

2026 INTERNATIONAL CORPORATE COUNSEL COLLEGE SPEAKERS



Cecilia Lahaye

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

Cecilia Lahaye is a counsel in Crowell & Moring's Brussels office and an experienced member of the Labor and Employment Group. She advises and litigates on a wide array of employment and social security law related matters, representing clients in all manners of work disputes, including those relating to discrimination, unfair dismissal, psychosocial risks, and benefits and pay.

Cecilia also has a broad experience as a litigator on account of having tried multiple cases before the Belgian labor courts and labor courts of appeal, as well as having worked as a trusted legal advisor to attorneys appointed to the Belgian Supreme Court on appellate matters, in particular those pertaining to labor and social security law. In addition to her Law Degree from the Catholic University of Leuven (1989), Cecilia has obtained a Certificate of Proficiency in Supreme Court Proceedings (2007), issued by the Bar of Attorneys appointed to the Belgian Supreme Court. Since 2021, she is an Editorial Board Member of *Journal des Tribunaux du travail* (Leading Belgian publication on employment and social security law). She is an active member of the IADC since 2015, and has served as a Board member of the IADC Foundation since 2024.

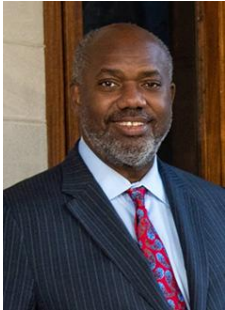


Mark Hansen

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

Mark Hansen is Deputy General Counsel of GROWMARK, Inc., one of the largest agribusiness companies in North America. In that role, he oversees litigation involving GROWMARK and its subsidiaries and affiliates and provides legal counsel on a broad range of matters involving GROWMARK's operations.

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	Before joining GROWMARK, Mark was a shareholder and director with Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen. During his years in private practice, he represented clients in complex litigation, with an emphasis on product liability, professional liability, and commercial disputes.
	Hon. Jerry W. Blackwell <i>U.S. District Judge, District of Minnesota</i> <i>St. Paul, MN USA</i> Judge Jerry W. Blackwell was appointed as a United States District Court Judge by President Joe Biden and took the oath of office on December 22, 2022. Judge Blackwell previously served as the founding partner at the law firm of Blackwell Burke P.A. in Minneapolis. Judge Blackwell was formerly a trial attorney with thirty-five years of experience in complex litigation matters around the country. His recognitions include being named Minnesota Attorney of the Year six times, named to <i>Best Lawyers in America</i> for over a decade, he was the recipient of the <i>National Law Journal</i> 2022 “Winning Litigator of the year” recognition, and he received lifetime achievement awards from <i>Benchmark Litigation</i> and the National Bar Association in 2022. He is a founding member of the Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers (1995). Judge Blackwell served pro bono as a lead Special Assistant Attorney General in the prosecution of former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin for the death of George Floyd. Additionally, in 2020, in tandem with the Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial Committee of Duluth, he helped pro bono to secure the first posthumous pardon in Minnesota history for Max Mason, a black traveling circus worker wrongfully convicted of raping a white woman in 1920. Three of his black circus co-workers were lynched by a mob of 10,000 whites in Duluth for the fabricated rape charge.

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	Judge Blackwell attended UNC-Chapel Hill for his undergraduate and law school education and is a distinguished alumnus at both institutions. He attended UNC as a Morehead-Cain Scholar.
	Karel Bourgeois <i>Crowell & Moring LLP</i> <i>Brussels, Belgium</i> Karel Bourgeois is a partner in Crowell & Moring's Brussels Antitrust and Competition team, where his practice focuses on EU and Belgian competition law, foreign direct investment screening, and the regulation of state aid and subsidies. Karel steers clients through merger control, cartel, and abuse proceedings before the European Commission, the Belgian Competition Authority, and other global regulators. He also advises on how to structure and realize projects in full compliance with antitrust and competition law requirements. A particular strength of Karel's practice is his extensive knowledge of state aid. He helps clients navigate state aid proceedings before the European Commission, advises on strategic state aid and foreign subsidies issues, and regularly represents clients before national and EU courts in both competition and state aid cases. Karel acts for clients across a broad range of industries, with significant experience in the telecommunications, media, energy, and health care sectors. He is the author of the standard book on Belgian merger control.

