



UNCITRAL Colloquium on Navigating the New Era of Digital Finance

Short Bios of Moderators and Speakers

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Orkun Akseli

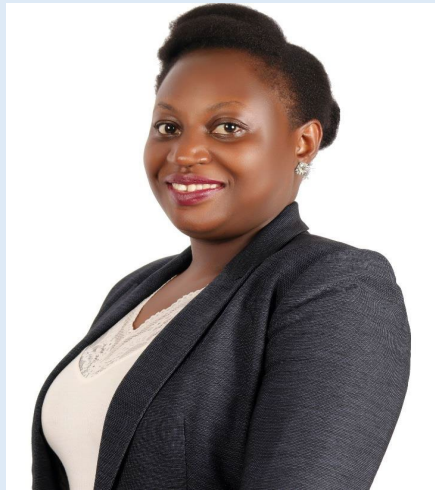
Professor of Commercial Law, Academic Director, Manchester LawTech Initiative, Law School, University of Manchester (Manchester, UK): Secured Transactions Law Reform and Digital Assets

Professor 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.



Mehmet Mücahit Arvas
Founder
Marvas Legal

Mehmet Mücahit Arvas is the founder of Marvas Legal law firm in Ankara and currently works as a part-time lecturer at TED University. He has 17-years' public sector experience such as trade expert, head of department and commercial counsellor at the Ministry of Trade. In 2016, he was appointed as a manager of Modern Secured Transaction Reform Project. He prepared and drafted the Law on Movable Collateral in Commercial Transactions and took part in the establishment of the movable collateral registry. In 2017, he was appointed as the Head of the Department of Electronic Commerce and Secured Transactions. He also served as the focal point for Turkey in the 'Getting Credit' section of the World Bank's Doing Business project. He managed the Electronic Trade Trust Stamp, Electronic Trade Information System (ETBIS) and Electronic Trade Information Platform projects in order to create data-oriented electronic trade policies. He also carried out an awareness project with the solidarity campaign 'As e-commerce, we stand by SMEs' during the pandemic process. He holds Master degree from Bournemouth University and in PhD degree from Ankara University on modern secured transactions law.



Yvonne Atwiine Mwesige
Senior Legal Officer
Uganda Registration Services Bureau
(URSB)

Yvonne Atwiine Mwesige is a senior legal officer at the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB), specializing in secured transactions law and financial inclusion.

She played a pivotal role in transitioning Uganda from the Chattel Transfers Act Cap 70 (a 1975 law) and the Chattels Securities Act of 2014 to the Security Interest in Movable Property Act (SIMPA), Cap 293.

She was actively involved in the research and drafting of this law to ensure its alignment with international best practices for modern collateral registries.

She was also part of the Implementation Team that established the Security Interest in Movable Property Registry System (SIMPO), which was successfully rolled out in September 2019 and a pioneer staff of URSB's Collateral Registry Unit, ensuring its successful operationalization.

Yvonne has extensive experience in commercial law, company law, oil and gas law, and access to credit frameworks, having worked for over 12 years in Uganda's legal sector, including 10 years at URSB. She has collaborated with the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Financial Sector Deepening Uganda (FSDU) on financial sector reforms and has worked with legal experts across Ghana, Malawi, Ethiopia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe to enhance secured transactions frameworks.

Recently, Yvonne spearheaded the integration of Uganda's Motor Vehicle Registry with SIMPO, leading to a significant increase in the uptake of security interests in motor vehicles and improving the registry's visibility among lenders and the public.

She holds a Master of Laws from Uganda Christian University, a certification in Comparative Secured Transactions Law from the Central European University, a Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice, and a Bachelor of Laws from Makerere University.



Spyridon V. Bazinas
Consultant and Lecturer

Mr. 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.



Maria Del Pilar Bonilla
Consultant, US-OTA Secured Transaction

Maria del Pilar is a lawyer with master's and doctoral studies. She has more than 20 years of experience in corporate law, mergers and acquisitions and secured transactions. She is an international consultant expert on secured transactions, leasing, factoring and insolvency, she has worked for different organizations in different jurisdictions, especially in Latin America. She is a professor at the Francisco Marroquin University of civil contracts and commercial contracts, and has also given lectures and courses in different countries. She has participated in working groups at Uncitral and Unidroit.



