

INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION SYMPOSIUM 2026

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A symposium presented by the Arb40 Subcommittee of the IBA Arbitration Committee

IBA Arb40 Symposium – Raising the bar: designing accountability for the next generation of international arbitration

4 October 2026, Bella Center, Copenhagen, Denmark

As part of its contribution to the development of arbitration best practice, the IBA Arbitration Committee, through its Arb40 Subcommittee, has organised a symposium for the younger members of the arbitration community. This workshop will be interactive and will follow an open forum format.

The upper age limit for participation is 40.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Young practitioners (whether in-house or in private practice) under the age of 40 and students who are interested in international arbitration.

ISSUES IN FOCUS INCLUDE:

- AI and accountability in international arbitration
- Discipline and time limits in international arbitration

BOOK BEFORE **4 SEPTEMBER 2026** TO RECEIVE EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNTS

For more information and to book online visit **www.ibanet.org/conference-details/CONF2872**

Programme

Symposium Co-Chairs
Joel Quek *WongPartnership, Singapore; Co-Chair, Arb40 Subcommittee, IBA Arbitration Committee*
Julio Rivera Ríos *Rivera García, Mexico City; Co-Chair, Arb40 Subcommittee, IBA Arbitration Committee*

Sunday 4 October

1130 – 1600 **Registration**

1200 – 1210 **Welcome remarks**
Julio Rivera Ríos *Rivera García, Mexico City; Co-Chair, Arb40 Subcommittee, IBA Arbitration Committee*

1210 – 1230 **Keynote speech**
Kate Brown de Vejar *DLA Piper, Mexico City; Co-Chair, IBA Arbitration Committee*

1230 – 1345 Session one

AI and accountability in international arbitration

This session examines the accountability questions raised by the growing use of AI tools in arbitral proceedings, by counsel, arbitrators and institutions alike. Under the EU AI Act, AI systems used to assist an arbitral tribunal in interpreting the facts and the law are classified as high-risk (Annex III); counsel's and institutions' own use of AI generally is not. The timeline for those high-risk obligations is a live issue: originally due to apply from 2 August 2026, they have been deferred to 2 December 2027 under the 'Digital Omnibus' package adopted in mid-2026, even as the Act's AI-transparency duties took effect on 2 August 2026. The panel will consider who bears responsibility when an AI-generated work product contains errors, what disclosure obligations counsel and arbitrators should have when relying on AI, whether arbitrators may delegate any part of their reasoning process to AI tools and how practitioners should navigate the new regulatory framework in cross-border proceedings.

Moderator
Simona Valkova *Queen Mary University of London, London*

Speakers
Mayra Bryce *Payet, Rey, Cauvi, Pérez Abogados, Lima*
Usama Munir *Schlüter Graf, Dubai*
Matej Pustay *Squire Patton Boggs, Prague*
Katerina Strantzali *Single Resolution Board, Brussels*

1345 – 1415 **Coffee/tea break**

1415 – 1545 Session two

Discipline and time limits in international arbitration

This Oxford Union-style debate will consider two motions. For each motion, one panellist will argue in favour and another against.

The first motion will be: 'This house believes that leading arbitral institutions should establish a shared cross-institutional disciplinary mechanism for arbitrators.'

International arbitration's ethical framework rests primarily on soft-law instruments — guidelines, codes of conduct and reputational sanction. However, influence is not enforcement, and a regime that depends on reputation invites the opacity it purports to cure. This motion puts to the vote whether leading institutions should go further and establish a shared mechanism with reciprocal recognition of disciplinary outcomes for serious breaches, such as undisclosed conflicts, discovery abuse or conduct undermining the integrity of proceedings, administered by an independent panel and binding across platforms.

The second motion will be: 'This house believes that arbitral institutions should impose mandatory enforceable time limits for the rendering of final awards.'

Delay in the delivery of awards is one of the most persistent and widely documented failures in international arbitration. Soft targets are routinely missed, and users consistently flag time-to-award as a top concern. This motion asks whether institutions should go beyond exhortation and impose binding deadlines with real consequences for non-compliance. Expect issues such as the impact on user confidence, the risk that rigid deadlines compromise deliberative quality and due process, party conduct in delay and institutional resource constraints to be discussed.

