

NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL LAW WEEKEND 2025

International Law Weekend 2025 is only one month away! We have a packed schedule with over 30 panels, keynote speeches, networking opportunities, and more. All members are encouraged to attend the 103rd Members Meeting on October 25th at 9:00 a.m., where we will present this year's awards. You can read all about this year's conference, *Crisis as Catalyst in International Law*, in this edition of *the Newsletter*.

You may also learn about our brilliant 2025 Emerging Voices, our third blogging symposium sponsored by the International Humanitarian Law Committee, and our new podcast: International Law Chats. Podcast hosts Alison MacDonald, Chiara Giorgetti, and Milena Sterio will be recording interviews live at International Law Weekend, so look out for them and join in on the conversation.

Also in this *Newsletter*, you will find updates from the International Law Association and the American Society of International Law, tributes to our first female President, Cynthia Lichtenstein, and read about our members' new publications, awards, and recent speaking engagements.

We look forward to seeing you all in New York City for International Law Weekend 2025.

Inside this Issue:

Message from the President	2
International Law Weekend	3-4
Emerging Voices	5
ILW Schedule	6-7
Blogging Symposium	8
Blog by <i>Natasha Arnpriester</i>	9-10
ASIL Annual Meeting	11
Cynthia Lichtenstein Reception	11-12
International Law Chats	13-14
ILA HQ Updates	15
New Committee Chairs	16
Reintroducing	16
ASIL Mid-Year Meeting	17
Board/Member Spotlights	18
Branch Member Updates	19
Branch Member Releases	20
Global Health Committee	21
ABILA Board	22
Upcoming Events	34

International Law Weekend 2025

Crisis as Catalyst in International Law

103rd Members Meeting

New York City

October 23-25, 2025



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Message from our American Branch President

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the ABILA's International Law Weekend in New York City on October 23-25. Last year, more than 1,300 practitioners, government officials, academics, and students registered for the conference, making it the largest fall international law conference in the country.

In this volume of our ABILA Newsletter, among other things, you will read about the fantastic lineup of panels and speakers the ILW Organizing Committee (co-chaired by **William Aceves**, **Amity Boye**, and **Jessica Peake**) has arranged for this year's conference. We live in perilous times, and a conference dedicated to the discussion of the many crises facing international law and international institutions and how such critical moments function as a catalyst for change could not be more timely or important.

I am especially looking forward to the Opening Session on October 23, at 5:30-6:45 PM in the Great Hall of the House of the New York City Bar Association, where I'll engage in a fireside chat with Elinor Hammar skjöld, the new Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and Legal Counsel of the United Nations. With the Trump Administration and the U.S. Congress considering significant cuts in funding and even withdrawal from the United Nations, this will be an important conversation about the continuing relevance of the United Nations and the outlook for its future.

International Law Weekend 2025 will be held in the midst of the UN's debates about comprehensive institutional reform on the 80th anniversary of its founding. On March 12, 2025, UN Secretary-General António Guterres launched UN80 to develop proposals for reform in three areas: (1) identifying efficiencies and improvements in ways of working; (2) reviewing the implementation of mandates from member states; and (3) conducting a strategic review of deeper, more structural changes and program realignment. Other proposals under consideration seek to reform the Security Council in light of its current paralysis. During our conversation, Under-Secretary-General Hammar skjöld will provide an update on where these reform efforts stand and their prospects for success, and answer questions from the audience.

International Law Weekend would not be possible without the generous support of several co-sponsoring universities and other institutions, as listed in this Newsletter. I express my immense gratitude to these institutions and my sincere hope that more will join as sponsors in the coming weeks.

I can't wait to catch up with you in New York in October! If you have not yet registered for the conference, I encourage you to do so today.

Sincerely,



Michael P. Scharf

President of the American Branch of the International Law Association
Joseph C. Hostetler—BakerHostetler Professor of Law
Case Western Reserve University School of Law



International Law Weekend 2025

Crisis as Catalyst in International Law

Each October, the American Branch presents International Law Weekend (ILW) in New York City. This two-and-a-half-day conference features over 30 panels, and many of the world's leading international lawyers and diplomats participate. In recent years, keynote luncheon speakers have included the president of the American Society of International Law and the Legal Adviser to the U.S. Department of State. Gala receptions have been hosted by the Finnish, Belgian, British, and Singapore missions to the United Nations.

Recent ILWs have attracted an audience of over 1,200 practitioners, academics, U.N. diplomats, business leaders, federal and state government officials, NGO leaders, journalists, students, and interested citizens. Registration for ILW is very reasonably priced as a service to our members. Sponsorship by law firms, universities, and interested practitioners is welcomed and recognized.

The unifying theme for ILW 2025 is **Crisis as Catalyst in International Law**, as follows:

“ILW 2025 will explore how crises can serve as transformative moments that challenge and reshape the framework of international law. Whether political, environmental, economic, or humanitarian, crises compel local, regional, and global actors to confront the limitations of extant legal systems. By serving as catalysts for innovation, crises also provide opportunities to reevaluate and reconstruct international legal norms. This process highlights the dynamic nature of international law, which must balance its foundational principles with the need for flexibility in response to unprecedented events. ILW 2025 encourages participants to reimagine international law.”

International Law Weekend 2025 Keynote Speakers:



Elinor Hammar skjöld, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs

Mélida Hodgson, President of the American Society of International Law and Partner with Arnold & Porter

Lucinda A. Low, Co-Founder of Low & Kinnear Dispute Resolution; Former President of the American Society of International Law

Meg Kinnear, Co-Founder of Low & Kinnear Dispute Resolution; Former Secretary-General of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

International Law Weekend 2025

Crisis as Catalyst in International Law

Additional International Law Weekend Events

We will start Friday, October 24, 2025, with a **Women's Networking Breakfast**, co-hosted by ArbitralWomen and the American Society of International Law's Women in International Law Interest Group ('WILIG'). Everyone is welcome to network and enjoy coffee and bagels at 9:00 AM at Fordham University School of Law.



This year's UN Mission Reception will take place at the **Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations** in New York City on Friday, October 24, 2025, at 6:30 PM. The Permanent Mission is located at 466 Lexington Ave, 20th floor. Tickets to the Mission Reception are limited, so reserve yours soon.

