



**GILA**

GENEVA  
INTERNATIONAL  
LEGAL ASSOCIATION



**GILW25**

10 - 12 March  
Geneva - Switzerland


# Programme 2025

# Programme at a glance

Main conference

Social Event

Side Event

 Lunch Break

Mon  
10

9:30 am - 5:45 pm  
Commercial Disputes & Swiss Law Forum | DAY 1

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm



6:30 pm - 8:00 pm  
Welcome reception & cocktail

Tue  
11

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

8:00 am - 12:30 pm  
In-house Counsel Forum | DAY 2



2:30 pm - 4:00 pm  
Top 10 Essentials for Foreign In-House Counsels Navigating Swiss Law, People and Culture

Swiss International Business, Choice of Law and Sanctions: Selected Issues

Mismanagement of Assets: Tackling Classic Risks and Emerging Frontiers from Margin Calls, Conflict of Interests to Greenwashing and AI

Bridging Legal Systems: Strategies for Effective Evidence Gathering in International Litigation

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm  
Exploring the Impact of Discovery on Swiss Civil Proceedings - Tips and Tricks for In-House and External Counsel, Followed by a Get Together Cocktail

Safeguarding Trade Secrets: How to Ensure their Legal Protection? Followed by an exclusive aperitif

Music for the Future or the Future of Music? Sustainability and Mass Litigation in the Swiss Legal Framework

Emerging Trends in Corporate Liability for Human Rights Violations and Related Dispute Resolution

6:15 pm - 8:00 pm  
Young Litigators Event: Conference

8:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
Young Litigators Networking Event

8:00 am - 9:15 am

Dispute Resolution Mechanisms and Judicial Remedies for International Commodities and Cargo Transportation Disputes in Switzerland

Navigating Turbulent Times: Advice for High-Net-Worth Families on Relocation, Structuring, and Asset Protection

9:00 am - 1:45 pm

Technology & Digitalisation Forum | DAY 3

9:30 am - 6:00 pm

The AI-Scape

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Greenwashing: Legal Challenge and Sustainability Disputes

A comparative examination of defect liability regimes: how does Swiss law fare?

Cyber Risks: Legal and Regulatory Challenges for Financial Institutions

Impact on Foreign Proceedings of the Swiss Blocking Statute (Art. 271 CP) with Respect to Service and the Taking of Evidence in Switzerland

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

From Words to Impact: The Art of Storytelling to Win Legal Battles. Master the Craft of Creating Powerful Narratives that Resonate, Persuade and Deliver Results in the Legal Arena.

Sanctions & Right to Property: Can (and Should) the Legal and Practical Difficulties be Overcome?

Geneva, an international economic centre at the confluence of crossborder proceedings, is it also a good jurisdiction to obtain evidence? - A discussion among Swiss and foreign practitioners, followed by drinks

Work Hard, Play Hard: A Mix of Talks and Drinks in a Friendly Atmosphere

7:00 pm - 02:00 am

GILW 2025 Gala Dinner

Wed  
12

# Full programme

## Day 1

### Commercial Disputes & Swiss Law Forum

**Event Date**

10-Mar 9:30 am - 5:45 pm

**Location**

Auditorium FER Genève

**Organizer**

Commercial litigation

**Ticket**

Day 1 ticket needed.

[Click to book](#)

**Programme**

9:30 AM | Welcome coffee

10:00 AM | GILW 2025 Kick-off and keynote addresses

- [Sandrine Giroud](#), President GILA; Partner, LALIVE Ltd
- [Olivia Guyot Unger](#), Director Legal Department, Fédération des Entreprises Romandes Genève
- [Carole-Anne Kast](#), State Councillor in charge of the Geneva Department of Institutions and Digital Affairs
- [Olivier Jornot](#), General Prosecutor Geneva
- [Michael Schöll](#), Director Swiss Federal Office of Justice
- [Prof. Gabrielle Kaufmann-Kohler](#), Partner, Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler

11:00 AM | Commercial disputes & Swiss law forum

**Session: International commercial courts: bridging the gap between national jurisdictions and global disputes**

This panel will discuss the advantages of establishing international commercial courts in Geneva and Zurich and their potential to rival other global jurisdictions. Speakers will explore how these courts can bridge legal traditions to resolve complex, cross-border disputes.

**Moderator:**

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

## Speakers:

- Sandrine Rohmer, President, Chamber of complex matters, Tribunal of first instance, Geneva
- Pierre-Yves Mauron, President of the Civil Tribunal, Geneva
- [Fabienne Schaller](#), Honorary President of the Chamber, former member of the International Commercial Chamber of the Paris Court of Appeal
- Dr. Daniel Schwander, Judge, Commercial Court, Zurich
- [Wei Lee Lim](#), Partner, WongPartnership

**12:30 PM | Networking lunch**

**2 PM | Commercial disputes & Swiss law forum**

### Session: Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

Through practical examples drawn from construction disputes, commercial contracts, innovation and intellectual property cases, the multidisciplinary ADR Panel will explore appropriate and efficient strategies for preventing and resolving disputes, including tailored mixed-mode methods with mediation, early neutral evaluation, arbitration and dispute boards.