William Brydie-Watson
Senior Legal Officer
International Institute for the Unification of
Private Law (UNIDROIT)

William Brydie-Watson is a Senior Legal Officer at the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), based in Rome. William specialises in international instruments related to access to credit and secured transactions law. He has primary responsibility for the development of the UNIDROIT Model Law on Factoring and the implementation of the Cape Town Convention on International Interests in Mobile Assets and its Protocol on mining, agricultural and construction equipment (the 'MAC Protocol'). William is also Co-Director of the UNIDROIT Asian Transnational Law Centre, the manager of the UNIDROIT Scholarship, Internship and Research Programme and an advisor to the UNIDROIT Foundation. In 2024 William was also appointed to the Board of Directors of the International Law Institute, in Washington DC.

Previously, he was a Legal Officer in the Private International Law section of the Australian Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and worked on the implementation of private international law treaties in Australia. William is a visiting lecturer at the Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, Hungary. Admitted to practice law by the Supreme Court of New South Wales, William has a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and a Master of Laws from the Australian National University.



Giuliano G. Castellano
Associate Professor of Law
Deputy Director
Asian Institute of International Financial Law
Faculty of Law
University of Hong Kong

Giuliano is an Associate Professor and a Deputy Director of the Asian Institute of International Financial Law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Hong Kong (HKU). He has over 15 years of experience in international and comparative financial law, focusing on digital technologies, regulation, and law reforms to promote access to credit. He holds a Law Degree (Bocconi University), a Ph.D. in Economics and Social Sciences (Ecole Polytechnique), and a Ph.D. in Comparative Law (University of Turin). Before joining HKU, he was an Associate Professor at the University of Warwick; prior to that, he was a Fellow at the LSE Law Department.

Beyond academia, Giuliano has been influencing international and domestic policymaking. Since 2010, he has contributed to drafting international instruments adopted by the U.N. Commission of International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), including the UNCITRAL Model Law on Secured Transactions and the UNIDROIT Model Law on Factoring. He regularly cooperates with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to define global policies on the regulatory treatment of digital assets in the context of secured transactions, supply-chain finance, and MSME lending. In this role, he advised governments, central banks, and regulators of over 20 jurisdictions on law reforms supporting sustainable access to credit, financial stability, and market integrity.



Ipshita Chaturvedi

Legal Consultant, International Law Chambers:
Regulatory bottlenecks on VCCs as collateral in
secured transactions

Ipshita Chaturvedi is an environmental lawyer with over 16 years of experience in sustainability, conservation and the carbon markets. She has advised governments, international organizations, think tanks and the private sector on issues of biodiversity law, water, climate finance and transactional risks in carbon investments.



Neil B. Cohen

Jeffrey D. Forchelli Professor of Law
Brooklyn Law School (New York, USA)

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 honor 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.



Marek Dubovec

Director of Law Reform Programs, International Law Institute: Digital Rights to Payment in Supply Chain Finance

Dr. 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 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.



Belinda Ellington

Senior Advisor, International Emissions Trade Association (IETA): VCC market infrastructure and oversight

Belinda is a senior legal professional with more than 25 years' experience in law, regulation, policy and negotiation relating to Banking, Trading and Finance across Global Commodities' Markets and Sustainable Finance. She recently left Citi Bank, where she was MD and head of legal for commodities and sustainable finance, to focus on driving finance towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and conduct mediated negotiation and dispute resolution. One of her roles is as senior advisor to the International Emissions Trade Association, where she is intent on identify and resolving legal barriers and challenges across carbon markets and support development of effective carbon markets through capacity building. Belinda represents IETA on the UNIDROIT drafting committee developing the principles for classification of verified carbon credits under private law and supports the legal working group.