On Saturday, October 25, 2025, at 12:00 PM, we'll be hosting a **Jessup Compromis Session** with the International Law Students Association to allow Jessup competitors to ask questions to a team of international law experts in preparation for the 2026 National Rounds. This session will also be livestreamed globally, providing international participants with the opportunity to participate in what is sure to be a fascinating and insightful session for Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Teams.



Thank You to our Sponsors

Diamond Level: Fordham University School of Law, Just Security, and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation

Platinum Level: The University of Georgia School of Law's Dean Rusk International Law Center and the Leitner Center for International Law and Justice

Gold Level: Brill Academic Publishing, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Case Western Reserve University School of Law, The Fletcher School at Tufts University, and Washington University in St. Louis School of Law

Silver Level: American Society of International Law, ArbitralWomen, The University of Baltimore School of Law, California Western School of Law, The University of Chicago Law School, Harvard Law School, the International Law Students Association, New York University Law School, and The University of Pittsburgh School of Law

It's not too late to sponsor International Law Weekend 2025! Contact Freya Doughty-Wagner at ILW@ila-americanbranch.org to find out more.

International Law Weekend 2025

Crisis as Catalyst in International Law



The American Branch is proud to announce this year's Emerging Voices. This year saw a record number of applicants, making the selection process incredibly difficult. Thank you to the 2025 Emerging Voices Selection Committee: **Christine Carpenter**, **Lisa Reinsberg**, and **Alveena Shah**. The selection committee will work with the successful applicants in the lead-up to International Law Weekend to polish and perfect their research papers.

The **Silicon Valley Community Foundation** generously funds the Emerging Voices program. Their sponsorship ensures young voices have the means to travel to New York City and present their innovative works.



Kazım Berkay Arslan

Kazım Berkay Arslan is an Associate with Kabine Law Office in Istanbul, Türkiye, where he focuses on commercial and investment arbitration. He holds an LLM from Harvard Law School, where he was a Fulbright Scholar, and an LLB from Galatasaray University, Türkiye. His research paper is titled '*Foregrounding Local Community Perspectives in Investment Arbitration.*'



Annika Knauer

Annika Knauer is a Research Fellow and PhD Candidate at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law Heidelberg, Germany. Starting August 2025, she will be a Visiting Fellow at Columbia Law School. She holds a law degree from Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, where she specialized in public international law and European law. Knauer's research paper is titled '*Disinformation: Gendered and Violent.*'



Emmanuel O. Osayande

Emmanuel O. Osayande is a dual JD Candidate at Columbia Law School and a PhD Candidate in History and African Studies at Harvard University. He holds an MA in History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was a Mellon Scholar, and a BA in History and Strategic Studies from the University of Lagos, Nigeria. His research paper is titled '*Justice Transferred: Strategic Litigation on Climate Change at Africa's International Courts.*'



Naida Softić

Naida Softić is a PhD candidate in Political Science and Teaching Instructor at Loyola University, Chicago. She holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. She also works with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on legislative and policy guidance concerning cross-border responses to migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons in several West African countries. Her research paper is titled '*Mandate at the Margins: Crisis, Refusal, and Legal Accountability in Migration Governance.*'

The 2025 Emerging Voices will present their work at the New York City Bar Association on **Thursday, October 23rd, 2025, at 4:00 PM.**

ILW Schedule at Glance

Thursday, October 23, 2025 New York City Bar Association	
4:00 PM	2025 Emerging Voices <i>Sponsored by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation</i>
5:30 PM	Welcome to International Law Weekend 2025 Welcome Remarks: Leila Nadya Sadat , ABILA Chair, and Muhammad U. Faridi , President, New York City Bar Association In Conversation with Elinor Hammarskjöld , United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs Interviewed by Michael P. Scharf , ABILA President
6:45 PM	Opening Reception

Friday, October 24, 2025 Fordham University School of Law					
9:00 AM	Women's Networking Breakfast <i>Sponsored by ArbitralWomen and ASIL's WILIG</i>				
10:00 AM	Friday Opening Plenary Lucinda A. Low , Co-Founder, Low & Kinnear Dispute Resolution; Former ASIL President Meg Kinnear , Co-Founder, Low & Kinnear Dispute Resolution; Former ICSID Secretary-General Interviewed by Mélida Hogdson , Partner, Arnold & Porter LLP; President, ASIL				
11:00 AM	Coffee Break Soden Lounge				
11:30 AM	Customary International Law: What Role Can It Play in Responding to Contemporary Global Crises?*	UN Roundtable: Leading Diplomats Reflect on the UN at 80	The Digital Divide in International Cyber Law	Crisis, Courts, and Sovereigns: Rethinking Immunity and Enforcement in a Shifting Global Order*	Planning a Career in International Law with Taylor Kilpatrick (ASIL)
12:45 PM	Boxed Lunch Soden Lounge - <i>sponsored by the Leitner Center for International Law and Justice</i>				
12:45 PM	ABILA Board Meeting (12:30PM)			ABILA Committee Networking	
1:30 PM	International Tribunals and Cultural Heritage Destruction: War Crimes, Persecution, Genocide & Discrimination	The International Criminal Court: Surviving the Onslaught?	The WTO and the Pandemic Agreement: A Simulation of the TRIPS Council During a Pandemic Emergency	General Counsel Roundtable: International Law as a Tool for Risk Mitigation*	From Ambition to Action: The Sustainable Development Goals Ten Years On*
2:45 PM	Coffee Break Soden Lounge				
3:00 PM	A "New" Role of the ICJ?	Negotiating the Future Crimes Against Humanity treaty: Paradigm Shift or Half-Measure?	Towards "Un-Crisis" Thinking in Global Migration Law	Taking Stock of the World Trading System*	Progress in International IP? Implications of the Riyadh Design Law Treaty*
4:15 PM	Coffee Break Soden Lounge				
4:30 PM	International Organization Secretariats as Crisis Managers and Change-Makers	AI and International Humanitarian Law: Emerging Norms	Creative Solutions for Accountability for Gender-Based Violence and Other Crimes in International Law*	The Second Century of the Federal Arbitration Act*	Narrative Strategies in International Environmental Law
6:00 PM	UN Mission Reception Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations Registration Required				