The discussion will be geared towards legal professionals – lawyers, in-house counsel, judges, arbitrators, mediators, and academics – and focus on user-centric processes that prioritize cost-efficiency, speed, relationship preservation, evidence-taking, and enforceability, especially in cross-border contexts.

The panel will include representatives from renowned organizations like [WIPO](#), [FIDIC](#), [CERN](#), [ASA](#) and the [Swiss Arbitration Centre](#), as well as top law firms, companies, and practitioners.

### Moderators:

- [Birgit Sambeth](#), Partner Altenburger Ltd, Accredited Mediator, former President of the Swiss Bar
- [Jeremy Lack](#), Lawtech & InnovADR

## Speakers:

- [Chelsey Baril](#), Head of the Operational Law Section, European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)
- [Thorsten Bartsch](#), Associate General Counsel, Caterpillar Inc.
- [Ignacio de Castro Llamas](#), Director, WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- [Prof. Jacques De Werra](#), Member of the MIDS Committee (Geneva Master in International Dispute Settlement), University of Geneva
- [Daduna Kokhraidze](#), General Counsel & Manager for FIDIC Legal and Contract Services, International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC)
- [Korinna von Trotha](#), Executive Director, Swiss Arbitration Centre

**3:30 PM | Coffee break**

**3:45 PM | Commercial disputes & Swiss law forum**

### Session: Swiss contract law: a pillar of legal certainty in global commerce

This session will showcase the strengths of Swiss contract law, emphasizing its reliability and flexibility for international business. Participants will gain insights from experts in commercial law and learn how the Swiss legal framework contributes to global business security.

**Moderator:**

- [Laure Lavorel](#), International Legal Director, Broadcom Inc.  
Coordinator of the Romandie Chapter of the Association Suisse des Juristes d'Entreprises

**Speakers:**

- [Prof. Fabien Liégeois](#), University of Geneva; Counsel, CMS von Erlach Partners Ltd
- [Prof. Christoph Müller](#), University of Neuchâtel
- [Frank Spoorenberg](#), Partner, Niederer Kraft Frey Ltd
- [Clarisse von Wunschheim](#), Partner, Altenburger Ltd
- Prof. Julia Xoudis, University of Geneva; Of Counsel, Peter & Kim

**5:15-5:45 PM | Closing remarks and keynote addresses**

- [Denis Pittet](#), Partner, Lombard Odier; President, Fondation Genève Place Financière
- [Aurélie Conrad-Hari](#), Vice-President GILA; Partner, Bär Karrer Ltd

# Welcome Reception & Cocktail



## Event Date

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



Other



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Palais Eynard  
Rue de la Croix-Rouge 4  
1200 Genève



## Organizer



**GILA**

GENEVA  
INTERNATIONAL  
LEGAL ASSOCIATION

## Event description

Join us for what promises to be a fantastic evening opening GILW 2025, with a keynote address from Christina Kitsos, Mayor of Geneva, in one of Geneva's emblematic buildings.

# Day 2

## In-house Counsel Forum



### Event Date

11-Mar 8:00 am - 12:30 pm



### Location

Auditorium FER Genève



### Organizer



**GILA**

GENEVA  
INTERNATIONAL  
LEGAL ASSOCIATION



Banking and finance, Luxury,  
Commodities and Shipping in-house  
counsel



### Ticket

Day 2 ticket needed

[Click to book](#)

**VSUJ**

Vereinigung Schweizerischer  
Unternehmensjuristen  
Association Suisse  
des Juristes d'Entreprises

### Programme

**8:00 AM | Welcome coffee**

**8:30 AM | Welcome address**

- [Laure Lavorel](#), International Legal Director, Broadcom Inc.  
Coordinator of the Romandie Chapter of the Association Suisse des Juristes d'Entreprises
- [Jean-René Oettli](#), Partner, Borel & Barbey

**8:45 AM | Swiss banking & finance: Practical legal insights from industry experts**

This panel will examine the key regulatory developments in Switzerland in the aftermath of the Credit Suisse crisis, focusing on systemic risk management, governance, and financial stability. The discussions will also address the use of new technologies in the banking sector.

### Moderator:

- [Maria Oberlin-Chiriaeva](#), Partner, Borel & Barbey

### Speakers:

- [Yvonne Lenoir Gehl](#), Group Corporate Secretary, Head of General Counsel Office, Pictet Group
- [Fedor Poskriakov](#), Partner, Lenz & Staehelin
- [Maria-Antonella Bino](#), General Counsel, Vontobel.

