

## Colloquium on harmonizing law in the age of digital trade and finance (New York, 10–13 February 2026)

### Speakers

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**Mr. Orkun AKSELI** is Professor of Commercial Law at the University of Manchester Law School. He was the Academic Director of Manchester LawTech Initiative between 2022-2024. Previously, he taught at the Robert Gordon University, Newcastle University and Durham University. He was a Fulbright Scholar at Elon University Law School, USA in 2022 where he taught secured transactions, and international business transactions. He has published extensively on the modernisation and harmonisation of secured transactions law. His research has focused on the laws relating to secured credit, and the social and economic impact of these laws with reference to the financing of SMEs. He frequently engages with national policy making and international formulating organisations. His publications include “Secured Transactions in Global Law-making” (under contract with Hart, co-authored with S.V. Bazinas); “The Use of ADR in the Enforcement of Security Interests and Insolvency” (under contract with Brill, co-authored and edited with Teresa Rodriguez de las Heras Ballell); "The Future of Commercial Law: Ways forward for Change and Reform" (Hart 2020, with J. Linarelli); "International and Comparative Secured Transactions Law" (Hart 2017, with S.V. Bazinas); "Secured Transactions Law Reform: Principles, Policies and Practice" (Hart 2016, with L. Gullifer); "Availability of Credit and Secured Transactions in a Time of Crisis" (CUP 2013); "International Secured Transactions Law: Facilitation of Credit and International Conventions and Instruments" (Routledge 2011). He studied law in Turkey (LLB Dokuz Eylul University, MA Istanbul Bilgi University), USA (LLM University of Georgia) and the UK (PhD University of Manchester). He is an Associate Member of the International Academy of Comparative Law, and the past President, and current Secretary General of the International Academy of Commercial and Consumer Law. He is a member of Turkish Bar.



**Ms. Teresa RODRÍGUEZ DE LAS HERAS BALLELL** is Full Professor of Commercial Law at University Carlos III of Madrid, Spain, President of the European Law Institute (ELI) and Director of the Research Chair on *AI Foundations and Frontiers*. She was Sir Roy Goode Scholar at Unidroit in 2021–22 and she has been elected member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. She is a Delegate of the Kingdom of Spain at United Nations (for UNCITRAL) in Working Group VI on secured transactions, WG IV on e-commerce, and WG I on Warehouse Receipts, and an Expert for UNCITRAL and Unidroit on digital economy projects. She is also member of the European Commission Expert Group on Liability and New Technologies, the EU Expert Group for the Observatory on Online Platform Economy, and the EU Expert Group on B2B Data Sharing and Cloud Computing. Arbitrator at the Spanish/Madrid Court of Arbitration. She was awarded a European Central Bank scholarship under the ECB Legal Program on Fintech Regulatory Challenges. Her past academic appointments include, inter alia, the James J Coleman Sr Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law at Tulane Law School, Academic Visitor at the University of Cambridge, Visiting Professor at the University of Sydney, Associate Visiting Professor at the National University of Singapore, Marie Curie Fellow at Centre of European Law and Politics (Germany), and Chair of Excellence at Oxford University.



**Mr. José GARRIDO** is a Senior Counsel at the Financial and Fiscal Law Unit and Supervisor of the Insolvency Working Group at the Legal Department of the International Monetary Fund. He is an internationally recognized specialist in insolvency and creditor rights, financial law, and company law, with extensive experience in legal analysis and the design of law reforms in numerous countries across Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Dr. Garrido is a Professor of commercial and corporate law in Spain and has written extensively on a wide range of legal topics, including secured transactions, digital assets, and the intersection of emerging technologies with financial regulation. Dr. Garrido previously served as General Counsel of the Spanish Securities Commission, where he also directed the legal and enforcement divisions. He practiced law in the corporate and financial law department of one of the largest law firms in Madrid and served as Senior Counsel at the Legal Department of the World Bank, advising on insolvency and creditor rights issues. He has represented the IMF in international standard-setting initiatives, including contributions to UNCITRAL's work on automated contracting and digital commerce frameworks.



**Ms. Gérardine GOH ESCOLAR** is Deputy Secretary General of the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH). She concurrently heads the International Commercial, Digital and Financial Law (CODIFI) Division, with responsibility for key HCCH normative and post-Convention work including oversight of the HCCH 1985 Trusts Convention, the HCCH 2006 Intermediated Securities Convention, the 2015 HCCH Principles on Choice of Law in International Commercial Contracts, and the HCCH Experts' Groups on CBDCs, Carbon Markets, and Digital Tokens, as well as monitoring developments in the digital economy, restructuring and insolvency, and intellectual property from a private international law perspective. Dr Goh Escolar is also Professor (Adj) at the Faculty of Law and Academic Fellow at the Centre for Technology, Robotics, Artificial Intelligence and the Law (TRAIL) at the National University of Singapore.

