderator:

- **Randel Young**, Executive Director, Tulane Energy Law & Policy Center, Tulane University Law School

Speakers:

- **Renuka Drummond**, General Counsel, IDC
- **Audrey Jean**, General Counsel, 3E
- **David Rassin**, General Counsel, SAExploration



Schedule



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1:30PM-
2:45PM

Room 2-01A

From Ambition to Action? The Sustainable Development Goals Ten Years On

This panel will examine how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have responded to the climate crisis a decade in. With the 2030 deadline approaching, we will ask: What crisis-driven changes are urgently needed, and who should lead them? Incremental progress is no longer enough. The discussion will spotlight transformative shifts, from reimagining economic systems for equity and sustainability to democratizing climate finance and integrating Indigenous knowledge into global policies. It will also confront power structures that hinder inclusive development. Central to this is leadership: the panel will explore how youth advocates, community organizers, and frontline defenders are reshaping efforts toward climate justice and driving progress toward the SDGs in this critical next phase.

Moderator:

- **Perpétua Chéry**, Associate, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

Speakers:

- **Freya Doughty-Wagner**, Chief Operating Officer, American Branch of the International Law Association; North American Director, Global Network for Human Rights and the Environment
- **Giovanna E. Gismondi**, Visiting Associate Professor of Law and Environmental Law Fellow, George Washington University Law School
- **John H. Knox**, former U.N. Special Rapporteur for Human Rights and the Environment; Henry C. Lauerman Professor of International Law, Wake Forest University School of Law
- **Vanessa Racehorse**, Associate Professor of Law and Core Faculty Member of the American Indian Law Program, University of Colorado Law School

3:00PM-
4:15PM

Room 2-02B

A “New” Role for the ICJ?

In this panel, we will explore the ‘new’ role played by the International Court of Justice in dispute resolution. Speakers have all been involved in recent cases at the ICJ and will discuss the types of cases the ICJ is currently hearing, the growing use of advisory opinions, and the most recent decisions made by the court, as well as their significance in the interpretation, implementation, and development of international law.

Moderator:

- **Francesco Messineo**, Legal Officer, United Nations

Speakers:

- **Chiara Giorgetti**, Professor of Law, University of Richmond Law School; Senior Fellow, International Claims and Reparations Project, Columbia Law School
- **Mohamed Helal**, Legal Advisor, Egyptian Permanent Mission to the United Nations
- **Alison Macdonald KC**, Barrister, Essex Court Chambers
- **H.E. Ambassador Franz Perrez**, Director-General, Directorate of International Law at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland
- **Arman Sarvarian**, Reader in Public International Law, University of Surrey

Schedule



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3:00PM-
4:15PM

Negotiating the Future Crimes Against Humanity treaty: Paradigm Shift or Half-Measure?

Room 2-02C

*Sponsored by
the ABILA
Crimes Against
Humanity
Study Group*

Elinor Hammar skjöld, UN Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, has recently called the negotiation of a treaty on Crimes Against Humanity a bright light amid shrinking UN budgets, increasing global conflict, the fracturing of Western alliances, and the rise of authoritarianism. The adoption of GA Resolution 79/122 in December set out a four-year process for the treaty's negotiation, culminating in two sessions of a Diplomatic Conference in 2028 and 2029. Supported by 192 of 193 member states, it represented a moment of real consensus. Can this moment and the treaty negotiation process it began serve as a "transformative moment" that helps reshape and reconstruct international law? Can we move into new paradigms as negotiations begin, or will the looming challenges the world faces hobble efforts to reimagine international law?

Moderator:

- **Leila Nadya Sadat**, James Carr Professor of International Criminal Law, Washington University School of Law; Chair, International Law Association (American Branch); Chair, ABILA Study Group on Crimes Against Humanity

Speakers:

- **Ana Paula Lavallo Arroyo**, Delegate for Third Committee and Sixth Committee, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations
- **Tom Dannenbaum**, Professor of Law and Frank Stanton Professor of Nuclear Security, Stanford University
- **Akila Radhakrishnan**, Strategic Legal Adviser, Gender Justice, Atlantic Council
- **Hugo Relva**, Legal Adviser, Amnesty International
- **Sebastiaan Verelst**, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' Transitional Justice Adviser

3:00PM-
4:15PM

Towards "Un-Crisis" Thinking in Global Migration Law

Room 1-01

International law relating to migration, like much migration policy, has long been driven by crisis, real or imaginary. In this sphere, crisis thinking operates as a mechanism of fear and exclusion, precluding holistic and equitable approaches. This discussion will examine ways of ending crisis thinking and moving towards comprehensive and rights-based migration law through questions, including: What has been the impact of crisis thinking on global migration law? What could be gained through "un-crisis" thinking? What are concrete proposals for global migration law motivated by "un-crisis" thinking? How can migration law respond to crises without being driven by them? How can domestic legal systems break free of crisis thinking and incorporate international protections of migrants in their approach to migration?