**9:30 AM | Litigating commodities and shipping disputes: How to increase Switzerland's attractiveness?**

This panel will discuss the potential solutions for increasing the attractiveness of Geneva as jurisdiction for various dispute resolution mechanisms and remedies available for addressing the specific areas of international commodities and cargo transportation. The panel will in particular discuss the issue of the possible required adaptation of the existing local structures and proceedings.

### Moderator:

- [Cyrus Siassi, Partner](#), SIASSI McCUNN BUSSARD

## Speakers:

- [Jérémie Girod](#), Managing director, Terraxis SA
- [Florence Schurch](#), Secretary General, SUISSÉNÉGOCE
- [Richard Watts](#), Director, HR Maritime
- [Benoit Chamayou](#), Global Head of Litigation, Gunvor Group

## 10:15 AM | Coffee break

## 10:45 AM | Luxury and law: Opportunities and challenges from a Swiss perspective

The Luxury industry is having to contend with a booming but unregulated secondary market which is challenging the boundaries of intellectual property. Pre-owned products are questioning many aspects of the luxury distribution traditional rules and brands are struggling to address the issue of upcycled products they have no control over. This panel, composed of legal experts in the Swiss luxury industry, will explore what solutions luxury brands are finding (and what the Swiss and European legal environment can offer) to address the core issues raised by the luxury circular market: those of authenticity, brand integrity and protection of consumers.

## Moderator:

- [Georges Racine](#), Partner, Holman Fenwick Willan LLP

## Speakers:

- [Géraldine Stalder](#), Chief Legal Officer, Audemars Piguet
- [Danika Ahr](#), General Counsel, Aura Blockchain Consortium
- [Olivia Dhordain](#), Lawyer at the Paris Bar, registered as EU attorney with Geneva Bar, Outboxing IP

## 11:30 AM | Navigating global disputes and promoting Swiss law : Insights from leading general counsel across the Geneva industry

Join us to discuss the intricacies of managing international disputes. Experienced in-house counsel from the Banking, Luxury, and Commodity trading sectors will share their insights and expertise on the complex issues encountered in cross-border proceedings. Explore the appeal and feasibility for these industries of bringing disputes to Geneva, and in particular the benefits of a Commercial Court.

## Moderators:

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

## Speakers:

- [Rachel Mattatia](#), General Counsel, HSBC Private Bank (Suisse) SA
- [Axel Meyer](#), Chief Legal Counsel, Richemont International SA
- [Jean-Philippe Nerfin](#), Group General Counsel, Pictet Group
- [Jason Otto](#), Global Head of Litigation & Investigation, EFG Bank SA
- [Massimiliano Talli](#), Global Head of Legal, Louis Dreyfus Company

## 12:25 PM | Closing remarks

## 12:30 PM | Networking lunch

# Top 10 essentials for foreign in-house counsels navigating Swiss law, people and culture



## Event Date

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



In-house counsel



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

MANGEAT  
Le Plaza  
Rue de Chantepoulet 1  
(6th floor)  
1201 Geneva



## Organizer

# MANGEAT

## Side Event description

A pleasant, friendly moment to simply address the most distinctive aspects of Swiss law, Swiss people, and Swiss culture... Or, in other words, a survival guide for the foreign in-house counsel working in Switzerland!

## Format

Presentation (30 minutes) + Discussion (45 minutes) + Swiss snack break (15 minutes)

## The Top 10 Essentials

1. Switzerland at a glance
2. Institutions and Federalism
3. Employment: A particularly liberal framework
4. Contract law: Key features and recent developments
5. Corporate law: Key features and recent developments
6. The in-house counsel and confidentiality: new Swiss In-House counsel privilege
7. The in-house counsel and the culture of compromise
8. Corporate criminal liability: toward a future Swiss DPA regime
9. Arriving in Switzerland as an in-house counsel: The musts
10. Arriving in Switzerland as an in-house counsel: Impressions and surprises

## Speakers

**Géraldine Stalder**, Chief Legal Officer, Audemars Piguet

**Ralph Kaufmann**, Senior Legal Counsel, Audemars Piguet

**Grégoire Mangeat**, Partner, MANGEAT

**Fabien Aepli**, Partner, MANGEAT

**Alain Brodeur**, Former Associate General Counsel SITA

# Swiss international business, choice of law and sanctions: Selected issues



## Event Date

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



## Location

Hôtel Métropole, Genève



## Organizer

*HFW*



Commercial litigation



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)

## Side Event description

Switzerland occupies a pivotal position in international trade, with its traders, banks and charterers at the heart of global commerce. This session will address the complexities of choice of law in cross border transactions—Swiss or English law, that is the question—and related implications.

We will also examine the far-reaching impact of sanctions imposed by the US, UK, EU, Switzerland, Canada and Australia, exploring how these measures shape the dynamics of international trade and what developments might lie ahead.

Panellists will offer insights into the unique role of Swiss law and Switzerland as a hub for international trade, equipping participants with the knowledge to navigate this complex landscape effectively.