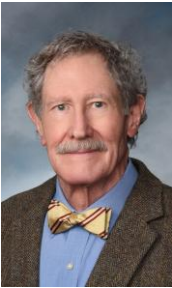
**Ms. Kiriakoula HATZIKIRIAKOS** is the Senior Manager- Legal Counsel of the Commercial team of the Legal Affairs at the National Bank of Canada. She advises on all aspects of commercial lending and taking security across Canada and oversees the Bank's commercial policies and procedures on such matters. Prior to her joining the National Bank of Canada, she was a partner in a Canadian law firm where she practiced in the banking and financing group. She has experience in secured transactions, including asset based financing transactions, involving multiple jurisdictions. She is Co-Chair of the Intellectual Property Financing Subcommittee of the Commercial Finance Division of the American Bar Association's Business Law Section and Fellow of the American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers. Kiriakoula has published several articles on cross-border and intellectual property secured transactions and frequently presents on these topics. She teaches secured lending and bankruptcy at Faculty of Law of University of Montreal and is the author of the book "Secured Lending in Intellectual Property" with Lexis Nexis in 2017 which is currently being updated for a revised edition to include digital assets.



**Mr. Juan Pablo RODRIGUEZ DELGADO** is an Associate Professor of Commercial Law at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (Spain). He obtained his PhD from the same university in 2015 with a dissertation entitled The Period of Responsibility of the Sea Carrier. He has served as Spain's delegate to UNCITRAL and has participated in the drafting work of international instruments, including the Convention on the Judicial Sale of Ships and the Convention on Negotiable Cargo Documents. His publications and conference presentations cover a broad range of topics in commercial law, including maritime law, international contracts, electronic commerce, company law, and insurance law, both in Spain and internationally. Since 2020, he has also served as Of Counsel to the maritime law firm Albors Galiano Portales. He currently serves as Vice-Dean for International Relations at the School of Law, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid.



**Mr. Renato MANGANO** is a Full Professor of Commercial law and a visitor of various universities, including Hamburg, Cambridge, Oxford, the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and the University of International Business and Economics, Beijing. He has published extensively in company law, insolvency law, and the legal aspects of digital assets. He co-authored *European Cross-border Insolvency Law*, 2nd edn, OUP 2022, and *The Anatomy of Corporate Insolvency Law*, OUP 2024. In the field of digital assets, he has written: “The Insolvency of Cryptocurrency Exchanges: Lessons from the BitGrail Case – Reification of Coins, Pari Passu Ranking, and Nominalism”, *Banking and Finance Law Review*, vol. 35, No. 1 (2019), p. 197; “Cryptocurrencies, Cybersecurity and Bankruptcy Law: How Global Issues Are Globalizing National Remedies”, *University of Miami International and Comparative Law Review*, vol. 27, No. 2 (2020), p. 355; and “The Sandbox of the UK Financial Conduct Authority as a Win-Win Regulatory Device?”, in *Banking and Finance Law Review*, vol. 34, No. 1 (2018), p. 31.



**Mr. Charles W. MOONEY Jr.** is the Charles A. Heimbold, Jr. Professor of Law Emeritus, University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School; J.D. (cum laude) Harvard Law School; B.A. (High Honors) University of Oklahoma; Partner, Shearman & Sterling (1981-86). Mooney is a leading legal scholar in the fields of commercial law and bankruptcy law. He is a Commissioner on Uniform State Laws representing New Hampshire and member of the Permanent Editorial Board (PEB) for the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC). The American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers awarded Mooney its Distinguished Service Award, the Grant Gilmore Award in recognition of superior writing in the field of commercial finance law, and the Harry C. Sigman Special Award for leadership on the 2022 UCC Amendments. Mooney also served as a Co-Reporter for the Drafting Committee for the Revision of UCC Article 9 (Secured Transactions) (1990-2000), as Reporter for the Revision of the UCC (Emerging Technologies, including new Article 12) (2021-22), as the ABA Liaison-Advisor to the Permanent Editorial Board for the UCC, and as a member of Council and Chair of the Committee on UCC of the ABA Business Law Section. He is a Fellow and former Director of the American College of Bankruptcy, a fellow of the American College of Commercial Finance Attorneys, and a member and former director, vice-president, and member of the Executive Committee of the International Insolvency Institute (III). Mooney served as a member of UNIDROIT Working Group on Digital Assets, head of III delegation to UNCITRAL Working Group VI (secured transactions), and as a U.S. Delegate at the Diplomatic Conferences for the UNIDROIT Leasing Convention, Cape Town Convention (Aircraft and MAC Protocols), and Geneva Securities Convention.



**Ms. Racheal MULDOON**, is an internationally recognized and award-winning authority on digital assets and emerging technologies. She is a Partner\* at leading international offshore law firm, Ogier, based in the London office, and a barrister of England and Wales. As a member of Ogier's dedicated international Technology & Web3 Team, her practice focuses on advising high-growth technology enterprises, institutional investors and founders on regulatory strategy, complex corporate and commercial transactions and restructurings, with particular emphasis on digital assets, artificial intelligence and other technology-enabled business models. Racheal also advises on private wealth, trusts and estates, as a STEP registered Trust and Estate Practitioner (TEP), with a focus on digital estates and succession planning for her international clients.

\*N.B. Awaiting admission as an attorney-at-law of the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands.