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Celia Challet

*Assistant Professor in Law, European School of Political Science,
Université Catholique de Lille
Lille, France*

Celia Challet is Assistant Professor in Law at the Université Catholique de Lille (European School of Political Science). Her research focuses on EU restrictive measures and their judicial review, particularly in the context of Russia's war against Ukraine. Celia is also an active member of the Multidisciplinary International Network on Sanctions (MINOS), a research and teaching network dedicated to the multidisciplinary study of international sanctions.

Celia Challet holds a PhD in Law from Ghent University (2025). She previously served as an Academic Assistant in European Law, and later as an Assistant to the Director of European Legal Studies at the College of Europe in Bruges (2019–2024). She holds an LL.M. in European Law from the College of Europe (2019), and a master's degree in European business law from Paris Panthéon-Assas University (2018).



Natalia Chumak

*Signature Litigation
London, England*

Natalia is an Arbitration Partner at Signature's London office, having joined Signature in 2013, shortly after its inception.

Natalia is a seasoned disputes lawyer with over 20 years of arbitration and litigation experience in complex and high-value international disputes often involving several jurisdictions and multiple parties. She has been ranked in *Chambers Global* for nearly 10 years.

As the AI Lead, Natalia oversees the full cycle of AI implementation at Signature including demos, pilots, adoption, training, internal and client-focused ROI assessment, as well as the broader cultural and knowledge

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	transformation necessary for embedding AI into daily professional practice. Working closely with Signature's Head of IT, CFO and CEO, Natalia drives the firm's approach to maximizing both immediate and long-term benefits from AI. Natalia holds a certificate in AI Foundation from the University of Oxford's Artificial Intelligence Program at Saïd Business School, and a regular writer and speaker on AI developments in the legal industry.
	Heather C. Devine <i>Traffix</i> <i>Toronto, ON Canada</i> Heather C. Devine is one of Canada's leading transportation lawyers. From 2014-2020, she has been recognized as one of the <i>Best Lawyers®</i> in Canada for Transportation Law and is the current President of the Canadian Transport Lawyers Association. Heather was admitted to the Ontario Bar in 1999 and the Nova Scotia Bar in 1998 and has a J.D. law degree from Queens University. Heather worked as a commercial litigator until learning to fly single engine planes in 2009, which led her to focus on transportation law. Since then, her focus has included combining technology, transportation, and intellectual property to advise clients such as brokers, freight forwarders, carriers, and other clients who move goods locally and internationally.
	Jennifer Haltom Doan <i>Haltom & Doan</i> <i>Texarkana, TX USA</i> Jennifer Haltom Doan is a founding partner with Haltom & Doan, a boutique trial and appellate firm located in Texarkana, TX-AR. Ms. Doan represents Fortune 100 companies and individuals in high-stakes matters throughout Texas and Arkansas. Her practice concentrates on complex litigation including product liability, intellectual property, antitrust, class action, personal injury, and bet-the-company litigation. She is double

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board certified in Civil Trial Law and Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Ms. Doan has received a number of awards including *Best Lawyers®* “Lawyer of the Year” in commercial litigation in the East Texas/Tyler metro area, *Texas Super Lawyers* “Top 50 Women in Texas,” and “Top 100 Lawyers in Texas”, *Managing IP’s* Top 250 Women in IP, ACQ Global Awards – IP Attorney of the Year – Arkansas, Global 100’s “IP Attorney of the Year – Arkansas” and *Benchmark Litigation’s* “Top 250 Women in Litigation in the United States.” She has also been featured twice as the “Litigator of the Week” by the American Lawyer as well as by the *Texas Lawyer* in Texas and *The Recorder* in California.

With over thirty years of experience as a trial lawyer, Ms. Doan has handled a diverse array of complex litigation. She has served as lead trial counsel on behalf of large and small businesses as well as individuals. Some of the cases she has tried in recent years include serving as lead trial counsel in defending product matters in multi-district litigation, securing complete defense verdicts in patent infringement cases for Hewlett-Packard, Amazon, and Yahoo! Inc. in both Marshall, Texas and Tyler, Texas, and securing dismissals in patent cases for lack of standing and failure to prove patentable subject matter under 35 U.S.C. 101. She has also served as lead trial counsel in enforcing a distribution agreement against an Arkansas bottled water company, as lead counsel in defending a large aluminum company against 374 residents claiming personal injury, medical monitoring, and property damage, and as lead counsel for plaintiffs in a large construction and mold contamination matter. Doan has also successfully achieved complete dismissal for her client in a case involving an accident with a conveyor belt and defended a young woman against an East Texas school district in a civil rights matter.