## Speakers

### Sarah Hunt

Partner, Holman Fenwick Willan

### William Hold

Partner, Holman Fenwick Willan

### Shane Gibbons

Senior Associate, Holman Fenwick Willan

# Mismanagement of assets: Tackling classic risks and emerging frontiers from margin calls, conflict of interests to greenwashing and AI



## Event Date

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



Banking & finance, Commercial litigation



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

LALIVE SA  
Rue de la Mairie 35  
1207 Geneva



## Organizer

LALIVE

GT GreenbergTraurig

## Side Event description

This session will delve into critical risks such as margin calls and conflicts of interest, while also addressing newer frontiers like greenwashing and the implications of AI in asset management.

Our discussion will uncover how these issues impact stakeholders and explore strategies for mitigating these risks effectively.

The panelists will share practical insights and actionable recommendations, equipping participants with the tools to navigate the evolving asset management environment with confidence.

## Speakers

**Annabel Thomas**, Greenberg Traurig

**Rebecca Meads**, Greenberg Traurig

**Nicolas Ollivier**, LALIVE

**Benoît Mauron**, LALIVE

**Sandrine Giroud**, LALIVE

# Bridging legal systems: Strategies for effective evidence gathering in international litigation



## Event Date

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



Commercial litigation



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Jacquemoud Stanislas  
Rue de la Coulouvrenière 29  
Genève



## Organizer



Jacquemoud  
Stanislas  
*Attorneys at Law*

## Side Event description

In a panel discussion featuring David S. Fulgman, Emilie Jacot-Guillarmod, and Marc Balavoine, moderated by Arnaud Nussbaumer-Laghzaoui, we will delve into the complexities of evidence gathering in cross-border litigation.

The discussion will explore the differences between the legal systems of the US and Switzerland, with a particular emphasis on banking evidence and the associated regulatory challenges. Insights will be provided on overcoming the difficulties of transferring evidence across jurisdictions.

Key topics will include cross-border cooperation, the role of technology, and best practices for ensuring the admissibility and integrity of evidence in international legal cases.

## Speakers

**David S. Fulgman**  
Partner, Selendy Gay PLLC  
(New York);

**Emilie Jacot-Guillarmod**  
Deputy Head Legal,  
Swissquote Bank;

**Marc Balavoine**  
Partner

**Arnaud Nussbaumer  
-Laghzaoui**  
Jacquemoud Stanislas

# Exploring the impact of discovery on Swiss civil proceedings? Tips and tricks for in-house and external counsel, followed by a get together cocktail



## Event Date

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



Commercial litigation



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Hotel Mandarin Oriental  
Quai Turretini 1  
1201 Genève



## Organizer



## Side Event description

While discovery, as a formal process, does not exist under Swiss law, the reality on the ground tells a different story. This session aims to uncover how the utilization of foreign discovery tools can significantly influence Swiss-based litigation and provide substantial support to it.

We will explore various fact-finding tools and assess their applicability in Swiss proceedings, challenging the notion that discovery is entirely absent in Swiss legal system.

Practical tips will be shared by the panelists on how parties can prepare for this process and manage the associated practicalities effectively.

## Speakers

**Wei Lee LIM**, partner at Wong Partnership, Singapore

**Evelyn Sheehan**, partner at Kobre & Kim, Miami

**Martina Athanas**, counsel at Bär & Karrer, Zurich

**Olivier Kronegg**, Head of Legal Bank Department at Lombard Odier, Geneva

**Aurélie Conrad Hari**, partner, Bär & Karrer, Geneva

# Safeguarding Trade Secrets: How to Ensure their Legal Protection? Followed by an exclusive aperitif



## Event Date

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



Commercial litigation, In-house counsel



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Niederer Kraft Frey Ltd  
Geneva office  
Place de l'Université 8  
1205 Geneva



## Organizer

**NIEDERER KRAFT FREY**

## Side Event description

In today's rapidly evolving business landscape, protecting sensitive information is more critical than ever. But what are trade secrets? And how to protect them legally and practically in Switzerland? Is it different in an international context? What are the specificities of trade secrets protection in M&A transactions, VC deals, investigations, and litigations?

This panel will bring together legal experts to discuss the aforementioned questions, with a particular focus on the best practices and strategies for creating robust NDAs that withstand scrutiny and protect business interests effectively.

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

## Speakers

### Benjamin Humm

(partner, member of the Executive Committee of Niederer Kraft Frey Ltd, Head of Marketing & Business Development)

### Grégoire Chappuis

(senior associate, commercial litigation)

## Panel Speakers:

### Penelope Lepudry

(Managing Director, Alvarez & Marsal)

### Phidias Ferrari

(partner, corporate/M&A)

### Karim Piguet

(partner, corporate/M&A)

### Myriam Fehr Alaoui

(partner, white collar crime and investigation)

### Boris Vittoz

(partner, commercial litigation and arbitration)

# Music for the future or the future of music? Sustainability and mass litigation in the Swiss legal framework



## Event Date

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



Commercial litigation, In-house counsel



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Westhive - Dream Big Room  
Alto Building (6th floor)  
Esplanade de Pont-Rouge 9  
1213 Lancy



## Organizer

**CMS**  
law·tax·future

## Side Event description

Sustainability has become a focal point on the legislative agenda in recent times, with growing relevance across multiple areas: public law, litigation, corporate practices, and regulatory frameworks. As this complex issue involves a wide range of stakeholders, disputes often bring together many parties.

