

NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL LAW WEEKEND 2026

International Law Weekend 2026 is only one month away! We have a packed schedule with over 35 panels, keynote speeches, networking opportunities, and more. All members are encouraged to attend the 104th Members Meeting on October 24th at 12:00 p.m., where we will present this year's awards and vote for new and returning board members. You can read all about this year's conference, *[R]evolution in the International Legal Order*, in this edition of *the Newsletter*.

Our Co-Chairs, Brady Mabe, Jessica Peake, and Lisa Reinsberg, have put together an excellent lineup, including conversations and panels on climate change, armed conflict, the International Criminal Court, trade, artificial intelligence, human rights, the future of global governance, and more. We are also thankful to the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations for hosting this year's Mission Reception.

This issue also highlights the ILA's 82nd Biennial Conference in Vienna and ILW-Midwest in Cleveland, which commemorates the 80th anniversary of the Nuremberg Judgment. The newsletter concludes with news from across the American Branch, including new members, committee leadership, publications, media appearances, professional achievements, recent Board statements, and upcoming events.

We look forward to seeing you all in New York City for International Law Weekend 2026.

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International Law Weekend 2026

[R]evolution in the International Legal Order

104th Members Meeting

New York City

October 22-24, 2026



ila-americanbranch.org



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ilw@ila-americanbranch.org



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Message from our American Branch President

As my four-year term nears its end, this will be my last message as President of the ABILA. The theme of my message is “Standing up for International Law.”

Since his inauguration in January 2025, President Trump has tried to dismantle the laws and institutions that have brought the world peace and prosperity for 80 years. During his past two years in office, President Trump has imposed tariffs in violation of free trade agreements, withdrawn from international organizations that have long benefited from U.S. leadership, refused to pay billions of dollars in assessments to the United Nations, drawn down military support for NATO, attacked over 60 so-called Venezuelan and Colombian narco-vessels in the Caribbean and Pacific, invaded Venezuela and captured its President, conducted a massive bombardment of Iran and killed its Supreme Leader, imposed an armed blockade of Cuba, and expressed open disdain for international law and international institutions. In January 2026, President Trump told the New York Times: “The only limit to my global power is my own morality. I don’t need international law.” At a March 2026 Pentagon briefing, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth said that U.S. military forces would no longer comply with “stupid rules of engagement” and added that we will provide “no quarter” to our enemies. And in July 2026, Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced a U.S. campaign to “dismantle” the International Criminal Court.

Among U.S. presidents, Trump has been uniquely retaliatory. When those in his own party vote against his foreign policy actions, he works to have them defeated in the next primary. When judges rule against him, he publicly castigates them and threatens impeachment. When former government officials contradict him, he has them investigated and prosecuted. When law firms sue to block his actions, he revokes their security clearances and terminates their government contracts. And when university professors challenge his policies, he cuts off the university’s federal grants.

Under those circumstances, it is hard to muster the courage to stand up for the rule of international law. Precious few have done so, and it seems the U.S. system of checks and balances has largely broken down. But the ABILA has done its part. On February 25, 2025, I issued a widely circulated President’s Statement that listed the actions taken by the Trump Administration in its first month in office that violate international law and fundamentally impair the international legal order. My statement concluded, “while our organization is non-partisan in nature, we are committed to peace, justice and the rule of law -- values that are threatened by the actions of the current administration. The Branch’s motto, emblazoned on our website, is: ‘We need international law and cooperation now more than ever.’ That has never been truer than today.”

And then we woke up on the morning of January 3, 2026, to the news that President Trump had ordered the invasion of Venezuela and the kidnapping of its President, Nicolas Maduro. At our quarterly meeting on January 16, 2026, Board Chair Leila Nadya Sadat and I asked the ABILA Board of Directors to issue a strong statement condemning the invasion and attacks against Venezuelan and Colombian vessels as clear violations of international law.

Message from our American Branch President (*cont'd*)

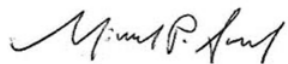
The Statement dismissed the U.S. public justifications for these actions as illegitimate, saying: “While not condoning the Maduro regime, the ABILA Board rejects the Administration’s justification for these actions, namely that they constituted a legitimate exercise of the right of self-defense in response to the threat posed by narco-terrorists and/or law enforcement action to arrest Maduro, as incompatible with international law.”

The ABILA Board had never issued such a Board Statement before, and many members wondered whether it was inappropriate for a politically diverse organization like ours to do so. The ABILA Board includes experts from across the political spectrum, from academia, NGOs, and law firms. We discussed the importance of taking a stand and the risks to each of us and to our organization as a whole. And then we voted. The tally was 30 in favor, 0 opposed!

Subsequently, on March 6, 2026, I issued another ABILA Presidential Statement condemning the massive U.S. aerial attacks against Iran, as well as Iran’s retaliatory explosion of violence against the Middle East. And most recently, on August 11, 2026, the ABILA’s International Criminal Court Committee issued a Statement Against U.S. Efforts to “Disable” and “Dismantle” the International Criminal Court.

I have no illusion that these ABILA Statements will prompt a change in President Trump’s policies, but I am emboldened by something Robert Kennedy Sr. said when he visited Apartheid South Africa in 1966: “Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope.” When academics, business executives, law firm heads, and leaders of international associations like the ABILA take a stand, those ripples can build into a wave of change. It is worth the risks of retaliation to stand up for international law.

Michael P. Scharf



President of the American Branch of the International Law Association

Associate Dean for Global Legal Studies and Joseph C. Hostetler - BakerHostetler Professor of Law, Case Western Reserve University School of Law



International Law Weekend 2026 Overview

[R]evolution in the International Legal Order

This conference will examine the re-ordering of the international legal order at a pivotal moment of transition. Shifts in global power, challenges to bedrock legal principles, including the prohibition on the use of force, and retreat from long-standing international commitments pose challenges to the status quo, creating both uncertainty and opportunities for renewal. As some traditionally dominant states scale back their engagement with international law and institutions, space opens to reconsider the global distribution and exercise of authority and responsibility.

