



**GILA**

GENEVA  
INTERNATIONAL  
LEGAL ASSOCIATION



**GILW26**

9 - 11 March  
Geneva - Switzerland


# Programme 2026

# Programme at a glance

 Main conference

 Social Event

 Side Event

 Lunch Break

Mon  
9

09:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Commercial Disputes & Swiss Law Forum

12:45 - 2:00 pm



6:30 pm - 9:00 pm  
Welcome reception & cocktail

Tue  
10

8:30 am - 12:15 pm  
In-house Counsel Forum

12:45 - 2:00 pm



2:30 pm - 4:00 pm  
From boardrooms to public institutions and international organisations, navigating the new era of internal investigations: reducing cost, managing risk, and enhancing defensibility

Default and termination in commodity & shipping contracts: drawing the line between commercial pressure and repudiation – Followed by a networking cocktail

Navigating discovery: emerging trends and strategic implications for Swiss companies

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm  
Banking outsourcing in the digital age: managing risks and regulatory challenges – followed by a drinks reception with lake view

Corporate litigation in transition: trends, triggers & tactics across jurisdictions – Followed by a networking cocktail

The rise of internal investigations in Switzerland: bridging Swiss practice with the European context and international standards

Drafting SPAs and post-M&A disputes: practical insights from a Swiss and UK perspective & Rooftop aperitif

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm  
Hocus pocus: how 16 billion in Credit Suisse AT1s went poof overnight – or... not?

Internal investigations – practical insight into the key issues

6:15 pm – 10:30 pm  
Young litigators forum

Wed  
11

8:15 am - 1:30 pm  
Technology & digitalization forum

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

AI deployment within companies: roadmap for risk assessment and mitigation strategies through governance

Swiss banks as targets of criminal investigation: how to resolve, and what are the consequences? Views from the US and Switzerland

Why banks and wealth managers shy away from arbitration?

Mixed-mode dispute resolution: practical applications

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Is Lake Geneva freezing? Geneva as an international jurisdiction of choice to litigate over civil, debt enforcement, insolvency, and criminal freezing orders, compared with other jurisdictions. Followed by drinks.

Counsel & cocktails: legal insights, drinks and connections

Interpretation of contracts: myth and reality

Legal challenges related to luxury watch brands' efforts to control the secondary watch market

7:00 pm - 00:00 am  
GILW 2026 Gala Dinner

# Full programme

## Day 1

### Commercial disputes & Swiss law forum



#### Event Date

9 - Mar 9:00am - 6:00pm



Commercial litigation | Swiss commercial courts and modern litigation | Swiss law



#### Ticket

Day 1 ticket needed.

[Click to book](#)



#### Location

Mandarin Oriental  
Quai Turrettini 1, 1201 Genève



#### Organizer



#### Programme

9:00 AM | Welcome coffee

09:30 AM | GILW 2026 Kick-off and keynote addresses

- [Sandrine Giroud](#), Partner, LALIVE ; President of GILA and Geneva Bar Association
- Delphine Bachmann, State Councillor of Geneva
- Cédric-Laurent Michel, President of the Court of Justice of Geneva
- Ambassador Dr Roberto Balzaretto, Swiss Ambassador to Italy

10:15 AM | The architecture of international Geneva: from Host State to International Organisations

This panel explores the legal ecosystem of International Geneva through the lens of representatives of the Host State, the Swiss academic community and international organisations (IOs). Discussions address the contribution of IOs to Geneva's role as a global hub of multilateralism, the relevance of the work carried out by IOs within the wider Swiss context, as well as the partnerships between IOs and a broad range of entities. Panelists will share insights on the institutional actors operating in the International Geneva, privileges and immunities, the role of the legal function within IOs, and other legal issues of topical importance.

#### Moderator:

- [Jean Abboud](#), Principal Legal Counsel, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

#### Speakers:

- Lance Bartholomeusz, General Counsel, Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees
- Kirsten Baxter, Legal Counsel and Head of the Legal Service, European Organization for Nuclear Research
- Ambassador Anna Ifkovits Horner, Deputy Permanent Representative, Head of Host State Division, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and to the other international organisations in Geneva

- [Prof. Christine Kaddous](#), Full Professor, Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva
- Annika Talvik, Senior Legal Specialist, International Labour Organization

**11:15 AM | Coffee break**

**11:45 AM | Geneva: update on the Complex Chambers of the Tribunal of First Instance**

**Speakers:**

- Pierre-Yves Mauron, President of the Civil Court of Geneva

**11:50 AM | Foreign law in domestic commercial courts: proving and applying foreign norms across borders**

**An update on the Complex Chambers of the Civil Court of Geneva**

- Pierre-Yves Mauron, President of the Civil Court of Geneva

When commercial disputes cross borders, courts must often do more than interpret contracts – they must interpret foreign law. This panel explores how judges establish and apply foreign norms, the use of expert evidence and comparative law reports, and what happens when foreign law is unclear or inaccessible. Through comparative insights, speakers discuss how courts balance discretion, deference, and practicality in transnational litigation.