Moderator:

- **Monica Iyer**, Assistant Professor of Law, Georgia State University College of Law

Speakers:

- **Jennifer Gordon**, John D. Feerick Chair, Professor of Law, Fordham University School of Law
- **José Miranda**, Supervising Attorney (Climate), International Refugee Assistance Project
- **Siobhán Mullally**, U.N. Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children
- **Jaya Ramji-Nogales**, Sheller Family Professor in Public Interest Law, Temple University School of Law
- **Ragini Shah**, Clinical Professor of Law, Suffolk University School of Law

Schedule



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Friday, October 25

3:00PM-
4:15PM

Room 2-01B

*Sponsored by
the ABILA
International
Trade Law
Committee*

Taking Stock of the World Trading System*

This panel will assess changes in U.S. trade policy and interpretations of U.S. trade law in the first ten months of President Trump's second term, and how those developments are affecting: the economy of the United States and other countries; trade flows and supply chains; international trade regimes (including United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement and the World Trade Organization); political and economic relations and among various countries; and expectations for the structure and content of international trade law development. Panelists will also consider what new trade arrangements might be possible.

Moderator:

- **Richard H. Steinberg**, Jonathan D. Varat Endowed Professor of Law and Professor of Political Science, University of California, Los Angeles

Speakers:

- **Heidi Crebo-Rediker**, Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations
- **Kathleen Claussen**, Professor of Law and Anne Fleming Research Professor, Georgetown University Law Center
- **Hon. Timothy Reif**, Judge, Court of International Trade
- **Andrew Shoyer**, Partner, Sidley Austin LLP

3:00PM-
4:15PM

Room 2-02A

*Sponsored by
the ABILA
Committee on
International
Intellectual
Property*

Progress in International IP? Implications of the Riyadh Design Law Treaty*

International intellectual property law has, arguably, suffered a crisis of legitimacy, with the system being criticized as primarily benefiting large corporations and industrialized nations. However, 2024 was seen as a year of progress, with the conclusion of the WIPO treaty requiring disclosure of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in patent applications. WIPO member states also concluded the Riyadh Design Law Treaty (DLT) to harmonize and facilitate the registration of designs in different countries. Importantly, the DLT also addresses traditional cultural expressions. This panel of experts will discuss the implications of DLT in general, as well as the treaty implications for small and medium-sized enterprises, designers from developing countries, and the protection of traditional cultural expressions.

Moderator:

- **J. Janewa Osei-Tutu**, Professor of Law, University of Miami School of Law

Speakers:

- **Margo Bagley**, Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Law, Emory University School of Law; McDonald Distinguished Senior Fellow, Harvard Berkman Klein Center
- **Christine Farley**, Professor of Law, American University Washington College of Law
- **Sean Flynn**, Professor of Law and Director, Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property, American University Washington College of Law
- **Anna Morawiec Mansfield**, Legal Counsel, World Intellectual Property Organization
- **Peter K. Yu**, Professor of Law, Regents Professor of Law and Communication, and Director, Center for Law and Intellectual Property, Texas A&M School of Law

Schedule



INTERNATIONAL
LAW ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN BRANCH ▸ EST. 1922

Friday, October 25

4:30PM-
5:45PM

International Organization Secretariats as Crisis Managers and Change-Makers

Room 2-01B

The international rule of law is facing growing threats as authoritarianism increases in both established and developing democracies. Civil society organizations, often the first responders to these challenges, are increasingly targeted by restrictions, harassment, and efforts to delegitimize their work. This Roundtable will explore how civil society is responding to the erosion of domestic legal systems and the breakdown of the post-WWII international legal order. Leaders from civil society and bar associations worldwide will share strategies to counter attacks on legal independence, assaults on NGOs, and the weakening of legal frameworks vital to global economic, human rights, and security systems. The discussion will also focus on how civil society can remain resilient amid today's international legal and institutional crises.