Thank you to our 2026 Co-Chairs: **Brady Mabe**, **Jess Peake**, and **Lisa Reinsberg**.

Thursday | October 22, 2026

New York City Bar Association, 42 West 44th St, New York, NY 10036

3:30p	Registration Reception Hall, First Floor
4:00p	2026 Emerging Voices <i>Sponsored by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation</i> Shah Maruf Uddin Ahmad , East West University's Department of Law, Bangladesh Hosung Ahn , DPhil Candidate in Law, Jesus College, University of Oxford Minju Kang , Visiting Scholar, Harvard Law School and Postdoctoral Fellow, ChainGE Lab François Naaman , Associate, Vinson & Elkins LLP Gülce Ecem Uçar , PhD Candidate in Crime and Criminal Procedure Law, Ankara University Graduate School of Social Sciences, Türkiye Discussant: Mortimer Sellers , Professor and Director, University of Baltimore's Center for International and Comparative Law; ABILA Co-Director of Studies CLE Room, Second Floor
5:00p	Registration Reception Hall, First Floor
5:30p	President's Opening Plenary Welcome Remarks Leila Nadya Sadat , ABILA Chair Paula T. Edgar , Vice-President, New York City Bar Association [R]evolution in the International Legal Order Dapo Akande , Chichele Professor of Public International Law, University of Oxford Oona A. Hathaway , Gerard C. and Bernice Latrobe Smith Professor of International Law, Yale Law School Interviewed by Michael P. Scharf , ABILA President Meeting Hall, Second Floor
6:45p	Opening Reception <i>All are invited to attend</i> Reception Area, Second Floor
8:00p	ABILA Committee Chair Drinks <i>Invitation Only</i>

Friday | October 23, 2026

Fordham University School of Law, 150 W 62nd St, New York, NY 10023

8:00a	ABILA Committee Networking and Breakfast Soden Lounge, Second Floor				
8:30a	Registration Second Floor				
9:00a	In Conversation with Elinor Hammar skjöld United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs RM 2-02 Interviewed by Nawi Ukabiala, Of Counsel, King & Wood LLP Welcome Remarks: Dean Joseph Landau, Fordham University School of Law				
10:00a	Coffee Break Soden Lounge, Second Floor				
10:30a	Overshoot of 1.5°C and International Law: Obligations, Responsibility, and Climate Repair RM 1-01 	Fighting Legal Wars and Fighting Wars Legally: The Future of Jus ad Bellum and its Relationship to Jus in Bello RM 2-02B 	Hot Topics I RM 2-01B	No Peace Without Process: Pacific Settlement and the Future of Inter-Arab Disputes RM 2-02C	Can Customary International Law Rescue and Revolutionize the International Legal Order? RM 2-02A 
11:45a	Coffee Break Soden Lounge, Second Floor				
12:15p	From Advisory Opinions to Action: Climate Displacement, Regional Leadership, and the Reimagining of International Law RM 2-01B	Flying False Colors: Shadow Fleets and the Crisis of Flag State Jurisdiction RM 2-02A 	The Court Under Siege: ICC Independence in an Era of Great Power Hostility RM 2-02B 	Nicaragua at 40: The Judgment that Rewired International Law RM 4-02 	Hot Topics II RM 2-02C
	Jessup Compromis Q&A RM 1-01				
1:30p	Complimentary Boxed Lunch Soden Lounge, Second Floor - sponsored by the Leitner Center for International Law and Justice				
1:45p	ABILA Board Meeting RM 4-07				
2:45p	Reparations for Legacies of Colonization: Opportunity Arising from Chaos RM 2-02C	Arms Control, Weapons of Mass Destruction, and the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict RM 2-02B 	Evolving Rules of International Space Communications: The International Telecommunications Union and the World Radio Conference RM 2-02A	Venezuela: From Upheaval to Economic Reintegration? RM 1-01 	Legal Adviser Roundtable: UN Legal Practice in a Time of Crisis RM 2-01B
4:00p	Coffee Break Soden Lounge, Second Floor				
4:30p	Peace as [R]evolution: Changing the Narrative of International Law RM 1-01	Reverberating Harm and the Protection of Health in War: Rethinking Proportionality, Precaution, and Accountability RM 2-02C 	Progressing International Law in a World on Fire: The Possibilities of the Crimes Against Humanity Treaty RM 2-02B 	Concurrent Proceedings: Where to from here on a Hague Convention? RM 2-01B 	Trade in Knowledge in an Unstable Global Economy: Navigating AI Governance, Technical Standards, and (Invisible) Tariffs RM 2-02A
7:00p	Reception at the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations <i>Separate ticket purchase required</i> 605 Third Avenue, 28th Floor New York, NY 10158				
7:00p	Early Career Drinks <i>Location pending Registration not required</i>				