In this session, our expert speakers will explore the latest developments in sustainability legislation in Switzerland and offer valuable insights on how multi-party litigation is currently being handled—and how it could evolve in the future. We will look beyond borders to assess the potential implementation of new approaches, such as class actions, in the Swiss context.

Join us for a forward-thinking discussion on the future of sustainability law and litigation.

## Speakers

**Dr Maxence CARRON**, CMS  
Von Erlach Partners SA  
Geneva, lawyer

**Ms. Audrey DURAND**, CMS  
Von Erlach Partners SA  
Geneva, Partner

**Dr Vaïk MULLER**, CMS Von  
Erlach Partners SA Geneva,  
Partner

**Mr. Daniel KINZER**, CMS  
Von Erlach Partners SA  
Geneva, Partner

**Dr Peter WENDE**, CMS  
Hasche Sigle SA, Stuttgart,  
partner

**Dr Jodok WICKI**, CMS Von  
Erlach Partners SA, Zurich,  
partner

# Emerging trends in corporate liability for human rights violations and related dispute resolution



## Event Date

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



Commercial litigation



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

MLL Legal Ltd  
65 rue du Rhône  
1204 Geneva



## Organizer

## Side Event description

International legal instruments, national legislation and court precedents in Switzerland and abroad increasingly impose corporate and executive responsibility for human rights violations. As a result, multinational businesses must take steps to ensure compliance with human rights standards.

This session will delve into this complex and constantly evolving topic, both from a corporate and litigation perspective, and share best practices and tips.

## Speakers

**Claudia Maradan**, Senior Legal Counsel at Nestlé

**Dmitry Pentsov**, Partner at MLL Legal  
**Hannah Cipriano-Favre**, Counsel at MLL Legal

# Young Litigators Event & Networking



## Event Date

11-Mar 6:15 pm - 10:00 pm



Commercial litigation



## Ticket

Young Litigators Event ticket needed

[Click to book](#)



## Location

University of Geneva  
(Conference)  
and Grand Théâtre de Genève  
(Networking Event)



## Organizer



UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE

FACULTY OF LAW

## Event description

360-degree approach to dispute management: from handling the case to avoiding or engaging battles

Join the Young Litigators' interactive conference and cocktail reception during GILW 2025.

Dive into an engaging, hands-on session tailored for young litigators, designed to sharpen your skills at every stage of the litigation process. Guided by experts from various fields, the session will tackle practical strategies for preparing compelling legal submissions and navigating ADR, judicial, and arbitration proceedings. Expect interactive discussions on managing client expectations, balancing costs, and building seamless collaboration between in-house counsel and external lawyers. The session also explores the latest in legal and digital innovation, equipping you with tools to manage cases more effectively and adapt to the evolving legal landscape. This is an ideal session for lawyers under 40 who are eager to elevate their practice

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

# Day 3

## Dispute resolution mechanisms and judicial remedies for international commodities and cargo transportation disputes in Switzerland



### Event Date

12-Mar 8:00 am - 9:15 am



Commercial litigation



### Ticket

[Click to book](#)



### Location

Fédération des Entreprises  
Romandes Genève  
Rue de Saint-Jean 98  
1201 Geneva Salle (Room) "C"



### Organizer



SIASSI McCUNN BUSSARD  
AVOCATS & SOLICITORS

### Side Event description

Switzerland has recently emerged as one of the world's most important hubs in the global trade of commodities and chartering. Switzerland now accounts for as much as one-third of the global transit trade in vital commodities such as oil, metals, and agricultural goods.

One-third of globally traded oil is bought and sold in Geneva. Two-thirds of the international trade in base metals (e.g. zinc, copper, aluminium) is handled in Switzerland, with companies headquartered in Zug and Geneva also heavily involved in extraction.

Soft commodities show a similar trend: two-thirds of the international cereals trade, over half the coffee trade, half the sugar trade, and the bulk of the cotton trade are handled by Swiss-based firms. The trade of commodities is also associated with risks including disputes under charterparties, and commercial contracts.

Various dispute resolution mechanisms and remedies are available in Switzerland for addressing such matters, through mediation, arbitration and court proceedings (interim measures and ordinary proceedings).

The presentation will consist in an overview of such mechanisms and remedies available to the specific areas of international commodities and cargo transportation.