Moderator:

- **Peggy McGuinness**, Professor of Law and Co-Director, St. John's Center for International and Comparative Law, St. John's University School of Law

Speakers:

- **Elizabeth Evenson**, International Justice Director, Human Rights Watch
- **Muhammad Faridi**, President, New York City Bar Association
- **Alejandro González-Arreola**, Chief Engagement Officer, World Justice Project
- **Gustavo Santillana**, Counsel, Mexican Bar Association

4:30PM-
5:45PM

AI and International Humanitarian Law: Emerging Norms

Room 2-02B

As artificial intelligence (AI) becomes increasingly integrated into military operations, international law faces new challenges in regulating armed conflict. This panel will explore the evolving use of AI in operations during armed conflicts and assess how existing IHL applies, with particular attention to questions of accountability, algorithmic decision-making, targeting, autonomy, and efficiency. Drawing on past experiences with global cybersecurity, the panel will consider the normative question of whether existing IHL is sufficient or if it contains prominent gaps in coverage or areas in need of evolution, with attention to efforts by States, civil society, and international organizations to shape new rules. The discussion thus highlights an increasingly important intersection point among law, ethics, and technology in contemporary warfare.

Moderator:

- **Harold Hongju Koh**, Sterling Professor of International Law, Yale Law School

Speakers:

- **Tsvetelina van Benthem**, Research Officer, Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford University
- **Rebecca Crootoft**, Professor of Law, Richmond Law School
- **Jessica Dorsey**, Assistant Professor of International Law, Co-Director of the Realities of Algorithmic Warfare, Utrecht University
- **Duncan Hollis**, Laura H. Carnell Professor of Law, Temple Law School

Schedule



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Friday, October 25

4:30PM-
5:45PM

Room 2-02C

Creative Solutions for Accountability for Gender-Based Violence and Other Crimes in International Law*

The past few years have seen an increase in atrocity crimes, ranging from the targeting of aid workers to widespread attacks against broader civilian populations. Few of these crimes will be prosecuted. Most perpetrators will not be held accountable. International mechanisms are necessary in the quest for accountability, but they do not have the capacity to address every survivor. Lawyers should explore diverse legal pathways in their fight against impunity, whether on the domestic, regional, or international levels. This event will discuss innovative litigation, including the SEC Complaint against Meta for their role in the Rohingya genocide, universal jurisdiction cases for gender-based crimes, as well as ways to use emerging technologies to locate alleged perpetrators and secure victories for survivors.

Moderator:

- **Esti Tambay**, Senior Legal Counsel, Open Society Justice Initiative

Speakers:

- **Chloe Marnay Baszanger**, Principal Human Rights Officer and Team Leader, U.N. Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict
- **Yasmine Chubin**, Legal Advocacy Director, Clooney Foundation for Justice; Former International Criminal Court Prosecution Lawyer
- **Nick Leddy**, Head of Litigation, Legal Action Worldwide; Former International Criminal Court Prosecution Lawyer
- **Nema Milaninia**, Partner, Special Matters & Government Investigations, King and Spalding LLP; Former International Criminal Court Prosecution Lawyer
- **Maung Sawyeddollah**, Rohingya Human Rights Activist and Atrocity Crime Survivor

4:30PM-
5:45PM

Room 1-01

The Second Century of the Federal Arbitration Act*

The Federal Arbitration Act celebrated its 100th anniversary in early 2025. What can we expect—and what might we hope for—in the next 100 years? The proposed panel will build on this year's theme for ILW—reckoning with transformative moments and reimagining international law—and invite attendees to imagine how U.S. law might look like in the year 2125 in light of its evolution over the past century to meet new challenges and opportunities. The panel will address recent developments in U.S. arbitration law, emerging challenges, and proposals for reform.

Moderator:

- **H. Christopher Boehning**, Partner, Paul, Weiss LLP

Speakers:

- **Pamela Bookman**, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Law, Fordham University School of Law
- **Yasmine Lahlou**, Partner, Chaffetz Lindsey LLP
- **Robert Smit**, Professor of Professional Practice, Columbia Law School

Schedule



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Friday, October 25

4:30PM-
5:45PM

Room 2-02A

Narrative Strategies in International Environmental Law

Making the case for international environmental law often requires explaining complex causal chains, in which responsible acts are far from the ultimate consequences of environmental crises. Remedies, too, frequently require structural solutions several steps upstream from affected communities, along with buy-in from the public and policymakers to implement legislation that gives effect to State obligations. This panel will explore how environmental advocates use narrative strategies — in international courts, in domestic litigation applying international and comparative principles, and in broader public campaigns — to help make causality legible and build support. Panelists will consider what makes persuasive storytelling, how such strategies influence both legal outcomes and public engagement, and lessons for the development of international environmental law and other transnational legal movements.