**Moderators:**

- [Grégoire Chappuis](#), Senior Associate, Niederer Kraft Frey

**Speakers:**

- [Daniel Barlow](#), President of the International Commercial Chamber of the Paris Court of Appeal
- [Sir Clive Freedman](#), International arbitrator, 7 King's Bench Walk (London) Former Judge at the High Court of London (King's Bench Division)
- Stéphanie Musy, Judge at the Civil Court of Justice of Geneva
- Dr. Franz Werro, Professor of Law at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland) and at the Georgetown University Law Center (Washington, D.C.)

**12:45 PM | Lunch**

**2:00 PM | The Singapore Convention on mediation: a new opportunity for Switzerland and Geneva?**

The Singapore Convention is to mediation what the 1958 New York Convention is to arbitration – a uniform framework for recognising and enforcing international settlement agreements. This session discusses whether, when, and how Switzerland might join the Convention, and what it would mean for Geneva as a centre for cross-border dispute resolution. It addresses the legal, institutional, and political dimensions, and the strategic value for businesses operating in and from Switzerland.

**Moderator:**

- [Birgit Sambeth](#), Partner, Altenburger; Accredited Mediator, Former President of the Swiss Bar
- [Jeremy Lack](#), Attorney-at-Law, Étude de Me Jeremy Lack (LAWTECH.CH & InnovADR SA)

**Speakers:**

- [The Honourable Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon](#), Supreme Court of Singapore (video address)
- [Prof. François Bohnet](#), Full Professor, Faculty of Law of the Université of Neuchâtel, Attorney-at-Law; KGG Law firm, Member of the Council of the Swiss Bar Association
- [George Lim](#), Chair, Singapore International Mediation Centre; Former President of the Law Society of Singapore
- [Prof. Nadja Alexander](#), Full Professor and Director, Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy at Singapore Management University
- Niklaus Meier, Co-Head, Private International Law Unit, Swiss Federal Office of Justice

### 3:00 PM | Swiss contract at the crossroads of certainty and flexibility

Swiss contract law offers a distinctive balance between legal certainty and interpretative flexibility, emphasising the true and common intention of the parties. This session explores how these principles make Switzerland an attractive venue for international contracting, comparing civil-law and common-law approaches to interpretation.

#### Moderator:

- [Bruno Ledrappier](#), Partner, Charles Russell Speechlys

#### Speakers:

- [Charlotte Pender](#), Partner, Charles Russell Speechlys
- Mr Justice Liam Kennedy, Judge of the Irish High Court
- [Noradèle Radjai](#), Partner, LALIVE
- [Clarisse von Wunschheim](#), Partner, Altenburger

### 4:00 PM | Coffee break

### 4:30 PM | General counsel roundtable: managing legal costs and dispute strategy

This roundtable addresses the key challenges faced by general counsels in managing legal budgets – from resource allocation and selection of external counsels to the impact of dispute venues and technology.

#### Moderator:

- [Frédérique Bensahel](#), Partner, FBT Avocats
- [Aurélie Conrad Hari](#), Partner, Bär & Karrer

#### Speakers:

- David Garrido, Group General Counsel, Lombard Odier
- Axel Meyer, Group General Counsel, Richemont International SA
- Jeremy Nacht, Legal Team Leader, UBS
- Ella Zimmerman, Manager, Swiss Legal Finance

### 5:30 PM | Closing remarks

# Welcome Reception & Cocktail



## Event Date

9 - Mar 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm



Other



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Palais Anna et Jean-Gabriel Eynard  
Rue de la Croix-Rouge 4, 1204  
Genève



## Organizer



**GILA**

GENEVA  
INTERNATIONAL  
LEGAL ASSOCIATION

## Event description

Join us for what promises to be a fantastic evening opening GILW26 with a keynote address from Alfonso Gomez, the Mayor of the City of Geneva, in one of Geneva's emblematic buildings.

## Speakers:

- Alfonso Gomez, Mayor of the City of Geneva

# Day 2

## In-house Counsel Forum



### Event Date

10 - Mar 8:15 am - 12:15 pm



### Location

Mandarin Oriental  
Quai Turrettini 1, 1201 Genève



### Organizer



Chemical and pharmaceutical industry | In-house counsel | International transport and inspection | Risk management



### Ticket

Day 2 ticket needed

[Click to book](#)

### Programme

**8:30 AM | Welcome coffee**

**9:00 AM | Welcome address**

- [Aurélie Conrad Hari](#), Partner, Bär &Karrer ; Vice-President GILA
- Herminie Simonetta, Senior Corporate Governance Officer, Richemont
- [Jean-René Oettli](#), Partner, Borel & Barbey

**9:15 AM | International transport and inspection**

#### Moderator:

- [Prof. Sylvain Marchand](#), Professor at the University of Geneva; Counsel, CMS

#### Speakers:

- Stephen Baird, Associate General Counsel & Head of Europe, Legal, SITA
- Julien Raynaud, VP Legal & Compliance General Counsel and Compliance Officer, Bureau Veritas
- Patrick Jourdain, VP Business Development, Cargill
- Charles C. Adams Jr., General Manager, Five Diamonds Arbitration Chambers

**10:00 AM | Bridging science and law: contracts, IP, and compliance in pharma & chemicals**

This panel will explore the key legal challenges shaping the pharmaceutical and chemical sectors in Switzerland. Experts will discuss trends in contracts, intellectual property, and regulatory compliance, focusing on how law can drive innovation and collaboration. Topics include protecting inventions, structuring strategic partnerships, and navigating global regulatory requirements, with practical insights on managing risk and optimizing R&D agreements in a complex legal landscape.

