



UIA

Union Internationale des Avocats
International Association of Lawyers
Unión Internacional de Abogados



17th UIA Business Law Forum

ZURICH – 4 & 5 JUNE 2026

17th UIA Annual Business Law Forum

Cross-border Partnering and Transactions with Innovative Emerging Growth Companies in Technology and Science Driven Sectors – Recent Legal and Regulatory Developments, Challenges and Trends

Forum presented by the UIA with the support of the Swiss Bar Association

**THURSDAY,
4 JUNE
& FRIDAY,
5 JUNE 2026**



Zurich

SWITZERLAND

www.uianet.org

[#UIABusinessLawForum](https://twitter.com/UIABusinessLawForum)

Introduction

Innovation hubs worldwide, often anchored around leading academic institutions, drive cutting-edge research in fields like AI, software/ICT, engineering, robotics, cleantech, and life sciences. These hubs foster the establishment and growth of spin-offs, start-ups, and emerging companies and the creation of diverse ecosystems, bringing together researchers, entrepreneurs, business angels, professional investors and strategic partners (like multinationals). This dynamic creates abundant opportunities for collaboration, investment and strategic transactions.

At the upcoming UIA Business Law Forum, we will explore international partnerships, collaborations and transactions with such

early-stage, innovative companies, focusing on the latest legal and regulatory developments relevant for R&D, market access, licensing and commercialization, collaborations, investments, M&A and dispute resolution in cross-border settings. Our speakers will highlight key challenges and trends shaping these areas.

Experienced legal professionals – both in private practice and in-house – will offer insights, share real-world examples, and foster interactive discussions. The Forum provides a valuable platform for business lawyers, in-house counsel, and industry stakeholders to network, exchange ideas, and build lasting connections.

We look forward to seeing you in Zurich.



ORGANISING COMMITTEE

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WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE

18:30 – 21:00 **WELCOME COCKTAIL** kindly offered by
Walder Wyss Ltd.
Seefeldstrasse 123, 8008 Zurich

Programme

THURSDAY, 4 JUNE

08:30 – 09:00 **REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS**

Pestalozzi Attorneys at Law Ltd
Feldeggstrasse 4, CH 8008 Zurich

09:00 – 09:10 **WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE FORUM**

- **Fernando HERNÁNDEZ GÓMEZ**, *UIA President, VAHG – Vázquez Aldana, Hernández Gómez & Asociados, Guadalajara, Mexico*
- **Karin GRAF**, *President of Zurich Bar Association, Vischer, Zurich, Switzerland*
- **Vanessa CHAMBOUR**, *President of the UIA Swiss National Committee, PSF 12, Lausanne, Switzerland*
- **Franz SCHUBIGER**, *Coordinator of the UIA Annual Business Law Forum, Pestalozzi Attorneys at Law Ltd, Zurich, Switzerland*

A) THE CORPORATE TRACK

A Startup Journey from Early-Stage Venturing with Investors and Partners to Growth and ultimately to an Exit or Liquidation

Conference Room Rapperswil 1&2

B) THE INNOVATION TRACK

Developing, Protecting, Commercializing and Defending the Innovation / IP, Navigating Regulatory Challenges and Resolving Disputes

Conference Room 2

09:15 – 10:15 **START-UPS & VENTURE CAPITAL/NEXTGEN**

The Edge vs The Hedge: The Pursuit of Success versus Coverage

This panel will explore how founders can secure their first pre-seed or seed investment, including selecting the right instrument—equity, convertible debt, or warrants—and protecting against ratchets and dilution. Our panellists will address patrimonial aspects of structuring investments via holding contributions. They will also analyse VC trends by comparing legal and market developments in Italy, France and Switzerland, focusing on pre-seed rounds. Additionally, Miguel Castellvi will share his investor experience through a case study of Exponentia Team closing the session with pursue of success versus coverage. This discussion offers practical insights for lawyers, investors, and founders navigating high-growth, innovation-driven cross-border opportunities.