Moderator:

- **Megan Corrarino**, Managing Editor, Just Security

Speakers:

- **Sue Biniaz**, Lecturer and Senior Fellow, Yale Jackson School of Global Affairs; Former Principal Deputy Special Envoy for Climate to the U.S. State Department
- **Camila Bustos**, Assistant Professor of Law, Elisabeth Haub School of Law, Pace University
- **Naima Te Maile Fifita**, Founder and Director, Moana Tasi Project; Councillor, World Future Council

6:00PM-
7:30PM

466 Lexington
Ave 20th floor,
New York, NY
10017

UN Mission Reception | *Advance ticket purchase required*

The Friday evening reception is generously hosted by the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations. Space is limited, and pre-registration is required. For security reasons, registered guests are required to present photo identification at check-in.



Schedule

Saturday, October 25



INTERNATIONAL
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9:00AM-
10:15AM

103rd Members Meeting & Award Presentations

The Members Meeting is open to members and non-members alike.

Remarks by ILW Co-Chairs **William Aceves**, **Amity Boye**, and **Jess Peake**

Room 1-01

Thank you to Emerging Voices, Student Ambassadors, and representatives from ILA Branches.

Outstanding Achievement Award & Keynote Address

Brenda Hollis, Principal Trial Lawyer (D-1 level), Office of the Prosecutor, International Criminal Court; International Co-Prosecutor of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (2019 - 2022); Prosecutor of both the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone and the Special Court for Sierra Leone (2010 - 2019)

Award presented by **Jennifer Trahan**, ABILA Vice-President; Co-Chair, ABILA International Criminal Court Committee

Annual Award Presentations

Charles Siegal Distinguished Service Award

Houston Putnam Lowry, Partner, Ford & Paulekas, LLP, and ABILA Treasurer. Houston has taken on various roles with ABILA, including serving as the first Webmaster, Chair of the International Commercial Law Committee, and ABILA Secretary.

Award presented by **Andrea Bjorklund**, ABILA Board of Directors, and **David P. Stewart**, ABILA Honorary Vice-President

ABILA Book of the Year Award

José E. Alvarez and **Judith Bauder**, *Women's Property Rights Under CEDAW* (Oxford University Press, 2024)

ABILA Award for a Book on a Practical or Technical Subject

Sir Michael Wood and **Omri Sender**, *Identification of Customary International Law* (Oxford University Press, 2024)

ABILA Book Award for a First-time Author

Erin Pobjie, *Prohibited Force: The meaning of "Use of Force" in International Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2024)

ABILA Best Edited Volume Award

Alejandro Chehtman, **Alexandra Huneus**, and **Sergio Puig**, *Latin American International Law in the Twenty-First Century* (Oxford University Press, 2025)

Awards presented by **Mortimer (Tim) Sellers**, Co-Chair, ABILA Legitimacy and Fundamental Principles of International Law Committee; Chair, ABILA Book Awards Committee

103rd Members Meeting

Schedule



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Saturday, October 25

10:30AM-
11:45AM

Public Health and Human Rights: New Tensions and Synergies

Room 2-02A

*Sponsored by
the ABILA
International
Human Rights
Law Committee*

This roundtable will explore how government actions opposed to science-based public health policies fuel health “infodemics” such as vaccine myths; refusals to adopt evidence-based policies that prevent or slow disease epidemics; climate change denialism; and disinformation about safe abortion practices, violate the human right to the highest standard of mental and physical health as well as the human right to benefit from science. The roundtable will also explore the tools available in the international human rights law infrastructure and other strategies to help counter such anti-science policies.