**Mr. Tamás PARTI** is a legal professional and a certified legal expert on data science, with hands-on experience in data analysis, holding a PhD focused on the property-law adaptation of digital data and data-based assets. His doctoral research examined how digital data and data-driven phenomena can be integrated into traditional property and asset frameworks, with particular attention to civil-law systems. He currently serves as Chair of the CNUE Futurology Forum and as Founder and President of the Data Research Institute of the Hungarian National Chamber of Civil Law Notaries (MOKK). He is also Vice President of the Hungarian National Chamber of Civil Law Notaries and an arbitrator at the Arbitration Court attached to the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry



**H.E. Mr. Sarakmony BUON** has been appointed as Secretary of State at Ministry of Commerce since March 2019. He also serves as permanent vice chairman of Competition Committee of Cambodia, and member of various governmental authorities on legal & judicial reforms, anti-money laundering and council of jurist of Ministry of Commerce. Prior joining the public sector, Sarakmony practiced as notary public, attorney-at-law, member of Singapore Institute of Arbitrators and began his career as lecturer of corporate law at various public and private universities. Sarakmony holds the Master Degree of International Labor Law from Lyon 2 University and Executive Diploma in Senior Legal Practitioner on Asset Tracing and Anti-money Laundering from Jesus College, Cambridge University.



**Mr. Woo-Jung JON** is Associate Professor at KAIST (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology), where he researches and teaches digital assets regulation and artificial intelligence governance. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) in Law from the University of Oxford, supervised by Professor Louise Gullifer, as well as a Juris Master from Tsinghua University Law School and a Master of Civil and Commercial Laws from Peking University Law School. Before joining academia, Professor Jon practiced law for eight years in Seoul, specializing in cross-border transactions, foreign direct investment, and financial regulations. He is admitted as a lawyer, patent attorney, tax accountant, and certified investment manager in South Korea, and serves as an arbitrator at the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board (KCAB). Professor Jon's engagement with international law reform began during his time as an intern at UNCITRAL and as a visiting scholar at UNIDROIT in Rome (both in 2010), and he continues to actively contribute to global discourse on secured transactions reform and digital finance. Professor Jon's research lies at the intersection of law and emerging technologies, with particular expertise in secured transactions involving digital assets and virtual asset regulation. He is the author of *Cross-border Transfer and Collateralisation of Receivables: Comparative Analysis of Multiple Legal Systems* (Hart Publishing, 2018) and has published extensively in leading journals including *Nature*, *Nature Electronics*, and *Computer Law & Security Review*. Throughout his academic career, he has consistently pursued research on security interests and digital assets, with notable works addressing the creation and enforcement of security interests in digital assets (*Korean Journal of Property Law*, 2025), and the property nature and bankruptcy treatment of virtual assets (*Korean Journal of Securities Law*, 2024), as well as comprehensive analyses of the Terra-Luna case and South Korea's digital asset regulatory landscape in *Computer Law & Security Review* (2025).



**Mr. Jae Sung LEE** is the Principal Legal Officer of the International Trade Law Division of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, which functions as the substantive secretariat for UNCITRAL. He is the Secretary of Working Group III on Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) Reform and has served as Secretary of working groups on dispute settlement, secured transactions and electronic commerce. Before joining the United Nations in 2007, Jae Sung served in the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Jae Sung is a graduate of Seoul National University College of Law, holds LL.M. degrees from Seoul National University Graduate School of International Studies and NYU School of Law as well as a Ph.D. in Law from Seoul National University.



**Mr. Marek DUBOVEC** is the Director of Law Reform Programs at the International Law Institute (ILI) and Part-Time Professor of Practice at the University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law. For over 15 years, Marek has been working with international standard-setters, especially UNCITRAL and UNIDROIT, to draft conventions, model laws, principles, and guides that assist States in modernizing their commercial law frameworks. He has worked on implementing these standards under projects funded by the World Bank Group, the EBRD, FSD-Kenya, and others. He has assisted countries in Africa (e.g., Kenya), Asia (e.g., the Philippines), Eastern Europe (e.g., Ukraine), the Middle East (e.g., the UAE) and Latin America (e.g., Colombia) with reforms of their frameworks on secured transactions, factoring, warehouse receipts, and related legislation. In these projects, Marek advised on the drafting of laws/regulations and technological infrastructures, including collateral registries, and provided capacity building to various stakeholders, including financial institutions, government officials, and judges. Marek is one of the principal authors of policy papers, reports, and other publications for international organizations, including the *Secured Transactions, Collateral Registries, and Movable Asset-Based Financing Knowledge Guide*, and *Guidance Notes on Distributed Ledger Technology and Secured Transactions* for the World Bank

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Group, and the New Finance Support Report for the EBRD. He has authored and co-authored numerous articles and books, including the 2019 Secured Transactions Law Reform in Africa. Marek is an elected member of the American Law Institute.



**Ms. Monica CANAFOGLIA** is a Legal Officer at the International Trade Law Division (ITLD) of the UN Office of Legal Affairs, which serves as the substantive secretariat for the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). She has served as secretary to UNCITRAL Working Group I on Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, contributing to the development of legal texts that support the formation and operation of small businesses. She also contributes to capacity-building efforts and legislative assistance for Member States adopting UNCITRAL texts and supports outreach and cooperation with other international organizations active in trade law. Before joining the Office of Legal Affairs, Monica held various roles across the UN system, with a focus on international labour rights, human rights-based approaches to programming, and staff training. She is a qualified lawyer in Italy, her home country.