#### Moderator:

- [Sevan Antreasyan](#), Partner, Lenz & Staehelin

**Speakers:**

- Gilles Aebischer, Head of Market Access and Public Affairs Swiss Affiliate, OM Pharma Suisse SA
- Luisa Amate, Lead Counsel, Corteva Agriscience
- Gavin Pope, Head of R&D Legal, Global Clinical Development, Operations & Regulatory, Novartis
- Laetitia Pictet, Chief Legal, Risk and Compliance Officer, DSM-Firmenich

**10:45 AM | Coffee break****11:15 AM | Risk management from the boardroom to the courtroom: the art of in-house legal strategy**

In-house counsel play a discreet yet pivotal role in managing corporate risk. This panel explores the tension between legal and business imperatives, the link between governance and legal strategy, and the evolving place of the legal function within corporate structures. Topics include dispute and crisis management, reputational risk, and professional secrecy – all central to the modern counsel's mandate.

**Moderator:**

- Jean-Philippe Nerfin, Group General Counsel, Pictet

**Speakers:**

- Isabelle Berger, Chief Investment Officer & Partner, Nivalion
- Xavier Dedullen, Managing Director, Kroll
- Nicolas Grégoire, Head of Compliance, Richemont International SA

**12:00 PM | Closing remarks**

- Laure Lavorel, Senior Associate General Counsel, Broadcom
- Jean-René Oettli, Partner, Borel & Barbey

**12:15 PM | Networking lunch**

# From boardrooms to public institutions and international organisations, navigating the new era of internal investigations: reducing cost, managing risk, and enhancing defensibility



## Event Date

10 - Mar 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm



In-house counsel | Internal investigations



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

LALIVE  
Rue de la Mairie 35, 1207  
Genève



## Organizer

LALIVE



## Side Event description

This session will delve into the multifaceted world of internal investigations.

Hosted in LALIVE's Geneva offices, it will feature an engaging panel offering a wide range of expertise: lawyers from LALIVE will discuss legal aspects, experts from FTI will provide technical insight, and in-house counsel will share their experience from within.

This panel will embrace the diversity of the topic. It will address hot topics in investigations conducted in the private sector, within State-supervised financial institutions, and in international organisations.

Whether you are a legal professional, an expert in the field, or an in-house counsel, this conference promises to stimulate thought-provoking exchanges. We look forward to your participation and the opportunity to share knowledge, experiences, and best practices.

The session will start with a welcome coffee at 2pm.

## Moderator

[Benoît Mauron](#)

Partner, LALIVE (Geneva)

## Speakers

[Anton Vallélian](#)

Counsel, LALIVE (Geneva)

[Fabienne Helfenstein](#)

Head of Raising Concerns and Investigations, Glencore (Zurich)

[Nicolas Ollivier](#)

Partner, LALIVE (Geneva)

[Richard Palmer](#)

Senior Managing Director, FTI Consulting (London)

# Default and termination in commodity & shipping contracts: drawing the line between commercial pressure and repudiation – Followed by a networking cocktail



## Event Date

10 - Mar 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm



Commercial litigation |  
Commodities and shipping



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Chambre de commerce,  
d'industrie et des services de  
Genève (CCIG)  
Boulevard du Théâtre 4,  
1204 Genève



## Organizer



**Hill Dickinson**

## Side Event description

This session would examine the fine line between legitimate commercial pressure and anticipatory/repudiatory conduct in commodity and shipping contracts. It will explore when a party may lawfully terminate a contract without exposing itself to claims of wrongful termination, drawing on practical examples involving non-nomination of vessels, late shipment, and failure to open letters of credit.

## Key discussion points:

- Understanding the threshold for anticipatory/repudiation in commodity and shipping contracts.
- Common fact patterns: performance delays, missed laycans, documentation failures.
- How arbitral tribunals distinguish between tactical negotiation and anticipatory breach.
- The role of timing, communication, and mitigation in assessing default.
- Practical lessons from GAFTA, FOSFA, and LMAA awards on right to terminate and damages.
- Risk management strategies: drafting clear termination triggers and notice provisions.

Followed by a Q&A session and a networking cocktail

## Speakers

### [Amanda Andrade](#)

Senior Associate, SMBC Law  
Brazilian-qualified lawyer

### [Christina Charemi](#)

Of Counsel, SMBC Law  
US attorney / disputes specialist

### [Cyrus Siassi](#)

Founding Partner, SMBC Law  
Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England & Wales  
Attorney-at-Law, admitted to the Geneva Bar

# Navigating discovery: emerging trends and strategic implications for Swiss companies



## Event Date

10 - Mar 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm



Commercial litigation |  
Cross-border investigations |  
Information and digital technology



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Charles Russell Speechlys  
Rue de la Confédération 5,  
1204 Genève



## Organizer

**Charles  
Russell  
Speechlys**



Grant Thornton

## Side Event description

This side-event explores how Swiss businesses can manage rapidly evolving discovery obligations in cross-border disputes and investigations.

