



INTERNATIONAL LAW ASSOCIATION

AMERICAN BRANCH

EST. 1921

INTERNATIONAL LAW WEEKEND

OCT. 22-24
2020

*99th Annual Meeting of the American Branch of the
International Law Association*

International Law in Challenging Times

Organized by the American Branch of the International Law Association (ABILA)

To be held remotely

Registration Fee: Admission to ILW is free for students. | Early-bird rate of \$50 for ABILA members until October 1, 2020. | Regular rate of \$75 for ABILA members on October 2, 2020 or thereafter. | Early-bird rate of \$75 for non-ABILA members until October 1, 2020. | Regular rate of \$100 on October 2, 2020 or thereafter.

Panel participants attending *only* their own panel may register for free.

Welcome to ILW 2020



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The American Branch of the International Law Association (ABILA) welcomes you to the annual International Law Weekend (ILW) conference in New York City. The theme of ILW 2020 is *International Law in Challenging Times*.

From shifting political alliances to changing trade and economic relations, the world around us is undergoing profound transformations. The backlash against globalization has resulted in increased suspicion of multilateralism – and escalating populism. Yet, the world is more interconnected than ever. Our economic system relies on interconnectivity. To stop the spread of the coronavirus and address climate change, international coordination is paramount. What is the role of international law in this changing and often contradictory world? What could and should international lawyers do? How can international institutions become more successful both at addressing the challenges facing them and in winning state and popular support? ILW 2020 will explore these issues through a diverse collection of engaging and provocative panels. We expect the audience to include practitioners, academics, U.N. diplomats, business leaders, federal and state government officials, NGO leaders, journalists, students, and interested citizens. We plan to have a broad array of both public international law and private international law topics in each program time slot.

ILW 2020 begins Thursday, October 22, 2020 with an **Opening Plenary Panel**. Moderated by ABILA President Leila Sadat, speakers include H.E. Judge Joan Donoghue (International Court of Justice); H.E. Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi (International Criminal Court); Professor Gian Luca Burci (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies of Geneva); and Professor David Scheffer (Northwestern Pritzker School of Law) (tbd).

The conference continues Friday and Saturday, October 23-24, 2020, and features **28 panels** on a range of topics. Keynote speakers include Catherine Amirfar (Partner & Co-Chair of the Public International Law Group, Debevoise and Plimpton, LLP) and H.E. Judge Julia Sebutinde (International Court of Justice). These events are open to all conference attendees.

The Saturday program includes a special **United Nations 75th Anniversary Plenary Panel**. It will continue with the **ABILA Annual Meeting and Plenary**. The Annual Meeting is open to members and non-members alike.

Multiple panels are designated for **continuing legal education (CLE)** credit. CLE credit is offered to all ILW attendees at no additional cost through the sponsorship and assistance of White & Case LLP, which is an accredited provider of New York and California CLE credit. Attorneys licensed in other states can apply for CLE credit in their own jurisdiction using the New York CLE certificate provided by White & Case LLP.

Join the American Branch (ABILA) Today!

Your ABILA membership opens a world of intellectual and professional engagement opportunities at a reasonable price. Value for members includes:

- ◆ Invitation to join in the work of the Branch's Committees
- ◆ A discounted rate for International Law Weekend (free registration for students)
- ◆ Participation in the Branch's regional meetings
- ◆ Participation in ILA Biennials and other ILA regional conferences
- ◆ The chance to represent the Branch on an ILA Committee or Study Group

To become a member, visit www.ila-americanbranch.org or fill out the *Membership Opportunities* brochure available [here](#).

Schedule at a Glance (draft)

ILW 2020



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Thursday, October 22, 2020				
2:00pm EST	Welcome to ILW – Short Video			
2:15pm EST	Opening Plenary Panel on International Law in Challenging Times H.E. Judge Joan Donoghue, International Court of Justice; H.E. Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, International Criminal Court; Professor Gian Luca Burci, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies of Geneva; and Professor David Scheffer, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law			
3:00pm EST	Break			
3:30pm EST	Session 1			
	Intellectual Property and International Law	2020 Vision: Trends and Challenges in the Enforcement of International Arbitral Awards	Heating Up: Climate Change and the Law of the Sea	Surveillance, Privacy, and Human Rights: The Outlook for 2021
4:30pm EST	Virtual Networking Reception			

Friday, October 23, 2020				
9:00am EST	Session 2			
	COVID-19 and Climate Change: A Setback or Strengthening the Resolve to Move Forward?	Business Engagement in Global Governance: Boon or Peril?	Submarine Cables and Pipelines under International Law: The Ongoing Work of the ILA Committee	Strengthening the International Criminal Court: A Path Forward?
10:00am EST	Break			
10:30am EST	Session 3			
	The Challenge of Globalizing Private International Law	Asylum in Crisis: Upholding Human Rights During a Pandemic	Standard Setting or Outer Space Activities: Choice of Forums and Methods	Gun Violence as a Human Rights Issue and the U.S. Government's Failure to Fulfill its International Obligations
11:30am EST	Break			
12:00pm EST	Keynote Address: Catherine Amirfar, Partner & Co-Chair of the Public International Law Group, Debevoise and Plimpton, LLP			
1:00pm EST	Break			

* Panels approved for CLE will be indicated on the final program. Digital copies of reading materials will be available on the ILW website.

Schedule at a Glance (cont'd)

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Friday, October 23, 2020 (cont'd)				
2:00pm EST	Session 4			
	On Being a Lawyer-Diplomat	Obligations <i>Erga Omnes</i> before the International Court of Justice	Arbitration of Human Rights at Sea: Giving International Law Teeth by Empowering Victims to Enforce it	Race, Culture, and Law in Muslim-Majority Countries
3:00pm EST	Break			
3:30pm EST	Session 5			
	Novel Human Rights Crises During a Global Pandemic	From Accord back to Confrontation: The Return of the Iran Nuclear Crisis	UN Diplomacy in Times of COVID-19	The US and the International Criminal Court - Can a Court in the Netherlands be a U.S. National Security Threat?
4:30pm EST	Virtual Networking			

Saturday, October 24, 2020				
9:00am EST	Keynote Address: H.E. Judge Julia Sebutinde, International Court of Justice			
9:30am EST	United Nations 75 th Anniversary Plenary Panel Chair: TBD			
10:30am EST	ABILA Members Meeting, Election, and Award Presentations Book of the Year Award Charles Siegel Service Award			
11:00am EST	Break			
11:30am EST	Session 6			
	Investor-State Disputes, International Finance, and Economic Crisis	Weaponry, Technology, Uncertainty, and Regulation	The End of American Human Rights Exceptionalism	Careers Panel
12:30pm EST	Career Networking Session (sponsored by ILSA)			
2:00pm EST	Session 7			
	Emerging Voices	Hot Topics	Privacy, Big Data, and International Law in Pandemic Times	International Supply Chain: Challenges in the time of Pandemics and Global Disruption
3:00pm EST	End of ILW 2020			

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Isavella Vasilogeorgi

Associate Legal Officer, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations

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