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INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 2024

A conference presented by the IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee

# 11th Biennial IBA Global Immigration Conference

4–6 December 2024, Leonardo Royal Hotel 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/conf2502](http://www.ibanet.org/conference-details/conf2502)

### Conference Co-Chairs

Poorvi Chothani *LawQuest, Mumbai, Maharashtra; Co-Chair, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*

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

Nicolas Rollason *Kingsley Napley, London; Co-Chair, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*

## Wednesday 4 December

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1900 – 2100 **Welcome reception**

*Lower Thames Room, The Mermaid Centre*

*Puddle Dock, London, EC4V 3DB*

## Thursday 5 December

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

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0800 – 1700 **Registration**

*Exhibition Room, Leonardo Royal Hotel London St Paul's*

0855 – 0900 **Welcome remarks**

Carola Van den Bruinhorst *Loyens & Loeff, Amsterdam; LPD Chair*

0900 – 0910 **Opening remarks by Conference Chairs**

Poorvi Chothani *LawQuest, Mumbai, Maharashtra; Co-Chair, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*

Julia Onslow-Cole *Fragomen, London; Chair, IBAHRI Charitable Trust*

Nicolas Rollason *Kingsley Napley LLP, London; Co-Chair, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*

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## 0910 – 1230 Plenary session

### Part One: A world on the move

This year has seen business travel resume at pre-Covid-19 pandemic levels and employers value the impact of in person meetings and work experiences overseas. However, costs are a significant concern to business and with visa fees and processing times rising more business travellers are sent on short term trips. With more digitalised and integrated government systems and more stringent border control this is creating a perfect storm for compliance which global mobility leaders must navigate. In addition, remote and hybrid working are also creating new challenges in addition to problem in the current geopolitical landscape. The panel of speakers include some of the world's leading global mobility and human resources professionals. They will explain their current challenges and the opportunities. We will also hear from experts about challenges impacting those seeking asylum and the war on talent.

#### Moderators

**Poorvi Chothani** *LawQuest, Mumbai, Maharashtra; Co-Chair, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*

**Julia Onslow-Cole** *Fragomen, London; Chair, IBAHRI Charitable Trust*

**Nicolas Rollason** *Kingsley Napley LLP, London; Co-Chair, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*

#### Keynote speaker

**Howard Dawber** *Deputy Mayor for London, London*

#### Speakers

**Robert Guest** *Deputy Editor, The Economist, London*

**Akanksha Gupta** *Global Immigration Counsel, Google, Washington, District of Columbia*

**Lady Helena Kennedy LT KC** *Director, IBA Human Rights Institute, London*

## 1030 – 1100 Coffee/tea break

## 1100 – 1230 Plenary session

### Part Two: A world on the move

#### Moderators

**Poorvi Chothani** *LawQuest, Mumbai, Maharashtra; Co-Chair, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*

**Julia Onslow-Cole** *Fragomen, London; Chair, IBAHRI Charitable Trust*

**Nicolas Rollason** *Kingsley Napley LLP, London; Co-Chair, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*

#### Speakers

**Azmina Aboobaker** *Director Immigration & Global Mobility Operations, Meta, San Francisco, California*

**Deborah Convery** *Talent Mobility and Immigration Leader, Stripe, Seattle, Washington*

**Carole Nel** *Senior Manager Immigration Solutions, Boeing, London*

**Tim Potter** *Director Global Mobility, IBM, Wilmington, North Carolina*

## 1230 – 1330 Lunch

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Conference dinner sponsors



PRO-RELOCATION

1330 – 1500

## Trends in global mobility

A panel exploring recent developments in immigration and global mobility: including the following:

- Has your country's employment based visa policy become more open or more restrictive in the last 1-2 years?
- Have issues such as refugees and irregular migration made policy making on regular migration for skilled workers more complex?
- Have any categories of work visas been restricted?
- Are there any new categories?
- Are the numbers of visas for skilled workers up or down
- Are you seeing more short term business travel rather than longer postings?