MODERATOR:

- **Katherine MUÑOZ TUFRO**, *UIA Counsellor to the President, Grupo Raddo, Saladillo, Argentina*

SPEAKERS:

- **Miguel CASTELLVI**, *Investor Relations Director of Exponentia Team, Madrid, Spain*
- **Linda LORENZON**, *Lawyer, External Legal Counsel 360 Capital, Paris, France*
- **Dan FELTIN**, *UIA Financial Deputy Director, Attorney at Law Paris and New York, Paris, France*
- **Gilles PITSCHEN**, *LOYENS & LOEFF Switzerland LLC, Zurich, Switzerland*

09:15 – 10:15 **LABOUR LAW / IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY LAW**

The Global Race for Innovative Talent – Acquisition, Development and Retention of International Talent for Start-Up Technology Companies

While knowledge and expertise know no borders, services performed by those individuals with such exceptional talents, usually are defined by national incentives and restrictions. The issues are complex enough when the worker and the company are located in the same country. The complexity of these issues is compounded severalfold, when the employee must relocate to a new host country to deliver their exceptional services. This joint session of labour and immigration lawyers shall spotlight critical multijurisdictional issues when a company must source innovative talent across borders, focusing on the technology sector. These issues include exceptional ability work visa and residency programmes, employment and services agreements for the globally mobile worker, worker classification, wage and hour regulation, restrictive covenants, and incentive compensation.

MODERATORS:

- **Nathalie SUBILIA**, *President of the UIA Labour Law Commission, UIA Representative at the International Organisations, Reiser Avocats, Geneva, Switzerland*
- **Clayton CARTWRIGHT**, *President of the UIA Immigration and Nationality Law Commission, The Cartwright Law Firm, LLC, Columbus, GA, USA*

SPEAKERS:

- **Maria CASABLANCA**, *KKTP, Miami, FL, USA*
- **Matthew WILLS**, *President of the UIA UK national committee, Laura Devine Immigration Law, London, United Kingdom*
- **Luca DEMURTAS**, *Lawyer at the Paris & Milan Bar, Paris, France / Milan, Italy*
- **Ian SCOTT**, *Scott Legal, P.C., New York, NY, USA*

10:30 – 11:30 FOREIGN INVESTMENT / TAX LAW

Cross-border investments / FDI Regimes / Tax considerations for Startup structures and VC investments

In 2026, cross-border investments are shaped by a comprehensive tightening of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) screening and a significant transition in international tax rules. Investors and startups must now treat regulatory clearance as a core strategic variable rather than a backend compliance check. In terms of FDI updates the global landscape has shifted toward “economic security”, focusing on strategic autonomy in mission-critical sectors. Mandatory screening now applies in several Countries to “hyper-critical” technologies, including AI (aligned with the EU AI Act), quantum computing, semiconductors, and critical raw materials.

Key Tax Considerations for Startups & VC are instead that tax structures for cross-border deals are increasingly impacted by the OECD Pillar Two implementation and specific national legislative changes. As an example, the Global Minimum Tax: The 15% effective minimum tax is now broadly active, reducing the efficacy of traditional “low-tax” jurisdictions for large-scale operations. In addition, the U.S. Tax Transitions: Significant changes under the “One Big Beautiful Bill” (OBBB) take effect this year. How to advise client in this complex scenario, how Countries can remain attractive and competitive for businesses? Our roster of expert panelists will discuss this and other issues of relevance in the current the global landscape.

MODERATOR: ▪ **Riccardo G. CAJOLA**, President of the UIA Tax Law Commission, Cajola & Associati, Milan, Italy

SPEAKERS:

- **Eduardo LORENZETTI MARQUES**, SML Law, Sao Paulo, Brazil / Ughi e Nunziante, Milan, Italy
- **Christoph SUTER**, Bar & Karrer AG, Geneva, Switzerland
- **Wiebe DE VRIES**, UIA National Representative – The Netherlands, VondelTax, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- **Ashu THAKUR**, UIA Chief Editor for the UIA Juriste International, Ashu Thakur & Associates, Mumbai, India

11:30 – 12:00 COFFEE BREAK

12:00 – 13:00 CORPORATE AND M&A / COMPETITION LAW

PART I: Strategic Collaborations and Joint Ventures

Once a start-up has overcome the initial phase and in order to grow its business and capacity, one of the main alternatives to do so is by reaching strategic collaborations with more consolidated companies and/or PE funds.