**Mr. Spyridon BAZINAS** is a Visiting Professor at the Law School of the University of Athens and Thessaloniki, Greece, and Vienna, Austria, an author and an independent consultant advising States and national and international organizations on trade law reform matters. From 1989 to 2017, he served with the United Nations Secretariat, Office of Legal Affairs, first with the General Legal Division in New York (1989-1992) and then with the International Trade Law Division (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (“UNCITRAL”) Secretariat) in Vienna (1992-2017). He was the Secretary of the UNCITRAL Working Group VI (Security Interests) from 2003 to 2017, when it prepared the Guide to Enactment of the UNCITRAL Model Law on Secured Transactions (2017), the UNCITRAL Model Law on Secured Transactions (2016), the UNCITRAL Guide on the Implementation of a Security Rights Registry (2013), the Supplement on Security Interests in Intellectual Property Rights (2010), and the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Secured Transactions (2007). He also served as Secretary of the Working Group on International Contract Practices, when it prepared the Convention on the Assignment of Receivables in International Trade (2001). He was also involved in the Commission's work on insolvency, bank guarantees, procurement and electronic commerce. He also provided technical assistance to States and lectured all over the world on a variety of international trade law topics. Mr. Bazinas co-authored more than ten books and published more than fifty articles on various topics and, in particular, on secured financing and insolvency.



**Mr. Neil B. COHEN**, 1901 Distinguished Research Professor of Law at Brooklyn Law School, has been a key participant in major domestic and international law reform projects with respect to commercial transactions for over three decades. In the United States, he has served as Reporter for Revised Article 1 of the Uniform Commercial Code and for the American Law Institute's *Restatement of the Law of Suretyship and Guaranty*; in honour of his accomplishments as Reporter for the *Restatement*, he was named as the Institute's R. Ammi Cutter Reporter. Professor Cohen also was the U.S. Reporter for the recently promulgated Principles of Law for the Data Economy, a joint project of the American Law Institute and the European Law Institute. He has served as Director of Research of the Permanent Editorial Board for the Uniform Commercial Code since 1998. Internationally, Professor Cohen has long experience in the modernization and harmonization of commercial law. He has served as a member of United States delegation to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law for its work on harmonizing and modernizing the law of secured credit, as a member of the Working Group at the Hague Conference on Private International Law that prepared its Principles on Choice of Law in International Commercial Contracts, and as a Working Group member for the work of UNIDROIT in its development of principles for international contracts and for enforcement of claims and for its current project to develop a Model Law on Factoring. Since 2009, he has been a member of the United States Department of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law. Professor Cohen is a co-author of Farnsworth, Sanger, Cohen, Brooks and Garvin, *Contracts: Cases and Materials* and of Twerski and Cohen, *Choice of Law: Cases and Materials for a Concise Course on Conflict of Laws* as well as dozens of other books and articles concerning domestic and international commercial law. Professor Cohen received an S.B. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a J.D. from New York University School of Law, where he was a Root-Tilden Scholar.



**Mr. Alexander KUNZELMANN** is a Legal Officer with the UNCITRAL secretariat and currently serves as secretary of Working Group IV (Electronic Commerce). He was also actively involved in the earlier project of the Working Group that resulted in the UNCITRAL Model Law on the Use and Cross-Border Recognition of Identity Management and Trust Services. Before joining the United Nations in 2018, Alex worked as a legal adviser with the Attorney-General's Department of Australia dealing with constitutional law and public international law matters. Prior to that, he worked in private practice and as a legal officer with the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law in the Netherlands, where he focused on cross-border judicial cooperation.



**Ms. Megumi HARA** is a professor at the Law School of Chuo University in Tokyo. She teaches property, contract, secured transaction, and trust law. She has published numerous articles on secured transaction law, property law, and other topics concerning civil law. Before joining Chuo University, she was appointed an associate professor at Kyushu University and then a professor at Gakushuin University. She has also taught courses at the University of Tokyo and Keio University. She participated in the recent reforms of property law in Japan as a researcher appointed by the Ministry of Justice. Additionally, she served as a committee member for the Torihiki Hōsei Kenkyūkai (Research Group on Business Law), which collaborates with the Small and Medium Enterprise Agency under the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) in the preparatory efforts for amending secured transaction law in Japan. She served as a delegate of Japan for the Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the draft Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters specific to Agricultural, Construction and Mining Equipment (MAC Protocol). She has also participated as either a delegate for Japan or as an observer for UNCITRAL Working Group VI on Secured Transactions Reform. She represents Japan for UNCITRAL Working Group I deliberations on access to credit. She is also a member of the Model Law on Factoring working group and the Verified Carbon Credit Working Group for UNIDROIT.



**Ms. Drew PROPSON** is the Head of Technology and Innovation in Financial Services at the World Economic Forum. She leads a portfolio of initiatives focused on advancing innovation while maintaining financial system stability. Current research areas include the deployment of emerging technologies in financial services, technology-driven systemic risks, and fintech developments. Drew has additionally presented and authored work on financial inclusion, regulatory dynamics, and entrepreneurship. Drew holds MBAs from Columbia Business School and London Business School, a PhD in Spanish literature from UC Berkeley, and a BFA in Painting from the University of Washington. Her experience prior to joining the Forum includes private equity research, development finance, and international strategy and operations. Drew is also a Research Affiliate at the Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance at the University of Cambridge.



