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INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 2026

A conference presented by the IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee

12th Biennial IBA Global Immigration Conference

4–6 November 2026, Leonardo Royal London St Paul's, London, England

Working programme

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All speaker materials and biographies can be found at **www.ibanet.org/conference-details/conf2844**

Conference Co-Chairs
Julia Onslow-Cole *Fragomen, London; Chair, IBA Human Rights Institute Trust*
Ariel Orrego Villacorta *AOV Abogados Lima; Co-Chair, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*
Greg Siskind *Siskind Susser, Memphis, Tennessee; Co-Chair, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*

Wednesday 4 November

1900 – 2100 **Welcome reception**
Sabine Rooftop
Leonardo Royal London St Paul's

Thursday 5 November

All working sessions will take place in the Wren Room
All coffee/tea breaks and lunch will take place in the Exhibition Room

0710 **Morning run**
Meet at the entrance of the Leonardo Royal St Paul's for a 5km run loop of the Thames Bridges.

0800 – 1700 **Registration**
Exhibition Room

0855 – 0900 **Welcome remarks**
Shane Freitag *Freitag, Toronto, Ontario; IBA LPD Assistant Treasurer / IBA Assistant Treasurer*

0900 – 0910 **Opening remarks by Conference Chairs**
Julia Onslow-Cole *Fragomen, London; Chair, IBA Human Rights Institute Trust*
Ariel Orrego Villacorta *AOV Abogados Lima; Co-Chair, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*
Greg Siskind *Siskind Susser, Memphis, Tennessee; Co-Chair, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*

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0910 – 1030 **Plenary session**

Navigating mobility through geopolitical, economic and technological disruption: Part one

Geopolitical uncertainty, economic pressures, and rapid technological change are reshaping how organisations deploy talent across borders. From shifting immigration policies and regulatory complexity to cost pressures, emerging technologies and changing workforce expectations, global mobility is operating in an increasingly unpredictable environment.

These Key Stakeholders including senior lawyers, policy makers and global mobility leaders will examine the critical questions facing business leaders today: How can organisations balance geopolitical risk with the need to deploy global talent? Where should cost control end and strategic investment begin? How can AI and technology strengthen compliance, decision-making and workforce agility? And how can organisations anticipate disruption, balance risk and opportunity, and build more agile, resilient, and future-ready workforce strategies. The panel will also examine refugee policy and the importance of Governments creating enduring labour mobility pathways.

Moderator
Julia Onslow-Cole *Fragomen, London; Chair, IBA Human Rights Institute Trust*

Keynote speaker
The Right Honourable Lord Moraes OBE *House of Lords, London*

Speakers
Emmanuelle Beneteau *International Mobility and Tax lead, Vodafone, London*
Kyle D'Souza *Global Director, Global Mobility & Immigration, Cisco, San Jose, California*
Loan Huynh *Partner, Chair, Immigration Group, Fredrikson & Byron, Minneapolis, Minnesota*
Baroness Helena Kennedy LT KC *Director, IBA Human Rights Institute, London*

1030 – 1100 **Coffee/tea break**

1100 – 1230 **Plenary session**

Navigating mobility through geopolitical, economic and technological disruption: Part two

Moderator
Julia Onslow-Cole *Fragomen, London; Chair, IBA Human Rights Institute Trust*

Speakers
Gill Gordon *Permits Foundation, London*
Akanksha Gupta *Senior Counsel, Corporate Immigration Strategy and Policy, Google, Washington DC*
Anastasija Kovesnikova *Global Mobility, Workday, Dublin*
Jose Segade *Group Head of Global Mobility, Anglo American, London*
Rebekah Smith *Executive Director of Labor Mobility Partnerships, Washington, DC*

1230 – 1330 **Lunch**

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Conference dinner sponsors

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1330 – 1500 **Technology, innovation and the practice of immigration law**

This plenary session explores how technology is reshaping immigration practice, including automation, digitalisation, ethical considerations, data protection, and the future role of immigration professionals.