In this session, we will analyse the main aspects that start-ups and VC's need to take into account when trying to negotiate strategic collaborations with bigger companies or PE funds (via acquisitions, JV's or other type of collaborative arrangements)

The session will also cover the specificities of the start-ups when negotiating such type of agreements and the main issues to be taken into account by both, the start-up and the investor, both from a corporate and M&A as well as from a competition law standpoint.

MODERATOR: ▪ **Francisco SOLER CABALLERO**, President of the UIA Corporate Law and Mergers & Acquisitions Commission, EY Abogados, Valencia, Spain

SPEAKERS:

- **Florian NEUMAYR**, President of the UIA Competition Law Commission, bpv Hügel Rechtsanwälte GmbH, Vienna, Austria
- **Fernando HERNÁNDEZ GÓMEZ**, President of the UIA, VAHG, Guadalajara, Mexico
- **Vincent REARDON**, Vischer, Basel, Switzerland
- **Giovanni ZAGRA**, Zagra Avvocati in Alliance with BMLex, Milan, Italy
- **Gerhard FUSSENEGGER**, bpv Hügel Rechtsanwälte GmbH, Vienna, Austria
- **Nadege KIMBA**, UIA Deputy Director – Partnerships, Lubumbashi, Dem. Rep. of Congo

10:30 – 11:30 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW / PRIVACY AND RIGHTS OF THE DIGITAL PERSON

From research to deal: unlocking, sharing and monetising IP & Data in cross-border innovation and investments

In global innovation hubs, the value of start-ups and emerging growth companies increasingly lies in intangible assets such as software, algorithms, databases, research data, and know-how. From academic research and university spin-offs, to co-innovation partnerships and data sharing arrangements, and ultimately to cross-border investments and M&A transactions, the proper allocation and protection of intellectual property rights and personal data are critical to enable commercialisation and mitigate legal risks.

This session will examine how to structure ownership and exploitation rights in IP and data, how to conduct effective due diligence on intangible and data-driven assets, and how to design collaboration and technology transfer agreements that are compliant with GDPR requirements and international data transfer rules. The speakers will highlight common pitfalls, contractual solutions, and best practices for investors, universities, and innovative companies operating in cross-border environments.

MODERATOR: ▪ **Nicola LATTANZI**, President of the UIA Intellectual Property Commission, Eversheds-Sutherland SA, Milan, Italy

SPEAKERS:

- **Michèle BURNIER**, Pestalozzi Attorneys At Law Ltd, Geneva, Switzerland
- **Aleksandra PENKOWSKA**, Director - Protection of Lawyers - UIA-IROL, Zaborski Morysiński Adwokacka Spółka Partnerska, Warsaw, Poland
- **Yoshimichi MAKIYAMA**, UIA Counsellor to the President, Ripple Partners, Tokyo, Japan
- **Anna KLEIN**, Anna Klein Avocat, Marseille, France
- **Tim KRÖGER**, Ladenburger, Pforzheim, Germany

12:00 – 13:00 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LAW / ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

AI Regulation as a Reality: how lawyers can help IT-driven businesses bake compliance into product planning.

In 2025, IT-driven businesses transitioned from Generative AI to Agentic AI making AI, for the first time, a core technology for most of them. This crucial transition in technology happened at the same time of the roll out of AI regulations in a number of jurisdictions, resulting in the major pushback from industry in the latter part of the year. In the EU, the prohibitions on unacceptable AI risk came into force in February 2025 followed by the GPAI Code of Practice which made regulatory compliance a reality and compliance a product distinguisher. Companies began seriously trying to build human oversight mechanisms, transparency, documentary trails, safety features, and red-team results into product features. Reacting to the aggressive push back from industry, the European Commission's proposed digital omnibus regulations issued in November 2025, signalled some willingness to take a re-look at but not scrap the AI Act. In the US, while there is no federal AI legislation, the patchwork of state legislation on AI, such as in Colorado and California, started coming into force shaping compliance planning. In India, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology published AI Governance Guidelines in November, 2025 becoming the first steps toward a legal framework beyond the existing regulation of platforms. This session examines these and other regulatory developments in 2025 with a view to examining how legal practitioners can most effectively assist their IT driven clients make compliance a product feature and market distinguisher.