Ms. Doan is licensed to practice in Texas and Arkansas and in all federal courts in both states. She has tried cases in federal courts in both states and in district courts throughout Texas and in circuit courts throughout Arkansas. She has also served as lead counsel on several cases in California and Pennsylvania. She has also argued appeals in Arkansas and Texas

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appellate courts, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth, Eighth, Ninth, and Federal Circuits, and handled appeals in the United States Supreme Court. She has also arbitrated cases before the National Association of Securities Dealers.

Ms. Doan is a frequent speaker for the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) and Bars across the nation on litigation matters, has taught at the Trial Academy at Stanford University, and served on the faculties of the ABOTA Trial College at Yale University in 2018 and 2022 and Harvard University in July 2016. In addition to her speaking engagements, Ms. Doan currently serves as National Vice President (2023) of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), immediate past President of all 15 Texas Chapters of ABOTA (TEX-ABOTA), is Past-Chair of the Litigation Section for the State Bar of Texas and is a member of the International Society of Barristers. She is a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, the Arkansas Bar Foundation, and the College of the State Bar of Texas. She leads the Intellectual Property Committee of the International Association of Defense Counsel. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Bar Foundation and on the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Jury Instructions – Civil. Ms. Doan was selected as a charter fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America. She is a member of the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Texas, the Arkansas Bar Association, the Northeast Texas Bar Association, the Southwest Arkansas Bar Association, the Eastern District of Texas Bar Association, the Bar Association of the Fifth Circuit, Federal Circuit Bar Association, the Texarkana Bar Association, and the Texarkana Young Lawyers Association, where she was a charter member and served as President from 2001-02. She is also a member of the Defense Research Institute, the Arkansas Association of Defense Counsel, and the Texas Association of Defense Counsel.

Ms. Doan received her Juris Doctor degree, with honors, from the University of Texas School of Law in 1989, where she wrote for the American Journal of Criminal Law and was selected for UT's pilot program with the University of London. Ms. Doan graduated from Abilene Christian

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	University in 1986, receiving a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in finance, summa cum laude. She is a fourth generation native of Texarkana, and is married to Darby Doan, one of her partners. They have two children, Katherine Anne and Johanna Claire.
	Jonathan Franklin <i>Franklin Legal Group, PA</i> <i>Miami, FL USA</i> Jonathan Franklin is the founder and strategic counsel of FLG Law, a Miami-based boutique that handles both trial and appellate matters. For over three decades, he has tried cases, argued appeals, and guided insurers, their insureds, and corporate clients through matters in coverage, liability defense, bad faith, and commercial litigation. His cases often cross borders. When a direct competitor launched parallel proceedings against a client in Florida, London, and Nevis, Jonathan directed the Florida litigation while collaborating with international counsel, delivering the client's objectives despite aggressive demands. He served as active counsel for a subscribing London Market insurer in an international aviation dispute, and as international coordinating counsel for a global manufacturer facing products liability claims across North America. In that role he built frameworks that resolved existing litigation and installed protocols that fortified the client going forward. His broader liability practice covers asbestos, products, and commercial premises matters for national corporations. He treats AI as a practice area, not a talking point. He has been an early adopter of legal technology and artificial intelligence, integrating both into case strategy while studying the risks they introduce for courts and counsel. He writes and speaks on AI's impact on advocacy and serves on the IADC AI Task Force.

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Olivier Guersent

Brussels, Belgium

After thirty-four years in the European Commission, ten of which dedicated to Finance Regulation and Financial stability and 24 to Competition enforcement, Olivier Guersent retired in August 2025 as Director General of EC DG Competition. Throughout his career he alternated jobs in various services of the Commission (inter alia: DG COMP Head of Unit policy enforcement scrutiny and case coordination, Director for Cartel enforcement, Director General for 10 years successively in DG FISMA and DG COMP) and in Private offices of Commissioners (member of cabinet of Karel van Miert, Deputy head of cabinet of Neelie Kroes and Head of Cabinet of Michel Barnier). A regular lecturer in various universities for several decades as well as speaker and panelist in Competition and financial regulation conferences, Olivier directed two PhD Thesis and is a member of the scientific committee of "Concurrences" and the French "Revue d'Economie Financière". He publishes articles on both Competition and Financial Stability in various specialized academic journals and currently works on several academic projects, in particular with Sciences Po Paris and Oxford University.

