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INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 2025

A conference presented by the IBA Insolvency Section

# 30th Annual IBA Global Insolvency and Restructuring Conference

18–20 May 2025, The St. Regis Florence, Florence, Italy

## Working programme

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All speaker materials and biographies can be found at [www.ibanet.org/conference-details/conf2578](http://www.ibanet.org/conference-details/conf2578)

**Conference Co-Chairs**

Tomás Araya *Bomchil, Buenos Aires; Co-Chair, IBA Insolvency Section*

Matteo Bazzani *TARGET, Milan; Senior Vice Chair of Conferences, IBA Insolvency Section*

Tommaso Foco *Portolano Cavallo, Rome; Senior Vice Chair of Subcommittees, Publications and Projects, IBA Insolvency Section*

Robyn Gurofsky *Fasken, Calgary, Alberta; Co-Chair, IBA Insolvency Section*

Marco Passalacqua *BonelliErede, Rome; Co-Chair, IBA Financial Institutions and Insolvency Subcommittee*

**Host Committee**

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Portolano Cavallo

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## Sunday 18 May

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1800 – 2030 **Host Committee Reception**

*Giardino Corsini*

*Via Della Scala, 115, Florence, 50123*

All registered delegates are welcome to attend.

## Monday 19 May

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**Registration will take place in the Salone delle Feste foyer**  
**All working sessions will take place in the Salone delle Feste Ballroom**  
**All coffee/tea breaks will take place in the Salone delle Feste foyer**  
**Lunch will take place in the Winter Garden Restaurant**

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0830 – 1700 **Registration**

0830 – 0910 **Welcome coffee/tea**

0910 – 0915 **Opening remarks**

0915 – 1000 **Keynote speech**

*Keynote speaker*

Claudio Tesauo *Chairman, Save the Children Italy; BonelliErede, Rome*

1000 – 1030 **Coffee/tea break**

**MOBILE TELEPHONES**

Delegates are requested to ensure that mobile telephones and any other portable devices are switched to silent in working sessions.

Conference dinner sponsor



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# Monday continued

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## 1030 – 1145 **Post-Purdue Pharma: understanding the Supreme Court's ruling and its aftermath**

This panel offers an analysis of the US Supreme Court's decisions in the Purdue Pharma proceedings and contemplates the future landscape in its wake. The panellists will provide an overview of the case, followed by an in-depth discussion of the innovative approaches emerging as a response to these landmark rulings.

*Moderator*

**Huan Tan** *Benvalor, Utrecht; Member, IBA Insolvency Section Advisory Board*

*Panellists*

**Brett Axelrod** *Fox Rothschild, Las Vegas, Nevada*

**Debra Grassgreen** *Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones, San Francisco, California*

**Timothy Graulich** *Davis Polk & Wardwell, New York; Senior Vice Chair Conference Quality, IBA Insolvency Section*

**Graham Lane** *Willkie Farr & Gallagher, London*

## 1145 – 1230 **What would you do?**

A fun and thought-provoking interactive session.

## 1230 – 1400 **Lunch**

## 1400 – 1515 **A strategic play for restructuring distressed football clubs**

This panel will cut through the complexity at the intersection of sport-specific legislation and corporate insolvency legislation, and discuss the unique balance required to align sport specific rules within the broader insolvency framework governing insolvent corporations. While highlighting the distinct landscape of football club restructuring, the panel will also discuss creative strategies that might be implemented to successfully restructure a football club.

*Moderator*

**Gordon Hollerin** *Harper Macleod, Glasgow; Senior Vice Chair of Conferences, IBA Insolvency Section*

*Panellists*

**Hanneke de Coninck** *Florent, Amsterdam; Vice Chair, IBA Restructuring and Workouts Subcommittee*

**Guilherme Fontes Bechara** *Demarest Advogados, São Paulo; Vice Chair, IBA Legislation and Policy Subcommittee*

**Charlotte Pope-Williams** *3 Hare Court, London*

**James Stephen** *BDO, Glasgow*

## 1515 – 1545 **Coffee/tea break**

## 1545 – 1700 **Navigating complexity: cross-border real estate restructuring in the SIGNA case**

Explore the intricate world of cross-border insolvency through the landmark SIGNA case. With over 120 separate insolvency proceedings, the SIGNA Group's vast involvement in European real estate and global retail sectors presents unprecedented challenges and opportunities in the realm of restructuring. This session brings together top insolvency lawyers who are at the forefront of the SIGNA case to dissect the multifaceted legal strategies employed across multiple jurisdictions.