Moderator:

- **Warren Binford**, Professor and WH Lea Endowed Chair for Justice in Pediatric Law, Ethics & Policy, University of Colorado; Co-Chair, ABILA Committee on International Human Rights

Speakers:

- **Joe Amon**, Desmond M. Tutu Professor of Public Health and Human Rights and Director, Center for Health and Human Rights, Johns Hopkins University
- **Michele Heisler**, Professor, Internal Medicine, Health Behavior, and Health Equity; University of Michigan; Medical Director, Physicians for Human Rights
- **Payal Shah**, Director of Research, Litigation, and Advocacy, Physicians for Human Rights

10:30AM-
11:45AM

What Today's Wars Mean for Tomorrow's International Legal Order

Room 2-02B

*Sponsored by
the ABILA
International
Humanitarian
Law
Committee*

The 1945 UN Charter and the 1949 Geneva Conventions revolutionized the international legal order's treatment of the use of force by states. From the prohibition on the use of aggressive force to detailed new rules for the conduct of hostilities and the protection of civilians, to commitments to end impunity for breaches, the past 75 years have been the golden age of law concerning armed conflict. Why, then, have the wars between Russia and Ukraine and between Israel and Palestine become an unprecedented stress test for the legal order that arose from the ashes of World War II? What is the future of these aspects of international law, and what benefits and burdens to humankind are likely to follow?

Moderator:

- **Gabor Rona**, Professor of Practice, Benjamin N. Cardozo Law School; Chair, ABILA Committee on International Humanitarian Law

Speakers:

- **Brian J. Egan**, Partner, National Security, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
- **Justice Richard Goldstone**, Former Chief Prosecutor of the United Nations International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda
- **Monica Hakimi**, William S. Beinecke Professor of Law, Columbia Law School
- **Chimène Keitner**, Homer G. Angelo and Ann Berryhill Professor of Law and Director of the Center for International Law and Policy, UC Davis School of Law

Schedule



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Saturday, October 25

10:30AM-
11:45AM

Toward a Regional Human Rights Framework in the Middle East: Aspirations, Realities, and Lessons from Comparative Regionalism

Room 2-02C

More than a decade after the Arab Spring, the call for freedom, justice, and dignity still echoes across the Middle East. But can a bold new vision like a regional human rights convention turn aspiration into action? This panel takes on the big question: Is the time ripe for a Middle Eastern framework that protects rights through shared values, legal innovation, and regional cooperation? Drawing lessons from Europe, Africa, and the Americas, panelists will examine whether a homegrown model, rooted in the region's unique legal, cultural, and religious landscape, can be successful. From phased or hybrid commitments to new enforcement mechanisms, this session will pitch ideas, challenge assumptions, and ask: could this be the breakthrough the region has been waiting for?

Moderator:

- **Harout Ekmanian**, Associate, Foley Hoag LLP

Speakers:

- **Elise Baker**, Senior Staff Lawyer, Strategic Litigation Project, Atlantic Council
- **Kristine Beckerle**, Deputy Regional Director and Beirut Office Director, Amnesty International
- **Adrienne Fricke**, Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School's Middle East Initiative; Senior Peace Fellow, Public International Law and Policy Group
- **Salma Waheedi**, Executive Director, Program on Law and Society in the Muslim World, Harvard Law School

10:30AM-
11:45AM

Global Energy Governance - Strategic Weapon or Tool for Peace?*

Room 2-01B

This session explores the importance of energy governance for states, as energy is essential for development and economic growth. It emphasizes that no state is fully energy independent, making control over global energy chokepoints a source of significant power. The session contrasts realpolitik and common-good approaches to governance, showing how each leads to different outcomes. It examines how legal frameworks can support more stable and effective results under both models. Ultimately, it argues that only a common-good approach can truly address global human rights challenges and outlines strategies to shift from confrontation to collaboration in energy governance.

Moderator:

- **Frédéric Sourgens**, James McCulloch Chair in Energy Law and Director of the Tulane Center for Energy Law, Tulane Law School

Speakers:

- **Catherine Banet**, Professor of Law and Head of the Department for Energy and Resources Law, University of Oslo
- **M. Imad Khan**, Partner, Winston & Strawn LLP
- TBC

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Saturday, October 25

10:30AM-
11:45AM

Keeping Sinking States Afloat: The Crisis of Climate Change-Induced Sea-Level Rise and the International Legal Framework*

Room 1-01

There are four small island states that are in danger of becoming uninhabitable and even being completely submerged before the end of the century. Current consideration of the topic has focused on preserving statehood, while also considering the human dimension of the crisis through that lens. This panel examines how the crisis of climate change-induced sea-level rise challenges the current conception of statehood in international law and considers whether it should serve as a catalyst for the progressive development of international law, thereby preserving the statehood of states and better protecting individuals affected by this phenomenon.