MODERATOR & SPEAKER: ▪ **Massimo STERPI**, President of the UIA committee - Artificial Intelligence, Studio Legale Gianni & Origoni, Rome, Italy

SPEAKERS:

- **Hugh REEVES**, Walter Wyss SA, Lausanne, Switzerland
- **David ROCHE**, Partner, Jeantet, Paris, France
- **Leonard HAWKES**, Of Counsel, FLINN, Brussels, Belgium
- **Aparna VISWANATHAN**, President of the UIA Information Technology Law Commission, Viswanathan & Co., New Delhi, India

13:15 – 14:45 LUNCH

LAKE SIDE Restaurant

Bellerivestrasse 170, 8008 Zurich

15:00 – 16:00 CORPORATE AND M&A / COMPETITION

PART II: Trade Sale, Secondary Sale or Other Exit Routes

After the joint Venture or strategic collaboration has taken place and, hopefully, in a successful way, both the start-up and the investors need to think about the next step, i.e., the exit of the investor and the new partner of the start-up that will allow the company to grow further.

Which are at this stage the alternatives that the investor has in order to exit the start-up? Which exit routes are more interesting?

In this session, we will analyse the different exit strategies and exit structures that are commonly used in the start-up and VC habitat and which are the pros & cons of each of them, both from a corporate and M&A as well as a competition law standpoint.

MODERATOR:

▪ **Francisco SOLER CABALLERO**, President of the UIA Corporate Law and Mergers & Acquisitions Commission, EY Abogados, Valencia, Spain

SPEAKERS:

- **Florian NEUMAYR**, President of the UIA Competition Law Commission, BPV Hügel Rechtsanwälte GmbH, Vienna, Austria
- **Emanuel DETTWILER**, Kellerhals Carrard, Basel, Switzerland
- **Gerhard FUSENEGGER**, BPV Hügel Rechtsanwälte GmbH, Vienna, Austria
- **Juan CUENCA MÁRQUEZ**, Roca Junyent, Barcelona, Spain

16:15 – 17:15 BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES

Tech Meets Banking and Finance

FinTech has the potential to improve outcomes for investors and consumers of financial services by expanding choice and lowering prices, fees, and commissions, reducing transaction costs and improving transparency in products and markets. Fintech plays a strategic role in addressing the financing challenges of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda increasing financial inclusion. The use of financial technology can also help to solve complex regulatory problems, including using RegTech and SupTech for enhancing risk management, compliance, and supervision, but comes with potential risks to financial stability and integrity. Tech firms compete against, and cooperate with, traditional financial institutions. Speakers will illustrate the impact of FinTech as well as examples of (i) partnership arrangements between banks and tech firms (back-end/front-end partnerships), (ii) programs supported by banks (e.g. UNDP The Fintech Accelerator) and (iii) “regulatory sandboxes” where new financial technologies can be tested in a closely supervised environment.

MODERATOR:

▪ **Barbara BANDIERA**, President of the UIA Banking and Financial Services Law Commission, Milan, Italy

SPEAKERS:

- **Diana LAFITA**, MLL Legal, Zurich, Switzerland
- **Alma MARCHAND**, Walder Wyss Ltd., Lausanne, Switzerland
- **Donald VENKATAPEN**, President of the UIA National Committee – Luxembourg, Venkatapen Boutique Lawyers, Luxembourg, Luxembourg
- **Silvestre TANDEAU DE MARSAC**, UIA President Elect, FTMS Avocats, Paris, France

15:00 – 16:00 BIOTECHNOLOGY LAW / HEALTH LAW

Legal and Regulatory Challenges for Startups Active in the Fields of Life Sciences

While knowledge and expertise know no borders, services performed by those individuals with such exceptional talents, usually are defined by national incentives and restrictions. The issues are complex enough when the worker and the company are located in the same country. The complexity of these issues is compounded severalfold, when the employee must relocate to a new host country to deliver their exceptional services. This joint session of labour and immigration lawyers shall spotlight critical multijurisdictional issues when a company must source innovative talent across borders, focusing on the technology sector. These issues include exceptional ability work visa and residency programmes, employment and services agreements for the globally mobile worker, worker classification, wage and hour regulation, restrictive covenants, and incentive compensation.