Olivier is a co-founder and has been an active board member for the last thirty years of several non-profit organizations providing Home Hospitalization, therapeutical apartments and palliative care for heavy pathologies (Cancer, AIDS, Degenerative Genetic Diseases, etc.) to both adult and children in the Brussels area.

Since May 2026, Olivier has joined the Global Advisory Board of MUFG (Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group), one of the largest Financial and Banking groups in the world.

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Luc Gyselen

Arnold & Porter

Brussels, Belgium

Luc Gyselen has been with Arnold & Porter LLP since 2004, as a partner and since 2022 as a senior counsel. Prior to joining Arnold & Porter, he spent 21 years at the European Institutions, in chronological order; European Parliament, European Commission (Legal Service), Court of Justice (law clerk), European Commission (DG Competition). He studied at the KU Leuven, the College of Europe, and Harvard Law School. He has been teaching and publishing extensively on EU competition law. He is currently also an assessor at the Belgian Competition Authority.



Emily Hay

ArbBoutique

Brussels, Belgium

Emily Hay is a partner at ArbBoutique in Brussels. She acts as arbitrator with extensive experience in cross-border disputes. An Australian-qualified lawyer, Emily has lived and worked in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. She is recognized for her expertise in technology, data protection, and artificial intelligence, having previously practiced in privacy and data protection law before specializing in international arbitration. Emily currently serves as Co-Chair of the ICC Commission Task Force on Artificial Intelligence in Dispute Resolution and was Rapporteur to the ICCA-IBA Joint Task Force on Data Protection in International Arbitration Proceedings. A frequent author, speaker, and lecturer on AI and technology in dispute resolution, she is ranked by *Lexology Index* as a Global Elite Thought Leader in Arbitration.

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**Alex Jacobs**

*Berkeley Research Group, LLC
Dallas, Texas USA*

Alex Jacobs leads BRG's US eDiscovery Practice and is a member of BRG's Advanced AI and Decision Intelligence practice. He has been working with clients for 25 years answering discovery requests, whether in civil litigation or in response to a criminal, governmental, or regulatory subpoena. His breadth of experience spans from working within service providers, consulting firms, law firms, and industry startups. Mr. Jacobs works with clients on the most complex matters they have, utilizing cutting-edge technology to minimize risk and cost. He is experienced and certified in multiple technology platforms and regularly creates new workflow tools as bespoke deliverables for client engagements.

Mr. Jacobs uses advanced technology and data analytics to help lawyers examine large, complex datasets in litigation and investigations. By identifying patterns, testing hypotheses, and surfacing key facts, he helps legal teams develop clear narratives and refine case strategy. His work supports informed decision-making and stronger outcomes from early case assessment through settlement, trial, or regulatory resolution.

**Shannon R. Joseph**

*Morningstar Law Group
Raleigh, NC USA*

Shannon R. Joseph has practiced with Morningstar Law Group in Raleigh, North Carolina since 2014, after serving as a state Special Superior Court Judge and an Administrative Law Judge. She is a trial lawyer and focuses on complex business and corporate litigation, including trade secret, contract, fiduciary duty, internal corporate governance, shareholder and employment disputes. She also is an arbitrator and a mediator. She is member of the American Arbitration Association's Panel of Arbitrators for Commercial, Employment, and Healthcare matters and is a North Carolina DRC Certified Superior Court Mediator.

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Eileen Khor

*Siemens Energy AG
Erlangen, Germany*

Eileen Khor is Litigation Counsel for Siemens Energy's Gas Services business, based in Germany. Originally from Malaysia and educated in Singapore, she has practiced law across Singapore, Hong Kong, and mainland China before joining Siemens Energy. In her current role, she is responsible for managing and overseeing disputes for the Gas Services business worldwide.