### Speakers

**Cyrus Siassi**  
Partner, SIASSI McCUNN  
BUSSARD, Avocats &  
Solicitors

**Paul Taylor**  
Partner at Hill Dickinson  
LLP, HD Commodities

**Mark Aspinall**  
Partner at Hill Dickinson  
LLP, HD Commodities

# Navigating Turbulent Times: Advice for High-Net-Worth Families on Relocation, Structuring, and Asset Protection



## Event Date

12-Mar 8:00 am - 9:15 am



## Location

FER Genève Restaurant



## Organizer



Commercial litigation

**B** BOREL & BARBEY  
AVOCATS 1907



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)

**Mishcon de Reya**

## Side Event description

In a shifting regulatory and geopolitical landscape, high-net-worth families must carefully navigate relocation, wealth structuring, and asset protection.

Through the analysis of a case study, this event will provide insights on adapting to change, securing multi-generational wealth, and optimizing strategies across multiple jurisdictions.

## Speakers

**Mr Jean-René Oettli**  
Moderator

**Vincent Berger**  
Partner

**Marc Freymond**  
Senior Associate

**Janet Tobin**  
Partner

**David Whittaker**  
Partner

**Shona Coffey**  
Partner

# Technology & Digitalisation Forum



## Event Date

12-Mar 9:00 am - 1:45 pm



## Location

Auditorium FER Genève



## Organizer



**GILA**

GENEVA  
INTERNATIONAL  
LEGAL ASSOCIATION



Swiss LegalTech Association



Information & digital technology



## Ticket

Day 3 ticket needed

[Click to book](#)

## Programme

**9:00 AM | Welcome coffee**

**9:30 AM | Pitch dating session – Discover the software**

Pitch-dating session: discover the Software. 8 entrepreneurs will have 3 minutes each to pitch their technology to the audience. Discovering the Software will also set the context for the panels, and connect the concepts, insights and business ideas with use cases and practical applications

### Moderators:

- [Liburn Mehmetaj](#), Partner, Walder Wyss
- [Christophe Berclaz](#), Counsel, Pestalozzi

### Companies:

- [Casus \(Fabien Staub\)](#) – AI document, review and creation
- [Neur.on \(Paula Reichenberg\)](#) – AI-Powered translation software
- [My Swiss Keeper \(Christelle Tassios\)](#) – Personalized & ultra secured ecosystem dedicated to private data storage and confidential file-sharing
- [Octoieur \(Nora Sailer\)](#) – Digitalisation for law firms and notary's offices
- [Aequitec \(Christian Wilk\)](#) – Corporate actions automated
- [Ex Nunc Intelligence \(Kyriaki Bongard, Zoé Berry\)](#) - AI-powered legal research for lawyers and legal analysis
- [Hoggo AG \(Samuel Solberg, Noa Schein Kahalon\)](#) - AI-powered platform to assess, manage, and monitor third-party compliance risks
- [Whisperit](#) - Collaborative AI workspace for lawyers

**10:00 AM | Financial strategies, return on investment and optimization with legal technologies**

This Panel will discuss the cost of digitalization, the returns on investment and the financial strategies that can be used to succeed with digital transformation. Our panel has first-hand experience with the topic and will be able to share a wealth of experience with the audience to make the best investment and modernization decisions.

### Moderators:

- [Philipp Fischer](#), Partner, Oberson Abels

## Speakers:

- [Urs Bracher](#), Head of Legal Tech & Knowledge Management, Walder Wyss
- [Brian Firlit](#), VP Pagero Commercial Integration, Acting Chief Commercial Officer, Thomson Reuters
- [Fedor Poskriakov](#), Partner, Lenz & Staehelin

## 10:45 AM | Using AI in law

With this panel, the objective is to show you how to benefit from AI and other tech tools to maximize productivity, enhance quality, reduce risks and generate more profit, while expanding access to the law. Our panellists have all worked closely with the benefits of AI and technology in general and will ensure you gain new insights and ideas on how to improve your, and your clients', experience with legal work.

## Moderator:

- [Nicolas Torrent](#), Swiss LegalTech Association

## Speakers:

- [Karin Mülchi](#), Founder, Bridge Legal group
- [Paula Reichenberg](#), Ceo & Founder Neur.on.
- [Vanessa Ruegger](#), Prof. of public law University of Geneva
- [Morgan Vallat](#), Director Forensic & Integrity Services, Ernst & Young

## 11:30 AM | Coffee break

## 11:45 AM | Enhancing client experience through technology

What would we be without our clients? This panel places the client at the center and aims to help understand how to design your services and improve them for their benefit. As stated in the "disciplined agile" project management method, we want to delight our clients. Our panellists will explore the means to reach this goal and help you understand how to delight your clients with legal services.