MODERATORS:

- **Fabio MARAZZI**, President of the UIA Biotechnology Law Commission, MADV Global Advice, Milan, Italy
- **Eliana SILVA DE MORAES**, President of the UIA Health Law Commission, Silva De Moraes Associes, Sao Paulo, Brazil

SPEAKERS:

- **Diego SALUZZO**, UIA Director of Publications, Grande Stevens Studio Legale, Turin, Italy
- **Jim ROBINSON**, Pointon Partners, Melbourne, Australia
- **Zofia MATYJA**, UIA Counsellor to the President, Zofia Matyja Kancelaria Adwokacka, Krakow, Poland

16:15 – 17:15 CONTRACTS / INTERNATIONAL SALE OF GOODS

Risk Allocation in International Life-Science Licensing, Co-Development Agreements, and Product Commercialization: What Really Works in Practice?

The session takes a hard look at how risk is actually allocated and reallocated in life-science licensing and co-development deals from development, to production and finally, sale of the works. It examines what works in practice when facing clinical failure, regulatory shifts or commercial underperformance, from conformity and regulatory compliance warranties, indemnities and liability caps to milestones and termination rights. The focus is not on theory, but on lived deal experience and lessons learned across jurisdictions. In a dynamic Q&A format, participants will compare approaches that survive real stress tests and those that look good on paper but fail in reality.

MODERATOR:

▪ **Michał ROSZAK**, President of the UIA Contract Law Commission, Coliber Legal, Warsaw, Poland

SPEAKERS:

- **Nathalie CAZEAU**, Co-Vice President of the UIA International Sale of Goods Commission, Cazeau & Associés, Paris, France
- **Ashu THAKUR**, UIA Chief Editor for the UIA Juriste International, Ashu Thakur & Associates, Mumbai, India
- **Katharina KLINGEL**, Vice President of the UIA International Sale of Goods Commission, Brödermann Jahn Rechtsanwalts-gesellschaft MBH, Hamburg, Germany
- **Philippine BEERMAN**, AKD Benelux Law Firm, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

17:45 – 18:30 COMPLIANCE AND ESG

Compliance and ESG requirements impact innovative science and technology driven early-stage companies from the start

ESG requirements are all around us and are particularly relevant to science and technology ventures. There is no escaping issues such as ethical research, use of biometric data, ethical sourcing of raw materials, labour law rights, antibribery legislation, supply chain screening, responsible use of AI, data protection and efficient and ethical use of resources, including power and water. This session will provide a brief refresher on EU ESG laws relevant to commercial ventures, some practical examples of how ESG considerations apply to cross-border science and technology partnerships, and some pointers on documenting and implementing the respective ESG responsibilities of each joint-venture partner.

MODERATORS: ▪ **James GRENNAN**, UIA Co-Sustainability Officer, A&L Goodbody LLP, Dublin, Ireland

▪ **Ulrich BAUMANN**, UIA Co-Sustainability Officer, Oikon, Munich, Germany

SPEAKERS:

▪ **Stephane KONKOLY**, Burckhardt AG, Basel, Switzerland

▪ **Elena BORSACCHI**, Studio Legale Associato Barbieri Borsacchi, Pisa, Italy

17:45 – 18:30 PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW

PIL Aspects in Cross-Border Relations and Business Partnerships, Ranging from Corporate, Contract and Sales Law, Intangibles/Ip, Other Property to Bankruptcy Matters

This session shall explore private international law issues of partnering agreements or other transactions with emerging growth companies in technology and science driven sectors, including the use of the UNIDROIT principles as applicable law, issues arising from mandatory rules or territorial rights, reinvestments in crossborder emerging multinational medical groups, and different dispute resolution scenarios such as mediation or arbitration.