Moderator:

- **Claire Robertson**, Senior Associate, DLA Piper LLP

Speakers:

- **Michael Gerrard**, Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice. Founder and Faculty Director of Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, Columbia Law School
- **Benjamin Salas Kantor**, Special Assistant to the President, International Court of Justice
- **Eran Sthoeger**, Litigator and Consultant in Public International Law; Adjunct Professor of Law, Brooklyn Law School; Lecturer in International Environmental Law, Columbia Law School
- **Patrícia Galvão Teles**, Co-Chair of the International Law Commission's Study Group on Sea-Level Rise in Relation to International Law

12:00PM-
1:15PM

Jessup Compromis/Q&A

Room 1-01

The Jessup 2026 Problem will present the following issues: (1) Who has the right to intervene in proceedings before the International Court of Justice? (2) What are the rights of indigenous peoples relating to rare earth minerals found in their land? (3) What are “the general principles of law recognized by civilized nations”? and (4) When is a state immune from the domestic jurisdiction of another state when it has caused economic harm to citizens of that state? This session is designed to allow Jessup competitors to ask questions to a team of international law experts in preparation for the 2026 National Rounds.



Moderator:

- **Michael Peil**, Executive Director, International Law Students Association

Speakers:

- TBC
- TBC
- TBC
- TBC



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Saturday, October 25

12:00PM-
1:15PM

Room 2-02B

Combatting State Hostage-Taking through International Law

State hostage-taking – the unlawful detention of foreign nationals for political leverage – is a growing concern that remains relatively unexplored and undefined in international law, posing challenges for legal characterization, recognition, and attribution. In 2024, Canada convened an International Independent Panel of eminent jurists to examine the existing framework and propose recommendations to strengthen international legal norms by enhancing legal clarity, promoting institutional accountability, and informing state responses. With the Panel's findings and recommendations to be released this summer, this timely session brings together legal experts, scholars, and policymakers to explore how international law can effectively respond. Panelists will assess the legal challenges, examine the Panel's proposals, and discuss the role of legal instruments and practitioners in addressing this practice.

Moderator:

- **Beatrice Maille**, Minister-Counsellor and Legal Adviser, Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations in New York City

Speakers:

- **Dani Gilbert**, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Northwestern University
- **Claudio Grossman**, Member, Independent International Panel on Arbitrary Detention in State-to-State Relations; Professor of Law, Dean Emeritus, and the Raymond Geraldson Scholar for International and Humanitarian Law, American University Washington College of Law
- **Marine Sharpe**, Associate Professor of International Law, Royal Military College Saint-Jean

12:00PM-
1:15PM

Room 2-02A

Global Business at a Crossroads: Navigating a New Fragmented Reality*

As the global geopolitical landscape fractures, law firms and their clients face a rapidly shifting business environment. The erosion of multilateralism, rising strategic rivalries, and the weaponization of legal tools—such as sanctions and extraterritorial regulation—are transforming the role of international lawyers. This panel explores how these disruptions are impacting global commerce, legal risk, and institutional trust. What new strategies must law firms adopt to advise clients amid fragmentation—and how might legal norms evolve to remain relevant in an era of power politics and complexity?

Moderator:

- **William Burke-White**, Professor of Law, University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

Speakers:

- **Shrutih Tewarie**, Partner and Co-Chair, International Trade & Security Practice, Foley Hoag LLP
- **Hugh Verrier**, Partner and Chair Emeritus, White & Case LLP
- **Kimberly Zelnick**, Global Head of Financial Institutions Disputes Group, Freshfields LLP

Schedule



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Saturday, October 25

12:00PM-
1:15PM

Room 2-02C

The Role of Civil Society in the Face of the Crisis of the International Legal Order

The international rule of law faces serious threats as authoritarianism rises in both established and emerging democracies. Civil society organizations, often first to respond, are increasingly targeted by restrictions, harassment, and delegitimization. This Roundtable will explore how civil society is confronting these challenges and responding to the erosion of domestic legal norms and the dismantling of the post-WWII international legal order. Leaders from civil society and bar associations worldwide will share strategies for defending the independence of the legal profession, resisting attacks on NGOs, and upholding legal frameworks critical to global economic stability, human rights, and security. The discussion will also focus on how civil society can remain resilient amid growing pressures on the international legal system.