Henry Gabriel

Professor of Law
Elon University (Elon, USA)

Henry Gabriel is a 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



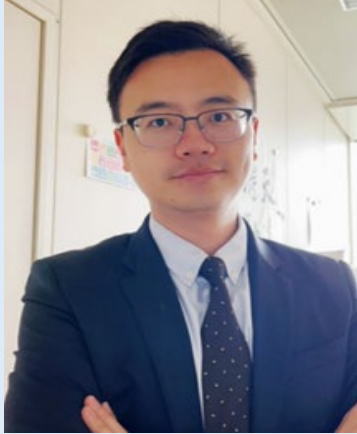
Mary Gilmore-Maurer
Senior Legal Counsel - Legal, Risk and
Governance Department

Mary Gilmore-Maurer (PhD) is a qualified lawyer in the UK with extensive experience in practice and academia. She now works as Senior Legal Counsel at Verra, one of the world's leading carbon registries and standards for climate action and sustainable development. Before joining Verra in 2022, Mary specialized in commercial, energy and environmental law, working in the energy and utilities sector and as a lecturer at the University of Aberdeen, where she obtained her PhD in law. At Verra, Mary advises across the organization on legal and regulatory matters, including the application and enforcement of Verra's program rules, strategic agreements and the Verra Registry Terms of Use, in addition to requirements under the CORSIA and ICVCM frameworks. Mary represents Verra in the UNIDROIT Working Group on the Legal Nature of Carbon Credits.



Gérardine Goh Escolar
Deputy Secretary General, Hague Conference
on
Private International Law (HCCH)

Dr Gérardine Goh Escolar is Deputy Secretary General of the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH). Concurrently, she is Head of the International Commercial, Digital and Financial Law (CODIFI) Division which includes, among other portfolios, responsibility over the HCCH 2006 Intermediated Securities Convention, the 2015 HCCH Principles on the Choice of Law in International Commercial Contracts, the Experts' Group on Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs), the study on Digital Tokens, and the monitoring of private international law developments in the digital economy, voluntary carbon markets, restructuring and insolvency, and intellectual property. Dr Goh Escolar is Professor (Adj) at the Faculty of Law, and Academic Fellow at the Centre for Technology, Robotics, Artificial Intelligence and the Law (TRAIL), both of the National University of Singapore.



Yaochen Gong
Associate Legal Officer
Treaty Section
United Nations Office of Legal Affairs

Yaochen GONG recently joined the Treaty Section of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs as an Associate Legal Officer. Before that, he worked for the International Trade Law Division of the same Office, which also serves as the secretariat of UNCITRAL. He was in charge of issues related to the UNCITRAL Transparency Standards and technical assistance for China. He also serviced the legislative work of UNCITRAL, including Working Group VI (Negotiable Cargo Documents) and the work programme on climate change and the law of international trade.

Before taking his current position in the UN, he worked for the Ministry of Commerce of China (MOFCOM) for 5 years, mainly focusing on WTO disputes settlement and modernization of trade policies in China. He also got rich experience in trade negotiations, as negotiator of a series of bilateral free trade agreements between China and its major trading partners. Before joining the Chinese government, he was employed by China Export Credit and Insurance Corporation (SINOSURE), a state-funded and policy-oriented insurance company and was in charge of the outbound investments and infrastructure projects risk evaluation.

He holds an LLB and Master of Law Degree from Nanjing University and also a Master of Arts Degree from Johns Hopkins University.



Clara Guerra

Director for the Office for Financial Market
Innovation and Digitalisation (SFID) of
Lichtenstein

Dr. 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.



Sophia Han

Tax Partner
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
New York

Sophia Han is a tax partner in the New York office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP. Sophia's practice focuses on the tax aspects of domestic M&A and the renewable energy sector. She regularly advises project sponsors, tax equity investors and lenders on energy tax credits, project developments and financings, and M&A transactions for wind, solar and energy storage assets. Sophia represents clients on a variety of other federal income tax matters. Her experience also includes advising clients across a variety of industries, including medical device, retail and tech, on transfer pricing disputes.



Megumi Hara
Professor of Law
Chuo University (Tokyo)

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.



WooJung Jon

Assistant Professor, Korea Advanced Institute
of Science and Technology
(Daejeon, Republic of Korea)

WooJung Jon is Assistant Professor at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), where he specializes in legal and regulatory aspects of digital assets, blockchain, and intellectual property. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Law from the University of Oxford and has undertaken extensive research on security interests and their application to digital assets, culminating in both scholarly publications and policy-oriented projects. His recent work includes a principal investigator role in the government-sponsored research project “Comparative Analysis of Digital Asset Regulatory Landscape” (2023–2024), commissioned by the Korea Exchange (KRX), which offers a thorough examination of evolving digital-asset regulations and market practices in South Korea.