Eileen has extensive experience in complex, high-value disputes arising out of major energy and infrastructure projects across Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. Her work spans both common law and civil law jurisdictions and includes proceedings before arbitral tribunals constituted under the rules of the LCIA, ICC, SIAC, and other leading regional arbitration institutions.

Eileen is a strong advocate of early and pragmatic dispute resolution. She believes that successful outcomes are most often achieved when parties take the time to understand the perspectives, interests, and commercial realities of all stakeholders involved. A clear appreciation of the issues at stake and the potential consequence of each available option enables parties to make informed decisions.



Ivana Kikerec

*Teva Pharmaceuticals
Zagreb, Croatia*

Ivana is a lawyer, serving as Global Trade and Investigations Counsel at Teva Pharmaceuticals, where she advises on international sanctions, trade, anti-corruption, internal controls, and risk mitigation. Since joining Teva in 2022, Ivana has built a Global Legal center of expertise on international sanctions and global trade matters, supporting complex cross-border business operations and risk management.

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	Prior to Teva, Ivana was a dispute resolution lawyer with a leading European law firm and later served as an in-house expert on sanctions, AML and other legal and compliance matters in the energy sector. She holds a master's degree in law and an LL.M in global corporate compliance.
	Prof. Dr. Kai-Uwe Kühn <i>Berkeley Research Group, LLC</i> <i>Brussels, Belgium</i> Professor Kai-Uwe Kühn is an economist who has almost thirty years of experience advising private firms and competition authorities on merger, antitrust, state aid and regulatory and damages cases, as well as competition policy in general. He is a professor of economics and deputy director of the Centre for Competition Policy at the University of East Anglia. From May 2011 to August 2013, Professor Kühn was chief economist at DG Competition, European Commission. During his time as chief economist, he advised the Competition Commissioner on all competition cases and policy initiatives (in particular State Aid Modernisation) and led the economic analysis on many large mergers (e.g. Deutsche Börse/NYSE, UPS/TNT, Univeral/EMI, H3G/Orange Austria, Western Digital/Hitachi, Outokumpu/Inoxum) and antitrust cases (e.g. Google, e-books, and the Standard Essential Patent cases), often in close cooperation with counterparts at US agencies. His consultancy experience has covered mergers in a broad range of industries (e.g. GE/Honeywell merger (2001) including the court appeal). Professor Kühn has participated in many complex antitrust matters, starting from Microsoft I on server interoperability and including multiple MFN cases, cases on radius clauses, brand gating, novel forms of exploitative abuses such as privacy, purchasing alliances, and information exchanges. He has recently been advising on the rebuttal of designation decisions for digital platforms

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	under the Digital Markets Act (DMA) and Article 19a of the German competition law and other regulatory matters in the digital economy.
	Paul Lefebvre <i>Jansen Lefebvre</i> <i>Brussels, Belgium</i> Paul Lefebvre is the President of the Bar of the Belgian Supreme Court for a two-year term starting in September 2020 and one of the four founding partners of the law firm HANOTIAU & VAN DEN BERG which was set up in 2001 and is widely recognized as leader in the field of commercial arbitration and litigation. Mr. Lefebvre acts as Chairman and arbitrator in several CEPINA and Ice arbitrations and ad hoc arbitrations. Paul Lefebvre was assisting professor of Professor Eddy Wymeersch and was Professor at the Ichech in Brussels in International Commercial Law and Dispute Resolution from September 2009 until August 2021. In relation with arbitration his main publications are about the public policy factor in arbitration in 8-Arbitra, 2014, and with Me D. DE MEULEMEESTER an article entitled "The New York Convention: An Autopsy of its Structure and Modus Operandi" which was published in Maxi Scherer (ed.), <i>Journal of International Arbitration</i>, 2018, Volume 35, Issue 4, pp. 413-438, as well as the motivation of arbitral awards in <i>Proces & Bewijs</i>, 2015 and the control of the arbitral award by the state judges in the light of public policy in <i>JT Luxembourgais</i>, 2016. In addition, he is a member of the IADC and CEA. In 2015 he was nominated Vice President of International in the Board of the IADC. He is a regular speaker at IADC conferences at the regional and annual meetings as well as at the AIA and ABAS.