Moderator
Sérgio Nascimento *Bermudes Advogados, São Paulo*

Speakers
Sophie Bayrou *Clyde & Co, Paris*
Munia El Harti Alonso *MEHA law, Madrid; Energy Transition Projects Officer, IBA Oil and Gas Law Committee*
Matilde Flores *Chaffetz Lindsey, New York*
Anika Havaldar *Freshfields, Dubai*

Welcome reception sponsor

CHAFFETZ LINDSEY

Sunday continued

1545 – 1600 **Closing remarks**
Joel Quek *WongPartnership, Singapore; Co-Chair, Arb40 Subcommittee, IBA Arbitration Committee*

1600 – 1700 **Drinks reception**

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

Information

Date

4 October 2026

Venue

Bella Center
Entrance 6, Center Boulevard 5, 2300
Denmark, Copenhagen
Tel: +4532528811
Website: **https://bellacenter.dk/en**

Language

All working sessions and Conference materials will be in English.

Interpreters are not authorised to book for the conference or attend the conference working sessions without the prior written permission of the Asia Office Director.

How to book

Online by **28 September 2026** at **www.ibanet.org/conference-details/CONF2872** and make payment by credit card. You should receive an email confirmation of your booking within five days; if you do not, please contact **Sohyun.kwon@int-bar.org**.

Fees

Online bookings received:

	on or before 4 September	until 28 September
Delegate fee	€65	€80

Full payment must be received to obtain your Conference documentation.

Fees include:

- Attendance at all working sessions
- Access to the Conference materials from the IBA website (**www.ibanet.org**), including any available speakers' papers submitted to the IBA before 28 September
- Access to live delegate search
- Drinks reception on Sunday
- Tea and coffee during breaks
- Any applicable local taxes

Delegate / speaker conference bookings allow for individual entry and attendance to the conference. Delegates / speakers are not permitted to invite guests to attend any working sessions, workshops, or conference social functions.

Please note that bookings are not transferable.

List of participants

For your name to appear in the list of participants, your booking form must be received by **28 September** at the latest.

Online delegate search

Delegates can use the online delegate search via the IBA website, to use this function delegates will need to be logged into their MyIBA. This will allow search access to up-to-date attendance lists.

Booking confirmation

Upon receipt of your payment for the Conference a confirmation email will be sent to you which contains information regarding your attendance at the Conference. You will also be able to view and download your payment information and manage your booking via your My IBA profile on the IBA website.

Book with confidence

- If the IBA needs to reschedule the event, your booking will be automatically transferred to the new date and no additional fees will be charged. If this date is not convenient for a delegate, a refund of the cost of the conference place will be available on request to the IBA.
- If the IBA is unable to reschedule the conference within 12 months of the original scheduled date, a full refund of the cost of the conference place will automatically be made to all delegates.
- Please note that the IBA will not provide refunds for any costs incurred including any travel costs.

Please note, these terms are subject to any more restrictive or different local requirements and may be altered and amended from time to time to reflect any changes to restrictions or government requirements.

Continuing Professional Development /Continuing Legal Education

For Conference delegates from jurisdictions where CPD/CLE is mandatory, the IBA will provide a Certificate of Attendance for the Conference. Subject to CPD/CLE requirements, Conference delegates can use this to obtain the relevant number of hours' accreditation. The number of CPD/CLE hours available may vary depending on the rules applied by the members' bar association/law society on time recording criteria.

A Certificate of Attendance is available to Conference delegates on request. Please ask at the IBA Conference registration desk for information on how to obtain the certificate.

Terms and Conditions

All conference delegates must provide full and accurate information regarding their identity and contact information. Failure to do so will result in their conference booking being cancelled.

Full payment must be received to obtain your Conference documentation.

Cancellation of conference or social functions

If cancellation is received by email to **Sohyun.kwon@int-bar.org** on or before 21 September fees will be refunded less a 25 per cent administration charge. Refunds will be made minus any monies owed to the IBA. Monies cannot be kept on IBA member accounts or transferred to future IBA conferences.

We regret that no refunds can be made after this time. Conference or social function bookings received after this time will not be eligible for any refund of fees. Should you have difficulties in obtaining your visa and are not able to attend the Conference this cancellation policy will still apply.

Payment

When booking the Conference, full payment of the booking fee is required at the time we accept your booking.

VAT will be added to delegate fees as appropriate. Our prices may change at any time, but any price change will not affect bookings that we have confirmed with you. Booking fees for the Conference can only be paid in the booking fee currency listed above.