Speakers will address the rise of e-discovery in UK proceedings, interplay with Swiss data protection and secrecy laws, blocking statutes, and the latest judicial and regulatory developments.

Practical case studies will cover AI-enabled review, data mapping, preservation, and proportionality; attendees will gain actionable strategies to reduce cost and risk, negotiate scope effectively, and align governance, IT, and legal teams.

Designed for in-house counsel, litigators, and compliance leaders seeking pragmatic tools to meet discovery demands without compromising Swiss legal constraints.

## Speakers

### [Bruno Ledrappier](#)

Partner (litigation), Charles  
Russell Speechlys (Geneva)

### [James Helme](#)

Partner, Grant Thornton UK  
LPP (London)

### [Robert Avis](#)

Partner and UK barrister,  
Charles Russell Speechlys  
(Geneva)

# Banking outsourcing in the digital age: managing risks and regulatory challenges – followed by a drinks reception with lake view



## Event Date

10 - Mar 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm



Banking and finance |  
Information and digital technology  
| New technologies | Regulatory |  
Risk management



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Borel & Barbey  
Rue de Jargonnant 2, 1207  
Genève (8th floor)



## Organizer



**BOREL & BARBEY**  
AVOCATS 1907

**J.P.Morgan**

## Side Event description

Navigating the legal, regulatory, and operational complexities of banking outsourcing: from cloud services and AI to critical third-party service providers.

## Moderator

[Clément Bouvier](#)

Partner, Borel & Barbey  
(Geneva)

## Speakers

[Maria Oberlin-Chiriaeva](#)

Partner, Borel & Barbey  
(Geneva)

[Peter Philp](#)

Senior Consultant – IT Governance and Operational Resilience, Penta

[Prof. Yaniv Benhamou](#)

Professor and Attorney-At-Law, Director of the Digital Law Center (DLC), University of Geneva

[Valerie Delerue](#)

Deputy Head of Legal, J.P. Morgan (Geneva)

# Corporate litigation in transition: trends, triggers & tactics across jurisdictions — Followed by a networking cocktail



## Event Date

10 - Mar 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm



Commercial litigation



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Mandarin Oriental  
Quai Turretini 1,  
1201 Genève



## Organizer



## Side Event description

Corporate litigation is evolving—are you ready?

From ESG claims and shareholder activism to the rise of collective redress mechanisms and litigation funding, the rules of the game are shifting fast and companies face a more complex and high-stakes dispute environment than ever before.

This panel brings together leading in-house counsel and litigation experts from Switzerland and abroad to explore how corporate litigation is evolving—and how legal teams can stay ahead.

With a focus on Swiss law and comparative insights from key jurisdictions, the session will offer practical guidance on anticipating litigation risks, managing cross-border disputes, and leveraging litigation as a strategic business tool.

Serious insights first. Sparkling conversations after.

Stick around for a lively apéritif to continue the discussion over a glass (or two).

Because some of the best legal strategies are born after the panel ends.

## Speakers

[Aurélie Conrad Hari](#)

Partner, Bär & Karrer  
(Geneva)  
Vice-President GILA

[Janet Tobin](#)

Partner, Mishcon de Reya  
(London)

[Ophélie Claude](#)

Partner, Paul Hastings  
(Paris)

[Yvonne Lenoir](#)

Group Corporate Secretary  
and Head of Group  
Corporate Affairs & Public  
Policy, Pictet Group  
(Geneva)

# The rise of internal investigations in Switzerland: bridging Swiss practice with the European context and international standards – followed by a networking apero



## Event Date

10 - Mar 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm



In-house counsel | Internal investigations



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

MLL Legal  
Rue du Rhône 65,  
1204 Genève



## Organizer



## Side Event description

In-house counsels are increasingly confronted with the challenge of conducting or overseeing internal investigations – whether in response to regulatory requirements, internal alerts, or ESG compliance issues.

This event will provide a practical overview of the key principles governing internal investigations within companies, highlighting the growing influence of international standards (notably ESG) and the European context on corporate culture and the implementation of internal investigations in Switzerland.

Participants will also benefit from the insights of a leading European law firm, which will share hands-on experience advising on internal investigations, particularly in the implementation of whistleblowing systems aligned with the EU Directive.

This event is designed for in-house counsel and legal professionals who want to anticipate new challenges, benchmark their practices, and strengthen their strategic role within their organisations

## Moderator

[Maud Udry-Alhanko](#)

Partner, MLL Legal (Geneva)

## Speakers

[Alessandro Borrello](#)

Partner, Hogan Lovells  
(Milan)

[Hannah Cipriano-Favre](#)

Counsel, MLL Legal  
(Geneva)

[Mladen Naskovic](#)

Associate, MLL Legal  
(Geneva)

# Drafting SPAs and post-M&A disputes: practical insights from a Swiss and UK perspective & Rooftop aperitif



## Event Date

10 - Mar 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm



Arbitration | Commercial litigation  
| In-house counsel | Mergers and  
acquisitions



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Niederer Kraft Frey  
Place de l'Université 8,  
1205 Genève



## Organizer

# NKF

## Side Event description

Unlock the complexities of Share Purchase Agreements (SPAs) and post-M&A disputes at our side-event bringing together leading legal practitioners from Switzerland and the UK.