Moderator:

- **Margaret E. (Peggy) McGuinness**, Co-Director, St. John's Center for International and Comparative Law, and Professor of Law, St John's University School of Law

Speakers:

- **Elizabeth Evenson**, Director, International Justice Program, Human Rights Watch
- **Muhammad U. Faridi**, President, New York City Bar Association; Litigation, Arbitration & Investigations Partner, Linklaters LLP
- **Alejandro Gonzalez**, Chief Engagement Officer, World Justice Project
- **Gustavo Santillana**, Coordinator and Counsel, Mexican Bar Association

12:00PM-
1:15PM

Room 2-01A

*Sponsored by
the ABILA
International
Investment
Law
Committee*

Does Investor-State Arbitration Impede Responses to Climate Change?*

International investment law and investor-state arbitration have been criticized for hindering state responses to climate change. Such claims have been invoked to support calls for reform. But are these claims true? For example, the parties to the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT)—which protects energy investments in Europe and surrounding areas—adopted a “modernization” of the treaty on December 3, 2024. This multifaceted modification, among other things, excluded many hydrocarbon investments from international protection and included a range of other modifications to reflect climate change concerns. One animating concern of the ECT parties was to eliminate barriers to State climate change responses. This panel will debate whether and how investment law and investor-State arbitration restrict actions to mitigate climate change.

Moderator:

- **David L. Attanasio**, Partner, Womble Bond Dickinson LLP; Co-Chair, ABILA International Investment Law Committee

Speakers:

- **Jovana Crnčević**, Special Counsel, International Arbitration and Public International Law, Withers LLP
- **Daniel Reich**, Partner, Paul, Weiss LLP; Co-Chair, ABILA International Arbitration Committee
- **Diana Tsutsieva**, Partner, International Litigation and Arbitration, Foley Hoag LLP

Schedule



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Saturday, October 25

12:00PM-
1:15PM

Crimes Against the Environment, Nature, and Biodiversity – Progresses and Gaps in the Law of International and Transnational Crimes

Room 2-01B

*Sponsored by
the ABILA
International
Environmental
and Energy
Law Committee*

Depending on their gravity, scale, and characteristics, crimes against the environment, nature, and biodiversity may fall under International Crimes or Transnational Crimes, triggering different levels of protection under International Law. The purpose of this panel will be to discuss progress, gaps, and loopholes, as well as overlapping rules. Panelists will consider the law of war crimes, proposals to include crimes against the environment in a draft UN Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity, the new international crime of ecocide as well as environmental crimes reflecting business models illegally exploiting natural resources, wildlife trafficking, and destroying habitats/landscapes, to be qualified as transnational crimes, as evidenced by negotiations towards an additional protocol to UNTOC by an intergovernmental panel of experts.

Moderator:

- **Milena Sterio**, James A. Thomas Distinguished Professor of Law, Cleveland State University College of Law; ABILA Co-Director of Studies

Speakers:

- **David Donat Cattin**, Adjunct Associate Professor, Center for Global Affairs, New York University
- **Christopher Lentz**, Legal Advisor, Register of Damage for Ukraine; Lecturer in Law, University of Chicago Law School
- **Cymie Payne**, Associate Professor, Department of Human Ecology and School of Law, Rutgers University
- **Bryce Rudyk**, Climate Program Director, New York University Frank J. Guarini Centre on Environment, Energy and Land Use Law

1:15PM-
2:15PM

Boxed Lunch

Served in the Soden Lounge

1:30PM-
2:15PM

Lunch Keynote: Crisis as Catalyst in International Law with Sir Howard Morrison

Room 1-01

Sir Howard Morrison is a Former Judge with the International Criminal Court and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Currently, he is the UK advisor on war crimes to the Ukrainian Prosecutor General.

Schedule



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Saturday, October 25

2:30PM-
3:45PM

State Capture and Kleptocracy: Reimagining International Law On Anti-Corruption in an Age of Kleptocracy*

Room 1-01

The international legal regime surrounding bribery, embezzlement, and other corruption-related behavior assumes that states want to prevent and suppress corruption, but what if, as is increasingly true, it's the rulers who are stealing their country's wealth and so have no interest in pursuing an effective response? The panel will discuss the extent of the problem of systemic corruption, state capture, and kleptocracy. It will look at how the international architecture needs to change, and how international support for national initiatives – especially involving the use of human rights mechanisms, private enforcement by victims, and cross-national legal actions -- are already starting to revitalize and reconceptualize the field.

