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INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 2026

A conference presented by the IBA Litigation Committee

IBA Annual Litigation Forum

The World has lost its Compass: we need to talk about Litigators!

15–17 April 2026, Four Seasons, Madrid, Spain

Working programme

Headline conference sponsor

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All speaker materials and biographies can be found at www.ibanet.org/conference-details/conf2746

Conference Co-Chairs

Jacques Bouyssou *Alerion, Paris; Co-Chair, IBA Litigation Committee*

Guillermina Ester *Pérez-Llorca, Madrid; Website Officer, IBA Litigation Committee*

Wednesday 15 April

1530 – 1730 **Young litigators seminar**
Gómez-Acebo & Pombo SLP
Paseo de la Castellana 216
28046
Madrid

2015 – 2300 **Welcome reception**
Museo del Prado
Retiro
28014
Madrid

Thursday 16 April

All sessions will take place in Sol ballroom
All coffee/tea breaks and lunch will take place in the Canales Hall & Ballroom

0730 – 0800 **Yoga sunrise session with Jane Colston**
Courtyard, The Four Seasons

0830 – 1700 **Registration**

0830 – 0930 **Welcome coffee**

0930 – 0940 **Welcome address**
Jacques Bouyssou Alerion, Paris; Co-Chair, IBA Litigation Committee
Daniel del Rio SMPS Legal, Mexico City; LDP Chair, International Bar Association

0940 – 1015 **Opening remarks**
Almudena Arpon de Mendivil Gomez-Acebo & Pombo, Madrid; Immediate Past President, International Bar Association
Jaime Pérez Renovales General Counsel, Banco Santander, Madrid

1015 – 1145 **Cross-border disputes in a fragmented world**
As global economic ties deepen while political fault lines widen, cross-border litigation is increasingly shaped by jurisdictional battles and the intrusion of national security considerations into commercial disputes. Litigators face courts competing for authority, states asserting extraterritorial reach and businesses caught between compliance with domestic mandates and exposure to foreign liability.
Speakers will address whether the current fragmentation signals a breakdown of established norms or simply the emergence of new strategic terrain for litigators.

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Thursday continued

Moderators

Sandrine Giroud *Lalive, Geneva; Co-Chair, IBA Litigation Committee*

Rafael Murillo *Gómez-Acebo y Pombo, Madrid*

Speakers

Daniel Birk *Eimer Stahl, Chicago, Illinois*

Lydia Danon *Cooke Young & Keidan, London; Jurisprudence Observer Officer, IBA Litigation Committee*

Lawrence Teh *Dentons, Singapore; Member, IBA Asia Pacific Regional Forum Advisory Board*

Johanna Wirth *HengelerMueller, Berlin; Webinar Officer, IBA Litigation Committee*

1145 – 1215 **Coffee/tea break**

1215 – 1345 **From battlefield to courtroom**

Wars may end, but the courtroom keeps memories alive. From banks sued for wartime profiteering to corporations tied to conflict zones, history shows that business decisions can resurface decades later. This session looks at what to expect from today's war in tomorrow's courtroom.

Moderators

Julia Ferraz-Cardoso *ENS, Sandton; Vice Chair, IBA Africa and Middle East Working Group*

Keith Oliver *Peters & Peters, London; Senior Vice Chair, IBA Asset Recovery Committee*

Speakers

The Rt Hon Dame Elizabeth Gloster DBE PC *One Essex Court Chambers, London*

Dmytro Marchukov *IMPACTA LAW, Kyiv; Publications Officer, IBA Litigation Committee*

Eliseo Martinez *IUS + AEQUITAS, Madrid; Website Officer, IBA Asset Recovery Committee*

Marcin Radwan-Röhrenscheff *Ro Legal, Warsaw*

1345 – 1515 **Lunch**

1515 – 1645 **The changing face of litigation: trust, technology and transformation**

Clients demand transparency and speed, courts push for efficiency and cooperation, and evidence has gone digital – sometimes even AI-generated. The traditional litigator–client–court triangle has been disrupted beyond recognition. This session challenges litigators to confront how their role is being reshaped: from warrior to strategist, from case-builder to case-manager. Are we adapting fast enough or are we clinging to a model of litigation that no longer exists?