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	Paul Lefebvre is a native Dutch and French speaker, with fluency in English. He was admitted to the Bar in 1985.
	Prof. Dr. P. Lemmens <i>European Court of Human Rights, Belgian Council of State Leuven, Belgium</i> Paul Lemmens (born 1954) studied law at the University of Antwerp and at KU Leuven and obtained his law degree (“Licentiate in Laws”) in 1976 (<i>magna cum laude</i>). He subsequently obtained an additional master’s degree in law at Northwestern University, Chicago (1978). In 1987, he obtained his PhD (“Doctorate in Laws”) at KU Leuven. He began his academic career as a research assistant in constitutional law (1976-1977) and civil procedure (1979-1986). He was subsequently appointed professor (1986) and in this capacity taught international human rights law (since 1986), and also civil procedure (1986-1995), administrative procedure (1995-1997) and constitutional law (1997-2008). He obtained emeritus status in 2019. He combined his academic career with a career as a practicing lawyer at the Brussels bar (1976-1984 and 1987-1994) and as an auditor viz. judge in the Belgian Council of State (1984-1987 viz. 1994-2024). He served as judge in the European Court of Human Rights (2012-2021). He also served as a member of the UNMIK Human Rights Advisory Panel in Kosovo (2007-2012). Currently, he is the Chair of the Administrative Tribunal of the Council of Europe (since 2024) and a judge in the Administrative Tribunal of the NATO (since 2026).

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Kristof Macours

*Group General Counsel and Company Secretary, Euroclear
Brussels, Belgium*

Kristof Macours is a seasoned in-house lawyer and corporate governance expert with over three decades of experience in the financial services industry. He currently is the General Counsel and Company Secretary of Euroclear, heading the Legal, Governance and Regulatory division, responsible for legal matters, corporate and group governance, and relationship with regulators.

Prior to joining Euroclear in 2020, Kristof Macours held several senior legal leadership roles at BNP Paribas and BNP Paribas Fortis, in France and Belgium. These included Global Head of Group Dispute Resolution and Legal Risk Anticipation, Deputy General Counsel for Retail Banking and Services at BNP Paribas, and Secretary General and Head of Legal of BNP Paribas Fortis. In these roles, he managed global legal teams across multiple jurisdictions, oversaw major litigation and regulatory investigations, and led the transformation of legal departments to meet evolving regulatory and digital challenges.

Earlier in his career, he held various legal and governance roles at Fortis Group and Generale Bank. Notably, he served as Company Secretary during the critical restructuring of Fortis Group in 2008.

Kristof Macours holds a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from the London School of Economics and a Licentiate in Law from KU Leuven. He is a member of the Board of Directors of AEDBF-Belgium.

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Congressman Nathaniel Moran

Whitehouse, TX USA



Siraj Omar, SC

Siraj Omar LLC

Singapore, Singapore

Siraj Omar, S.C. is Senior Counsel of the Supreme Court of Singapore. He practices in the Dispute Resolution practice of Drew & Napier in Singapore and specializes in complex, high-value commercial disputes. He has almost 3 decades of active trial and appellate practice in the Singapore courts and has litigated many landmark disputes before the Courts in areas as diverse as banking, consumer protection, debt restructuring, and insurance.

He also has an active international arbitration practice, appearing as counsel as well as sitting as arbitrator. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) and is a member of its Board Executive Committee and as a Specialist Mediator with the Singapore International Mediation Centre (SIMC). He holds Fellowships at the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb), the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators (SI Arb) and the Singapore Academy of Law (SAL).

He is recognized in all the leading legal directories, including being globally ranked in *Chambers* and recognized as a leading individual in *The Legal 500*.

Outside practice, he serves as a civilian panel member of the Military Court of Appeal, as Deputy Commissioner of the Government Procurement Adjudication Tribunal, and a member of the Competitions Appeals Board.

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Marco Remiorz

DWF

Hamburg, Germany

Marco was admitted to the German bar in 2001, and specializes in transportation law. He advises on all means of transport and benefits from industry knowledge in drafting and negotiating projects, supply and logistics contracts combining commercial, legal and technical expertise.

Marco acts as litigator and arbitrator and a substantial part of his practice comprises dispute resolution as well as casualty management in major loss events involving multiple jurisdictions.

He acts for insurance companies, freight forwarders, shipping, rail or truck companies, logistic service providers, traders, and the manufacturing industry. Marco is especially known for his expertise in project freight forwarding and heavy lift transportation.