*Moderator*

**Eva Spiegel** *Wolf Theiss, Vienna; Mid-Year Meetings Conference Officer, IBA Insolvency Section*

*Panellists*

**Karl-Heinz Götze** *Kreditschutzverband von 1870, Vienna*

**Torsten Martini** *Görg, Berlin*

## 1900 – 2200 **Conference reception and dinner**

*Palazzo Borghese*

*Via Ghibellina, 110, Florence, 50122*

Ticket price: €130

Entry is by pre-purchased ticket only.

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0830 – 1500 **Registration**

0830 – 0900 **Welcome coffee/tea**

0900 – 1030 **Clash of claims: priority vs secured claims in distressed scenarios**

This panel will delve into the dynamics between priority and secured claims in insolvency. In particular, the panellists will address circumstances in which secured claims are displaced by priority claims generated immediately prior to, or during, the insolvency proceedings, analysing the delicate interplay of creditor rights and protections across different jurisdictions, and demonstrating how insolvency can cast a shadow of uncertainty on the recovery expectations of creditors.

*Moderator*

**Marco Passalacqua** *BonelliErede, Rome; Co-Chair, IBA Financial Institutions and Insolvency Subcommittee*

*Panellists*

**Cinthia De Lamare** *Cescon Barriou Flesch & Barreto Advogados, Rio de Janeiro*

**Ferdinand Hengst** *De Brauw Blackstone Westbroek, Amsterdam*

**Natalie Levine** *Cassels Brock & Blackwell, Toronto, Ontario*

**Tomáš Richter** *JŠK, Prague*

**Lingqi Wang** *Fangda Partners, Shanghai; Vice Chair, IBA Legislation and Policy Subcommittee*

1030 – 1100 **Coffee/tea break**

1100 – 1230 **Cross-class cram down: a comparative perspective**

This panel provides a deep dive into the complexities and controversies of cross-class cram down (CCCD), a polarising aspect of restructuring and insolvency law. Panellists will discuss the legal framework, the policy rationales and the practical challenges of a CCCD and its interplay with the absolute priority rule in different jurisdictions. The discussion will balance the benefits of this principle against its potential pitfalls and explore its use as a tool for facilitating consensual and value-maximising restructurings.

*Moderator*

**Matteo Bazzani** *TARGET, Milan; Senior Vice Chair of Conferences, IBA Insolvency Section*

*Panellists*

**Carlo Bosco** *Co-Head of Capital Solutions, Pan Europe and Head of Italian Private Debt, Muzinich, Milan*

**Ryo Kawabata** *Mori Hamada & Matsumoto, Tokyo*

**Ruairi Rynn** *William Fry, Dublin*

**Simone Schönen** *Noerr, Frankfurt*

**Tushara Weerasooriya** *McMillan, Toronto, Ontario; Annual Conference Officer, IBA Insolvency Section*

1230 – 1400 **Lunch**

**MOBILE TELEPHONES**

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## Tuesday continued

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### 1400 – 1515 **Steering through the turbulence of hostile takeovers in restructuring**

Step into the high-stakes chessboard of hostile takeovers in restructuring, where the power plays for control of distressed companies unfold. This panel brings together leading figures who have steered some of the most notable and contentious cases of loan-to-own transactions. They will discuss the full spectrum of legal, financial and tactical aspects of these complex transactions, offering a lens into the art of leveraging recent reforms in restructuring legislation to optimise outcomes and manage risk.

*Moderator*

**Ignacio Buil** *Cuatrecasas, London; Co-Chair, IBA Legislation and Policy Subcommittee*

*Panellists*

**Kelly DiBlasi** *Weil Gotshal, New York*

**Guillermo Ferré** *Kartesia Advisors, Madrid*

**Lorenzo Pietromarchi** *AlixPartners, Milan*

**Vicki Tickle** *Cassels Brock & Blackwell, Vancouver, British Columbia*

**Stephanie Yeo** *Wong Partnership, Singapore*

### 1515 – 1530 **Closing remarks**

The IBA, its officers and staff accept no responsibility for any views expressed, presentations or materials produced by delegates or speakers at the Conference.

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