ILW Schedule at Glance

Saturday, October 25, 2025 Fordham University School of Law					
8:30 AM	Registration Second Floor Entrance & Complimentary Coffee Soden Lounge				
9:00 AM	ABILA's 103rd Annual Members Meeting, Elections, and Award Presentations Book of the Year Awards, Outstanding Achievement Award, & Charles Siegal Service Award Keynote Address: Recipient of the 2025 Outstanding Achievement Award				
10:15 AM	Coffee Break Soden Lounge				
10:30 AM	Public Health and Human Rights: New Tensions and Synergies	What Today's Wars Mean for Tomorrow's International Legal Order	Toward a Regional Human Rights Framework in the Middle East: Aspirations, Realities, and Lessons from Comparative Regionalism	Global Energy Governance - Strategic Weapon or Tool for Peace?*	Keeping Sinking States Afloat: The Crisis of Climate Change-Induced Sea-Level Rise and the International Legal Framework*
11:45 AM	Coffee Break Soden Lounge				
12:00 PM	 Combating State Hostage-Taking through International Law	Law in a Fractured World: Navigating the New Global Order*	The Role of Civil Society in the Face of the Crisis of the International Legal Order	Does Investor-State Arbitration Actually Impede Action to Combat Climate Change?*	Crimes Against the Environment, Nature, and Biodiversity – Progresses and Gaps in the Law of International and Transnational Crimes
1:15 PM	Boxed Lunch Soden Lounge				
1:30 PM	Lunch Keynote: Crisis as Catalyst in International Law Speaker to be confirmed				
2:15 PM					
2:30 PM	State Capture and Kleptocracy: Reimagining International Law On Anti-Corruption in an Age of Kleptocracy*	Prevention as a Fundamental Principle of International Law: Genocide Prevention in a Time of Crisis	The Force of Law for Good: Renewing the Global Commitment to Pro Bono	Charting the Deep: An Oxford-Style Debate on the Future of Seabed Governance*	Hot Topics
3:50 PM	Pathways to Employment in International Law Room 1-01 With the ABA Section on International Law and ILSA				
5:00 PM	END OF ILW 2025				

*(an asterisk) signifies that this panel's CLE status is currently pending with the New York Bar Association.



*Jessup Compromis Session with the International Law Students Association. This session is designed to allow Jessup competitors to ask questions to a team of international law experts in preparation for the 2026 National Rounds. It will be livestreamed globally, providing international participants with the opportunity to participate in what is sure to be a fascinating and insightful session for Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Teams.

Crisis as Catalyst: an International Humanitarian Law Perspective

ABILA's Third Blogging Symposium

For the American Branch's third blogging symposium, various authors addressed International Law Weekend's 2025 theme, 'Crisis as Catalyst in International Law,' from an International Humanitarian Law Perspective. Earlier this year, the American Branch put out a call for abstracts addressing this theme. The International Humanitarian Law Committee Chair **Professor Gabor Rona**, 2024 Student Ambassador **Anne Harper**, and ABILA COO **Freya Doughty-Wagner** selected the best abstracts and worked with the authors as editors. These complete pieces were published daily, starting Tuesday, August 26th, and concluding on Friday, August 29th.

All published works are solely those of the authors and do not reflect the views of the American Branch.

Symposium Overview:

1. The Trump Administration's War on the Laws of War by Gabor Rona

Gabor Rona is a Professor of Practice at Cardozo Law, Yeshiva University, and a Lecturer in Law at Columbia Law, with expertise in international human rights and international humanitarian law. Before his time at Cardozo, he was the International Legal Director of Human Rights First and a Legal Advisor in the Legal Division of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva.



Gabor Rona

2. A Binary in Crisis: Broadening the Functional Approach to the Law of Occupation by Oscar Pearce

Oscar Pearce is an incoming graduate lawyer at Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer, Sydney. He studied at the Australian National University, where he specialized in Public International Law.



Oscar Pearce

3. Accountability without Access: How Non-Military Actors Can Assess Conduct of Hostilities Violations by Ilya Ivanov

Ilya Ivanov is a PhD Candidate at the University of Geneva, where he researches the legal value of non-binding norms in international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Recently, he served as a Legal Officer at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and has held positions with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the World Food Programme, and the Human Rights House Foundation.



Ilya Ivanov

4. Recalibrating the Proportionality Calculus to Include Mental Collateral Damage by Natasha Arnpriester

Natasha Arnpriester is Senior Legal Counsel at the Open Society Justice Initiative in New York, where she leads transnational litigation on human rights accountability, with a particular focus on communities affected by armed conflict, authoritarian regimes, and structural exclusion. Her litigation strategies center on developing niche and innovative arguments to address complex problems in both domestic and international legal forums, with impacted communities at the core.



Natasha Arnpriester

Crisis as Catalyst: an International Humanitarian Law Perspective

ABILA's Third Blogging Symposium continued

Recalibrating the Proportionality Calculus to Include Mental Collateral Damage by *Natasha Arnpriester*

In a Gaza shelter, a displaced child tells a mental health worker: “I think I am dead but if you can hear me, maybe I am alive.” This is dissociation, an acute psychological response from a young mind overwhelmed by war.

This single moment distills a wider catastrophe. In Gaza, nearly 84% of civilians meet the diagnostic criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and almost 90% suffer significant psychological distress.

The World Health Organization has called the mental toll “unspeakable,” as children endure nightmares, bedwetting, mutism, acute anxiety, and physical pain rooted not in physical injury, but mental trauma.

International Humanitarian Law (IHL) restrains harm in armed conflict by regulating how it is fought, balancing military necessity with the imperative to protect civilians from unnecessary suffering. At its core is the principle of proportionality, which prohibits attacks when the expected civilian harm, so-called “collateral damage,” would be excessive in relation to the anticipated military advantage.

IHL defines collateral damage as the “incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians, and damage to civilian objects.” But “injury” here is understood only in physical terms. Injuries that are psychological in nature do not count.

Operationally, the principle of proportionality functions like a scale: if anticipated civilian harm outweighs the military gain, the attack is unlawful; if not, it may proceed. But by excluding mental harm from this calculation, the law blinds itself to one of war’s most devastating and enduring consequences.