Credit card payments: The IBA accepts these payment methods: American Express, Diners, Discover, JCB, Maestro, Mastercard, UnionPay, and Visa. Payments from local or affiliate services linked to these providers can also be made through the IBA website.

It is the responsibility of the cardholder to ensure that the card's security details are ready and to check that there is a sufficient balance on the card for the payment to complete.

All fees payable to us by you in relation to the Conference shall be paid free and clear of all deductions or withholdings whatsoever.

If any deductions or withholdings are required by law to such fees, you shall pay such sum as will, after the deduction or withholding has been made, leave us with the same amount as we would have been entitled to receive in the absence of any such requirement to make a deduction or withholding.

Travel arrangements and visas

Participants are responsible for making their own travel arrangements. It is recommended that you check your visa requirements with your local embassy or consulate.

We are unable to provide visa invitation letters to support your visa application.

Please apply for your visa in good time.

Carbon efficient travel

With IBA conferences taking place in major business centres all over the world, travel is an unavoidable reality for our delegates. The IBA encourages its members and delegates to be responsible and conscious of the impact travel has on the environment and to take measures to reduce the carbon impact of their travel.

Some suggested steps that delegates can take include:

- Travel by train instead of flying if possible.
- Book direct flights instead of connecting flights, if available, as limiting the number of stops needed will reduce your carbon footprint.
- Consider the impact of the travel class that you book – business class travel equates to 3 times the carbon footprint of economy class.

Relying on the local public transport is the more carbon friendly option, but this is not always a realistic option. Where reliance on taxis/cars is needed use electric vehicles over petrol or diesel and share vehicle usage with other delegates and colleagues.

Badges

For security reasons, name badges are required to be worn visibly at all times during the Conference and at any IBA organised social function linked to the Conference. Proof of identity is required to collect your badge and for a replacement badge to be issued. Checks will be in place and staff will challenge delegates not wearing a valid conference badge. Anyone not wearing a badge must get a replacement badge from IBA staff or will be required to leave the venue immediately. Anyone found wearing a badge that they are not entitled to wear will have the badge removed and will be required to leave the Conference.

All conference bookings are non-transferable and cannot be resold, transferred or passed on to another person, whether for commercial gain or otherwise.

Name badges can only be used by the booked attendee to access the event or social function; name badges cannot be shared or borrowed by any other person, whether registered for the event or otherwise.

Any breach of these terms will result in the booked attendee being required to leave the event / social function with immediate effect and the cancellation of their booking without reimbursement or refund of any previously paid fees.

Dietary requirements

The IBA endeavours to accommodate all special dietary requests confirmed to us before bookings close. Requests made after this time cannot be guaranteed and all dietary requests are subject to local availability (which is outside the IBA's control).

Photography and filming

Certain sessions and social functions at an IBA Event may be photographed or filmed and some of this content may be used for future IBA marketing materials, member communications, products or services. Should you have any concerns about this, or if you do not wish to be featured in any of these materials, please contact the IBA Marketing Department at **ibamarketing@int-bar.org**.

No participant, attending in any capacity, is authorised to record or film the conference working sessions, workshops or social function without the prior written permission of the Conferences Director.

Illness

You will not attend the Conference if you are displaying symptoms of a communicable disease. Should you develop symptoms during your attendance, you will inform a member of IBA staff by email (**Sohyun.kwon@int-bar.org**) and you agree not to attend any further sessions or related events and to comply with all local and national restrictions.

You agree that, if asked by the relevant local or national authorities, the IBA has permission to pass on your personal information and contact details to those authorities should contact tracing be required.

Promotional literature

No individual or organisation may display or distribute publicity material or other printed matter during an IBA Event, unless by prior arrangement with the IBA. Organisations and companies wishing to discuss promotional opportunities should contact the IBA Sponsorship Department at **sponsorship@int-bar.org**.

Conference sell-outs

The IBA hosts conferences in venues of a suitable size for each event; however, there are times when a conference may sell out and the IBA cannot guarantee places will be available. Should this happen, prospective delegates will be informed, and a waiting list will operate. The waiting list will function on a 'first come, first served' basis, subject to receiving booked delegate cancellations. The waiting list for the Conference will close once the waiting list has reached ten per cent of the venue capacity, as it is very unlikely a place will become available. IBA will not be liable for any expenses or costs incurred by you (including travel and accommodation costs) in relation to attendance at the Conference, including if you travel to the Conference without a confirmed place).

