

Rule of Law Day

[Register | Grand Hyatt Washington](#)

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

8:00-9:00 a.m. | Grand Ballroom | Breakfast

8:30-9:00 a.m. | Declaration A

Back to Basics of the Rule of Law—Level-Setting the Rule of Law: A Roundtable with the World Justice Project

We all have our own ideas of what the Rule of Law is and we know it when we see it, but are our ideas in line with reality? In this roundtable discussion we will feature the leaders and executive director of the World Justice Project. They'll set a baseline on the rule of law: how to define it; why it's so important; what makes it beneficial to all; how to measure it; and what can be done to increase and strengthen it worldwide.

Program Chairs:

Yee Wah Chin, Chair-Elect, International Law Section, ABA

Benedict J. Kirchner, Member, Steptoe & Johnson PLLC, Meadville, PA

Moderator:

Elizabeth Andersen, Executive Director, World Justice Project

Speakers:

Mark D. Agrast, Vice President, World Justice Project, Washington, D.C.

William H. Neukom, Co-Founder & CEO, World Justice Project

James R. Silkenat, Director and Treasurer, World Justice Project

9:00-10:30 a.m. | Declaration A

How We Approach the Rule of Law

Now that we've established the basics of the Rule of Law, we'll dive deeper into the definition and application of the Rule of Law from multiple angles. We will have academics discuss varying perspectives on the rule of law, a jurist discussing judicial independence, and a former legislator and rule of law activist on how to maintain (or not) the rule of law politically, and all on what practitioners can do to cope with a lack of rule of law when entering a new jurisdiction and what if anything we can do to foster the rule of law.

Program Chair:

Yee Wah Chin, Chair-Elect, International Law Section, ABA

Program Chair/Moderator:

Benedict J. Kirchner, Member, Steptoe & Johnson PLLC, Meadville, PA

Speakers:

Martin Flaherty, Visiting Professor, Princeton School of Public and International Affairs; Leitner Family Professor of Law, Fordham Law School, New York, NY

Dennis Kwok, Partner, Elliott Kwok Levine & Jaroslaw

The Honorable Neomi Rao, US Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit

Adam White, Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute; Co-Executive Director, Gray Center, Antonin Scalia Law School, George Mason University

10:30-11:00 a.m. Networking Coffee Break

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Declaration A

Safeguarding Judicial Independence in the Face of Political Divides: Is it Possible?

Judicial independence is fundamental to maintaining the rule of law. Judges also play a crucial role as guardians of the constitution; upholding principles and values enshrined in the constitution requires independence to resist overreach by any political faction. In politically divided countries, judges may face intense external pressures to align with specific ideologies or political factions. Partisan interference can compromise the impartiality and independence of the judiciary, potentially eroding public trust in the legal system. Join experts who will share experiences on the influence of political pressure and judicial independence and the Rule of Law.

Sponsoring Organizer: Union Internationale des Avocats

Program Chair: Jacqueline Scott, Président, Union Internationale des Avocats, Washington, D.C.

Program Chair/Moderator:

Martin Pradel, Director-General, Union Internationale des Avocats, France

Speaker:

The Honorable Delissa Ridgway, US Court of International Trade

Margaret Satterthwaite, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers

Professor Avi Singh, Partner, Cicero Chambers, India.

Keynote Luncheon (separately ticketed for \$75)

12:30 -2:00 p.m. | Grand Ballroom

Presentation of the Mayre Rasmussen Award for the Advancement of Women in International Law
by Ed Mullins, Operations Officer, International Law Section, ABA to
The Honorable Elizabeth Stong.

Presentation of the International Law Section Lifetime Achievement Award
by David Schwartz, Chair, International Law Section, ABA to
Glenn Hendrix.

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Beth Van Schaack

Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice, U.S. Department of State

2:30 -4:30 p.m. | Declaration A

Democracy and the Rule of Law: The Corruption Landmines

Democracy and the rule of law are in peril worldwide. There is a crisis of faith in democracy and its institutions which are threatened in different regions of the world due to diverse factors. A critical challenge to the rule of law and democracies around the world comes from private and government acts of corruption—which in many countries have become endemic—that not only erode the foundations of rule of law and democratic systems, but also severely affect human rights. This panel will discuss the impact of corruption on democracy and rule of law, and the role of lawyers in combatting corruption, strengthening integrity systems, and promoting compliance.

Sponsors: INO, IABA DC Chapter; DC Bar International Law Community

Sponsoring Organizer: Inter-American Bar Association

Program Chair/Moderator:

Lourdes V. Venes, Secretary General, Inter-American Bar Association, Washington, D.C.

Moderator:

Bruce Zagaris, Partner, Berliner Corcoran & Rowe LLP, Washington, D.C.

Speakers:

Jaime Chávez, Associate Executive Director, Vance Center for International Justice, New York City Bar Association, New York

The Honorable Fabiola Haselof, Federal Judge, Brazil
Lucinda Low, Senior Counsel, Steptoe LLP, Washington, D.C.

Jose Ugaz, Partner, Benites, Vargas & Ugaz; Past President, Transparency International

4:00-4:30 p.m. Networking Break

4:30 -6:00 p.m. | Declaration A

Rule of Law in Afghanistan: Present and Future Outlook

This session focuses on Rule of Law in Afghanistan and current conditions in the country. It provides an overview of the legal and regulatory conditions of Afghanistan and their effect on fundamental rights and freedoms of Afghan citizens living in the country and abroad.

Speaker:

Sayed Abdul Wakil Musleh, Visiting Scholar, Center for International & Comparative Law, University of Baltimore.

Opening Reception

6:30 -8:00 p.m. | Grand Foyer

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