*Moderator*

**Alex Stojicevic** *MKS Lawyers, Vancouver, British Columbia; Newsletter Editor, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*

*Speakers*

**Oluwapamilerin Blessing Akabunwa** *Famsville Solicitors, Lagos; Diversity and Inclusion Officer, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*

**Andreea Haulbert** *Karl Waheed Avocats, Paris*

**Dieter Kohlfurst** *Kohlfurst Legal, Miesbach*

**Anne O' Donoghue** *Immigration Solutions Lawyers PTY Ltd, Sydney, New South Wales; Vice Chair for Diversity and Inclusion, IBA Global Employment Institute*

**Ariel Orrego Villacorta** *AOV Abogados, Lima; Secretary, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*

**Chetal Patel** *Bates Wells, London*

**Mahrukh Umrigar** *Consortia Legal, London*

1500 – 1530 **Coffee/tea break**

1530 – 1650

## The AI dividend: how immigration lawyers can benefit from generative AI

We hear about the productivity and profitability gains of generative artificial intelligence (AI). But how are Immigration lawyers harnessing this new technology and using it in practice in their firms? This panel will look at real examples of AI use cases in practice, what technologies are being deployed in client work, RFPs and client relationship management. We will explore some of the ethical issues which arise for immigration lawyers, to what extent clients know that AI is being used, as well as GDPR/data privacy issues involved and practice management implications on, for example, the training of junior staff.

*Moderator*

**Roman Zelichenko** *LaborLess, New York*

*Speakers*

**Amit Acco** *Kan-Tor & Acco, Ramat Gan*

**Rajiv Naik** *Fragomen, London*

**Bettina Offer** *Offer & Mastmann Rechtsanwälte PartG, Frankfurt*

**Greg Siskind** *Siskind Susser, Memphis, Tennessee; Senior Vice Chair, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*

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Conference luncheon sponsor

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# Thursday continued

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1930

## Conference dinner

*The Common Room, The Law Society of England and Wales  
113 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1PL*

The Law Society is an integral player in the City of London's history; its magnificent building has been at the very centre of the legal world since its completion in 1832. This significant venue plays an important part in the history of this conference as it was the location of the very first IBA Biennial Global Immigration Conference, which took place in 2003. Join us for an enjoyable evening embracing the ambience and memories of previous IBA Immigration conferences.

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

One place per registered delegate is permitted.

# Friday 6 December

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**All working sessions will take place in the Exhibition Room  
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0800 – 1700 **Registration**

**0830 – 1000 First breakout sessions**

**Session one** *Shakespeare Room*

## **Offshoring, pushbacks and walls: what does the right to asylum look like in 2024?**

Irregular arrivals at borders are a feature of 21st century migration. While their overall numbers remain a small proportion of those applying for international protection, many governments, both national and supranational have sought to find new solutions, often with the clear intention of stemming the tide of populist anti-immigrant sentiments being converted into votes for far-right parties. But how far can these solutions go without taking away the very essence of the right to asylum?

*Moderator*

**Professor Elspeth Guild** *Kingsley Napley, London*

*Keynote Speaker*

**Judge Tim Eicke KC** *Barrister, London; Judge, European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg*

*Speakers*

**Madeline Garlick** *Chief of Selection, Protection Policy and Legal Advice, UNHCR, Geneva*

**Catherine Woollard** *President, European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), Brussels*

### **MOBILE TELEPHONES**

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## Session two *Wren Room*

### **Climbing back up the family tree: are you a citizen through ancestry?**

With many countries in turmoil in the developing world and with increasing barriers to travel and gaining residence, tracing citizenship by descent has become a very popular alternative to move abroad or gain visa-free access, work privileges and residency in developed economies. A panel of experts will discuss the rules that apply and processes to follow in determining qualification for citizenship by descent.

#### *Moderator*

**Karolina Schifter** *PCS Paruch Chrusciel Schiffter | Littler Global, Warsaw*

#### *Speakers*

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

**Elmar Drabek** *eos Rechtsanwälte GmbH, Vienna*

**Sandra Fernandez** *Valadas Coriel & Associados, Lisbon*

**Ana Garicano Sole** *Sagardoy Legal & Expat, Madrid*

**Marco Mazzeschi** *Mazzeschi srl, Milan; Membership Officer, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*

**Jane Pilkington** *Deloitte Ireland LLP, Dublin*

**Ben Sheldrick** *Magrath Sheldrick LLP, London*

1000 – 1030 **Coffee/tea break**

## 1030 – 1130 **Second breakout sessions**

### Session one *Shakespeare Room*

#### **In conversation: law and literature**

During this conversation with her Her Honour Wendy KC and Stephanie Jones, Professor of Law and Literature at the University of Southampton, Laura Devine and Thomas van Houwelingen-Boer will dive into the interdisciplinary field of law and literature. Reading is a great way to build the capacity to grow empathy, and to learn how to understand another person's feelings and, more importantly, their perspectives on life.

How can literature help to better accept the 'otherness' of the other? Does a lawyer who reads literature become a better lawyer?