MODERATOR: ▪ **Francisco RAMOS ROMEU**, President of the UIA Private International Law Commission, RYA Abogados SCP, Barcelona, Spain

SPEAKERS:

▪ **Catherine PEULVÉ**, UIA Deputy Secretary General, CP Law, Paris, France

▪ **Eckart BRÖDERMANN**, Brödermann Jahn Rechtsanwalts-gesellschaft mbH, Hamburg, Germany

▪ **Marijke ROELANTS**, President of the UIA national committee – Belgium, BoldLAW® BV/SRL, Brussels, Belgium

▪ **Yoshihisa HAYAKAWA**, President of the UIA Sports Law Commission, Uryu & Itoga, Tokyo Japan

20:00 OPTIONAL DINNER

Haus am Fluss

Sihlquai 274, 8005 Zurich

FRIDAY, 5 JUNE

08:30 – 09:00 REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

Pestalozzi Attorneys at Law Ltd

Feldeggstrasse 4, CH 8008 Zurich

A) THE CORPORATE TRACK

Conference Room Rapperswil 1&2

09:00 – 10:00 ADMINISTRATIVE & REGULATORY LAW / REAL ESTATE LAW

Establishing and operating innovative businesses in regulated industries and related challenges

MODERATORS:

▪ **Claude NICATI**, President of the UIA Administrative and Regulatory Law Commission, Etude NVLE, Neuchatel, Switzerland

▪ **Gerard H. JAMES**, President of the UIA Real Estate Law Commission, William Fry LLP, Dublin, Ireland

SPEAKER:

▪ **Olivier BLOCH**, Bloch Avocats, Yverdon-les-Bains, Switzerland

▪ **Sophie RIBAUT**, Kellerhals Carrard, Zurich, Switzerland

B) THE INNOVATION TRACK

Conference Room 2

09:00 – 10:00 INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION / LITIGATION

PART I: The Life Cycle of Start-Ups – Implications For Dispute Resolution

In transactions involving start-ups and emerging growth companies, dispute resolution is not an afterthought but a core element of deal architecture. Early-stage choices regarding governing law, forum, escalation mechanisms and procedural design have a decisive impact on leverage, cost, timing and enforceability once a dispute arises. This session focuses on how sophisticated parties structure dispute resolution clauses that reflect the commercial realities of start-ups, including limited resources, dependency on key partners and the need for speed.

MODERATOR:

▪ **Florian MOHS**, Pestalozzi Attorneys at Law LTD, Zurich, Switzerland

SPEAKERS:

▪ **Fernando SALES BELLIDO**, Fabregat Perulles Sales Abogados, Barcelona, Spain

▪ **Ian DE FREITAS**, Farrer & Co, London, United Kingdom

10:15 – 11:15 IN-HOUSE COUNSEL

Multinationals Engaging With Startups / The Perspective From Inhouse Counsel and Their Cooperation with External Counsel

This session will explore how multinational corporations structure, negotiate, and manage collaborations with startups, from strategic partnerships and minority investments to joint ventures and acquisitions. It will examine how legal teams balance innovation objectives, risk management, governance, and legal challenges across multiple jurisdictions. Particular attention will be given to the evolving cooperation between in-house and external counsel in delivering agile, business-oriented legal support in fast-moving innovation environments.

MODERATOR: ▪ **Alexis BRUNET**, President of the UIA In-House Counsel Commission, ADM Germany, Hamburg, Germany

SPEAKERS:

- **Arianna RIGHI**, UIA Counsellor to the President, ADM International SARL, Rolle, Switzerland
- **Milijana ZARIC**, Covantis SA, Geneva, Switzerland
- **Elena ROBLES**, Directora Jurídica y de Relaciones con Gobierno, Estafeta Mexicana, Mexico City, Mexico

10:15 – 11:15 INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION / LITIGATION

PART II: Multi-Party / Multi-Contract Proceedings, Expedited Proceedings

Building on the first session, this panel addresses how disputes actually unfold in practice. Start-up conflicts frequently involve multiple parties and interconnected contracts, often giving rise to parallel court and arbitral proceedings across jurisdictions. Particular attention will be given to consolidation, joinder and the strategic use of expedited procedures, where time pressure is critical and procedural efficiency can be outcome determinative.

Drawing on cross border case experience, the session offers a practitioner focused perspective on designing dispute resolution mechanisms that remain effective when tested under real world conditions.