**Ms. Lidiya MIKHEEVA**, Doctor of Law, PhD in Law, Professor, Honorary Lawyer of the Russian Federation. Prof. Mikheeva is engaged in scientific research in the field of civil and family law. She has drafted numerous federal laws, primarily in the sphere of civil legislation. She is still actively involved in law drafting, and her sphere of interest lies in the private law domain. Prof. Mikheeva has been participating in the work on reforming the Civil Code of the Russian Federation since 2008. Additionally, she is a member of the scientific advisory councils under the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and the Federal Notary Chamber of Russia, where she takes part in writing analytical and guidance papers on legal matters.

**Mr. Nikolay DMITRIK**, is an expert with the International and Comparative Law Research Center and observer in UNCITRAL Working Group IV. Mr Dmitrik has over 20 years of professional and academic experience in privacy and personal data protection, digital identity, telecoms (public requirements in Russia, CIS and EU), contracts, IT regulation, including mass-media, advertisement and the Internet. He has considerable experience in advising national governments in Eurasia on legal framework reforms and developing national legislations in the ICT sector.



**Mr. Jun XUE** is a Professor of Law (since 2012) and Vice Dean (2014-2022) at Peking University Law School, and the Director of “Research Center of the E-commerce law of Peking University”. He received his Ph.D. degree in Law from the University of Rome (Tor Vergata) in 2005. Prof. Xue teaches various courses, such as the general part of the civil law, property law, contract law, tort law, Roman law, e-commerce law, etc. He has worked as a member of the working group on the legislation on the Chinese e-commerce law, and he has a wide influence on the policy making in the digital economy sector in China.

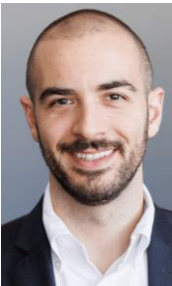


**Ms. Marina COMNINOS** is Co-Head at ICE Digital Trade (formerly essDOCS). Marina joined essDOCS on a part-time basis in 2006 as General Counsel and took a full-time role as Head of Solution Delivery in 2013. Later in the same year, Marina was appointed Chief Operating Officer, and in 2018, was named Co-CEO & Chief Operating Officer. Today, Marina serves as Co-Head of ICE Digital Trade – a role she has held since the acquisition of essDOCS by Intercontinental Exchange Inc. in 2022 – taking on joint leadership duties with Co-Head, Alexander Goulandris. Marina is a member of the Law Society of England and Wales, and a member of the ICC Commercial Law & Practice Commission. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Government and Law from the London School of Economics and an LLM in Maritime Law from University College London. Marina is admitted to practice as a Solicitor in England and Wales, and prior to ICE Digital Trade, had worked as a solicitor for Clifford Chance.



**Mr. Omer GUY** is General Counsel of the Digital Container Shipping Association (DCSA), a non-profit organization supported by the world’s 10 largest global container carriers, representing around 75% of global container trade. DCSA’s mission is to shape the digital future of container shipping by serving as the industry’s collective voice and driving alignment and standardization for transparent, reliable, secure, and sustainable transport services.

A maritime lawyer by training, Omer brings nearly two decades of experience across supply chain, transport, and logistics. Prior to joining DCSA, he spent almost 10 years in legal practice advising carriers, ship owners, operators, insurers, cargo owners, and airlines, following earlier roles in aviation operations. He holds degrees in Business, International Relations, and Law (B.A., LL.B., LL.M.).



**Mr. Zack SHAPIRO** is the Managing Partner at Rains LLP and leads the law practice and advises Bitcoin-focused startups. He also serves as Head of Policy at the Bitcoin Policy Institute, and is the Executive Director of the Peer-to-Peer Rights Fund. Zack is a graduate of Williams College and Yale Law School, and started his legal career clerking in the federal courts for the S.D.N.Y. and the 2nd Circuit, and at Davis Polk & Wardwell.



**Mr. Christopher ODINET** is a professor of law, Mosbacher research fellow, and affiliate professor of finance at Texas A&M University. His teaching and research specialize in commercial and consumer finance law and real estate transactions, with an emphasis on mortgage lending, insolvency, digital asset markets, and financial regulation. He is a co-author on several widely-used casebooks on secured credit and real estate finance, and he is the author of *Foreclosed: Mortgage Servicing and the Hidden Architecture of Homeownership in America* (published in 2019 by Cambridge University Press). In addition to his faculty role, Professor Odinet has been active in numerous professional and public service organizations, including the Association of American Law Schools, the American Bar Association, the Uniform Law Commission, the American Law Institute, and the American College of Real Estate Lawyers. Prior to coming to the Texas A&M, he served on the law faculties of the University of Iowa, the University of Oklahoma, and the Southern University Law Center. Prior to that, he was an attorney in the business and finance group at Phelps Dunbar LLP.