#### *Moderators*

**Laura Devine** *Laura Devine Immigration, London; Conference Coordinator, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee; Website Officer, IBA Senior Lawyers Committee*

**Thomas Van Houwelingen-Boer** *Everaert Advocaten Immigration Lawyers, Amsterdam; Young Lawyers' Committee Liaison Officer, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*

#### *Speakers*

**Prof Stephanie Jones** *Professor of Literature and Law, University of Southampton, Southampton*

**HH Wendy Joseph KC** *Former Old Bailey Judge, London*

#### **MOBILE TELEPHONES**

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## Session two *Wren Room*

### **The state of play: Citizenship and residence by investment**

This year, the European Court of Justice heard the EU Commission's arguments against Malta's Investor Immigrant Programme (IIP) and an Advocate General's Opinion was published in October. Will this change countries approaches to whether there needs to be a genuine link through residence as well as the required investment before citizenship is offered? How does the EU's opposition to citizenship and residence by investment play out in countries with these programmes? And how are established Caribbean and other programmes affected by the risk responses of banks and other financial institutions to these citizenships. Finally, will countries that closed their investor programmes ever bring them back?

*Moderator*

**Sophie Barrett-Brown** *Laura Devine Immigration, London*

*Speakers*

**Jean-Philippe Chetcuti** *Chetcuti Cauchi Advocates, Valletta*

**Micha Rose Emmett** *CS Global, London*

**Troy Hanley** *Henley & Partners, London*

**Csaba Magyar** *Crystal Worldwide Law Firm, Budapest*

**Christopher Willis** *Latitude Consultancy Limited, George Town, Cayman Islands*

## 1130 – 1230 **Third breakout sessions**

### Session one *Shakespeare Room*

#### **How to build a global practice**

This panel will look at the challenges of moving from the comfort of providing inbound immigration services to growing a successful global immigration practice. Our panel of seasoned global immigration practitioners will look at some of the key issues including different service models, selecting, building and maintaining relationships with global co-counsel, coordination and quality control, pricing and fee structures, technology and data privacy requirements and many other issues encountered along the way.

*Moderator*

**Shannon Donnelly** *Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP, Washington, District of Columbia*

*Speakers*

**Zain Ali** *Centuro Global, London*

**Maria Lianides Celebi** *Bener Law, Istanbul*

**Rami D Fakhoury** *Fakhoury Global Immigration, Detroit, Michigan*

### Session two *Wren Room*

#### **Start-up nations: the global race to attract the technology entrepreneurs of the future**

As nations try to modernise and diversify their economies, they are trying to attract the technology entrepreneurs of the future to create employment and capital influx and improve the living standards of their population. An array of legislative and policy initiatives has been created in many jurisdictions to capitalise on both local and international talent, including special immigration programs, tax incentives, government support and educational facilities to capture and retain entrepreneurs and workers. The panel will discuss what programmes, incentives and policies have been put in place, which ones have succeeded and which ones have failed in their goals to create technology incubators for both local and immigrant entrepreneurs.

*Moderator*

**Karl Waheed** *Karl Waheed Avocats, Paris*

*Speakers*

**Rose Carey** *Charles Russell Speechlys LLP, London*

**David Heneghan** *Addleshaw Goddard LLP, Dublin*

**Kate Kalmykov** *Greenberg Traurig, New York*

**Sergio Karas** *Karas Immigration Law, Toronto, Ontario*

**Jelle Kroes** *Kroes Advocaten, Amsterdam; Vice Chair, IBA Global Employment Institute*

## 1230 – 1330 **Lunch**

### **MOBILE TELEPHONES**

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1330 – 1445

## North America immigration update

A fast-paced update on new immigration policies on temporary visas, permanent residence options and hot topics including:

- New US immigration policy changes as a result of the November 2024 US presidential election (Harris vs Trump)
- Canada immigration update
- Mexico immigration update
- Current leading strategies to obtain temporary work visas
- Update on the latest developments on permanent residence options for professionals and skilled workers based on employer sponsorship, self-sponsorship or investment
- A look ahead at possible changes in Canadian, Mexican and US immigration policies in 2025 and beyond

*Moderator*

**Scott Borene** *Borene Law Firm, Minneapolis, Minnesota*

*Speakers*

**Maria Abraham Garfias** *Santamarina y Steta, Mexico City*

**Kathleen Campbell Walker** *Dickinson Wright, El Paso, Texas; Past President, American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)*

**Evan Green** *Green and Spiegel, Toronto, Ontario*

**Ben Johnson** *Executive Director, American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), Washington, District of Columbia*