Saturday | October 24, 2026

Fordham University School of Law, 150 W 62nd St, New York, NY 10023

8:00a	ABILA Committee Networking and Breakfast Soden Lounge, Second Floor				
8:30a	Registration Second Floor				
9:00a	Comparative Approaches to Human Rights Enforcement: Safeguarding the Rule of Law RM 2-01B	General Counsel Roundtable: Doing Good is Hard Work RM 2-02B	Beyond Winner-Takes-All: Conciliation and the Evolution of International Dispute Resolution RM 2-02C	[R]evolutionizing Economic Statecraft in a Multipolar World RM 2-02A	Sovereignty in Pieces RM 1-01
10:15a	Coffee Break Soden Lounge, Second Floor				
10:30a	Climate Change Advisory Opinions One Year On: Evolution or Re-Ordering of International Law? RM 1-01	The Evolving Nature Of Armed Conflict At Sea: A Changing World Meets An Old Body Of Law In Naval Warfare RM 2-02A	Fundamental Principles of International Law in the Age of Artificial Intelligence RM 2-02B	Rewriting the Global Legal Map? China, the Indo-Pacific, and the [R]evolution of International Legal Order RM 2-01B	Immunity Under Pressure: International Organizations Between Functional Protection and Adequate Accountability RM 2-02C
	Planning a Career in International Law RM 4-02 <i>With the American Society of International Law</i>				
11:45a	Complimentary Boxed Lunch Soden Lounge, Second Floor				
12:00p	ABILA's 104th Annual Members Meeting and Award Presentations RM 1-01 Book of the Year Awards, Outstanding Achievement Award, and Charles Siegal Award				
1:00p	Lunch Keynote: [R]evolution in the International Legal Order RM 1-01 Judge Kimberly Prost, Judge at the International Criminal Court				
1:30p	Coffee Break Soden Lounge, Second Floor				
1:45p	From Fragmentation to [R]evolution: Reconnecting Gender and International Law at the United Nations RM 2-02A	Revolutionizing The Battlefield: The Risks And Opportunities Of Military Applications Of Artificial Intelligence RM 2-02B	Evolving ICL: Prohibiting the Recruitment of Children, Gender-Based Crimes & the Slave Trade as Crimes against Humanity RM 2-02C	Alternative Orders: [R]evolution or Reconstitution? RM 1-01	Here Come the Middle Powers: Are they Poised to take International Law Leadership? RM 2-01B
3:00p	Break				
3:15p	Adventures in Public International Law RM 1-01 PIL Stories with Michael P. Scharf and friends (<i>free book for all attendees</i>)				
4:00p	Pathways to Employment in International Law RM 1-01 <i>With the ABA Section on International Law and ILSA</i>				
5:15p	End of International Law Weekend 2026				

 signifies that an application for CLE New York accreditation of this panel is currently pending. The program's content is appropriate for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys.

ILW 2026 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

CO-CHAIR



Brady Mabe
ICRC

CO-CHAIR



Jess Peake
UCLA School of Law

CO-CHAIR



Lisa Reinsberg
UC Berkeley School of Law



William Aceves
California Western School of Law



Natasha Amlani
Perkins Coie LLP



Sumudu Atapattu
Wisconsin Law School



Amity Boye
ABILA



Christine Carpenter
University of Cambridge



Harout Ekmanian
Foley Hoag LLP



Rebecca Hamilton
AUWCL



William Kent
US Department of Commerce



Kuenley Lhaden Gyaltsen
White & Case LLP



Tim McKenzie
King & Spalding LLP



Nema Milaninia
Freshfields LLP



J. Janewa Osei-Tutu
University of Miami School of Law



Paola Patarroyo
United Nations



Victoria Pochtar
St John's University School of Law



Klara Polackova Van der Ploeg
Stetson Law



Olga Pototskaya
Winston & Strawn LLP



Rajika L. Shah
Loyola Law School



Tara Van Ho
St Mary's School of Law



Beatrice A. Walton
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP



Elisabeth Wickeri
Fordham Law School



Freya Doughty-Wagner
ABILA COO, *ex officio*



Laurie Farid
ABILA Program Officer,
ex officio



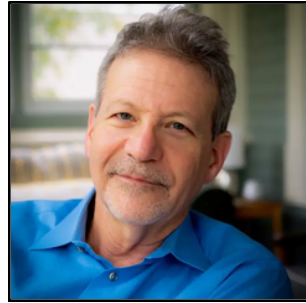
Leila N. Sadat
ABILA Chair, *ex officio*



Michael P. Scharf
ABILA President, *ex officio*

International Law Weekend-Midwest 2026

The Legacy of Nuremberg: An International Conference Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Nuremberg Judgment | October 1-2, 2026 | Case Western Reserve University



Schedule:

Thursday, October 1:

- 2:00-4:30 PM: Screening of the film “Nuremberg” at the BakerHostetler Moot Courtroom at Case Western Reserve University School of Law
- 6:00-9:00 PM: Opening Session held at the Western Reserve Historical Society Crawford Automobile Museum featuring a Keynote Speech by **Jack El-Hai**, screenwriter and co-producer of the 2025 Hollywood Blockbuster, "Nuremberg."

Friday, October 2: *(The program this day will also be available via webcast.)*

- 8:30 AM: Welcome Remarks with **Professor Michael P. Scharf**, ABILA President
- 9:00-10:30 AM: Panel I: The Nuremberg Trials: Foundational Concepts & Strategic Choices
 - With: **Professor John Barrett, Professor Michael Bryant, Dr. Viviane Dittrich, Professor Hannah Garry, and Professor Michael Kelly**
- 10:45 AM-12:15 PM: Panel II: Application of the Nuremberg Precedent by the Ad Hoc Tribunals
 - With: **The Honorable David Crane, The Honorable Brenda Hollis, and Professor James Johnson**. On Zoom: **The Honorable Serge Brammertz, The Honorable Fatou Bensouda, The Honorable Richard Goldstone, The Honorable Hassan Bubacar Jallow, and The Honorable Robert Petit**
- 12:30-1:15 PM: Keynote Lunch Speech with **Professor Leila Nadya Sadat**, ABILA Chair
- 1:30-3:00 PM: Panel III: Application of the Nuremberg Principles to Modern Day Atrocities
 - With: **Ambassador Todd Buchwald, Ambassador Beth Van Schaack, Ambassador David Sheffer, Professor Milena Sterio** (ABILA Co-Director of Studies), **Ambassador Stephen Rapp, Professor Paul Williams, and Ambassador Clint Williamson**
- 3:15-4:45 PM: Panel IV: Applying the Lessons of Nuremberg to our own Country
 - With: **Professor Avidan Cover, Professor Alexander K. A. Greenawalt, Dr. Gregory P. Noone, Professor Jessica Peake** (ILW 2026 Co-Chair), and **Professor Jennifer Trahan** (ABILA Vice-President)
- 4:45 PM: Closing with **Professor Michael P. Scharf**

Register at: https://community.case.edu/LawEvents/rsvp_boot?id=2279919

This event is free and open to the public. 6 hours of CLE credit are available for Friday's event only.