Psychological injury in armed conflict is not anecdotal, but an epidemiological reality. PTSD, for instance, whether triggered by direct threats or by witnessing harm to others, can hollow out a life from within. It drives people into isolation, robs them of their livelihoods, traps them in a state of unrelenting fear, fuels addiction, and pushes some to the brink of suicide.

The data is stark. In Afghanistan, decades of conflict have produced some of the highest global rates of trauma, anxiety, and depression, even among those never physically injured. In Ukraine, the share of civilians with PTSD symptoms surged from 27% before the full-scale invasion to 74%. In Yemen, one in four people lives with war-inflicted psychological trauma. Among Syrian refugees in Germany, around half live with PTSD, and 40% have contemplated or attempted suicide. After the Gulf War, more than 70% of Kuwaiti children developed PTSD; among a sample of war-affected Kurdish children, the figure reached a staggering 87%.



Crisis as Catalyst: an International Humanitarian Law Perspective

ABILA's Third Blogging Symposium continued

Recalibrating the Proportionality Calculus to Include Mental Collateral Damage by *Natasha Arnpriester*

And mental harm often becomes physical. It raises the risk of heart disease, stroke, cancer, and other serious illnesses. In Beirut, civilians exposed to war trauma were two to three times more likely to die prematurely than those spared such exposure. Neuroscientific studies show that psychological trauma can alter brain chemistry and even its physical structure in ways that degrade physical health over time.

Psychological injury in war is not new. Accounts stretch from ancient Mesopotamia to “shell shock” in World War I. But modern military technology has diversified, and, in some cases, intensified that trauma.

Take combat drones. Praised for their precision and supposed ability to spare civilians, they are often portrayed as a cleaner form of warfare. Yet this claim rests on an incomplete calculus. Judged only by immediate physical harm, drones may seem benign; measured by their psychological toll, they can be devastating.



Mental health experts have described the U.S. drone program as causing suffering on an “unprecedented scale,” with civilians exhibiting high rates of depression, anxiety, hallucinations, psychosis, and schizophrenia. A joint report by Stanford and New York University law schools documented communities under constant drone surveillance and strikes enduring severe emotional breakdowns, exaggerated startle responses, withdrawal, hallucinations, and suicidal ideation.

In Yemen, a psychologist found 92% of residents in drone-affected areas met the criteria for PTSD. In Ukraine, “droneophobia” has entered the popular lexicon, as psychiatrists report a surge in “mental health injuries” tied directly to drone exposure. Experts liken these psychological scars to those of torture victims—people subjected to “inescapable and uncontrollable stressor events.”

Drone warfare lays bare the glaring gap in the current IHL proportionality analysis. Under prevailing interpretation, a strike expected to kill only a combatant and cause no physical civilian injury is deemed entirely lawful. Yet if mental harm were counted as collateral damage, some such operations would fail a proportionality test.

When no physical injury is anticipated, proportionality almost always tips toward military necessity, even if the psychological toll is widespread and severe. In this blind spot, even a trivial military gain outweighs what the law records as “zero” civilian harm. That legal green light can be given again and again: a strike in the morning, another at noon, another at night, day after day, each one deemed lawful, while civilians live in constant terror.

Keep reading at: <https://www.ila-americanbranch.org/recalibrating-the-proportionality-calculus-to-include-mental-collateral-damage/>

American Society of International Law's 119th Annual Meeting

April 15-18, 2025



From L-R: **Milena Sterio**, **Alison Macdonald**, Amb. **Naimra Negm**, **Tafadzwa Pasipanodya**, and **Chiara Giorgetti**; **Leila Nadya Sadat** and **Michael P. Scharf**; **Leila Nadya Sadat** giving her 'Goler T. Butcher Medal' speech.

At this year's ASIL Annual Meeting, several ABILA members presented across a variety of panels. ABILA Vice President, **Chiara Giorgetti**, participated in 'Bridging the Gaps: Reparations for Conflict and Climate Justice,' and 'Navigating Climate Change and Investment Disputes: The ASIL Task Force on ISDS and Climate Change, a Roundtable Presentation,' **Gregory Shaffer** and **Harold Hongju Koh** presented on the panel 'Impact of Trump's Election on the War in Ukraine,' ABILA Vice President **Jennifer Trahan** and **Oona A. Hathaway** spoke on 'The Veto: a film showing accompanied by panel discussion,' and **Asaf Lubin** participated in 'Access Denied: Debating the Limits of Internet Control in Crises.'

Our Chair, **Leila Nadya Sadat**, gave the 2025 Butcher Medal Lecture 'The Long Arc of Justice: Forging a Convention for Crimes Against Humanity.' The Goler T. Butcher Medal has been awarded by ASIL since 1997 to a distinguished person of American or other nationality, for outstanding contributions to the development or effective realization of international human rights.

ABILA and Friends Reception in Honor of Cynthia Lichtenstein

"Cynthia Lichtenstein, Honorary Vice President and former President of ABILA, left us physically on November 28, 2024, at the age of 90. But she will never leave us intellectually or emotionally. A good life lives on, and hers was chock full, raising a family and rising to the top of overlapping careers in law practice, academia, and professional leadership." - **Jim Nafziger**

She was enthusiastically elected as ABILA's first female President (1986-92) and, more recently (2020), as the first recipient of our service award. She was a fixture at the biennial ILA conferences and the semiannual ABILA meetings, held twice a year. To honor her legacy, the ABILA held a Reception at the ASIL Annual on April 17, 2025, at 6:30 PM. Many friends, colleagues, and mentees were in attendance to celebrate her life and toast to her many accomplishments, from Vice Chair of the International Law Association to a Professor of Law at Boston College for over 30 years.