MODERATORS: ▪ **Paul CONVERY**, President of the UIA Litigation Commission, Solicitor, William Fry, Dublin, Ireland

▪ **Veit ÖHLBERGER**, President of the UIA International Arbitration Commission, Dorda Rechtsanwälte GMBH, Vienna, Austria

SPEAKERS:

- **Katharina KLINGEL**, Brödermann Jahn Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft MBH, Hamburg, Germany
- **Fabien RUTZ**, Pyxis Law, Geneva, Switzerland
- **Jesus GRANADOS**, UIA Deputy Chief Editor – Juriste International, JG Lex Abogados, Marbella, Spain
- **Niccolò D'ANDREA**, Pavia E Ansaldo Studio legale, Milan, Italy

11:15 – 11:45 COFFEE BREAK

11:45 – 12:45 BANKRUPTCY LAW / CRIMINAL LAW

Intersection between Insolvency and Criminal Liability

MODERATOR: ▪ **Véronique MOISSINAC MASSENAT**, Paris Bar Association, Paris, France

SPEAKERS:

- **Luana ROBERTO**, UIA Co-Director of Seminars, Oratiofortis Avocates, Geneva, Switzerland
- **Jesús GRANADOS SÁNCHEZ**, UIA Deputy Chief Editor - Juriste International, JG Lex Abogados, Marbella, Spain
- **Francesca PEDRAZZI**, Pedrazzi Scudieri Avvocati, Milan, Italy
- **Fernando GARRIGA**, Doctor of Law and Professor of Law at the University of Barcelona, Garriga Correa Delcasso SLP, Barcelona, Spain

11:45 – 12:45 MANAGEMENT OF LAW FIRMS

Client Relationships and the Provision of Services in the Digital Age

We will discuss the evolution of the profession of legal service provider from the old days into the digital age, what pros, cons there are to digitalisation of the profession and which challenges should be considered in the future, how it impacts the client-attorney relationship and exchange best practices. In particular, we also consider the collaboration with and expectations of the younger generation of professionals, active in the innovation/startup scene, like entrepreneurs, scientists and tech enthusiasts, who may be tech-savvy and familiar with AI tools.

This session will be held in an informal round table setting enabling lively discussion among panellists and between the panellists and the audience, whose contribution is highly appreciated.

MODERATOR: ▪ **James GRENNAN**, UIA Co-Sustainability Officer, A&L Goodbody LLP, Dublin, Ireland

SPEAKERS:

- **Simon GRAHAM**, Farrer & Co, London, United Kingdom
- **Marcin DURLAK**, IMD Corporate, Manchester, United Kingdom

12:45 – 13:00 CLOSING REMARKS

- **Georg RAUBER**, President of the Swiss Bar Association, Homburger, Zurich, Switzerland
- **Francisco SOLER CABALLERO**, Coordinator of the UIA Annual Business Law Forum, President of the UIA Corporate Law and Mergers & Acquisitions commission, EY Abogados, Valencia, Spain

MEETINGS OF THE UIA COMMISSIONS

Private International Law Commission

Thursday 4 June 18:30 – 19:30
Walder Wyss Ltd.
Seefeldstrasse 123, 8008 Zurich
Meeting Room No. 9

Banking and Financial Services Law Commission

Friday 5 June 14:00 – 15:00
Pestalozzi Attorneys at Law Ltd
Feldeggstrasse 4, CH 8008 Zurich
Conferenceroom 1

Contract Law

Friday 5 June 14:00 – 15:00
Pestalozzi Attorneys at Law Ltd
Feldeggstrasse 4, CH 8008 Zurich
Conferenceroom 3

Labour Law Commission

Friday 5 June 14:00 – 15:00
Pestalozzi Attorneys at Law Ltd
Feldeggstrasse 4, CH 8008 Zurich
Conferenceroom 5

Corporate Law and Mergers & Acquisitions

Friday 5 June 14:00 – 15:00
Walder Wyss Ltd.
Seefeldstrasse 123, 8008 Zurich
Meeting Room No. 9

Tax Law

Friday 5 June 14:00 – 15:00
Walder Wyss Ltd.
Seefeldstrasse 123, 8008 Zurich
Meeting Room No. 7



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\$4.7B
Capital Under Management

\$15.0B
In Real Estate Asset Value

856
Total Transactions

Learn more about the EB-5 Visa by investing with Peachtree Group.