Harassment

Conferences provide unrivalled professional development and network-building opportunities for international legal practitioners and their professional associates. The IBA values the participation of every delegate and member of the IBA and wants all attendees to have an enjoyable and fulfilling experience. Accordingly, all Conference attendees are expected to show respect and courtesy to other attendees, IBA staff and those involved with hosting the events throughout the Conference and at all events, receptions, and parties, whether officially organised by the IBA or others. All delegates, guests, attendees, speakers, exhibitors, staff and volunteers at the Conference are required to conform to the IBA Harassment Policy. See **www.ibanet.org/iba-harassment-policy**.

Cancellation by the IBA

We may at any time, with or without giving notice, in our absolute discretion and without giving any reason, cancel or postpone the Conference, change its venue or any of the other published particulars, or withdraw any invitation to attend. In any case, we will not be liable for any loss, liability, damage or expense suffered or incurred by any person, nor will we return any money paid to us in connection with the Conference unless we are satisfied not only that the money in question remains under our control but also that the person who paid it has been unfairly prejudiced (as to which, decision shall be in their sole and unfettered discretion and, when announced, final and conclusive).

The IBA shall have no liability to you, for a refund or otherwise, where the IBA is forced to cancel or reschedule part or all of the Conference due to reasons beyond our reasonable control. However, refunds may be paid at IBA's discretion.

IBA will be entitled to change the venue and make minor changes to the timing and content of the Conference.

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

Full **Conference and Events Terms and Conditions** apply.

New updated IBA App

– available from the App Store and the Google Play Store

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The IBA App has recently been updated, now equipped with the same extensive functionalities as the IBA website. Whether you're a seasoned legal professional or a budding enthusiast, this App is your gateway to a world of opportunities and resources.

With the IBA App you can:

- Update your IBA profile, showcasing your expertise
- Seamlessly network with fellow members through the comprehensive IBA Member Directory
- Connect directly with other members right from your phone
- Stay updated on upcoming IBA events and effortlessly register for conferences and webinars
- Manage your IBA membership, including joining committees
- Secure your spot at the prestigious IBA Annual Conference, the world's largest legal conference
- Access a wealth of digital content, from articles to stories, updated daily

How do I access the App?

- Simply download the App (search for IBA Members) via the Apple App Store or Google Play Store
- Log in using your My IBA account details
- Your username is your email address – no Member ID required
- If you can't remember your password, click on 'Forgot password?' to reset it



Download the IBA App today and take your experience to the next level!

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International Bar Association

the global voice of the legal profession



About the IBA

The International Bar Association (IBA), established in 1947, is the world's leading organisation of international legal practitioners, bar associations, law firms and law societies.

The IBA influences the development of international law reform and shapes the future of the legal profession throughout the world. It has a membership of more than 80,000 individual lawyers and more than 190 bar associations and law societies spanning over 170 countries.

Inspired by the vision of the United Nations, the IBA was founded in the same spirit, just before the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was proclaimed in 1948.

The IBA covers all practice areas and professional interests, providing members with access to leading experts and up-to date information, enabling them to better represent their clients' interests.

Through its various committees, fora, and task forces, the IBA facilitates the exchange of information and views among its members as to laws, practices and professional responsibilities relating to the practice of law around the globe.

IBA Arbitration Committee

The IBA Arbitration Committee focuses on laws, practice and procedures relating to the arbitration of transnational disputes. Through its conferences, publications and projects, the Committee seeks to share information about international arbitration, promote its use and improve its effectiveness. Become a member of the Committee to benefit from networking opportunities, discounts on conferences and the opportunity to write for IBA publications.

For more information please visit the **IBA Arbitration Committee home page**.

IBA Arb40 Subcommittee

This Subcommittee was established for younger arbitrators aged 40 or below and reflects the Arbitration Committee's aim of engaging more actively with the younger members of the arbitration community. It is led by a Steering Committee focused on thought leadership for the next generation of arbitration practitioners. Through this thought leadership the IBA Arb 40 Steering Committee has produced a series of reports and is actively involved in organising workshops and symposia for younger arbitration practitioners. All expressions of interest in becoming involved in the work of this Subcommittee should be directed to the officers.

For more information please visit the **IBA Arb40 Subcommittee home page**.

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