## Moderator:

- [Ariel ben Hattar](#), Partner, Lenz & Staehelin

## Speakers:

- [Stéphanie Chuffart-Finsterwald](#), Partner, Schellenberg Wittmer
- [Jerry Lay](#), Senior Managing Director, FTI Consulting
- [Yannic Kilcher](#), CTO, DeepJudge
- [Amaury Sonet](#), Member of the Paris Bar Incubator; Partner, BFPL Avocats

## 12:30 PM | Tout ce que vous souhaitez savoir sur Justitia 4.0

Justitia 4.0 représente l'une des transformations les plus ambitieuses du paysage judiciaire suisse. Ce projet d'envergure vise à moderniser la justice grâce à la numérisation des procédures et des échanges, tout en garantissant sécurité et accessibilité. Où en sont les travaux? Quels changements concrets attendre pour les professionnels du droit et les justiciables? Lors de ce panel, Patrick Becker, Secrétaire général du Pouvoir judiciaire de Genève et coprésident du comité de projet, ainsi que Me Stéphanie Chuffart-Finsterwald, avocate et présidente de la Commission Innovations et modernisation du barreau de l'ODAGE feront le point sur l'avancement de Justitia 4.0 et répondront à toutes vos questions. Une opportunité unique d'échanger directement avec des acteurs clés de cette révolution numérique au service de la justice.

**Speakers:**

- [Patrick Becker](#), Secretary general, Geneva Judiciary
- [Stéphanie Chuffart-Finsterwald](#), Partner, Schellenberg Wittmer; President of the Geneva Bar Association Commission for Innovation and Modernization

**1:15 PM | Closing remarks**



# The AI-Scape



## Event Date

12-Mar 9:30 am - 6:00 pm  
(Select a 45 min session)



Information and digital technology



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

FER Geneva  
Room B (1st floor)



## Organizer



## Side Event description

Be one of the first to escape what is probably the first eDiscovery escape room in the world! An escape room, built in Relativity, where teams use Generative AI tools to solve clues to escape and compete for a place on our leaderboard!

Feel free to invite others who would benefit from this hands-on experience, and note that teams of 2 - 4 are ideal, but we can always match you with others if needed.

# Greenwashing: Legal challenges and sustainability disputes



## Event Date

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



Commercial litigation



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Mandarin Oriental  
Quai Turrettini 1  
1201 Genève



## Organizer

**B · M · G**  
A V O C A T S

## Side Event description

This side event explores the evolving legal landscape of greenwashing, where (misleading) sustainability claims expose companies to reputational and legal risks. Join experts to discuss key concepts, regulatory frameworks, and dispute resolution mechanisms, including litigation and arbitration.

Through case studies and practical insights, learn how businesses can navigate this complex terrain, avoid greenwashing allegations, and adopt best practices.

Stay ahead of emerging trends in sustainability disputes and engage in an interactive Q&A session.

## Speakers

**Dr. Anne-Virginie La Spada,**  
LL. M.

**Alexandre Mazuranic,** LL. M

**Prof. Dr. Philippe Gilliéron,**  
J.S.M (moderator)

**Chiara Accornero** (WIPO)

**David Guerra Bonifacio**  
(TotalEnergies)

**Dr. iur. Heidi Gysi** (Ernst &  
Young Ltd)

# A comparative examination of defect liability regimes: how does Swiss law fare?



## Event Date

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



Commercial litigation, Construction



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

White & Case Quai du Mont-Blanc 5 1201 Geneva



## Organizer

**WHITE & CASE**

## Side Event description

Comparative insights: defect liability under Swiss and other laws.

The speakers will address the particularities of different legal systems and their practical impact, based on their experience in disputes (notably relating to construction projects).

## Speakers

**Anne Véronique Schlaepfer**,  
Partner, Switzerland

**Christophe von Krause**,  
Partner, France

**Zelda Hunter**, Partner,  
Switzerland

**Maximilian Roth**, Associate,  
Frankfurt

# Cyber risks: Legal and regulatory challenges for financial institutions



## Event Date

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



Banking & finance, Commercial litigation



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Etude Junod Halpérin  
5 avenue Léon-Gaud  
1206 Geneva



## Organizer



## Event description

Join us for an insightful discussion on “Cyber Risks: Legal and Regulatory Challenges for Financial Institutions”.

This event will explore the growing complexity of cybersecurity threats facing the financial sector, the evolving regulatory landscape, and the legal framework that institutions must navigate to ensure compliance and resilience.

Leading experts will address critical issues such as regulatory requirements, enforcement trends, and the legal implications of cyber incidents, providing practical insights on how to effectively address these challenges.

## Speakers

**Oren-Olivier Puder**  
Partner, Junod Halpérin

**Lionel Halpérin**  
Partner, Junod Halpérin

**Anne-Sarah Skrebers**  
Counsel, Junod Halpérin

**Jean-Philippe Aumasson**  
Co-founder and Chief Security Officer, Taurus SA  
President of the Technical Committee of the Capital Markets and Technology Association (CMTA).

# Impact on foreign proceedings of the Swiss blocking statute (Art. 271 CP) with respect to service and the taking of evidence in Switzerland



## Event Date

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



Commercial litigation



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Etude Walder Wyss SA  
Rue du Rhône 14  
1204 Geneva



## Organizer

walderwyss avocats

## Side Event description

The Swiss blocking statute (Art. 271 CP) presents a number of challenges for parties involved in foreign proceedings that intersect with Switzerland, particularly when those proceedings occur in legal systems where service and the taking of evidence are typically handled by the parties themselves, rather than by public authorities.

