



2026 INTERNATIONAL CORPORATE COUNSEL COLLEGE

14 OCTOBER, WEDNESDAY

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

REGIONAL MEETING WELCOME RECEPTION

15 OCTOBER, THURSDAY

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

REGISTRATION

9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mark Hansen, 2026-2027 IADC President, GROWMARK, Inc., Peoria, IL USA

Cecilia Lahaye, International Corporate Counsel College Director, Crowell & Moring LLP, Brussels, Belgium

9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Building Bridges: Digital Assets Across Borders

Examining how digital assets are regulated in the United States and the European Union and how these frameworks will improve innovation, competition, and opportunity.

Keynote Speakers: Congressman Nathaniel Moran, Whitehouse, TX USA; Johan Van Overtveldt, Member of the European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

Moderator: Jennifer Haltom Doan, Haltom & Doan, Texarkana, TX USA

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

NETWORKING BREAK

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Volatility, Uncertainty, Chaos, and Ambiguity (VUCA): Finding Solutions in the Current Geo-Political Climate

VUCA is an acronym used by business and strategic leadership to describe unpredictable, rapidly changing environments and to outline frameworks for successful decision-making. In the current tumultuous geopolitical landscape, legal counsel should re-examine and reinforce the contractual frameworks upon which the continuity of their businesses and commercial relationships depend. Join our experienced panelists as they discuss the practical legal tools and contractual mechanisms (e.g. hardship, choice of law, force majeure) which companies can use to protect their interests and preserve business continuity in challenging times.

Moderator: Paul Lefebvre, Jansen Lefebvre, Brussels, Belgium

Speakers: Koenraad Van Himbeeck, John Cockerill Group, Seraing, Belgium; Tom Vasterd, Witteveen+Bos N.V., Deventer, the Netherlands

11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Competition and Competitiveness in the EU: A Roundabout Where Competition Policy and Industrial Policy Meet

The relationship between safeguarding competition between companies and ensuring their competitiveness in a global economy was already high on the agenda of the European Union at its origin in the 1950s and it has not disappeared from that agenda ever since. Are these two objectives at odds with each other or do they complement one another? The panelists will delve deeper into this timely topic, speaking from their personal experience as enforcement official, legal advisor, or economic expert.

Moderator: Luc Gyselen, *Arnold & Porter, Brussels, Belgium*

Speakers: Karel Bourgeois, *Crowell & Moring LLP, Brussels, Belgium*; Olivier Guersent, *Former Director of DG Competition, Brussels, Belgium*; Prof. Dr. Kai-Uwe Kühn, *Berkeley Research Group, LLC, Brussels, Belgium*

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

LUNCHEON AND NETWORKING

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Decisions About Your Disputes: How Judges Decide the Cases We Put in Their Hands

In any legal system based on the rule of law, judges will interpret and apply the law to the cases that come before them. What is the process for judicial interpretation and adjudication, including the spectrum of expectations that the public imposes on judges? Is it a matter of “judicial activism” versus “judicial restraint”? This program will discuss whether these terms should be reconsidered as features of the process, and the boundaries and considerations that constrain judges and ensure the integrity of the legal systems and the respect for the rule of law.

Moderator: Shannon R. Joseph, *Morningstar Law Group, Raleigh, NC USA*

Speakers: Hon. Jerry W. Blackwell, *U.S. District Judge, District of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN USA*; Prof. Dr. P. Lemmens, *Judge Emeritus, European Court of Human Rights, Leuven, Belgium*; Hon. Caroline Verbruggen, *Court of Appeal, Brussels, Belgium*

2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

NETWORKING BREAK

2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Borders, Bytes, and Burdens: The Modern Challenge of Cross-Border Document Production

An arbitrator, an in-house counsel, and two experienced outside counsel address the challenges of cross-border document production and discovery in international arbitration and litigation.

Moderator: Dixie T. Wells, *Ellis & Winters LLP, Greensboro, NC USA*

Speakers: Emily Hay, *ArbBoutique, Brussels, Belgium*; Eileen Khor, *Siemens Energy, Erlangen, Germany*; Siraj Omar, *SC, Siraj Omar LLC, Singapore, Singapore*

3:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

AI - Friend or Foe? How AI Redefines the Relationship Between In-House and Outside Counsel

A practical look at the effects of AI on the practice and the relationship issues it creates between inside and outside counsel, privilege, privacy, and other practical issues.

Moderator: Jonathan Franklin, *Franklin Legal Group, PA, Miami, FL USA*

Speakers: Natalia Chumak, *Signature Litigation, London, England*; Alex Jacobs, *Berkeley Research Group, LLC, Dallas, TX USA*; Alexandra Simotta, *Group General Counsel – Strategic Affairs and AI Governance, Anyline GmbH, Vienna, Austria*

6:30 p.m.

DINNER

Guest Speaker: Matthew Whitaker, *United States Ambassador to NATO*

16 OCTOBER, FRIDAY

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Navigating Troubled Waters: Mastering Global Risk in Tariffs, Supply Chains, and Maritime Hotspots

When marine insurers cancel war-risk coverage in a high-risk conflict zone, a strategic strait is effectively shut down and global trade grinds to a halt, even before physical blockades take hold. Global trade compliance becomes a highly complex matter when faced with a continuously evolving U.S. regulatory landscape. What is the EU's perspective on regulatory harmonization between the U.S. and Europe? How can one ensure supply chain resilience and avoid carrier liability across Asia and global routes? This EU/US panel will provide insights to help multinational companies steer their way through the choppy waters of tariffs, customs enforcement, and crisis management in international shipping.

Moderator: Heather C. Devine, *Traffix, Toronto, ON Canada*

Speakers: Ivana Kikerec, *Teva Pharmaceuticals, Zagreb, Croatia*; Marco Remiorz, *DWF, Hamburg, Germany*

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

EU Sanctions, Russian Retaliation, and the Rule of Law: The Case of Euroclear

Following Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, roughly €185 billion (\$213+ billion) in Russian sovereign assets held at the Belgian central securities depository Euroclear were immobilized as part of the EU sanction regime. The question on whether and how to use these funds could be used became the subject of intense legal, financial, and geopolitical struggles. Euroclear is a case in point on how geopolitical tension can put the rule of law under considerable duress and on the scope of legal protection that is awarded in the event of sanctions.

Moderator: Michel Tison, *Dean of the Law Faculty, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium*

Speakers: Celia Challet, *Assistant Professor in Law, European School of Political Science, Université Catholique de Lille, Lille, France*; Kristof Macours, *Group General Counsel & Company Secretary, Euroclear, Brussels, Belgium*; Peter Van Elsuwege, *Professor in EU Law, Ghent University, Academic Supervisor Minos (Multidisciplinary International Network on Sanctions), Ghent, Belgium*

11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

CLOSING REMARKS

Cecilia Lahaye, *2026 International Corporate Counsel College Director, Crowell & Moring LLP, Brussels, Belgium*

Siraj Omar, SC, *2027 International Corporate Counsel College Co-Director, Siraj Omar LLC, Singapore, Singapore*