International Law Association Biennial 2026

by Paolo Farah, Chair of the ABILA Committee on International Law, China, and Reconfiguration of the Global Order

The 82nd Biennial Conference of the International Law Association, held in Vienna from August 17-21, 2026, under the theme “Contours of International Law: Encounters and Evolutions,” offered an exceptional opportunity to engage with colleagues from around the world on some of the transformations reshaping international law.

For me, the Conference began with an informal gathering of colleagues interested in the newly established ILA Study Group on International Law, Global Challenges, and the Impact of Emerging Powers on Global Governance, which I have the privilege of chairing. The Study Group will examine how challenges, including climate change, technological transformation, migration, development, cultural heritage, Indigenous knowledge, and changing distributions of geopolitical power, are affecting international law and global governance.



From L-R: Biennial Opening Session; ILA Study Group on the Rule of Law in International Relations, chaired by **Mortimer Sellers** (ABILA Co-Director of Studies); **Leila Nadya Sadat** (ABILA Chair) and **Peter Yu** (ABILA Vice-President); **Louise Ellen Teitz** (ABILA Board Member), **Peter Yu**, and **Paolo Farah**

Throughout the week, I participated in several Committee and Study Group discussions that intersect closely with these questions. In the Committee on Business and Human Rights, we examined access to remedies and reparations, domestic and regional legislation, and the role of private law, corporate governance, finance, and private international law in structuring corporate accountability.

As a member of the ILA Committee on the Rights of Nature, I also participated in its closed working session. The Committee is moving from mapping developments toward questions that will eventually inform possible ILA Principles on the Rights of Nature: legal subjectivity, Indigenous and ecocentric approaches, relationships with human rights, and the crucial distinction between formal legal recognition and effective implementation.

Beyond the formal sessions, Vienna also demonstrated the institutional and human value of the ILA: conversations across Committees and Study Groups, a gathering of the Italian Branch at the Italian Embassy, and an evening with colleagues from the American Branch.

The Conference reinforced for me that many of international law’s most important contemporary challenges cannot be understood within disciplinary or institutional silos. The future lies increasingly in building connections across fields, regions, legal traditions, and communities.

International Law Association Biennial 2026 (cont'd)

The *ILA Committee on Enforcing the Rights of Children in Migration*, led by two distinguished ABILA human rights advocates, **Warren Binford** and **Michael Garcia Bochenek**, concluded its work in Vienna. After tracing the development of the study group's activities and the research committee's collaborations, the co-chairs highlighted key aspects of the report. The committee then discussed the comprehensive report and adopted a powerful multi-part resolution. During the closed and open sessions, ABILA members, including **Alison Renteln** and **Michael Garcia Bochenek**, made brief presentations. Committee members felt privileged to work with such inspiring advocates. A special issue comprising contributions from the committee members will be published at the end of the year. - by *Alison Renteln*



L-R: *Warren Binford, Michael Garcia Bochenek, and Alison Renteln*



L-R: *Judi Storer (Australia), Lorenza Mola (Italy), Tenia Kyriazi (UAE), and Freya Doughty-Wagner*

Unlike the *Enforcing the Rights of Children in Migration Committee*, the work of *International Law for the SDGs* has just begun. We presented our first Interim Report, a condensed document from over 200 pages of collective research! As part of the Human Rights SDGs subgroup, it was wonderful to finally meet the group members in person. Our Committee has been incredibly active from the get-go, with a special edition and conference at McGill University in the summer of 2027 already planned. It was also lovely to see over 20 American Branch members at our Branch Dinner. I look forward to seeing more of you at the 83rd Biennial in Singapore in 2028. - by *Freya Doughty-Wagner (ABILA COO)*



ABILA Members at Restaurant Plachutta Wollzeile, Vienna, for the American Branch Reception Dinner. ABILA Chair Leila Nadya Sadat gave a toast.

ABILA News

After 2.5 years with the American Branch, **Julia Liston** stepped down as Membership Officer to become Director of Bar Support at Case Western Reserve University. Thank you, Julia, for all your work with ABILA. Thank you also to **Laurie Farid**, who has taken on the Membership Officer responsibilities while continuing as our Program Officer.



Laurie Farid

ABILA Committee Chairs

Congratulations to our new Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs!

- **Arms Control and Disarmament:** John Balouziyeh, Partner at Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP
- **International Commercial Law:** Vera Korzun, Professor of Law at the University of Kansas School of Law
- **International Environmental and Energy Law:** Tibisay Morgandi, Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in International Energy and Natural Resources Law at QMUL School of Law
- **International Investment Law Committee:** José Enrique Alvarez, Herbert and Rose Rubin Professor of International Law, NYU Law
- **Islamic Law and Society:** Harout Ekmanian, Associate at Foley Hoag LLP
- **Use of Force:** Jess Peake, Director of International and Comparative Law Program at UCLA School of Law

Interested in joining or starting a committee or study group? Contact our Directors of Studies, Milena Sterio and Mortimer Sellers, at M.Sterio@csuohio.edu and mortimer.sellers@gmail.com.