While many of these challenges can be addressed pragmatically with careful consideration, they may also give rise to real conflicts of law, which could force the parties to make difficult decisions.

In this discussion, we will outline the key pitfalls and potential solutions, incorporating practical examples drawn from our own experience and suggestions from the audience.

## Speakers

**Rodolphe Gautier**  
Partner, Walder Wyss

**Téo Genecand**  
Partner, Walder Wyss

# From words to impact: The art of storytelling to win legal battles. Master the craft of creating powerful narratives that resonate, persuade and deliver results in the legal arena.



## Event Date

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



Commercial litigation



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Fondation de la Maison Rousseau et Littérature  
Grand Rue 40  
1204 Genève



Organizer

altenburger

## Event description

While legal arguments form the foundation of any case, the power of storytelling can often tip the scales in high-stakes litigation.

This session will explore how crafting compelling narratives can resonate with judges, arbitrators, and opposing counsel, turning complex legal issues into relatable and persuasive stories.

Our discussion will delve into the techniques and principles behind impactful storytelling, offering strategies to connect with audiences on a deeper level and sharing experiences.

## Speakers

**Clarisse von Wunschheim**  
Partner, Altenburger

**Syolène Fenaroli**  
Associate, Altenburger

**Guillaume Jeangros**  
Senior Associate, Altenburger

# Sanctions & right to property: Can (and should) the legal and practical difficulties be overcome?



## Event Date

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



Commercial litigation



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Chabrier Avocats  
40, rue du Rhône (entrance in  
Passage Malbuisson)  
1211 - Geneva 1



## Organizer

 **CHABRIER**

## Event description

Round table discussing the fate of assets under sanctions and the legal and practical hurdles around the declared intentions of confiscating assets to allocate them to the reconstruction of Ukraine.

## Speakers

**Marc Gilliéron**, Partner,  
Specialist in Sanctions law

**Marc Hassberger**, Partner,  
"Head of litigation"

# Geneva, an international economic centre at the confluence of crossborder proceedings, is it also a good jurisdiction to obtain evidence? – A discussion among Swiss and foreign practitioners, followed by drinks.



## Event Date

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



Commercial litigation



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Le Bateau de Genève  
Quai Gustave Ador 1  
1204 Geneva



## Organizer

MONFRINI BITTON KLEIN  
— SWISS LITIGATORS —  
MBK.LAW

## Side Event description

Thirty years after the Call of Geneva, launched by then Attorney General Bernard Bertossa together with other public prosecutors and examining magistrates from France, Spain, Italy and Belgium to facilitate the cross-border circulation of evidence in criminal investigations, we will discuss in a square table format, together with foreign practitioners, why Geneva may still remain a jurisdiction of choice to obtain evidence through criminal, civil, cross-border insolvency and mutual assistance in civil matters proceedings.

## Speakers

Yves Klein, Partner

Edouard Kaiflin, Counsel

Evin Durmaz, Senior Associate

# Work hard, play hard : A mix of talks and drinks in a friendly atmosphere



## Event Date

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



Commercial litigation



## Ticket

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Schellenberg Wittmer  
Rue des Alpes 15bis  
1201 Geneva



Organizer

**Schellenberg  
Wittmer**

## Side Event description

This event will be the occasion for attendees to visit our offices located in the heart of Geneva and to meet our team in a relaxed atmosphere, with short talks on selected legal issues (AI & Copyrightability, Internal Investigations and Transnational Litigation in Switzerland) and a few drinks to close the first edition of the GILW on a high note.

We look forward to welcoming and meeting you! Please register to this event before 10 March 2025.

## Speakers

**Benjamin Borsodi**, Partner

**Louis Burrus**, Partner

**Stéphanie Chuffart-Finsterwald**,  
Partner

**Clara Pogli**, Partner

**Manon Baur**, Associate

**Karina Beaud**, Senior Associate

**Romain Dupuis**, Senior Associate

**Jean-Baptiste Maillart**, Associate

**Annapoorni Sitaraman**, Associate

# GILW 2025 Gala Dinner



## Event Date

12-Mar 7:00 pm - 02:00 am



Other



## Ticket

Gala Dinner ticket needed

[Click to book](#)



## Location

Pavillon Sicli  
Route des Acacias 45  
1227 Genève



## Organizer



**GILA**

GENEVA  
INTERNATIONAL  
LEGAL ASSOCIATION

## Event description

Join us for the grand finale of GILW 2025 at our Gala, a distinguished seated dinner celebrating the week's achievements and fostering connections among esteemed colleagues from across the legal spectrum.

Held in an original setting, this evening promises to be an opportunity to engage with thought leaders in the global legal community in a festive ambiance.