In addition to academic research, Professor Jon is actively shaping policy and legal frameworks through his positions on national committees. He currently serves on the Legal Advisory Group of the Busan Blockchain Regulation-Free Special Zone (November 2023–present) and the IT Blockchain Special Committee of the Korean Bar Association (September 2023–present). These roles build upon his broader efforts to promote robust, transparent regulation of digital asset markets, exemplified by his prior scholarly contributions. Notable among these are his analyses of the securities nature of virtual assets – particularly regarding the Terra-Luna incident – and the taxation of non-fungible tokens (NFTs) under Korean tax laws. Further reflecting his engagement with legal praxis, Jon’s article advocating for a “clear and transparent digital asset market” highlights potential reforms to strengthen investor protection and market integrity.

Professor Jon is also a contributing author to the forthcoming Oxford Handbook of Digital Assets and the Law (Oxford University Press, 2025), co-authoring the “South Korea” chapter. His policy-oriented insights have been sought in international forums. Beyond academia, he brings extensive professional experience as a qualified lawyer (South Korea), a patent attorney, and a tax lawyer, with prior practice at Jeong Yul LLC focusing on foreign direct investment, multinational corporate transactions, and cross-border disputes.

This multifaceted background – encompassing legal scholarship, governmental advisory roles, and hands-on legal practice – positions Professor Jon at the forefront of digital asset governance research and reform efforts in South Korea and beyond.

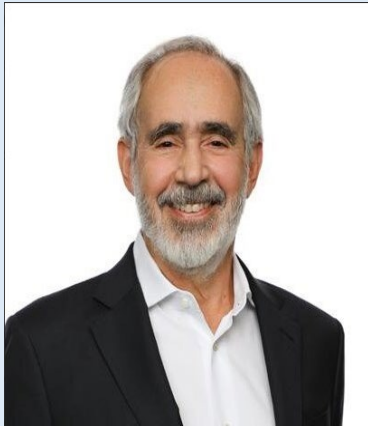


Anna Joubin-Bret
Secretary of the United Nations
Commission on International Trade Law
(UNCITRAL) Director of the International
Trade Law Division in the Office of Legal
Affairs of the United Nations

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 post-graduate 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.



Richard Kohn
Founder, and a Principal of the Commercial
Finance Group, Goldberg Kohn Ltd

Richard M. 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.



Jae Sung Lee
Senior Legal Officer
International Trade Law Division
Office of Legal Affairs
United Nations

Jae Sung Lee is a senior legal officer at the International Trade Law Division of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, which functions as the substantive secretariat for UNCITRAL. He currently functions as the secretary of Working Group III on Investor-State Dispute Settlement 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.



Shaun Leong

Cross border dispute resolution specialist
Professor

Shaun Leong, FCI Arb, 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.



Kyrylo Mukhomedzyanov
Project Lead, Financial Sector Specialist,
International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Kyrylo Mukhomedzyanov is a Project Lead at the International Finance Corporation, with over 20 years of expertise in MSME finance, agriculture, and sustainable finance. He has led innovative projects such as the development and implementation of crop receipts, advancing financial inclusion in agriculture, and linking farmers to capital markets.

Kyrylo has played a role in scaling the crop receipts model globally, working across jurisdictions to adapt this innovative financial tool to diverse legal and market contexts. Currently, he leads efforts to expand crop receipts to new regions and supports the development of the Model Law on Crop Receipts to benefit nations worldwide.

With a strong background in designing financial solutions for climate-smart agriculture, Kyrylo specializes in fostering public-private partnerships, delivering capacity-building programs, and promoting sustainable finance practices. He is also actively engaged in integrating cutting-edge technologies, including blockchain, to enhance transparency and efficiency in agricultural finance.

Kyrylo holds a Master's in International Economic Affairs from Odesa National University and is pursuing a Master's in Leadership in Sustainable Finance at the Frankfurt School of Finance & Management.



Dora Neo
Associate Professor
National University of Singapore

Dora Neo is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore and the founding Director of its Centre for Banking & Finance Law which she led for ten years. She has also served as Vice-Dean (Research & Graduate Studies) at NUS Law and as Director of the faculty's Continuing Legal Education Programme. Her recent research has focused on modernisation of trade finance law, global developments in secured transactions law, consumer protection in the finance industry, and selected issues in contract law, particularly in Asia. She is co-editor (with Louise Gullifer) of the book, *Secured Transactions Law in Asia: Principles, Perspectives and Reform*. She is a member of the Advisory Committee of the UNIDROIT Asian Transnational Law Centre and an UNIDROIT correspondent for Singapore. She was a member of the UNIDROIT Working Group for drafting the UNCITRAL/UNIDROIT Model Law of Warehouse Receipts and its Guide to Enactment and a member of the Singapore delegation to the 40th and 41st sessions of UNCITRAL Working Group 1 (Warehouse Receipts) in Vienna and New York City in 2023 and 2024.