International Law Chats

International Law Chats is a podcast from the American Branch of the International Law Association (ABILA), hosted by **Professor Chiara Giorgetti**, **Alison Macdonald KC**, and **Professor Milena Sterio**. Since the last edition of *The Newsletter*, guests have included Ambassador (ret.) Beth Van Schaack, Dr. Cordule Droege, Professor Penelope Andrews, Ambassador Franz Perrez, Professor Sarah Nouwen, Professor Andreas Zimmermann, Judge Kimberly Prost, Anna Joubin-Bret, Natalie Morris-Sharma, Shane Spelliscy, and Professor William Schabas. Discussion topics range from international criminal justice to reforming investor-State Dispute Settlement. Listen on Apple Podcasts or Spotify today.



INTERNATIONAL LAW ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN BRANCH
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Welcome to Our New Members:

Ralph Anieke
Daniel Appelman
Brooke Behrmann
Ana Beysoylu
Beth Cooper
Patrick Corrigan
Osarenoma Edieya
Hayley Evans
Alessandro Gullo
Stephanie Gushing
William Kent
Sergei Korotkov
Vivek Krishnamurthy
Calvin Mazlumyan
Timothy McKenzie
Matjaz Nahtigal
Kathryn Neuhardt
Aican Nguyen
Rakhimjon Pardaev
Paola Patarroyo
Olga Pototskaya
Akila Radhakrishnan
Brittany Roser
Salvador G. Sarmiento
Omar Shehabi
Zaki Shubber
Muhammad Taufan
Elizabeth Taylor
Melike Tokatlioglu
Gregory Townsend
Rita Tsorme
Kamesha Williams

To join the ABILA or find out more about membership, email our Program Officer, **Laurie Farid**, at membership@ila-americanbranch.org.

ABILA Member News

Christiane Ahlborn, José Alvarez, Asaf Lubin, Kathleen Maloney, and Eran Sthoeger were recognized as part of the European Journal of International Law's 2025 Roll of Honour.

Anees Ahmed spoke at the world's first Paula Sparks World Moot on International Law and Animal Rights at the University of Birmingham.

Arif Ali, the former head of international arbitration at Dechert, has joined Arbitra International as he shifts his focus to primarily sitting as an independent arbitrator.

David Attanasio, Co-Chair of the International Investment Law Committee, was recognized by Lawdragon's 2026 100 Lawyers You Need to Know in South America Guide

Peter Bekker joined Thompson Hine LLP as head of energy disputes.

Warren Binford, Co-Chair of the International Human Rights Committee, joined First Focus on the Children in filing an amicus brief in Trump v. Barbara, urging the Supreme Court to affirm birthright citizenship as a constitutional right.

Cody Corliss spoke to Channel 5 West Virginia for their piece 'What you tell AI can be used against you.'

David Donat Cattin spoke at SciencePo's event, 'The Armed Conflict in Sudan: Geopolitics, Humanitarian Crisis, and International Law.'

Harout Ekmanian, Co-Chair of the Islamic Law Committee, was part of the Foley Hoag International Litigation & Arbitration Department that helped Armenia secure dismissal of ICSID Arbitration.

David Gantz spoke at the Claudio X. González Center for the United States and Mexico at Rice University about the implications of the U.S. decision not to renew the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

Adil Haque was quoted by The New York Times in their piece 'Iran Has Fired Widely Banned Cluster Munitions at Israel.'

James Kraska was interviewed by CNBC for 'UN maritime agency opposes Hormuz transit fees after Trump demands protection money' and by Defense IQ on seabed security and the law of the sea.

Preston Lim joined the faculty of Queen's Law as an assistant professor.



Nour Nicolas

Asaf Lubin was quoted in the Indiana Star in 'Indiana quietly scraps transparency tool, cites cybersecurity concerns.'

Nour Nicolas spoke on the panel 'Do Arab Arbitrations Still Require Western Validation?' during Paris Arbitration Week.

Mary Ellen O'Connell spoke at Boston College's conference 'The Rule of Law and the Common Good: An Emerging Synergy between Legal Theory and Catholic Social Thought.'



Citlalli Ochoa

Citlalli Ochoa presented at the 2026 Law and Society Association Annual Meeting. She participated in a roundtable discussion titled "From Non-Extractivism to Transformation: Reimagining Engaged Ethnography for Sociolegal Research with Contemporary Social Movements," and served as a discussant for the "Identities at Work" paper session.

Jess Peake, Leila Nadya Sadat, and Milena Sterio joined **Michael P. Scharf** for the March episode of the Talking Foreign Policy radio show.



Peter Bekker



Warren Binford

ABILA Member News (*cont'd*)

Victoria Pochtar moderated a panel at the New York City Bar Association with the Philippine Consulate General in New York and the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the UN on ‘*Three Decades of the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes under UNCLOS and the Future of Ocean Governance.*’

Anita Ramasastry was interviewed by the University of Washington news about lending her human rights expertise to the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Mireille Rebeiz joined an academic panel discussion on the shockwaves of war in Iran at Shippensburg University.

Britta Redwood spoke as part of the University of Maryland Baltimore’s Human Rights and Global Health Lecture Series, ‘*Reparations for Transatlantic Chattel Slavery: Justifications, Defenses, Challenges.*’

Gabor Rona, Chair of the International Humanitarian Law Committee, was a guest on NPR’s Consider This for the episode ‘*Iran War: Threats to attack civilian targets are raising concerns with legal experts.*’

Charlotte Ruzzica de la Chaussée visited Cornell Law School for a talk titled ‘*The Power of Small Island Developing States in Shaping International Climate Change Law.*’

Leila Nadya Sadat delivered the inaugural Norman Cousins Lecture for Citizens for Global Solutions.