Moderator
Greg Siskind *Siskind Susser, Memphis, Tennessee; Co-Chair, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*

Speakers
Amit Acco *Kan-Tor & Acco, Tel Aviv*
Zain Ali *Centuro Global, London*
Pavan Dhillon *Dhillon Immigration Law, Seattle, Washington*
Christi Jackson *Laura Devine Immigration, London*
Kate Kalmykov *Greenberg Traurig, New York*

1500 – 1530 **Coffee/tea break**

1530 – 1650 **North America immigration update**

A comparative update on key immigration developments in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, including temporary residence, permanent residence pathways, employer sponsorship, compliance trends, and policy outlooks.

Moderator
William Stock *Klasko Immigration Law Partners, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Past President, American Immigration Lawyers*

Speakers
Fausta Maria Albi *Larrabee Albi Coker LLP, San Diego, California*
Barbara Jo Caruso *Corporate Immigration Law Firm, Toronto, Ontario*
Cyrus Mehta *Cyrus D Mehta & Partners, New York*
Adrian Ojeda Cuevas *Ojeda Ojeda y Asociados, Mexico City; Committee Liaison Officer, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*
Catherine Sas KC *Sas & Ing Immigration Law Centre, Vancouver, British Columbia*

1930 **Conference dinner**
Stationers' Hall, Ave Maria Lane, London, EC4M 7DD

The Conference dinner is currently at capacity, please ask at the registration desk for possible returns.

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Friday 6 November

All coffee/tea breaks and lunch will take place in the Exhibition Room
Breakout sessions will take place as indicated below and the Plenary sessions in the Wren Room

0800 – 1700 **Registration**

0830 – 0945 First breakout sessions

Session one *Shakespeare Room*

Citizenship by descent: Law proof and policy in a changing world

Moderator
Hermie De Voer *Everaert Advocaten Immigration Lawyers, Amsterdam*

Speakers
Elmar Drabek *eos Lawyers, Vienna; Webinar Officer, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*
Taya Hunt *MinterEllison, Brisbane, Queensland*
Sergio Karas *Karas Immigration Law, Toronto, Ontario*
Marco Mazzeschi *Mazzeschi srl, Milan; Membership Officer, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*
Jane Pilkington *Deloitte Ireland, Dublin*

Session two *Wren Room*

Employer immigration compliance and enforcement risk: staying ahead of the curve

Given the proliferation of regulatory frameworks and heightened scrutiny, leading practitioners examine key enforcement trends, audit practices, and employer defence strategies, while offering practical, forward-looking insights on compliant hiring, proactive risk mitigation, and addressing potential non-compliance before it escalates.

Moderator
Jacqueline Rose Bart *BARTLAW LLP, Canadian Immigration Lawyers, Toronto, Ontario; Vice Chair, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*

Speakers
Shalini Agarwal *In Se Legal, New Delhi, Delhi*
Lillian Ajuria *Ajuria Lawyers, Sydney, New South Wales*
Kim Bowen *Mason Hayes & Curran, Dublin*
Ellen Freeman *Ellen Freeman Immigration Law Group, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*
Valentina Kuscevic *Carey Abogados, Santiago*

0945 – 1000 **Coffee/tea break**

1000 – 1115 Second breakout sessions

Session one *Shakespeare Room*

Working across cultures

A discussion on cross-cultural legal practice, managing global teams, advising multinational clients, and navigating cultural expectations in international legal work.

Moderator
Oluwapamilerin Akabunwa *Moroom Africa Legal Consults, Lagos*

Speakers
Daniela Lima *Newland Chase, São Paulo*
Audrey Lustgarten *WR Immigration, Petoskey, Michigan*
Diane Rish *Talent Mobility Fund, Oxford*
Makhrukh Umrigar *Consortia Legal, Mumbai, Maharashtra; Conference Coordinator, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*

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Session two *Wren Room*

Naturalisation and denaturalisation: Obtaining and losing citizenship: limits and emerging trends

A comparative panel examining the resurgence of denaturalisation powers, procedural safeguards, evidentiary standards, national security justifications, and the evolution of citizenship by investment.