Jason Norman Lee

Joint Head, Legal & Regulatory, Temasek International Pte. Ltd

Jason is currently Managing Director, Co-Head of Legal & Regulatory in Temasek and based in Singapore. He has more than 20 years of experience providing legal and regulatory advice in global financial markets. In his current role, Jason advises senior and executive management, while also working with stakeholders at a variety of management levels. He is also responsible for developing and implementing an effective compliance and regulatory risk management program. Jason's experience is in complex derivatives, financial regulation, sanctions and FDI, commodities (including carbon credits), and private equity. He has also led and managed restructurings and workouts, regulatory investigations and compliance programs across diverse business areas and geographies. Jason is an active participant in various industry bodies and initiatives and speaks regularly at industry events.

Jason is qualified in four different jurisdictions and has been in practice and in-house roles in Sydney, London and Singapore. Immediately prior to his current role, Jason spent over 12 years in JPMorgan where he held multiple senior positions as a MD in APAC.



Christopher Odinet

Professor
Texas A&M University

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.



Jean François Riffard
Professor of Law
Dean of the School of Law
University of Clermont Auvergne

French Delegate for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

- Working Group VI: Secured Transactions 2002 – 2018
- Working Group I: Warehouse Receipts - 2024

French Delegate and Expert to UNIDROIT (Rome) - MAC Protocol to the Cape Town Convention and Warehouse Receipt Model Law.

Scientific Expert for the World Bank, (*International Finance Corporation, Strategy & Analysis Dpt*), from October 2009 to present

Consultant for the reform of the secured transactions law and the establishment of a registry in Haiti, Burundi, Madagascar, Comoros, Cameroon, and Mauritania.



Teresa Rodríguez de las Heras Ballell
Full Professor of Commercial Law
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (Madrid)

Teresa Rodríguez de las Heras Ballell is Full Professor of Commercial Law at Carlos III University of Madrid, and Director of the Research Chair on AI: Foundations and Frontiers. She is the Kingdom of Spain delegate to UNCITRAL (Groups I, VI, and IV) and an expert representing Spain at UNIDROIT on various projects. She has been elected member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. She is a member of the (3) Expert Groups of the European Commission on New Technologies and Liability, on B2B Data Sharing, and on Online Platforms Economy. She is now a member of the General Purpose AI Code of Practice Working Group established by the EU AI Office. Additionally, she is a member of the ELI Council and the ELI Executive Committee (second term), an arbitrator for the Madrid Arbitration Court, a Visiting Professor at the National University of Singapore, a Visiting Scientist at the University of Turin, the Chair of Excellence (Santander-UC3M) at Oxford University, a Distinguished Law Professor at Tulane Law School, and a visiting scholar at other universities. She was awarded a scholarship from the European Central Bank Legal Programme in 2018 and Sir Roy Goode Scholar at UNIDROIT, 2021-2022



Matthew Saal
Digital Finance Specialist
International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Matthew Saal is a Digital Finance Specialist in the IFC's Financial Institutions Group. Matthew joined IFC in 2016, and covers digital financial services and credit infrastructure, including strategic partnerships and investments in inclusive innovative financial services and embedded finance. During 2018-2019 Matthew was a World Bank Presidential Fellow seconded to the Finance Competitiveness and Innovation Global Practice, focused on fintech policy and fintech for inclusion.

Prior to joining IFC, Matthew was Associate Director in the Local Currency and Capital Markets Development initiative of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) from 2010-2016. Matthew has had a longstanding focus on inclusive financial services and financial technology, having worked in emerging markets finance, private equity, venture capital, strategy and business development, consulting, and international economics, including a private equity fund focused on African banks, LabMorgan (the venture arm of JPMorgan), the International Monetary Fund, and Morgan Stanley. Matthew holds an A.B. in Chemistry from Princeton University and an M.Phil. in Economics from Oxford University (Balliol College), where he studied as a Marshall Scholar. He has published in the areas of fintech, banking, macroeconomic policy, financial systems structure, trade, and monetary policy instruments, and is co-author of [*Fintech and the Future of Finance: Market and Policy Implications*](#) (World Bank Group, 2023).