He regularly deals with insurance matters, whether this is a cover dispute, subrogation action or the development of a new insurance product. The insurance sectors served include marine, cargo, liability, aviation, and property.

Next to the specialization in transport and insurance, Marco's team acts as external legal department to a variety of trading and consulting companies.

Marco is very commercial. His clients benefit from his experience as managing partner in his previous law firms as well as his role as managing director for a marine service provider.

Marco can rely on a worldwide network of transportation and marine insurance specialists. He started networking as the president of the AIJA transport and logistic law commission in the early parts of his career and

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	still does so as current co-chair of the IBA maritime and transport commission.
	Alexandra Simotta <i>Group General Counsel – Strategic Affairs and AI Governance, Anyline GmbH</i> <i>Vienna, Austria</i> Alexandra Simotta is a lawyer trained in New York and Austria. Currently, she holds the position of Head of Legal Austria and Slovenia at SIX Payment Services (Europe), Austrian Branch, a European payment services provider and daughter company of Worldline Group. She advises the company in a variety of legal areas, especially in the FinTech field, amongst these matters of data protection, anti-money laundering, civil and civil procedural law, banking (supervisory) law, commercial law, contract law, and corporate law. In her role as Head of legal she has led SIX Group, Worldline and SIX Payment Services through several (international) mergers and acquisitions and has enabled the introduction and placement of new technologies to the payments market. Moreover, she has led several company- and group-wide projects, such as the revision of the general terms and conditions for credit cards, various outsourcing projects before the Austrian and Luxemburg Financial Market Authorities as well as the adaption of the company's contracts to new European legislative developments, e.g. the General Data Protection Regulation and the Payment Services Directive II. She regularly manages teams of external counsel and has litigated several national and international cases for the company & group, e.g. Austrian version of a class action lawsuit. Before her career at SIX, Alexandra has worked in private practice in the dispute resolution teams of two Austrian top tier law firms, where she has defended enterprises before Austrian and European Courts as well as before arbitral tribunals in matters of international law.

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Michel Tison

*Dean of the Law Faculty, Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium*

After having obtained a law degree in Ghent (1990) and a Master of European law in Brussels (ULB, 1992), Michel Tison worked as a doctoral researcher in the newly founded Financial Law Institute at Ghent University. He obtained his PhD in 1997 with a thesis on the legal aspects of the mutual recognition principle in European banking and financial law. He took up a teaching assignment at the law school of Ghent University in 1998, currently teaching courses in domestic and European banking and securities law. He has published extensively in these domains, but also in the field of company and insolvency law.

Michel Tison was a visiting professor at the University of Luxembourg, Pittsburgh University Law School, Bonn University (Germany) and Bond University (Australia). He stayed in Oxford University as an Academic visitor in spring 2013.

In 2014, Michel Tison was elected dean of the Faculty of Law and Criminology, a position he held until October 1st, 2026.

Since 2005, he serves as assessor in the Legislative Section of the Belgian Council of State, which advises government and Parliament on draft decrees and bills.

Michel Tison also held position as independent board member in several financial institutions: Dexia (2014-2024) and Banque Degroof Petercam (since 2025).

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Peter Van Elsuwege

*Professor in EU Law, Ghent University, Academic Supervisor Minos
(Multidisciplinary International Network on Sanctions)
Ghent, Belgium*

Peter Van Elsuwege is professor of EU law at Ghent University, where he is co-director of the Ghent European Law Institute (GELI). He is also visiting professor at the College of Europe and board member of the Centre for the Law of EU External Relations (CLEER) at the Asser Institute in The Hague. His research activities essentially focus on the law of EU external relations, with a specific focus on the legal aspects of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the EU's relations with its neighboring countries. He published extensively on these topics in leading law journals such as *Common Market Law Review*, *European Law Review*, *European Constitutional Law Review* etc. Since 2024, he coordinates the Multidisciplinary International Network on Sanctions (MINOS), which brings together scholars from multiple disciplines working on the study of sanctions.



Koenraad Van Himbeeck

*John Cockerill Group
Seraing, Belgium*

Koenraad Van Himbeeck is Vice-President of Legal and Compliance of the John Cockerill Group and a member of the Group's senior leadership team. He oversees legal, compliance and corporate secretarial activities across a multinational industrial group active in hydrogen, energy, defense, and industrial technologies. He leads the Group's legal organizations in Belgium, France, the Americas, and India, managing a multinational team of 18 legal and compliance professionals supporting global operations and strategic growth initiatives.