Moderator:

- **Belén Aguinaga**, Program Officer, Corruption and Human Rights, Due Process of Law Foundation

Speakers:

- **Elizabeth David-Barrett**, Professor of Governance and Integrity, Center for the Study of Corruption, University of Sussex
- **Gillian Dell**, Head of Conventions Unit, Transparency International
- **Rick Messick**, Editor, Global Anti-Corruption Blog
- **Naomi Roht-Arriaza**, Emerita Distinguished Professor of Law, UC Law San Francisco

2:30PM-
3:45PM

Prevention as a Fundamental Principal of International Law: Atrocity Prevention in a Time of Crisis

Room 2-02C

International law has long struggled to reconcile the clearly prevention-oriented approaches codified in its foundational documents and embodied in its core institutions with the reticence of states to take proactive action that could be seen as acting against sovereignty. Yet the rising tide of ongoing conflicts and mass atrocities has generated a public crisis around the legitimacy of international law. If international law can't prevent the worst offenses, the things it was literally designed to stop from happening ever again, why should we care about it? This roundtable will discuss the legitimacy crisis arising from international law's failure to prevent genocide and explore the challenges to a prevention-oriented approach to international law.

Moderator:

- **Tina Al-kharsan**, Policy and Government Affairs Officer, Syria Justice & Accountability Centre

Speakers:

- **Mutasim A. Ali**, Legal Advisor, Raoul Wallenberg Center for Human Rights; Doctoral Candidate, American University Washington College of Law
- **Megan Corrado**, Deputy Executive Director, Alliance for Peacebuilding
- **Yonah Diamond**, Senior Legal Counsel, Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights

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Saturday, October 25

2:30PM-
3:45PM

Room 2-02A

The Force of Law for Good: Renewing the Global Commitment to Pro Bono

In a period marked by funding challenges for the non-profit sector, law firms can play a critical role in advancing justice. This panel examines how global law firms, with their exceptional reach and expertise, are uniquely positioned to help address this gap and champion international pro bono work. Through powerful case studies, three law firm-NGO pairs will share how their collaborations have delivered meaningful impact across borders. These partnerships show how legal professionals and civil society can join forces to build scalable, multi-sector solutions to global challenges. The discussion will highlight how a renewed commitment to pro bono not only strengthens the rule of law but also cultivates a new generation of capable, socially conscious lawyers.

Moderator:

- **Amity Boye**, President-Elect, American Branch of the International Law Association

Speakers:

- **Sara Andrews**, Senior International Pro Bono Counsel, DLA Piper LLP
- **Carmen Cheung Ka-Man**, Executive Director, Center for Justice & Accountability
- **Jason Hipp**, Partner, Jenner & Block LLP
- **Sara Lulo**, Executive Director, International Senior Lawyers Project

2:30PM-
3:45PM

Room 2-01B

*Sponsored by
the ABILA Law
of the Sea
Committee*

Charting the Deep: An Oxford-Style Debate on the Future of Seabed Governance*

The ocean floor is becoming a key frontier for global resource extraction and a hotbed of international legal contention. As the United States moves forward with deep-sea mining while bypassing the International Seabed Authority, urgent questions surface about international governance, state sovereignty, and the future of ocean law. This Oxford-style debate will address two critical motions:

1. This House believes that the International Seabed Authority is effective in organizing and controlling mineral-resources-related activities in the Area.
2. This House believes that the United States may unilaterally explore and exploit resources available in the Area. Speakers will engage from opposing sides, offering legal and political insights into one of the most pressing global issues.

Moderator:

- **Konstantine Kopaliani**, Associate, White & Case LLP

Speakers:

- **Katherine Gorove**, Senior Counsel and Senior International Affairs Consultant, Lexpat Global Services
- **Anaïs Harlé**, Counsel, White & Case LLP
- **Juan Pablo Hugues**, Senior Associate, Foley Hoag LLP
- **Coalter Lathrop**, Director, Sovereign Geographic

Schedule

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2:30PM-
3:45PM

Hot Topics

Room 2-02B

TBC

3:50PM-
5:00PM

Pathways to Employment in International Law

Room 1-01

Join us for an interactive discussion on how to launch an international legal career as a student or young lawyer. Hear speakers give practical career advice and guidance on using different networking and career tools to gain internships and entry-level legal jobs in the current job market. Speakers will discuss how to utilize your existing network to access opportunities and how to best position and present yourself as a top candidate during the interview process.

*Organized with
the ABA
Section on
International
Law and the
International
Law Students
Association*

Moderators:

- **Angela Benson**, Membership, Meetings, and Marketing Director, American Bar Association, International Law Section
- **Michael Peil**, Executive Director, International Law Students Association

Speakers:

- **Federico Euforbio**, Associate, International Arbitration, White & Case LLP
- **Olga Pototskaya**, Associate, Commercial Disputes and International Arbitration, Winston & Strawn LLP
- TBC
- TBC