**Ms. Meryl BERNSTEIN** is the Global Head of Hogan Lovells' Retail & Fashion Group and an Intellectual Property Transactions Partner based in New York. A leading expert in digital marketplaces and e-commerce matters, Ms. Bernstein assists consumer and retail brands expand into new markets and business lines, advising on licensing agreements, manufacturing, logistics, distribution and strategic commercial arrangements. She navigates clients as they digitize, partner with technology providers, and incorporate new technologies into their business, including artificial intelligence. Ms. Bernstein is an active supporter of women in the workplace and the past president of Elevate, the women's professional networking association. She is a graduate of Fordham Law School and Wellesley College



**Mr. Ilias IOANNOU** is a Lecturer in Law, Innovation and Technology at the University of Bristol Law School, Deputy Director of the School's LLM programmes and Co-Director of its Centre for Global Law and Innovation. His research sits at the intersection of law and technology, with a specific focus on the legal, economic and governance implications of adopting emerging technologies in international trade. Ioannou's scholarship has appeared or is forthcoming in leading journals, such as the Cambridge Law Journal, the Columbia Journal of European Law, the Modern Law Review and the Journal of Banking and Financial Technology.



**Mr. Florent GEELHAND DE MERXEM** is an Associate Legal Officer with the UNCITRAL Secretariat, serving Working Group IV (Electronic Commerce). He works on UNCITRAL's exploratory project on digital platforms and private law. Previously, he was working for the French Treasury and in a top-tier law firm in Beijing on cross-border transactions. Florent holds an LL.M from Stanford Law School and an MBA from Peking University, and works in French, English and Mandarin.



**Mr. Andrea TOSATO** is a Professor at Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, where he specializes in commercial law and its intersection with emerging technologies. His research and policy work focus on private law frameworks governing pure intangibles, particularly digital assets and carbon credits. Professor Tosato has contributed to significant international and domestic legislative initiatives, including the UNCITRAL Model Law on Secured Transactions, the UNIDROIT Principles on Digital Assets and Private Law, the UNCITRAL/ UNIDROIT Model Law on Warehouse Receipts, and the Uniform Commercial Code Article 12 on Controllable Electronic Records. He currently serves as a member of the UNIDROIT Drafting Committee for the Principles on Verified Carbon Credits and as Co-reporter of the Uniform Law Commission Study Committee on Voluntary Carbon Credits.



**Ms. Clara GUERRA** is the Director of the Office for Financial Market Innovation and Digitalisation (SFID) of the Liechtenstein Government, where she spearheads regulatory innovation and digital transformation. With expertise spanning FinTech, blockchain, and AI, Dr. Guerra is a recognized authority in aligning emerging technologies with forward-thinking regulatory frameworks to ensure secure, sustainable innovation. Her leadership extends to key global roles, including Co-Chair of the European Blockchain Association, Chair of the INATBA Governmental Advisory Board, and member of the Steering Committee of the MiCA Crypto Alliance, where she contributes to shaping digital policy and promoting balanced approaches to innovation and regulation. Dr. Guerra's work includes advancing the application of blockchain and AI within secured transactions and fostering cross-border digital cooperation. A sought-after thought leader, she regularly shares her insights at global forums, shaping the future of technology and policy for a digitally connected economy

**Mr. Hasan AL KILANY**, Senior Legal Advisor, UAE Ministry of Economy and Tourism

**Ms. Qi LYU**, Arbitrator, Beijing Arbitration Commission

**Ms. Irene SHAN**, Expert, China Society of Private International Law

**Mr. Filippo PIEROZZI**, Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies, United Nations



**Ms. Anna JOUBIN-BRET** is the Secretary of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the Director of the International Trade Law Division in the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, which functions as the substantive secretariat for UNCITRAL. She is the ninth Secretary of the Commission since it was established by the General Assembly in 1966. Prior to her appointment on 24 November 2017, Ms. Joubin-Bret practiced law in Paris, specializing in International Investment Law and Investment Dispute Resolution. She focused on serving as counsel, arbitrator, mediator and conciliator in international investment disputes. She served as arbitrator in several ICSID, UNCITRAL and ICC disputes. Prior to 2011 and for 15 years, Ms. Joubin-Bret was the Senior Legal Adviser for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). She edited and authored seminal research and publications on international investment law, notably the Sequels to UNCTAD IIA Series and co-edited with Jean Kalicki a book on Reform of Investor-State Dispute Settlement in 2015. Ms. Joubin-Bret holds a postgraduate degree (DEA) in Private International Law from the University of Paris I, Panthéon-Sorbonne, a Masters Degree in International Economic Law from University Paris I and in Political Science from Institut d'Etudes Politiques. She was Legal Counsel in the legal department of the Schneider Group, General Counsel of the KIS Group and Director-Export of Pomagalski S.A. She was appointed judge at the Commercial Court in Grenoble (France) and was elected Regional Counsellor of the Rhône-Alpes Region in 1998.

**Ms. Aneta WIEWIÓROWSKA-DOMAGALSKA**, Deputy Director, Ministry of Justice, Poland



**Mr. Jean-François RIFFARD** is Professor of Law and Dean of the School of Law at the University of Clermont Auvergne. He has served as French delegate for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to UNCITRAL Working Group VI on Secured Transactions (2002–2018) and Working Group I on Warehouse Receipts (2024), and French delegate and expert to UNIDROIT – MAC Protocol to the Cape Town Convention and Warehouse Receipt Model Law. He has also served as Scientific Expert for the World Bank (International Finance Corporation, Strategy & Analysis Department) since October 2009 and as consultant for the reform of the secured transactions law and the establishment of a registry in Haiti, Burundi, Madagascar, Comoros, Cameroon, and Mauritania.