Margaret Satterthwaite was part of the panel discussion following New York University’s launch of its documentary, ‘*Losing Judgement: Mexico’s Judicial Reform.*’

Case Western Reserve University honored **Michael P. Scharf** with a Faculty Distinguished Research Award, one of the university's top honors, for his far-reaching impact on international diplomacy.



Afonso Seixas-Nunes

Afonso Seixas-Nunes, SJ, joins the faculty at Boston College Law from the Saint Louis University School of Law, where he was an associate professor specializing in international public law.

Rajika Shah, director of the Loyola Justice for Atrocities Clinic at LMU Loyola Law School, joined NPR’s All Things Considered to discuss the recent conviction of a former Syrian officer.

Frédéric Sourgens spoke with Jonathan Brightbill, General Counsel, U.S. Department of Energy, about current priorities, regulatory developments, and policy issues shaping the energy sector at the 10th annual AIEN International Energy Summit.

Hannah Sweeney and **Nicholas Renzler** were part of the Foley Hoag team that recently filed two Amicus Briefs asking the Supreme Court to confirm aiding and abetting as a form of liability under the alien tort statute.



Nicholas Renzler

Allen Weiner was interviewed by NPR’s Weekend Edition Sunday about international law and an open letter calling the war with Iran a violation of the U.N. Charter. He also moderated ‘*Conflict, Dialogue & Bridgebuilding: A Global Perspective*’ for Stanford University’s Builder Forum Series.

Adrien Wing received the Goler T. Butcher Medal from the American Society of International Law for his longstanding commitment to advancing international human rights.



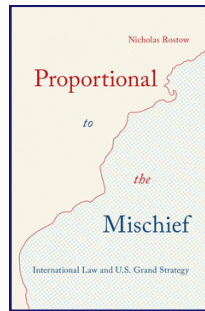
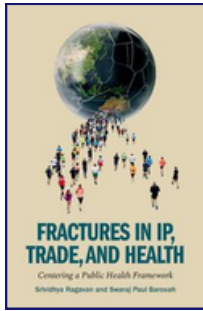
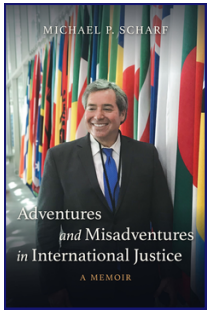
Anita Ramasastry



Britta Redwood

ABILA Member Publications

New Blogs, Books, Book Chapters, and More



Christine Abely published [‘Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974 Isn’t for Trade Deficits’](#) for the Yale Journal on Regulation blog.

William Aceves, ABILA Vice-President, has *‘The Common Sense of Racism’* [forthcoming](#) in the William & Mary Law Review.

Christiane Ahlborn, Co-Chair of the United Nations Law Committee, [responded to](#) Orfeas Chasapis Tassinis’ take on the conceptual relation between the legal personality of states and of international organisations (Vol. 36(3)) in the European Journal of International Law.

Barry Appleton authored [the opinion piece](#) *‘Canada is set to negotiate with Trump’s U.S. We’re getting one key thing wrong’* for the Toronto Star.

For Womble Bond Dickinson’s blog, **David Attanasio**, Co-Chair of the International Investment Law Committee, [published](#) *‘Climate-Related Arbitration in Latin America: The Road Ahead.’*



John Balouziyeh

James Bacchus published [the opinion piece](#) *‘Why isn’t the world retaliating against US tariffs?’* for The Hill.

John Balouziyeh, Chair of the Committee on Arms Control & Disarmament, co-authored [the article](#) *‘Syria’s State Sponsor of Terrorism Designation Is Blocking Its Recovery’* for Lawfare.

Kent Bressie contributed to the International Advisory Body’s (IAB) Submarine Cable Resilience [final report](#).

Ingrid Wuerth Brunk contributed several pieces to the Transnational Litigation Blog, including [‘Can Parties Waive the Service Provisions of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act?’](#) and [‘National Security Concerns as a “Burden” in Discovery Disputes.’](#)

Irene Calboli, Co-Chair of the International Commercial Law Committee, co-authored [the forthcoming article](#) *‘Taking Stock of Comparative Law Teaching in U.S. Legal Education’* for the American Journal of Comparative Law.

Megan Corrarino [published](#) *‘More Than an Own Goal: Understanding U.S. World Cup Choices as a Message About Hard and Soft Power’* with Just Security.

For JD Supra, **Yash Dattani** co-authored [the article](#) *‘Emerging U.S. Iran Memorandum of Understanding and Implications for Sanctions and Nuclear Negotiations.’*

Dimitrios Dimitrakos [published](#) *‘The Haunted EU-Mercosur Agreement: Recent Developments,’* for ASIL Insights Vol 30(5).



Ingrid Wuerth Brunk



Yash Dattani

ABILA Member Publications (cont'd)

Yuan Fang published *'Regulating AI-Powered Cyber Operations Under International Law: A Preliminary Inquiry,'* in *Transnational Law & Contemporary Problems*.

For The Arizona Republic, **Aaron Fellmeth**, Co-Chair of the Human Rights Law Committee, published *'Here's how to stop protection for bigoted speech.'*

Gregory Fox co-hosted the blogging mini-symposium on a peace treaty for Ukraine with EJIL:Talk!



Christina Hioureas

Christina Hioureas published *'Victor Jara's Legacy and How Music in Response to Authoritarianism Resonates Today'* for Rolling Stone Magazine.

Coalter Lathrop, Chair of the Law of the Sea Committee, published *'Are UNCLOS States Parties Ready to Meet their Obligation to Ensure in the Face of Unilateral Deep Seabed Mining?'* for the Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea blog.

Mary Ellen O'Connell published *'The Prohibition of Force is the First Principle of International Humanitarian Law'* in the St Louis University Law Journal.