ABILA and Friends Reception in Honor of Cynthia Lichtenstein *continued*

"She was a warm, open, and welcoming force - just a delight to be with. She was one of those remarkable people who, from the moment you meet her and start to talk to her, draws out the best in you. She was wicked smart, had great judgement... she had that personal magnetism around whom you wanted to do your best." - **David Stewart**

"She quite literally said to me: 'I have an apartment on Captiva Island, and if you would like to go, you can go.' I spent a gorgeous week on Captiva with my family. She was just that kind of person who cared about you personally and cared about you professionally. She was a brilliant international lawyer, both in the public and the private, for ABILA, and I'm so glad we awarded her the Service Award while she was still alive." - **Leila Nadya Sadat**



From L-R: **Michael P. Scharf**, **Jim Nafziger**, **Amity Boye**, and **Valerie Epps**

"I've had several lucky breaks in international law, and one of them was becoming acquainted with Cynthia. I am forever grateful for that opportunity - she lured me into the International Law Association to begin with! In fact, she brought many of us into the ILA, and I had the cheeky idea to name her the Mother of Us All. She was a priceless person." - **Jim Nafziger**

"One of my final phone calls with her was me sharing the news that I was going to be the President-Elect of the American Branch - and her face just lit up. She was tickled, pleased, and delighted. She had hope and optimism for the future. It was really a special moment. Cynthia was firm in her convictions - so when I am thinking about how do I react to the world, I try to muster the spirit of Cynthia. I'll miss her wit and her tenacity!" - **Amity Boye**



From Clockwise: **Madaline George** and **Douglas Pivnichy**; the Reception (including **Leila Nadya Sadat** and **Jennifer Trahan**); **Srividhya Ragavan** and **Jessica Peake**; **Stephanie Farrior**; **Steven Schneebaum**; **Valerie Epps**.



International Law Chats - an ABILA Podcast

International Law Chats is a podcast from the American Branch of the International Law Association, hosted by **Professor Chiara Giorgetti**, **Alison Macdonald KC**, and **Professor Milena Sterio**. The podcast is edited and produced by **Freya Doughty-Wagner**. Episodes air on the first Monday of every month and feature prominent guests in the field of international law. Episodes are available on Spotify, YouTube, and our website. So far, we have recorded five brilliant episodes - learn more about our new podcast below.

Episode 1: U.S. v Them? with Professor Oona Hathaway

April's episode features Professor **Oona A. Hathaway**. Professor Hathaway is the Gerard C. and Bernice Latrobe Smith Professor of International Law at Yale Law School, Professor of International Law and Area Studies at the Yale University MacMillan Center, Professor of the Yale University Department of Political Science, and Director of the Yale Law School Center for Global Legal Challenges. Alison and Chiara interviewed Oona on the position of the United States amidst ongoing international legal challenges.



Episode 2: Look WHOs Back? with Professor Gian Luca Burci



May's episode features Professor Gian Luca Burci, Adjunct Professor of International Law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, since 2012. He is also the Director of the joint LLM on Global Health Law and Governance between the Graduate Institute and Georgetown Law School. Since 2016, Prof. Burci has been a Visiting Professor and Senior Scholar at the O'Neill Center on National and Global Health Law, Georgetown University School of Law. Alison, Chiara, and Milena interview Gian Luca about the adoption of the Pandemic Agreement by the World Health Assembly.

Episode 3: Africa Popularis with Amb. Namira Negm and Tafadzwa Pasipanodya

Chiara, Alison, and Milena sat down with Ambassador Namira Negm and Tafadzwa Pasipanodya at the American Society of International Law's Annual Meeting to discuss the importance of African practice in international law.

Amb. Negm is the first Director of the African Migration Observatory and Honorary President of the African Society for International Law. She is a Visiting Professor at the Geneva Summer School in International Law and International Humanitarian Law (Geneva University) and was the first female Legal Counsel of the African Union.

Tafadzwa Pasipanodya is a partner in Foley Hoag's international litigation and arbitration department and chairs the firm's Africa practice group. For almost two decades, she has represented sovereign States from all over the world in investor-state arbitrations concerning natural resources, mining, the environment, infrastructure, and health policy before arbitration tribunals.



International Law Chats - an ABILA Podcast

continued

Episode 4: A New International Treaty on Crimes Against Humanity? with Leila Nadya Sadat



Chiara and Milena interviewed our Chair, **Leila Nadya Sadat**, about her longstanding efforts to establish a treaty on Crimes Against Humanity. Professor Leila Nadya Sadat is the James Carr Professor of International Criminal Law at Washington University in St. Louis School of Law. Professor Sadat has served as Special Adviser on Crimes Against Humanity to the International Criminal Court Prosecutor from 2012-2023, and is one of the world's foremost authorities in the fields of public international law, international criminal law, human rights, and foreign affairs.

Episode 5: The ICJ Advisory Opinion on Climate Change Debrief

Alison and Chiara interviewed a Panel of Experts about the International Court of Justice's Advisory Opinion '*Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change*.' August's episode features Andrew B. Loewenstein, a Partner with Foley Hoag's Boston office, **Professor Nilüfer Oral**, Director of the Centre of International Law at the National University of Singapore and a member of the UN International Law Commission, Ambassador Franz Perrez, Head of the Directorate of International Law at the Swiss Federal Office of Foreign Affairs, and Professor Lavanya Rajamani, Professor of International Environmental Law at the University of Oxford.



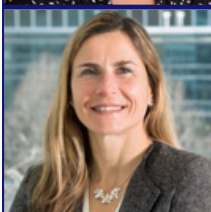
Meet the Co-Hosts of International Law Chats



Alison Macdonald KC is a Barrister with Essex Court Chambers in London and a Fellow with All Souls College in Oxford. Alison has an extensive practice in public international law, arbitration, human rights, and criminal law, in both domestic and international courts and tribunals. She is described in the legal directories as "*one of the smartest, most charming advocates at the Bar.*"



Professor Chiara Giorgetti is a Professor of Law at Richmond Law School, a Senior Fellow at the International Claims and Reparations Project at Columbia Law School, and an ABILA Vice President. She is an expert in international dispute resolution, and she has acted as expert, counsel, and adjudicator in numerous inter-states disputes.



Professor Milena Sterio is the Charles R. Emrick Jr-Calfee, Halter & Griswold Endowed Professor of Law and Director of the International Law Center at Cleveland State University's Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Managing Director of the Public International Law & Policy Group, and the Co-Director of Studies for ABILA. She is a leading expert on international criminal law and human rights.