Through real-life transaction examples and case studies, participants will gain practical insights into drafting robust SPAs, identifying potential pitfalls, and structuring clauses to minimize post-closing litigation risk.

This conference will also explore actual disputes that have shaped M&A practice and offers strategies for resolving conflicts efficiently and protecting clients' interests.

Whether you advise on transactions or arbitrate disputes, this event provides the tools, know-how, and network you need to master the nuances of deal-making and dispute resolution at the highest level.

After the discussion, enjoy an exclusive aperitif with a breathtaking mountain view – the perfect setting for networking and exchanging ideas.

## Moderator

[Grégoire Chappuis](#)

Senior associate, Niederer Kraft Frey (Geneva)

## Speakers

[Boris Vittoz](#)

Partner, Niederer Kraft Frey (Geneva)

[Marc lynesdjian](#)

Partner, Niederer Kraft Frey (Geneva)

[Naomi Tarawali](#)

Partner, Cleary Gottlieb (London)

# Hocus pocus: how 16 billion in Credit Suisse AT1s went poof overnight – or... not



## Event Date

10 - Mar 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm



Banking and finance | Regulatory



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Chabrier Avocats  
Rue du Rhône 40,  
1204 Genève



## Organizer



## Side Event description

An “Apéro” around the most thrilling current legal mystery in Switzerland: will the judiciary rescussitate the value of the 16 Bn of Credit Suisse AT 1 Bonds written-off in March 2023.

## Speakers

[Marc Hassberger](#)

Partner, Chabrier Avocats  
(Geneva)

[Thomas Goossens](#)

Partner, Chabrier Avocats  
(Geneva)

# Internal investigations – practical insight into the key issues



## Event Date

10 - Mar 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm



Banking and finance | Employment law | Financial crime and investigations | In-house counsel | Internal investigations | Regulatory



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Walder Wyss SA  
Rue du Rhône 14,  
1204 Genève



## Organizer

walderwyss



AUGUST DEBOUZY

## Side Event description

The term internal investigation generally refers to a structured, impartial fact-finding process conducted within an organization to clarify suspected misconduct or other irregularities. In this event, lawyers from Switzerland and France will share practical, experience-based insight into the key issues that arise at each stage of an internal investigation – from assessing whether an investigation should (or must) be opened, to determining appropriate disciplinary or corrective measures based on the findings, and including all aspects of the fact-gathering process in between. The discussion will focus on the employment-law questions that typically emerge during such investigations, as well as challenges specific to regulated industries, particularly the financial sector. The session is designed to be interactive, encouraging participants to engage, ask questions and share their own perspectives.

## Speakers

### [Olivier Attias](#)

Partner, August Debozy (Paris)

### [Rayan Houdrouge](#)

Partner, Walder Wyss (Geneva)

### [Rodolphe Gautier](#)

Partner, Walder Wyss (Geneva)

### [Téo Genecand](#)

Partner, Walder Wyss (Geneva)

# Young litigators forum



## Event Date

10 - Mar 6:15 pm - 10:30 pm



Swiss Commercial Courts and Modern Litigation | Alternative dispute resolution | In-house counsel



## Ticket

Young Litigators Event ticket needed

[Click to book](#)



## Location

### Session (6:15 PM)

Uni Mail, Room MR060  
Boulevard du Pont-d'Arve 40,  
1205 Genève

### Cocktail reception (7:30 PM)

Le Lyrique  
Boulevard du Théâtre 12, 1204  
Genève



## Organizer



**GILA**

GENEVA  
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LEGAL ASSOCIATION



**UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE**

FACULTY OF LAW

## Event description

### 6:15 PM | Litigation 4.0: Swiss law through the lens of innovation

The Young litigators forum explores how innovation and technology are reshaping advocacy and dispute resolution in Switzerland. Designed for the next generation of practitioners, the session combines practical insight with forward-looking discussion.

### Part 1 – Swiss Commercial Courts and Modern Litigation

Expectations, best practices, and procedural insights.

#### Speakers:

- [Kerstin Arnesson](#), Managing Associate, Walder Wyss
- [Laurent Grobéty](#), Partner, NOMEA; Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva

### Part 2 – Negotiation, mediation and ADR as Tools for Efficient Dispute Resolution

Efficient, tailored, and confidential alternatives to litigation.

#### Speakers:

- [Jonathan Bory](#), Attorney-at-Law, BORY LEGAL; Lecturer at the University of Neuchâtel

### Part 3 – The In-House Counsel as the Architect of Litigation 4.0

Aligning litigation tactics with global corporate strategy.

#### Speaker

- [Emilie Jacot-Guillarmod](#), Deputy Head Legal, SWISSQUOTE

### Part 4 – Q&A and Roundtable Discussion

The session will conclude with an interactive Q&A on the skills, adaptability, and mindset required for young lawyers to thrive in an evolving legal landscape.

### 7:30 PM | Cocktail reception

After the session, join a cocktail reception: a great opportunity to connect with peers, exchange ideas, and expand your professional network in a relaxed atmosphere.