For The Roosevelt Institute, **Saule Omarova** published *'Create a New Kind of Sovereign Wealth Fund.'*

Valerie Oosterveld co-authored the article *'How to Acknowledge Forced Marriage as a Standalone Crime in the Draft Crimes Against Humanity Treaty'* for Just Security.

Srividhya Ragavan co-authored the book *'Fractures in IP, Trade, and Health - Centering a Public Health Framework'* with Oxford University Press.

Mireille Rebeiz published *"US-Iran deal leaves the future of Lebanon uncertain – and subject to Israel playing the spoiler"* with The Conversation.

Gabor Rona, Chair of the International Humanitarian Law Committee, published *'Fighting an Illegal War and Fighting a War Illegally: the Link between Regime Change Operations and International Humanitarian Law Violations'* for Just Security, and *'The Iranian School Strike: Excusable? A Violation? A War Crime?'* for *Opinio Juris*.

Nicolas Rostow published the book *'Proportional to the Mischief: International Law and U.S. Grand Strategy'* with Carolina Academic Press.

Tamar Sarjveladze co-authored the article *'Corruption allegations in investor-state dispute settlements: the limits of the zero-tolerance approach and an alternative path forward'* for Global Arbitration Review.

Michael P. Scharf, ABILA President, co-authored the article *'Universal Jurisdiction and the Principle of Subsidiarity'* for the BU International Law Journal. Additionally, his memoir, *Adventures and Misadventures in International Justice*, was published with Carolina Academic Press.

Matiangai Sirleaf published an article for Just Security titled *'Moving Beyond Recognition Toward Repair for Enslavement.'*

Rachel Vanlandingham co-authored the article *'When War Crimes Rhetoric Becomes Battlefield Reality: The Slippery Slope to Total War on Iran,'* for Just Security.

Peter Yu, ABILA Vice-President, co-authored the book *'Inclusive Innovation in the Age of AI and Big Data'* for Oxford University Press.



Matiangai Sirleaf



Peter Yu

Statement of the President of the American Branch of the International Law Association Regarding the United States Attack on Iran (Mar. 6, 2026)

Founded more than one hundred years ago, the American Branch of the International Law Association (ABILA) is dedicated to the study, clarification, and development of International Law and the advancement of peace, human rights, and justice worldwide. At its last quarterly meeting, on January 16, 2026, by a vote of 30-0, the ABILA Board issued a statement condemning the U.S. intervention in Venezuela as unlawful and unjustifiable under international law. Between Board meetings, it sometimes falls to the ABILA President to issue Statements on important matters of international concern related to our mandate.

In the past week, the United States and Israel have unleashed massive aerial attacks against Iran and have targeted and killed the country's leader. Iran has responded with an explosion of violence across the Middle East. Having consulted with the ABILA Board, I issue this Statement to condemn the unlawful U.S. military intervention against Iran and to express grave concerns about the scope of Iran's retaliation.

The prohibition on the use of force became a universal norm with the adoption of the U.N. Charter after World War II, and with the imposition of accountability for violations at Nuremberg – accomplishments in which the United States played a leading role. That prohibition is the keystone of the modern international legal order. Not coincidentally, despite intermittent conflicts, the 80 years since the establishment of the United Nations have been the most peaceful in human history, enabling unprecedented advances in human rights, development, and equality. Those achievements are now at risk, with potentially devastating consequences.

The U.S. attacks against Iran cannot be justified as lawful self-defense. Iran has not attacked the United States, and even the Pentagon recognizes that there was no evidence of an imminent Iranian attack. Rather, a decision was made to “pre-empt” any possible Iranian attack on a theory of self-defense against speculative future threats, such as nuclear proliferation or terrorism. However, the notion of preemptive war, which is the same theory that the Russian Federation invoked for its illegal invasion of Ukraine, has never been accepted as legitimate. Acceptance of such a doctrine would not only destabilize the Middle East but also increase the risk of war everywhere.

Some have suggested a further rationale: ending the atrocities committed by the Iranian regime. Iran has unquestionably supported terrorism abroad and perpetrated widespread violence against peaceful protesters at home. But humanitarian intervention under the “responsibility to protect” (R2P) doctrine must be carried out pursuant to Chapters VI and VII of the U.N. Charter under the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, which would have required United Nations authorization in this case.

Much debate in the United States has focused on whether the decision to launch a war by the President complied with U.S. law since Congress is given the power to declare War under Article I § 8 of the U.S. Constitution and the War Powers Act in implementation thereof. This is indeed a weighty question, but it is not the only one. U.S. military action abroad is governed by both U.S. law and international law. Accordingly, U.S. military intervention in Iran would have violated international law even had Congress approved it.

Only by respecting the limits on the use of force can the United States credibly condemn unlawful aggression and war crimes by other States, such as Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. If this most fundamental rule of international law is weakened through repeated violations, the world risks returning to a system in which power, rather than law, dictates outcomes—a world incompatible with peace, human rights, equality, and sustainable development.

While the ABILA is non-partisan in nature, it is committed to peace, justice, and the rule of law – values that are threatened by the U.S. attacks on Iran. The ABILA therefore urges the United States to end this unlawful military action without delay and to reclaim its rightful role as a defender of the international legal order it helped to build, and from which the American people have immeasurably benefited.

Michael P. Scharf, President of the American Branch of the International Law Association

International Criminal Court Committee Statement against US Efforts to “Disable” and “Dismantle” the International Criminal Court* (Aug. 11, 2026)

On July 13, 2026, the US Secretary of State announced a “sweeping campaign” by the US government to “systematically disable” and “dismantle” the International Criminal Court (“ICC”).

The “whole-of-government approach” announced indicates that the United States may pressure states that are parties to the court to abandon commitments to the institution, and pressure non-states parties to “take similar actions alongside” the United States. The threat comes on the heels of the Trump administration’s imposition of sanctions (travel bans and asset freezes) against prosecutors and judges of the court, as well as others (non-governmental organizations and a UN Special Rapporteur).