Claudia Solares
Registrar of the Registry of Movable
Guarantees, Guatemala

Claudia Solares es Abogada y Notaria egresada de la Universidad Rafael Landívar de Guatemala, con una vasta experiencia en el campo legal y administrativo, destacándose en el área de contrataciones públicas, transparencia y asesoría legal.

Cuenta con más de nueve años de experiencia como Registradora en el Registro de Garantías Mobiliarias del Ministerio de Economía, cuyo objetivo es centralizar y registrar de forma electrónica y automatizada las garantías mobiliarias, así como brindar certeza jurídica a través de la publicidad de estas garantías, tanto a personas individuales como jurídicas.

Durante su gestión, ha liderado al equipo de trabajo en la implementación de reformas a la Ley de Garantías Mobiliarias, así como en modificaciones al Reglamento y Arancel, contribuyendo a la mejora continua del sistema y la optimización de los procesos dentro de la institución.

Desempeñó diversos roles de asesoría en el ámbito público, incluyendo el Ministerio de Finanzas Públicas, el Banco Centroamericano de Integración Económica (BCIE), la Municipalidad de Guatemala y el Instituto Guatemalteco de Seguridad Social (IGSS). También ha trabajado en proyectos internacionales en Honduras y Costa Rica, relacionados con la mejora de procesos de compras y contrataciones públicas.



Chris Southworth
Secretary General
ICC United Kingdom

Chris Southworth is Secretary General at the International Chamber of Commerce UK and a regular voice for business in the international media speaking on a wide range of business issues including trade, sustainability, international priorities and government policy.

He is Co-Chair of Commonwealth Legal Reform and Digitalisation programme launched by Commonwealth Trade Ministers in June 2023, a member of the Legal Reform Advisory Board at the ICC Digital Standards Initiative and co-founder of the UK Centre for Digital Trade and Innovation. He is also a member of the ICC World Council as well as the International Advisory Board of the Queen Mary-UNIDROIT Institute of Transnational Commercial Law.

Chris is a leading international expert on creating modern digital trade ecosystems and a regular speaker at international conferences and events. He is the founder of the ICC Digital Trade Roadmap, helped initiate the Electronic Trade Documents Act 2023 and helped secure the 2021 G7 Ministerial Commitment to remove legal barriers to handle commercial trade documents in digital form. He is also a leading industry adviser to the UK government on the digitalisation of trade and works closely with the Department for Business and Trade, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, Cabinet Office and the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology.

Prior to joining ICC, he was Executive Director for Global Partnerships, at the British Chambers of Commerce, Head of the International Chambers of Commerce Unit at UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) and a Senior Policy Advisor to Lord Heseltine, former Deputy Prime Minister, for his independent review of UK competitiveness. In 2011 he was advisor to the Minister for Trade and Investment for the government review of mid-size businesses and consequent establishment of the mid-size business export programme. Former roles have encompassed deregulatory and social enterprise policy at the Department for Business.



William A. Starshak

Principal of the Commercial Finance Group, Goldberg Kohn Ltd.

William A. Starshak is a Principal in the firm's Commercial Finance Group. He represents financial institutions in a variety of lending transactions, including cash-flow and asset-based loans, unitranche structures, mezzanine financings and leveraged buy-out transactions.

Bill has extensive experience working on international finance transactions for both U.S. and foreign financial institutions. Notably, he worked with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) to draft its "Legislative Guide on Secured Transactions," which provides a comprehensive blueprint for countries wishing to modernize their secured transactions regimes.

Additionally, he has represented private equity funds and corporate clients in financing transactions as well as in domestic and international mergers and acquisitions.

Bill has been individually ranked in Chambers USA for his work in Banking & Finance Law every year since 2014. Since 2009, he has been recognized annually as a Leading Lawyer in Corporate Finance, International Business and Secured Transactions Law by Illinois Leading Lawyers.