**Mr. Conner BROWN**, Head of Strategy, Bitcoin Policy Institute (BPI)



**Ms. Louise GULLIFER** is Rouse Ball Professor of English Law at the University of Cambridge and a fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. She is an associate member of 3VB, where she practiced for a number of years, and a Bencher of Gray's Inn. She teaches and writes extensively in all areas of commercial and financial law, especially secured transactions and financial collateral, intermediated securities, set-off and personal property. She is the editor of Goode and Gullifer on Legal Problems of Credit and Security and has co-authored a number of books on commercial law and debt financing, including two co-edited volumes on intermediated securities. She is currently co-director of a project on digital assets, and is writing and editing a series of books on secured transactions law and reform around the world, of which the most recent is a volume on Asia. She has acted as an expert witness in cases concerning set-off, intermediated securities and insolvency law. She was the founding director of the Commercial Law Centre at Harris Manchester College and executive director of the Secured Transaction Law Reform Project, as well as the Oxford academic lead of the Cape Town Convention Academic Project. She was the UK delegate to both UNCITRAL (working group VI) during its work on secured transactions, and is one of the UK delegates to the UNIDROIT conferences on the Cape Town Convention, as well as a member of a number of UNIDROIT working groups. She is a member of the International Insolvency Institute and the International Academy of Commercial and Consumer Law.



**Mr. Michel DESCHAMPS** is a lawyer with the Business Law Group of McCarthy Tétrault, one of the largest Canadian law firms. Mr. Deschamps' practice focuses on loan syndications, secured transactions, structured finance, international banking transactions, restructuring and the regulation of financial institutions. Mr. Deschamps also teaches banking law at the Law Faculty of the University of Montreal, where he is associate professor. He has given numerous conferences and proficiency courses for legal practitioners and academics. He is also the author of numerous articles on issues related to his areas of practice. Mr. Deschamps chairs the Québec Bar secured transactions committee and the editorial board of the Québec Bar law review. He is active in commercial law reform projects. He was a Canadian delegate to UNCITRAL for the elaboration of the Convention on the Assignment of Receivables and the Legislative Guide on Secured Transactions. He also participated in the preparation and negotiation of the Cape Town Convention on aircraft financing sponsored by UNIDROIT and ICAO signed in 2001, the UNIDROIT Convention on intermediated securities signed in Geneva in 2009 and the Space Protocol to the Cape Town Convention signed in Berlin in 2012. He currently participates in other UNCITRAL and UNIDROIT law reform projects in the area of secured transactions; he has also been involved in several Uniform Law Conference of Canada projects. Mr. Deschamps is member of the Québec bar, the Canadian Bar Association and the International Bar Association. He received in 2001 the Medal of the University of Montréal. In 2003, he became Fellow of the American College of Commercial Finance lawyers and correspondent of UNIDROIT. He also received in 2003 from the Canadian Bar Association the Paul-André Crépeau Medal in recognition of his contribution to the international aspects of commercial law. He received in 2008 from the Québec Bar the *Advocatus Emeritus* honour. In 2013, the University of Montreal gave him an honorary doctorate.



**Mr. Henry GABRIEL** is Professor of Law at Elon University. He served four terms as a member of the UNIDROIT Governing Council, and for the last twenty-five years has been a United States delegate to the UNCITRAL Working Group on Electronic Commerce. He is an Elected and Life Member of the American Law Institute, a Fellow of the European Law Institute, and a Commissioner and Life Member of the American Uniform Law Commission.

**Ms. Elizabeth MELÉNDEZ LEÓN**, Director of the Registry of Security Interests in Movable Property, El Salvador



**Mr. Richard KOHN** is a founder of the Chicago-based law firm Goldberg Kohn Ltd., where he represents banks and other financial institutions in structuring and documenting cross-border financing transactions. He also teaches cross-border lending at The University of Chicago Law School. Richard was a member of the Expert Group for the UNCTRAL Legislative Guide on Secured Transactions (2007) (for which he also served as a co-editor), the related Supplement on Security Rights in Intellectual Property (2010), the Guide on the Implementation of a Security Rights Registry (2014), the Model Law on Secured Transactions (2016) and the related Guide to Enactment (2017), and the Practice Guide to the Model Law on Secured Transactions (2019), and is currently working on a best practices guide on enforcement for the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT). From 2001 to 2020, Richard served as Co-General Counsel of the Secured Finance Network (SFNet), the principal U.S. trade association for asset-based lenders. He is a Fellow of the American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers. He received both his B.A. and J.D. degrees from The University of Michigan.