**Cyrus Mehta** *Cyrus D. Mehta & Partners PLLC, New York*

1445 – 1515 **Coffee/tea break**

1515 – 1645

## The IBA Immigration Olympics

Watch as countries vie to win the coveted IBA gold, silver and bronze medals in the following categories:

- Fastest employer sponsored visa
- Lowest capital investment entrepreneurial visa
- Cheapest investor visa
- Best talent visa
- Best online application system
- Best new immigration reforms

*Moderator*

**Adrian Ojeda-Cuevas** *Ojeda Ojeda y Asociados, Mexico City; Communications Officer, IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee*

*Speakers*

**Kim Bowen** *Mason Hayes & Curran LLP, Dublin*

**Brendan Coggan** *Envoy Global, San Francisco, California*

**Paa Kwesi Hagan** *Globetrotters Legal Africa, Accra*

**Daniela Lima** *Newland Chase, São Paulo*

**Gunther Mävers** *Michels pmks, Cologne*

**James Perrot** *Mayer Brown International LLP, London*

**Yusra Siddiquee** *Littler Mendelson, Toronto, Ontario*

**Phillip Yip** *Phillip Yip Lawyers, Sydney, New South Wales*

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.

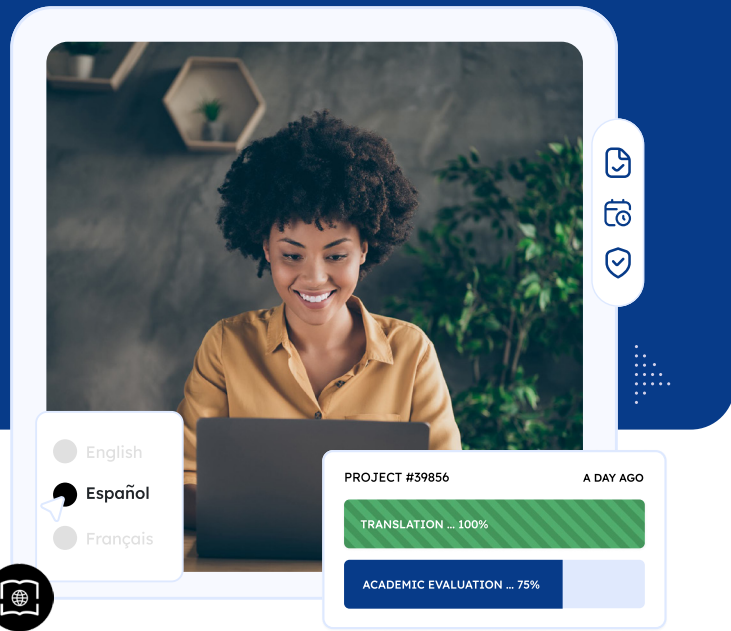
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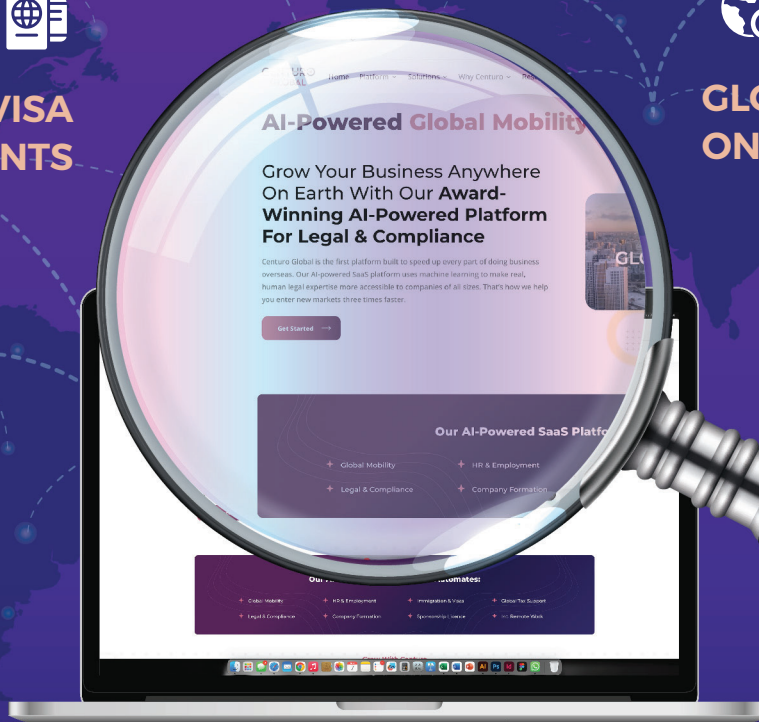
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