# Day 3

## Technology & Digitalisation Forum



### Event Date

11 - Mar 8:15 am - 1:30 pm



Information and digital technology  
| Legal technology | New technologies



### Location

Madarin Oriental  
Quai Turretini 1,  
1201 Genève



### Organizer



**GILA**

GENEVA  
INTERNATIONAL  
LEGAL ASSOCIATION



### Ticket

Day 3 ticket needed

[Click to book](#)

### Programme

8:15 AM | Welcome coffee

8:45 AM | Opening remarks

9:00 AM | **Security: Why slow adoption, fast adoption & race to human intelligence create significant risks for businesses**

This Keynote explores the risks associated with AI amidst the excitement and hype. Experts discuss how not adopting the latest technology can lead to rogue behavior, while the rapid pace of evolution causes a risk of immediate obsolescence. The race to achieve human-level AI risks cutting corners, eroding ethics, and lowering security standards. Join us to uncover these hidden risks and understand how to navigate them effectively.

### Speaker:

- [Rachid Gerraoui](#), Professor, Distributed computing, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

## 9:30 AM | Panel 1: AI governance and market realities

### Discussion with global tech leaders

This panel will explore the intersection of AI governance and market realities with insights from current tech leaders. Key topics include how Big Tech integrates compliance with AI development and the role of external counsel, the risks associated with AI supply chains, and the essential skills lawyers and businesses need to thrive in the AI era.

#### Moderator:

- Mariia Shcherbakova, Co-Head Swiss LegalTech Association, Geneva Chapter

#### Speaker:

- Kateryna Bondar, Head of Legal, Nexent Bank Suisse SA
- Thomas Spörri, Regional Attorney at Global Deal Team, Microsoft EMEA
- Gilbert Rinaldi, CEO, Rinaldi Consulting

## 10:15 AM | Tech showcase – A panorama of legal software

A hands-on session featuring live demonstrations of technologies available on the market for law practitioners. The showcase will feature software and how they operate in short commented 1m30 demos. It will be followed by an extended break where tech creators will be available for further discussion and inquiries.

## 10:45 AM | Meet tech creators & Break

### A 45-minute networking and meetup break

Use the event app to book meetings with tech creators or other participants, while enjoying warm beverages. This session is designed to facilitate meetings between all event participants.

## 11:30 AM | Panel 2: AI before the bench

### How should magistrates and supervisory bodies handle AI slop and misuse in court?

This panel will discuss how magistrates and supervisory bodies address the misuse and errors of AI in court settings. The session will cover the challenges and strategies for managing AI-related issues in the judicial system. Participants will also hear examples of how judicial oversight is evolving to keep pace with the rapid advancement of AI technologies.

#### Moderator:

- [Daniel Kinzer](#), Partner and Head of the Dispute Resolution Practice Group, CMS

#### Speakers:

- [Zelda Hunter](#), Partner, White & Case Member of the Court, Swiss Arbitration Center
- Antoine Hamdan, Judge at the Geneva Criminal Court
- [Prof. Solveiga Vilčinskaitė](#), Professor, Mykolas Romeris University; Arbitrator and Attorney-at-Law, Solewill; Delegate to the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR
- [Endri Gega](#), Counsel, Schellenberg Wittmer, former judge at the Criminal Court and the Administrative Court of First Instance of Geneva

## 12:15 AM | Panel 3: Staffing the future

## How to provide corporations and law firms with high performing talents?

This session explores how corporations and law firms can attract, train, and retain top legal talent. Discussions cover continuous training, AI readiness for young lawyers, and the role of universities in bridging emerging skills gaps.

### Moderator:

- Aurélien Triouillier, Head of Learning & Development, CA Indosuez (Switzerland) SA

### Speakers:

- Samy Chaar, Chief Economist & CIO Switzerland and Capital Partner, Lombard Odier & Cie SA
- [Dr Eva Cellina](#), Lecturer, Digital Law Center of the University of Geneva
- [Dorothee Schramm](#), Vice-President and member of the Board, Silicon Valley Arbitration & Mediation Center (SVAMC)
- [Roxana Sharifi](#), Senior Associate and Lead Innovation & Legal Tech, CMS

1:00 PM | Closing remarks



# AI deployment within companies: roadmap for risk assessment and mitigation strategies through governance



## Event Date

11 - Mar 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm



In-house counsel | Information and digital technology



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Mandarin Oriental  
Quai Turretini 1,  
1201 Genève



## Organizer

**B · M · G**  
A V O C A T S

## Side Event description

While AI present tremendous opportunities, it also triggers substantial risks. The deployment of AI in a responsible thus requires AI governance to be implemented internally.

This roundtable aims at providing companies with a snapshot of the current best practices in terms of AI governance and applicable potential standards.

## Speakers

### [Catherine Pugin](#)

Digital Delegate for the State of Vaud

### [Gaëlle de Cannière](#)

Head of Group Legal Technology and Privacy, Pictet

### [Marc Besson](#)

Head Information Systems and Chief Information Officer, Institution genevoise de maintien à domicile (IMAD)

### [Prof. Philippe Gilliéron](#)

Partner, BMG Avocats (Geneva) | Associate Professor, University of Lausanne

# Why banks and wealth managers shy away from arbitration?



## Event Date

11 - Mar 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm



Arbitration | Banking and finance



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Jacquemoud & Stanislas  
Rue de la Coulouvrenière 29,  
1204 Genève



## Organizer



Jacquemoud  
Stanislas  
*Attorneys at Law*

**quinn emanuel**

quinn emanuel urquhart & sullivan, llp

## Side Event description

Arbitration has become the default dispute-resolution mechanism in many global industries – from commodities and shipping to insurance, M&A, and international trade. Yet banks and wealth or asset managers have historically remained reluctant to embrace it.