Bill is a Lecturer in Law at The University of Chicago Law School, where he teaches cross-border lending. He speaks often on international lending issues throughout North America and Europe. He has been a regular presenter at various Meritas events, and is also a frequent panelist at the Secured Finance Network's International Asset Based Lending Conference.

Bill is a Member of Goldberg Kohn's Management Committee. He is also one of the firm's liaisons to Meritas, a global alliance of leading independent law firms. He served on the Meritas Board of Directors from 2013 to 2016 and was a member of its Global Strategy Committee from 2010 to 2011. Prior to joining Goldberg Kohn in May 2003, he practiced law with an international law firm in Chicago. He has also practiced in Germany and London, and participated in the Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship Program in Germany in 1999-2000.



Diana Lucía Talero Castro

Secured Transactions Expert Consultant,
Senior Associate UVP&A Abogados
Colombia

Diana Lucía Talero Castro is a lawyer specializing in company law from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia, and an INSOL Fellow from INSOL International. She is a Senior expert lawyer in commercial law and secured transactions law. Mrs. Talero has over 26 years of experience in insolvency and commercial law and over Eleven years of experience developing and implementing a secured transactions system, Secured Transactions Registry, and financial products over Latin America.

Is a Senior Associate at Urdaneta, Vélez, Pearl, and Abdallah- UVP&A Abogados law firm based in Bogota and is currently the technical secretary of the Colombian Secured Transactions Committee for implementing Law 1676 of 2013, Secured Transactions and Insolvency Postgraduate Lecturer at Universidad de los Andes, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana and Universidad Nacional de Colombia.



Ignacio Tirado
Secretary-General, UNIDROIT

Professor Ignacio Tirado was appointed Secretary-General by the UNIDROIT Governing Council at its 97th session on 27 August 2018. He was recently reappointed, at the 102nd session, for a second term. A national of Spain, Professor Tirado (Commercial, Corporate and Insolvency Law, Universidad Autónoma of Madrid, Spain) holds a PhD from the Universities of Bologna and Autónoma de Madrid and an LLM from the University of London. Professor Tirado has been a Senior Legal Consultant at the World Bank's Legal Vice-Presidency and Financial Sector Practice for over ten years, having also consulted for the IMF on insolvency related matters as well as for the Asian Development Bank on commercial legal reform.

Amongst other accolades to his professional experience, Professor Tirado is a founding member of the European Banking Institute, an International Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, and has been Director and Academic Co-Chair of the International Insolvency Institute.



Andrea Tosato
Professor
Southern Methodist University

Andrea Tosato is a Professor at SMU 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.



Heng Wang
Professor of Law
Lee Kong Chian Fellow
Yong Pung How School of Law
Singapore Management University

[Heng Wang](#) is a Professor of Law and Lee Kong Chian Fellow at the Yong Pung How School of Law, Singapore Management University, where he also serves as Associate Dean (Faculty Matters & Research). He is concurrently an adjunct professor at the Faculty of Law & Justice, University of New South Wales (UNSW Law & Justice). Previously, he was a professor at UNSW Law & Justice.

Heng's research evolves to explore the future of governance and the solutions to risks, with particular attention to digitalization. His current investigations address governance issues related to digital transformation (e.g., digital currencies, AI) and sustainable development. Currently he is working with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), including developing the toolkit for digitalization.

Heng is a recipient of major grants and awards, and has been named as a top researcher in international law by *The Australian* newspaper. Recently he serves as a partner investigator and was formerly the first investigator on a major project funded by the Australian Research Council.

His work has often been cited in intergovernmental organisation documents. Heng contributes to [the World Economic Forum's \(WEF\) AI Governance Alliance](#) and the WEF [Future of Blockchain and Digital Assets Initiative](#). He has advised or been a (keynote) speaker at events organised by esteemed organizations and institutions (e.g. the Asian Development Bank, APEC, Bundesbank, CPMI/BIS, HCCH, ICC, ICSID, IMF, INTERPOL, MAS, UNDP, UNCITRAL, the World Bank, the WTO) and the private sector.

Heng has been a visiting professor at leading institutions, including the National University of Singapore. He is a member of the editorial boards of prestigious journals such as the *Journal of International Economic Law* and the *Journal of World Investment & Trade*. His notable fellowships include the Fernand Braudel Senior Fellowship (2019) and the Max Weber Fellowship (2010-2011) at the European University Institute, and he has conducted research at the WTO Secretariat