The Trump administration’s attack on an independent judicial institution is part and parcel of a greater strategy to undermine the rule of law, both internationally and domestically. The recently announced position suggests that US nationals should be above the law and exempt from prosecution even if they commit grave international crimes. This position betrays a legacy of American ideals at home and subverts US credibility. It also willfully ignores domestic legislative actions that were enacted with the expressed intent of safeguarding US service members from international prosecution.

Such a policy of exceptionalism aligns the United States with authoritarian governments, such as the Russian Federation, which also has attempted to undermine the court’s work and target its officials by convicting them of criminal charges *in absentia*. Russia has also criminalized providing any assistance to the ICC, and “even adopted its own version of the Hague Invasion Act.”

Many of the ICC’s investigations and prosecutions align with US national interests, such as its charges against high-level Russian officials for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Ukraine. The court also recently convicted a militia leader of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Darfur, Sudan, with charges of genocide perpetrated in Darfur still outstanding against Sudan’s former President.

The court’s Rome Statute also permits it to prosecute a wide variety of sexual and gender-based violence crimes, which reflect stated US values and foreign policy commitments. By seeking to undermine the court, the United States also harms the prospect of accountability in these and other situations.

The Trump administration’s attack is also at odds with decades of bipartisan support for international judicial institutions. The United States played a leading role in ensuring accountability after World War II, spearheading prosecutions before the International Military Tribunals at Nuremberg and Tokyo. The United States also provided critical support on a bipartisan basis for judicial institutions such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. In the negotiations that led to the ICC’s establishment, US diplomats, legal professionals, and civil society advocates played critical roles in shaping its foundational statute and rules of procedure and evidence, enshrining core values of the US legal tradition, such as due process provisions and prohibitions on *in absentia* trials.

Moreover, the first two individuals surrendered to the ICC itself were remanded thanks to US support, despite the United States not being a party to the Rome Statute.

International Criminal Court Committee Statement (*cont'd*)

The Trump administration's campaign is thus a departure from the significant role played by US nationals and representatives advocating for global justice for more than 80 years, grounded on the belief that victims of grave atrocity crimes deserve justice and that perpetrators must be held accountable.

The Trump Administration has also asserted that US citizens never have been subject to the jurisdiction of foreign courts. This is false. US citizens have always been subject to trial in the foreign state in which they commit crimes, and the US has even extradited US citizens for trial abroad. The ICC applies that same principle: it provides the court jurisdiction over nationals of non-party states who commit crimes in the territory of a state party to the Rome Statute. This is a principle that the United States supported in the case of convicted war criminal and former Liberian President Charles Taylor, who was prosecuted by the Special Court of Sierra Leone for crimes committed in Sierra Leone, and in the case of Vladimir Putin when the ICC issued a warrant for his arrest for crimes committed in Ukraine.

Finally, the ICC's jurisdiction only permits it to investigate and/or prosecute the gravest atrocity crimes: genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, with limited jurisdiction over the crime of aggression. The court only acts when national courts are unwilling or unable to do so, meaning domestic legal systems—including those in the United States or in any other country—need not fear the Court's involvement when they investigate or prosecute the crimes themselves. Concerns about the ICC's intervention therefore betray a lack of confidence in the sufficiency and/or genuineness of domestic remedies.

The new US campaign is not just an attack on the ICC or even against the "rule of law"; it also constitutes a fundamental assault on the most basic values of humanity, values for which the United States has fought historically including in World War I, World War II, and Korea. It is in fact nothing short of a disingenuous effort to align with and protect dictators, tyrants, and autocrats around the world who commit the worst offenses known to the international community—genocide, aggression, crimes against humanity, war crimes—with no real risk of being held accountable. In effect, the US State Department argues that people who commit the worst offenses known to humankind should not be held accountable. It is an endorsement of a lawless world order.

The ABILA ICC Committee joins numerous NGOs, Bar Associations, practitioners and academics who have spoken out against the US's latest campaign against the ICC. The United States must cease its attacks against the court and related individuals and organizations. It should instead resume its commitment to international justice, accountability, and the rule of law. The 125 states parties to the ICC's Rome Statute must stand up for the court and help resist pressure against the institution. States not yet parties to the Rome Statute should resist calls to join US efforts to pressure the court and/or its officials. Above all, the international community must heed the promise of "never again" made to victims and survivors of the gravest crimes.

**This communication reflects the views of the International Criminal Court Committee of the American Branch of the International Law Association, but does not represent the official position of the American Branch as a whole. One committee member did not join due to a conflict of interest.*

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Pay Your Dues

The Branch's membership year begins in January. If you have not yet paid your 2026 membership dues, please do so now. 2026 membership fees were due on January 1, 2026.

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 Laurie Farid 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 2026. To help you in this effort, the ABILA membership brochure can be downloaded from the Branch website under the Membership tab.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 1-2, 2026: International Law Weekend Midwest, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio

October 4-9, 2026: International Bar Association Annual Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark

October 9, 2026: Whitney R. Harris Institute Annual Arbitration and Dispute Resolution Symposium, Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri

October 15, 2026: The International Criminal Court: Current U.S. Policy and Future Directions (webinar), ABA International Law Section

October 22-24, 2026: International Law Weekend 2026, New York City

November 5-7, 2026: American Society of International Law Midyear Meeting, Santa Clara, California

November 6, 2026: From International Law to Financial Engineering: The Future of Russia's Frozen US\$300 billion, Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, University of Cambridge, England and online

November 30, 2026: Who are the humans behind Human Rights? Socio-legal perspectives on Central Eastern Europe and Russia, Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, University of Oxford, England and online

December 8, 2026: IBA International White Collar Crime Conference 2026, New York City

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