Moderators

Natalia Olmos *Pérez-Llorca, Madrid*

Christopher Tahbaz *Debevoise & Plimpton, New York; Member, IBA Litigation Committee Advisory Board*

Speakers

Sean Yu Chou *WongPartnership, Singapore*

Justice Liam Kennedy *High Court of Ireland, Dublin; Member, IBA Litigation Committee Advisory Board*

Laure Lavorel *Broadcom, Prévèrenge*

Sara Martín Mustieles *Head of Litigation, Bankinter, Madrid*

Jacob Weiner *Harvey, New York*

Łukasz Wojdalski *DZP, Warsaw*

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Conference dinner sponsors

Thursday continued

1700 – 1800 **Visit to the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court**

2000 – 0000 **Black tie dinner and dancing**

Real Casino de Madrid

Alcalá 15,

28014 Madrid

Dress code: black tie and evening gowns.

Friday 17 April

All sessions will take place in Sol ballroom

All coffee/tea breaks and lunch will take place in the Canales Hall & Ballroom

0730 – 0800 **Yoga sunrise session with Jane Colston**

Courtyard, The Four Seasons

0830 – 1300 **Registration**

0800 – 0900 **IBA Class Actions Committee open business meeting and welcome coffee**

0915 – 0930 **Opening remarks**

Deborah Enix-Ross Debevoise & Plimpton, New York; IBA Secretary General

0930 – 1100 **Reinventing collective redress: the new era of class actions in a globalised legal landscape**

The reform of collective redress mechanisms marks a turning point for access to justice and corporate accountability. This session will explore the implications of the new class action regime, with a particular focus on its impact on multinational litigation. Panellists will debate how the framework reshapes procedural safeguards, evidentiary standards and damages assessment, while also addressing concerns of forum shopping, litigation funding and harmonisation across jurisdictions. Comparative perspectives from Europe, North America, and emerging markets will shed light on opportunities and challenges for practitioners.

Moderators

Clément Dupoirier HSF Kramer, Paris; Vice Chair, IBA Litigation Committee

Maria Perez Carrillo Cuatrecasas, Madrid

Speakers

Simon Day Macfarlanes, London

Amel Fenghour Innsworth Advisors Limited, London; Vice Chair, IBA Class Actions Committee

Kate Kaso-Howard Apple Cupertino, California

Branda Katan Stibbe, Amsterdam

1100 – 1130 **Coffee break**

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Friday continued

1130 – 1300

News from the world: the latest in transnational litigation

This session is a fast moving, jurisdiction spanning tour of litigation developments with subjects including: the expanding landscape of cross-border disputes; funding the fight; regulatory scrutiny; courts under pressure and their solutions; forum competition and collaboration; and procedural innovations.

This panel will also look at how litigators are navigating the thickets that digital communications have created and how they are balancing freedom of information and public interest with confidentiality and data protection, helping ask what they need to prepare for.

Moderators

Jane Colston *Brown Rudnick, London; Senior Vice Chair, IBA Litigation Committee*

Speakers

Robert Johnston *Johnson Winter Slattery; Member, IBA Class Actions Committee Advisory Board*

Hector Sbert *ECJA, Barcelona; External Fraud Groups Liaison Officer, IBA Asset Recovery Committee*

Andrew Stafford *Kobre & Kim, London*

Nicholas Tse *Alem & Associates, Abu Dhabi*

Leanne Zheng *JunHe, Beijing*

1300 – 1315

Closing remarks

Speaker

Sandrine Giroud *Lalive, Geneva; Co-Chair, IBA Litigation Committee*

1315 – 1345

Open business meeting

1345 – 1445

Farewell lunch

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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A photograph of two women sitting at a wooden conference table in a meeting room. The woman on the left is wearing a light-colored blazer and is looking at a document. The woman on the right is wearing a light green cardigan and is looking towards the camera. There are papers, a glass of water, and a laptop on the table. The background is a wood-paneled wall.

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- ◆ **Dispute Resolution - Outstanding**
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