International Law Association HQ

Updates from Committees

The ILA Committee on Safeguarding Cultural Heritage in All Stages of Armed Conflict

The ILA Committee on Safeguarding Cultural Heritage in All Stages of Armed Conflict, led by Kristin Hausler and Andrzej Jakubowski, convened in Seoul for its intersessional meeting at the esteemed National Palace Museum of Korea from May 26 to 30, 2025. Four ABILA members attended: Professors **Emily Behzadi Cárdenas**, **Anne-Marie Carstens**, **James Nafziger**, and **Alison Renteln**. Professor Seokwoo Lee, President of the Korean Branch, and Professor Gyooho Lee, President-Elect, hosted a remarkable intersessional meeting that featured presentations and cultural programs.

The nearly thirty attendees visited the War Memorial, the Demilitarized Zone, the Seoul National Museum, and markets where cultural heritage was on display. Not only did the jurists sample superb culinary treats, but they also enjoyed a night of Korean karaoke. As the meeting was just before a Presidential election, it was an exciting time to be in Seoul. It was certainly a memorable week of cultural heritage, both in theory and in practice. We are deeply indebted to our gracious hosts, the Korean branch of the ILA. The ABILA members thank the Korean government and all Korean Branch members and their staff who made the conference such a success.

by Alison Renteln



ABILA Members Recently Elected to ILA Committees:

Abuse of Rights in International Law

- **Frédéric Sourgens**

Conflict of Laws Issues in International Arbitration

- **David Attansio**, **Andrea Bjorklund**, **Nikolaus Pitkowicz** (*Co-Chair*), **Louise Ellen Teitz**

International Law for the Sustainable Development Goals

- **Freya Doughty-Wagner**, **Anita Halvorssen**, **Rumu Sarkar**

Rights of Nature

- **Anxhela Mile**, **Mortimer Sellers**, **Milena Sterio**

Congratulations to our American Branch members! Two new Committees are seeking nominations: Artificial Intelligence & Technology Law and Legal Aspects of Space Debris Remediation. To find out more and be nominated by the Branch, please contact our Co-Directors of Studies, **Mortimer Sellers** and **Milena Sterio**, or visit the International Law Association HQ website.

New ABILA Committee Co-Chairs: *Matthew Carvalho and Ioanna Tourkochoriti*



Matthew Carvalho joins **Ana Santos Rutschman** as the Co-Chair of the Global Health Committee. Matthew is a Global Governance and Diplomacy Research Fellow at Sunway University, Malaysia, and the first official youth delegate of the United States to the World Health Assembly.



Ioanna Tourkochoriti joins **Mortimer Sellers** as the Co-Chair of the Legitimacy and Fundamental Principles of International Law Committee. Ioanna is an Associate Professor of Law and Associate Director of the Center for International and Comparative Law at the University of Baltimore School of Law.

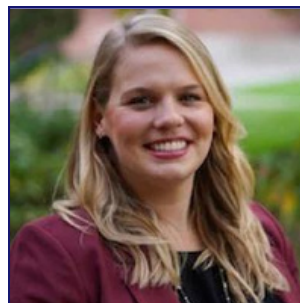
Interested in Co-Chairing a Committee or starting your own? Contact our Co-Directors of Studies, **Mortimer Sellers** and **Milena Sterio**, to find out more.

Reintroducing: *Freya Doughty-Wagner and Julia Liston*

On June 1, 2025, **Freya Doughty-Wagner** was promoted from Chief Content Officer to Chief Operating Officer of the American Branch. Freya has been a part of ABILA since 2022 and is thrilled to be continuing her work with our great organization. She is also the North American Director for the Global Network of Human Rights and the Environment and an International Climate Justice Consultant.



Julia Liston is excited to return to ABILA as the Membership Officer after a six-month hiatus. She is looking forward to reconnecting with our incredible members and helping our community continue to grow. Julia is also an Instructor, LLM Fellow, and Director of Bar Support at Case Western Reserve University School of Law.



INTERNATIONAL LAW ASSOCIATION
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Welcome to Our New Members for 2025:

- Abdulkadir Abdella
- Gergo Barna Balazs
- Edmund Bao
- William Barnes
- Paige Biebas
- Joseph Andrew Boyle
- Megan Corrarino
- Kathya Dawe
- Katherine Gorove
- Nienke Grossman
- Sara Kaufhardt
- Michelle Leighton
- Christopher Lentz
- Julia Liston
- Raymond Massie
- Anxhela Mile
- Laura Okeyo
- Daniel Quiroga
- Alina Rizvi
- Naomi Roht-Arriaza
- Charles Stotler
- Julia Sullivan
- Hannah Sweeney
- Magdalena Tulibacka
- Klara Van der Ploeg
- Timothy Waters
- Summer Wright

To join the ABILA or find out more about membership, email our Membership Officer, **Julia Liston**, at membership@ila-americanbranch.org.

American Society of International Law

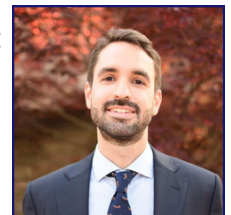
Mid-Year Meeting



The American Society of International Law hosts an annual Midyear Meeting in the fall. The meeting encompasses several events, including leadership meetings of the Society's Executive Council and the Board of Editors of the American Journal of International Law; the Research Forum, which features cutting-edge international law scholarship by more than 90 authors; and programming for practitioners. The 2025 meeting will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, **September 25-27, 2025**. Our President, **Michael P. Scharf**, and Co-Director of Studies, **Milena Sterio**, are two of this year's Midyear Meeting Co-Chairs.