Why?

Despite offering clear advantages – confidentiality, specialist decision-makers, procedural flexibility, and, in some jurisdictions, enhanced neutrality – arbitration clauses are still the exception rather than the rule in financial services.

This panel explores the reasons behind that hesitation. Are state courts perceived as more predictable or more bank-friendly? Do concerns about “Solomonic” awards, loss of procedural control, interim relief, or enforceability – particularly in relation to retail clients – outweigh arbitration’s benefits? Or is this reluctance simply a matter of habit?

Bringing together experienced litigators, arbitrators, and a banking representative, the discussion will offer a practical, market-driven perspective on when arbitration does – and does not – make sense for financial institutions. The panel will also examine recent developments, including the growing use of arbitration by banks and the inclusion of arbitration clauses in standard documentation such as ISDA templates.

A timely and pragmatic discussion for professionals in financial services – and for anyone interested in how and why industries choose their dispute-resolution mechanisms.

## Speakers

### [Thomas Odgen](#)

Barrister, 4 New Square (London)

### [Arnaud Nussbaumer-Laghzaoui](#)

Partner, Jacquemoud Stanislas  
(Geneva)

### [Guillaume Gonczy](#)

In-house counsel, Banque Pictet  
(Geneva)

### [Joanne Strain](#)

Partner, Quinn Emanuel (Dubai)

# Swiss banks as targets of criminal investigation: how to resolve, and what are the consequences? Views from the US and Switzerland



## Event Date

11 - Mar 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm



Banking and finance |  
Financial crime and investigations  
| White-collar crime



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Lenz & Staehelin  
Route du Chêne 30,  
1208 Genève



## Organizer



Lenz & Staehelin

**Davis Polk**

Side Event description



# Mixed-mode dispute resolution: practical applications



## Event Date

11 - Mar 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm



Alternative dispute resolution |  
Commercial litigation



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Swiss Arbitration Centre  
c/o the Geneva Chamber of  
Commerce and Industry (CCIG)  
Bd. du Théâtre 4,  
1204 Geneva



## Organizer



## Side Event description

### Interactive case workshop – designing solutions under extreme situations

### Can a binding dispute outcome be achieved in 48 hours?

#### What this session is about

When disputes arise late, under regulatory pressure, and with immovable deadlines, traditional litigation or arbitration alone is often incapable of delivering a solution in time. Yet business, safety, reputational and legal risks still need to be managed, and binding outcomes may be required within days or even hours.

This interactive side event explores how mixed-mode dispute resolution processes can be designed and deployed in practice, combining mediation, conciliation, dispute boards, expert determination and arbitration, rather than treating them as isolated silos.

Participants will work through a realistic, high-stakes case study and be invited to design a process capable of:

- Enabling urgent performance,
- Managing interim funding and risk allocation,
- Producing a binding outcome within days,
- While preserving legal positions for later determination where appropriate.

#### The case study

The discussion will be based on a hypothetical dispute involving a national ski team and a European infrastructure and technology provider, arising just days before a major international competition. The case raises, among other things:

- Urgent compliance and certification issues imposed by third parties,
- A multi-million Swiss franc emergency remediation requirement,
- Liquidity constraints on both sides,
- Reputational, sponsorship and athlete-safety risks,
- Potential intellectual property and branding consequences if certification is lost, and
- A Swiss-law contract with an arbitration clause but no institutional rules.

## Moderator

### [Jeremy Lack](#)

Attorney-at-Law, Etude de Me  
Jeremy Lack (LAWTECH.CH &  
InnovADR SA) (Geneva)

## Speakers

### [Alexandre Mazuranic](#)

Partner, BMG Avocats  
(Geneva) | Specialist in  
international arbitration and  
dispute resolution | Co-Chair of  
the ASA Construction Group

### [Birgit Sambeth](#)

Partner, Altenburger (Geneva)  
| Accredited Mediator | Former  
President of the Swiss Bar

### [Chelsey Baril](#)

Head of the Operational Law  
Section, European Organization  
for Nuclear Research (CERN)

### [Daduna Kokhreizde](#)

Chief Legal and Contracts Officer,  
International Federation of  
Consulting Engineers (FIDIC)

### [Heike Wollgast](#)

Head, IP Disputes Section, WIPO  
Arbitration and Mediation  
Center, World Intellectual  
Property Organization (WIPO)

### [Korinna von Trotha](#)

Executive Director, Swiss  
Arbitration Centre

### [Marco Ruggiero](#)

FIDIC President's List Adjudica-  
tor | Disputes Board practitioner

A binding outcome (interim or final) must be achieved within 48 hours, failing which the competition cannot operate on time.

Participants will be asked to consider:

- How different ADR tools could be sequenced or combined,
- Whether and when neutrals might “switch hats”,
- How far parties can go with waivers, confidentiality and consent, and
- What safeguards are needed to protect due process.