Moderator
Alex Stojicevic *MKS Immigration Lawyers, Vancouver, British Columbia; Senior Vice Chair, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*

Speakers
Maria Aguila *Florida Immigration Law Firm LLC, Jacksonville, Florida*
Jean-Phillipe Chetcuti *Chetcuti Cuachi Adovocates, Valleta*
Sandra Jardim Fernandes *SjF Immigration & Investments, Lisbon*
Leah Rogal *Senior Director, Fragomen Center for Strategy and Applied Insights, Washington, DC*

1115 – 1230 Third breakout sessions

Session one *Shakespeare Room*

The 'NON-Constitutional Border'? navigating evolving travel restrictions, device searches, and rights at global ports of entry

Moderator
Sandra Grossman *Grossman Young & Hammond, Washington, DC; Refugee Officer, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*

Speakers
Rahul Batra *Hudson McKenzie, London*
Michal Kacprzyk *Raczkowski spk, Warsaw*
Jelle Kroes *Kroes Advocaten Immigration Lawyers, Amsterdam; Co-Chair, IBA Global Employment Institute (GEI)*
Marial Lewis *Crossover Law Group, Sydney, New South Wales; Diversity and Inclusion Officer, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*
Katie Newbury *Kingsley Napley LLP, London*

Session two *Wren Room*

Ease of attracting talent around the world

A comparative panel assessing how jurisdictions compete for skilled migrants, entrepreneurs, and investors, examining openness, bottlenecks, political constraints, and future reform trajectories.

Moderator
Ben Sheldrick *Magrath Sheldrick LLP, London*

Speakers
Poorvi Chothani *LawQuest Global, PLLC, Mumbai, Maharashtra; Council Member, IBA Global Employment Institute (GEI)*
Janice Flynn *Flynn Hodkinson, London*
Dieter Kohlfürst *Kohlfürst Legal, Miesbach, Germany*
Robert Loughran *Foster LLP, Austin, Texas*
Adekunle Obebe *Bloomfield, Lagos*

1230 – 1330 **Lunch**

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1330 – 1445 **Trends in global mobility**

A global overview of recent immigration and mobility developments, focusing on employer sponsorship, labour market access, short-term mobility, and the intersection of migration policy with geopolitics.

Moderator
Chetal Patel *Bates Wells, London; Newsletter Officer, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*

Speakers
Rami D Fakhoury *Fakhoury Global Immigration, Troy, Michigan*
Ana Garicano Sole *Sagardoy Legal & Expat, Madrid*
Andreea Haulbert *Karl Waheed Avocats, Paris*
Ariel Orrego Villacorta *AOV Abogados Lima; Co-Chair, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*
Karolina Schiffter *Fragomen, Warsaw, Vice-Chair, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*

1445 – 1515 **Coffee/tea break**

1515 – 1645 **In conversation: law and literature**

The work of an immigration lawyer is about borders, visas, permits, nationalities, status, and rights. Literature approaches our field of law from a different direction as it explores the individual experiences, identities and stories that sit behind those legal definitions. In other words, it encourages us to think beyond these legal terms. The panellists will focus on the phenomenon of borders and the right to belong and will bring together perspectives from immigration law, literature and journalism.

Moderators
Laura Devine *Laura Devine Immigration, London; Treasurer, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee; Membership Officer, IBA Senior Lawyers' Committee*
Thomas Van Houwelingen-Boer *Everaert Advocaten Immigration Lawyers, Amsterdam; Secretary, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*

Speakers
Mona Arshi *former lawyer at Liberty, now a poet and novelist who was the author in residence at Trinity Cambridge, London*
Ilona Bannister *Author of Five, London*
Barney Thompson *Journalist, editor and author, London*

1645 **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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The future of immigration is being written now.

And law is only part of the story.



AI is changing how immigration work is done. Economic fragmentation and political change are affecting where organisations invest and how people move. Global talent shortages are making those decisions more pressing.

At Fragomen, we help organisations understand what these shifts mean in practice. Our immigration advice, policy insight and technology help clients plan for talent, navigate changing requirements and manage compliance across borders.

We're proud to be part of the conversation shaping what comes next.

MAZZESCHI DE ROSA

*The Mazzeschi Network is pleased to announce that **Davide De Rosa has joined** as co-founding Partner of **Mazzeschi De Rosa Law Firm**, alongside **Marco Mazzeschi.***

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