



United Nations Human Rights Council 59th Session
Interactive Dialogue
Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers
25 June 2025

The Law Council of Australia, the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute and LAWASIA are gravely concerned by actions which seek to influence, undermine or hinder the activities of courts and personally target judges or lawyers for exercising their professional duties or exercising their civil and political rights.

We are alarmed by efforts to cast legal professionals as adversaries or threats, and reject the imposition of retributive sanctions on lawyers and law firms for the cases or clients they take on. We reject the use of disciplinary proceedings to intimidate, censure and punish lawyers for exercising their recognised rights to freedom of expression and association.¹

We are further concerned by actions to denigrate and call for the removal of judges, disregard judicial decisions, and actions that curtail the jurisdiction and enforcement powers of courts.²

Any process to remove a judge from office must be fairly and independently determined in an accountable and transparent manner, in accordance with established standards of judicial conduct and upholding the right of judges to a fair hearing.³

We urge the Special Rapporteur to affirm and elaborate on the right of lawyers to freedom of expression, and to investigate and address the misuse of sanctions against lawyers, courts and related entities.

Statement delivered by Juliana Warner, President of the Law Council of Australia

¹ [United Nations Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers](#) (1990) para 23. See, e.g. OHCHR 'USA: UN expert warns of interference in legal and judicial system' ([Press Release](#), 4 June 2025).

² *Ibid.* See also OHCHR 'Maldives: UN expert concerned by suspensions and proceedings against three Supreme Court judges' ([Press Release](#), 17 April 2025).

³ [United Nations Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary](#) (1985) paras 17–20. See also [Beijing Statement of Principles of the Independence of the Judiciary in the LAWASIA Region](#) (1995).