### Format

- Short framing introduction on mixed-mode dispute resolution
- Live discussion of the case with the panel
- Reflections from different institutional and user perspectives
- Practical takeaways on process design under time pressure
- The focus is on what would actually work, and why.

#### [Prof. Jacques de Werra](#)

Professor of Law & Member of the MIDS Committee (Geneva Master’s in International Dispute Settlement), University of Geneva | Founder & member of the board of directors of the Digital Law Center

#### [Torsten Bartsch](#)

Former Associate General Counsel, Caterpillar SàRL

#### [Urs Weber-Stecher](#)

Independent arbitrator and mediator | Vice-Chair of the Advisory Council for Mediation of the Swiss Arbitration Centre | Experienced in commercial and cross-border dispute resolution



# Is Lake Geneva freezing? Geneva as an international jurisdiction of choice to litigate over civil, debt enforcement, insolvency, and criminal freezing orders, compared with other jurisdictions. Followed by drinks.



## Event Date

11 - Mar 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm



Asset recovery | Cross-border litigation | Debt enforcement and insolvency



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Le Bateau de Genève  
Quai Gustave-Ador 1,  
1204 Geneva



## Organizer

MONFRINI BITTON KLEIN  
— SWISS LITIGATORS —  
MBK.LAW

**BakerHostetler**

## Event description

The event will take the form of a round table, in which all participants will be allowed to speak and share experiences regarding freezing orders, from different perspectives: plaintiff/defendant, lawyer/in house, Geneva/other cantons, Switzerland/other countries (USA, EU, others).

## Speaker

[Yves Klein](#)

Partner, Monfrini Bitton Klein  
(Geneva)

[Oren Warshavsky](#)

Partner, BakerHostetler  
(New York)

# Counsel & cocktails: legal insights, drinks and connections



## Event Date

11 - Mar 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm



AI tools and crypto issues | Financial technology | In-house counsel | Information and digital technology | Legal technology



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Schellenberg Wittmer  
Rue des Alpes 15bis,  
1201 Genève



## Organizer

**Schellenberg  
Wittmer**

## Event description

Join us for a relaxed event at our Geneva office where you will be able to meet our team and attend short talks on LegalTech and cryptocurrencies, followed by a few drinks in a casual setting. We look forward to welcoming and meeting you!

## Speakers

### [Benjamin Borsodi](#)

Partner, Schellenberg Wittmer (Geneva)

### [Charles Goumaz](#)

Partner, Schellenberg Wittmer (Geneva)

### [Clara Pogli](#)

Partner, Schellenberg Wittmer (Geneva)

### [George Ayoub](#)

Partner, Schellenberg Wittmer (Geneva)

### [Louis Burrus](#)

Partner, Schellenberg Wittmer (Geneva)

# Interpretation of contracts: myth and reality



## Event Date

11 - Mar 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm



Commercial litigation



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Mandarin Oriental,  
Quai Turretini 1,  
1201 Geneva



## Organizer

**WHITE & CASE**

## Side Event description

In this session, a panel of speakers from various civil-law and common-law jurisdictions will explore how their legal systems approach contract interpretation.

They will dispel common misconceptions and compare how courts balance wording, context, and party conduct across different legal traditions.

## Speakers

[Anne Véronique Schlaepfer](#)

Partner, White & Case  
(Geneva)

[Edward Attenborough](#)

Partner, White & Case (London)

[Filippa Exelin](#)

Partner, White & Case (Stockholm)

[Aleksandra Oziemska](#)

Partner, White & Case (Warsaw)

# Legal challenges related to luxury watch brands' efforts to control the secondary watch market



## Event Date

11 - Mar 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm



Financial crime and investigations  
| Luxury



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Maison Rousseau et Littérature  
Grand-Rue 40,  
1204 Genève



## Organizer

altenburger

## Side Event description

This conference will explore the complex legal and regulatory issues arising from luxury watch brands' growing efforts to monitor and influence the secondary market.

Key topics will include the protection of purchasers' personal data, the implementation of anti-fraud and anti-counterfeiting measures, and the legal implications surrounding the handling of stolen goods and money laundering risks.

The discussion will also address the balance between brand protection, market transparency, and consumer rights in an increasingly digitalized and globalized resale environment.

## Speakers

### [Baptiste Favez](#)

Partner, Altenburger  
(Geneva)

### [Carmelo Barresi](#)

Luxury watch expert

### [Laurent Lehner](#)

Partner, Altenburger  
(Geneva)

# GILW 2026 Gala Dinner



## Event Date

11 - Mar 7:00 pm - 00:00 am



Other



## Ticket

Gala Dinner ticket needed

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Pavillon Sicli  
Route des Acacias 45,  
1227 Genève



## Organizer



## Event description

Join us for the grand finale of GILW26 – a distinguished seated dinner combining insight and celebration. In his keynote, Alexander Troller will share reflections from the heart of a world-leading brand rooted in Geneva. This festive evening offers a unique occasion to celebrate the week's achievements and connect with leading voices from across the global legal community.

## Keynote

**Alexander Troller**  
General counsel, Rolex

**The GILW26 Gala Dinner has now reached full capacity.**

Should you wish to be placed on the waiting list, kindly contact us by email ([gilw2026@kuonitumlare.com](mailto:gilw2026@kuonitumlare.com))