**Mr. Ivor ISTUK** is a Senior Financial Sector Specialist in the Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation Global Practice at the World Bank Group. Leveraging his legal background and financial sector expertise, he develops innovative financial solutions to enhance small business access to working capital and investment globally. His work advances product and policy frameworks in areas such as supply chain finance, receivables finance, digitized trade finance, and embedded finance via digital platforms, alongside investment-based crowdfunding. Recently, Ivor has focused on financial products to support the growing creative industries, harnessing intellectual property as a lever for small business growth. He frequently publishes on financial innovation, exploring topics like smart contracts and Fintech's role in small business finance.

**Ms. Catherine WALSH**, Professor of Law, McGill University



**Mr. Shaun LEONG**, FCIArb, is an international arbitration specialist with more than sixteen years of experience in complex cross border disputes. He has a penchant for working on complex, novel matters in particular acting as the lead counsel to obtain for the first time ever a worldwide proprietary injunction to freeze an NFT on the blockchain from the Bored Ape Yacht Club series which count Madonna and Justin Bieber amongst its collectors. He is increasingly involved in artificial intelligence as well as climate change and sustainability disputes. Shaun is a two time International Arbitration Lawyer of the Year nominee (Law.com International's Asia Legal Awards 2024 and Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific Awards 2022). Recognised for his "particular expertise in cryptocurrency, A.I. and blockchain disputes" (Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2024), Shaun is the only disputes lawyer ranked in Who's Who Legal's leading Singapore based practitioner in the Blockchain category, and is the Digital Assets Lawyer of the Year nominee in Law.com International's Asia Legal Awards 2023. Shaun is appointed by the Thailand Ministry of Justice as the Head of the Academy of the Thailand Arbitration Centre, and is a panel arbitrator with the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board International, Japan Commercial Arbitration Association, Singapore International Arbitration Centre, alongside other leading arbitral institutions across the Asia Pacific.

**Ms. Caroline KLEINER**, Professeur de droit privé, Université Paris Cité, Chair of the HCCH Experts' Group on CBDCs

**Mr. Bob TROJAN**, Senior Advisor, International Law Institute

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**Mr. Mateusz GROCHOWSKI** is an Associate Professor at Tulane University School of Law and an Affiliated/Corresponding Fellow at the Center for Private Law and the Information Society Project at Yale Law School. His work centers on understanding how the data-driven economy and algorithms are reshaping the way we think about regulating contracts and the consumer economy. Lately, he has been focusing on emerging challenges in contract regulation in the era of surveillance capitalism, algorithmic price calculation, and the tensions between private and public governance in the platform economy. His recent publications feature the co-edited *The Cambridge Handbook of Algorithmic Price Personalization and the Law* as well as several papers on the transformation

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of online platform governance, such as *Shadow Contract Law in the Platform Economy* and *Algorithmic Speech Harm*. He has also served as an expert on policy and lawmaking initiatives in the United States and Europe.



**Ms. Florencia MAROTTA-WURGLER**, focuses on contracts, consumer privacy, consumer law, electronic commerce, empirical legal studies, and law and economics. Her research has studied consumer contracts and privacy policies online, such as whether disclosure and information privacy regimes are effective and whether people read fine print. She has participated in FTC hearings and testified before the US Senate. She is a co-reporter of the American Law Institute's Restatement of the Law of Consumer Contracts, a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods, and a former member of the board of directors of the American Law and Economics Association. She serves as the Director of the Study Abroad program in Buenos Aires at NYU School of Law, where she is also a fellow at the Engelberg Center and an affiliated faculty member at the Birnbaum Women's Leadership Network. Professor Marotta-Wurgler received a BA with honors from the University of Pennsylvania and a JD cum laude from the NYU School of Law



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**Mr. Christian TWIGG-FLESNER**, Professor, University of Warwick



**Mr. Stéphane GRABER** has been Director General at FIATA International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations since 1 January 2020. Prior to joining FIATA, Dr Graber was Secretary General at the Swiss Commodity Trading and Shipping Association and led the eGTSA as Chairman and Director General, a company that successfully developed a digital platform used by commodity trading companies and commodity trade-finance banks, which known today as Console. He is also a member of the Advisory Board of the International Chamber of Commerce's Digital Standard Initiative and a founding member of the Future International Trade, which aims to raise awareness and accelerate the adoption of a standards-based electronic bills of lading across all sectors of the shipping industry. He also participates in Cargo IQ Board, an IATA interest group whose mission is to create and implement quality standards for the global air cargo industry. Dr Graber previously worked for the Economic Department of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, and was President of the Geneva Chapter of the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce (SCCC) and a member of the SCCC's national council. Alongside his professional activities, Dr Graber also taught for 20 years at the Universities of Geneva and Lausanne on various Executive MBA programmes and was the Academic Director of the EMBA in Commodity Trading and Shipping.



**Ms. Megha Shah** has built a career at the intersection of Commercial Banking, FinTech, Logistics, and Supply Chain Finance, and is now focused on the Global Trade Data AI domain, delivering innovative digital technology through SaaS solutions that enable trusted, interoperable, and paperless international trade and finance. This passion has been the common thread across all her roles and gives her a 360° perspective on how Technology, Trade Finance, Global Commerce, and evolving digital trade frameworks converge to unlock business value. She specializes in B2B engagements, leveraging consultative selling, strategic problem-solving, and executive-level influence to drive revenue while accelerating legally sound, data-driven, and measurable outcomes in global trade ecosystems.

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