Many ABILA members will be presenting their works at the ASIL Mid-Year, including:

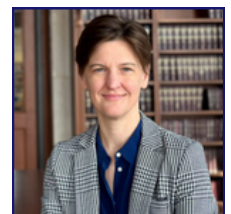
- **Matei Alexianu**, an ABILA 2024 Emerging Voice
- **Cody Corliss**, Associate Professor of Law at West Virginia University
- **Rossana Deplano**, Associate Professor at the University of Leicester
- **Paul R. Dubinsky**, ABILA Honorary Vice-President and Professor of Law at Wayne State University
- **MJ Durkee**, Professor of Law at Washington University in St. Louis
- **Paolo D. Farah**, Professor of Law at West Virginia University
- **Hannah Garry**, Professor of Law at USC Gould School of Law
- **Asaf Lubin**, Associate Professor of Law at Indiana University Bloomington
- **Cymie Payne**, Associate Professor of Law at Rutgers School of Law
- **Alveena Shah**, ILW 2025 Organizing Committee Member and Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Pittsburgh
- **Rebecca Shoot**, Executive Director at Citizens for Global Solutions
- **Matiangai Sirleaf**, Professor of Law at the University of Maryland



Matei Alexianu



Paolo D. Farah



MJ Durkee



Alveena Shah

Additional events at the ASIL Mid-Year include a Keynote by Judge Leo Gordon, remarks by Rt. Hon. Alex Chalk KC, an Opening Reception at the Cleveland Botanical Garden with Mark Ellis, Executive Director of the International Bar Association, and Dinner at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Find out more and register today at: <https://www.asil.org/midyear-meeting>

ABILA Board and Member Spotlights



ABILA President **Michael P. Scharf** is the co-founder and chair of the International Bar Association's ICC Moot Court competition, which held its 12th edition in The Hague from June 11-18 with 85 competing universities. ABILA Co-Director of Studies, **Milena Sterio**, and ABILA member **Meg deGuzman**, joined Michael as judges of the Semi-Final Round.

The Global Institute for the Prevention of Aggression, convened by International Criminal Court Committee Co-Chair **Jennifer Trahan**, co-organized an all-day seminar on the crime of aggression, which was held on June 13, 2025, at the Mission of the African Union in New York. The seminar featured six members of GIPA as speakers: Executive Council member Ambassador Christian Wenaweser, and Council of Advisers members Judge Daniel Nsereko, Professors Patrycja Grzebyk, Astrid Reisinger Coracini, and **David Donat Cattin**, as well as Jennifer, along with several ambassadors.



For her services to refugees and human rights advocacy, **Rez Gardi** was appointed to the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours. She co-founded and has been Co-Managing Director of Refugees Seeking Equal Access at the Table (R-SEAT) since 2021, a global refugee-led organisation focused on ensuring refugees have a seat at decision-making tables. She has created a framework that positions refugees as experts within United Nations structures and within government delegations, advising on forced displacement policies.

The International Humanitarian Law Dialogs, cosponsored by the ASIL and the Robert H. Jackson Center and several other organizations, bring together chief prosecutors and judges from international courts and tribunals, as well as international legal leaders and scholars. This year, our President, **Michael P. Scharf**, Chair, **Leila Nadya Sadat**, Co-Director of Studies, **Milena Sterio**, and Vice-President, **Jennifer Trahan**, were in attendance.



The next episode of **Talking Foreign Policy**, a public radio program produced by Case Western Reserve University School of Law and hosted by **Michael P. Scharf**, will feature Mark Ellis, **Harold Hongju Koh**, and **Oona A. Hathaway**. Listen on September 22, 2025, on Ideastream or catch up later in podcast form. Episodes of Talking Foreign Policy feature experts discussing the most pressing foreign policy issues of the day. Listen [here](#).

ABILA Member News

William Aceves, ABILA Vice-President and ILW 2025 Co-Chair, was quoted by The Washington Post in 'Nvidia, AMD agree to pay U.S. government 15% of AI chip sales to China.'

Christiane Ahlborn, **Harlan Cohen**, **Margaret deGuzman**, **MJ Durkee**, **Chiara Giorgetti**, **Charlotte Ku**, ABILA Board Member, **Valerie Oosterveld**, and **Arnold Pronto** were all named in EJIL:Talk!'s EJIL Roll of Honour.

Barry Appleton was interviewed by KOCO News 5 ABC for their piece 'What is the Court of International Trade? And why can it strike down Trump's tariffs?'

Chambers USA 2025 recognized **David Attanasio**, ABILA Board Member, under 'International Arbitration: Counsel.'



Warren Binford

WGRT's LIMELight with Jessie Wiegand interviewed Warren Binford about her work as an advocate for children in detention centers.

Andrea Bjorklund received an honorary doctorate from the University of Vienna for her "outstanding scholarly work in the field of international commercial and investment dispute settlement."



Irene Calboli

Irene Calboli spoke at 'Advancing Intellectual Property Dialogue in Asia and Beyond: Highlights from the 7th IPIRA Conference in Tokyo,' hosted by Waseda University School of Law.

Scott Horton, ABILA Honorary Vice-President, was interviewed by radio station KPFA 94.1 for their segment 'Whistleblower Reveals Russian Recruitment of Musk and Thiel.'

Konstantine Kopaliani was part of the White & Case team that secured a victory for Georgia in the Anaklia Port project dispute.

France 24 interviewed **Coalter Lathrop**, Chair of the Law of the Sea Committee, for their piece 'Trump's drive for ocean bed mining threatens law of the sea.'

Pulse 2.0 interviewed **Annie Lespérance** about her work with Jus Mundi.

The Defense Visual Information Distribution Service interviewed **Asaf Lubin** for their podcast 'National Security Law Unscripted.'



Asaf Lubin

Global Arbitration Review featured Nikolaus Pitkowitz and Pitkowitz & Partners in GAR 2025 100 – the 18th Edition.

The International Bar Association-founded *eyeWitness to Atrocities* appointed Leila Nadya Sadat, ABILA Chair, to its Board of Trustees.

The Pillar interviewed Afonso Seixas Nunes for 'The battlefield will become a space of impunity: How AI challenges the laws of war.'

Hannah Sweeney was part of the Foley Hoag team that helped secure a permanent injunction barring the Trump administration from enforcing an executive order sanctioning the International Criminal Court.



Nawi Ukabiala

Nawi Ukabiala, ABILA Board Member, co-launched the American Society of International Law New York Chapter's Networking Series.

ABILA Member Publications

New Blogs, Books, Book Chapters, and More



Christiane Ahlborn

Christiane Ahlborn and Inji Mammadli published the blog '[Protecting Gaza's Marine Environment in Armed Conflict: Shared or Exclusive International Responsibility?](#)' for EJIL:Talk!

Catherine Amirfar was named to Benchmark Litigation's "[Top 250 Women in Litigation](#)" list for 2025.