Since joining John Cockerill in 2024, Koenraad has played a key role in several transformational projects, including two capital raises for the Hydrogen business totaling €345 million, the acquisition and integration

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	of McPhy for John Cockerill Hydrogen and Arqus for John Cockerill Defense, and initiatives aimed at sustaining and strengthening the business during a particularly challenging period for the hydrogen sector. He also established and expanded the Group's legal capabilities in India and developed an integrated legal organization supporting activities across Europe, the Americas and Asia. Koenraad serves as Secretary to the Boards of Directors of John Cockerill SA, John Cockerill Defense, and John Cockerill Hydrogen. Prior to joining John Cockerill, he was General Counsel of Honeywell's turbocharger business and subsequently led the EMEA and Americas legal organization of Garrett Motion. He also served as Senior Counsel at IBM and practiced with Covington & Burling and Linklaters. He is admitted to the New York Bar and holds degrees from KU Leuven, Georgetown University, and the Université Libre de Bruxelles.
	Johan Van Overtveldt <i>Member of the European Parliament Brussels, Belgium</i>
	Tom Vasterd <i>Witteveen+Bos N.V. Deventer, Overijssel Netherlands</i> Tom Vasterd is General counsel and Chief Ethics and Compliance officer at Witteveen+Bos N.V., a civil engineering firm (approx. 1500 employees and operating globally) with headquarters in the Netherlands. In his broad role, Tom is directly reporting into the Board of Directors and Supervisory board of Witteveen+Bos. He specializes in international contract, corporate, public procurement, and construction law. Next to leading the in-house legal team (currently 8 in-house lawyers), Tom is Chief Ethics and Compliance officer for Witteveen+Bos globally. He is overseeing the

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	corporate compliance program and has experience with implementation of an effective global corporate compliance program, (internal) investigations, sanctions proceedings (including dealing with debarment and external monitor) and litigation.
	Hon. Caroline Verbruggen <i>Court of Appeal Brussels</i> <i>Brussels, Belgium</i> Caroline Verbruggen has been a judge since 2013 and currently serves as a judge on the Brussels Court of Appeals (since 2017), where she has been part of various sections; currently, she sits in a civil division (contract law) and presides the “Amicable Settlement Chamber” (“CRA” / “KMS”). She graduated with a law degree from the ULB (Brussels) in 1993 with highest honors and earned an LLM from Duke University (U.S.) in 1994 on a Fulbright scholarship. She then practiced law at the Brussels Bar for more than 15 years in a global law firm, while also serving as a teaching assistant at the ULB in the areas of obligations law and contract law. At the same time, she obtained her certification as a mediator in civil and commercial matters, a certificate of qualification to practice before the Court of Cassation and began working as an arbitrator. Since the beginning of her career, she has been interested in various methods of dispute resolution, particularly arbitration, mediation, and conciliation. She is the author of a series of publications in these fields and has served 5 years as co-editor-in-chief of <i>b-Arbitra</i>, a Belgian journal on arbitration. Eager to foster dialogue and reflection on the proper administration of justice—including alternative dispute resolution methods—in Belgium and internationally, she participates in various events and conferences. She also teaches various classes to judges in training.

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Dixie T. Wells

Ellis & Winters LLP

Greensboro, NC USA

Dixie Wells is a partner at Ellis & Winters LLP and is located in the firm's Greensboro, North Carolina office. She is a civil engineer with a master's degree in systems engineering, as well as an attorney, making her particularly well-suited for representing clients faced with construction and structural engineering catastrophes. Though it may seem unconventional for an attorney to enter the practice of law from engineering outside of the patent law context, Dixie's journey from engineering to nationally-recognized litigator makes sense when considering her unique path along the way. Following graduation, Dixie worked as a research scientist for the Virginia Transportation Research Council and obtained her Professional Engineer license in North Carolina. Realizing that she would need a Ph.D. to advance and given her passion for the "policy" side of her work, she decided to pursue a law degree instead, graduating with honors from Wake Forest School of Law. After a federal clerkship, Dixie so thoroughly enjoyed the practice of law that she decided to pursue a litigation career.