Warren Binford provided the guest commentary '[US must keep funding for child sex abuse prevention](#),' for The Baltimore Sun.

Ronald Brand published the op-ed '[Trump's depredations call for a civic uprising](#),' with the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

For Verfassungsblog, **Irene Calboli** published the blog '[Upcycling, the Ongoing Battle – A \(Hopeful\) United States Perspective](#).'

Freya Doughty-Wagner, ABILA COO, published '[International Law and the Child, 100 Years Later: A Dichotomous History of Children's Rights, Protections, and Freedoms](#),' for The Oregon Review of International Law.

Rez Gardi and Mustafa Alio published the blog '[Protection or prevention? The global refugee system is at a crossroads](#),' for The New Humanitarian.

Mark Janis, John Noyes, and Leila Nadya Sadat published the Seventh Edition of '[International Law: Cases and Commentary](#)' for West Academic.



Catherine Amirfar



Ronald Brand



Aristeo Lopez

For EJIL:Talk!, **Coalter Lathrop**, Chair of the Law of the Sea Committee, published '[The Latest Trump Threat to International Law: Unilaterally Mining the Area](#).'

Aristeo Lopez et. al. published '[Coalition for Fair Trade in Hardwood Plywood files new trade case against imports of hardwood and decorative plywood from China, Indonesia, and Vietnam](#),' for Clark Hill LLP's blog.

Asaf Lubin published '[AI Broke the Code – The International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers and Emerging Technologies](#),' for Opinio Juris' symposium on Private Military and Security Companies.

For the Denver Journal of International Law and Policy ('DJILP'), **Allan Marks** published the article '[Think Globally and Act Locally: Collaboration Across Borders to Address Climate Change](#).' The DJILP has a relationship with ABILA and selects presenters at ILW to publish with them.

Leila Nadya Sadat, ABILA Chair, published '[It's Not Too Late for States Parties to Fulfill the Promise of the International Criminal Court: Three Actions They Should Take Now](#),' for Just Security.

Frédéric Sourgens' '[A Theory of Global Energy Governance](#)' was published with Oxford University Press.

Eran Sthoeger et. al. published '[Deep Sea Mining Uncovered: Part One and Two](#),' for JD Supra.

For Opinio Juris, **Jennifer Trahan**, ABILA Vice President, published '[Crime of Aggression Negotiations Blocked by France, the United Kingdom, and Canada](#).'



Global Health Committee Statement

Statement from the Co-Chairs of the ABILA Committee on Global Health Law on the Adoption of the Pandemic Treaty

We welcome the adoption of the first global pandemic treaty by World Health Organization Member States during the 78th World Health Assembly last month. After years of negotiation, this treaty promises a strong step towards equitably advancing the health of people around the globe, ensuring that no one is left behind as we work to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the next pandemic.

Last October, ABILA Global Health inaugurated the committee with its first event, a panel during 2024 International Law Weekend in New York City. The panel, entitled “The World Together” or a World Apart? Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response as Law of the Powerless, considered many of the issues still under discussion at the time within the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body for a new Pandemic Agreement. Panelists, including us as co-chairs, hoped to illuminate many of the opportunities the world’s first legally binding pandemic treaty could bring, including robust technology transfer and information sharing, sustainable financing, and strengthening of the health workforce. Once the Pandemic Agreement enters into force, it will hopefully complement the recently adopted amendments to the International Health Regulations, which will come into effect later this year.

Before opening for signature, country negotiators must first finalize the Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) System, which has been annexed under the adopted treaty. The PABS mechanism remains one of the pivotal components of the treaty, and must be agreed upon as efficiently as possible. Given the complex nature of the access and benefit-sharing space, it is essential that negotiators in the global health space account for the larger global governance ecosystem, learning from the experiences of other conventions and intergovernmental fora so that PABS can function in a manner best supportive to WHO Member States around the world.

The adoption of the pandemic treaty by the World Health Assembly is a significant milestone for global health law, and we look forward to furthering the efforts of governance for health through our work within ABILA Global Health and beyond.

Please join us in New York City this coming October during the 2025 International Law Weekend to continue the conversation!

Ana Santos Rutschman

Villanova University School of Law
Co-Chair, ABILA Committee on Global
Health Law

Matthew Carvalho

Georgetown University Law Center
Co-Chair, ABILA Committee on Global
Health Law

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Freya Doughty-Wagner

Pay Your Dues

The Branch's membership year begins in January. If you have not yet paid your 2025 membership dues, please do so now. 2025 membership fees were due on January 1, 2025.

To pay your dues, log on to your account at www.ila-americanbranch.org and select the "Orders" tab under your Account page, or contact our Membership Officer, Julia Liston, at membership@ila-americanbranch.org.

Recruit New Members

Every ABILA member is encouraged to recruit new members to the American Branch. The health and success of our Branch depends on a steady infusion of new talent, enthusiasm, and energy.

Please take time now to think about reaching out to several likely prospects, and encourage them to join and attend ILW 2025. To help you in this effort, the ABILA membership brochure can be downloaded from the Branch website under the Membership tab.

Editor's Note:

The names of ABILA members are identified in **bold** throughout this *Newsletter*. Join the Branch and be recognized!



Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 25-27, 2025: American Society of International Law's Mid-Year Meeting, Cleveland, Ohio

October 2-3, 2025: International Bar Association's Litigation Committee Conference on Private International Law, Milan, Italy

October 9, 2025: The Rule of Law in International Relations Webinar, ABILA, on Zoom

October 10-12, 2025: Strengthening International Criminal Law: 80 Years since Nuremberg, International Nuremberg Principles Academy, Nuremberg, Germany

October 21, 2025: The Challenge to Democracies and International Law, 2025 Creighton Law Symposium, Omaha, Nebraska

October 23-25, 2025: International Law Weekend 2025, New York City, New York

November 2-7, 2025: International Bar Association's Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada

January 22-23, 2026: 14th ITA-IEL-ICC Joint Conference on International Energy Arbitration, Houston, Texas

April 9-10, 2026: Sustainable International Law - Reconciling Stability and Change, ESIL Research Forum, Kraków, Poland

American Branch of the International Law Association

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*please
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