Founded in 2007, Peachtree Group is an investment management firm specializing in dislocated markets. Peachtree Group uses EB-5 investment strategies to opportunistically deploy capital.

- Team of 240+ corporate and 3,300 + hotel-based employees.
- Currently have assets across 49* states.

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*Includes Washington, DC
As of May 2026

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General Information



FORUM VENUE

Pestalozzi Attorneys at Law Ltd
Feldeggstrasse 4
CH 8008 Zurich

→ CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Every participant attending the Forum will receive a “Certificate of Participation” at the end of the event that may be used to obtain “Credits” for “Continuing Legal Education” – “Continuing Professional Development” purposes, depending on national rules.

For more information, please contact the UIA.

→ LANGUAGE

The working language will be **English**.

→ HOTEL RESERVATION

Pestalozzi Zurich currently has **partner corporate rates at the following hotels in Zurich**.

All hotels are within walking distance of the Pestalozzi office. Reservations should be made directly through the hotel or by contacting the Pestalozzi Customer Services Team for assistance.

Please note that the number of rooms is limited. We recommend that you proceed with your reservations as soon as possible. [Click here to access the list of options and rates](#). The list is also available on the [Forum Website](#).

→ REGISTRATION FEES

	On or before 4 May	From 6 May
UIA MEMBER	<input type="checkbox"/> € 395	<input type="checkbox"/> € 445
UIA MEMBER - YOUNG LAWYER (<35)*	<input type="checkbox"/> € 295	<input type="checkbox"/> € 345
NON MEMBER	<input type="checkbox"/> € 445	<input type="checkbox"/> € 495
NON MEMBER - YOUNG LAWYER (<35)*	<input type="checkbox"/> € 345	<input type="checkbox"/> € 395
STUDENT REGISTRATION**	<input type="checkbox"/> € 120	

Fees include:

- Attendance at all working sessions
- Welcome cocktail on 3 June
- Lunch on 4 June
- Forum documentation
- Coffee breaks on 4 & 5 June

The dinner on Thursday, 4 June is optional and at additional charge.

* Please attach proof of age to the registration form to benefit from young lawyers fee.

** Reserved for students under 30 years old. Please send a copy of your student card to benefit from the special rate.

Please note that the number of places at the Forum is limited. The organisers reserve the right to refuse registrations in the event of excess applications.

In order for your name to appear in the **list of participants**, which will be distributed during the Forum, your registration form must be received by **28 May** at the latest. An updated electronic list will be sent by email to all the participants after the Forum.

Cancellation and General Conditions

→ CANCELLATION CONDITIONS

All cancellations will be subject to a 50% deduction and will have to be sent in writing, to be received by the Union Internationale des Avocats **no later than 4 May 2026**.

No refund will be made for cancellations received after this date.

VISAS

Anyone who requires a visa invitation letter in order to attend the Forum should register and pay their registration fees **no later than 4 May 2026** to ensure there is enough time to obtain a visa.

All cancellations will be refunded in full, minus €50 to cover administrative costs, provided that the UIA has received the registration documents and total registration fees no later than **4 May 2026** and the cancellation will have to be sent in writing no later than **28 May 2026**.

If you register after this date, only 50% of the amount paid minus €50 to cover administrative costs will be refunded for cancellations due to visa refusals.

All cancellations due to a visa refusal must be sent in writing and reach the UIA **before the Forum**. Cancellations must be accompanied by a **proof of visa refusal**.

If your visa is issued after the Forum date or if you do not have proof of visa refusal, you will not be entitled to a refund.

→ GENERAL CONDITIONS

All registrations received by the Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA) along with the full payment of fees corresponding to the events selected will be confirmed in writing.

The UIA reserves the right to cancel or postpone the Forum to a later date, change the Forum venue and/or programme, make any corrections or modifications in the information published in the Forum programme and cancel any invitation to participate in the Forum, at any time and at their entire discretion, without having to provide any reasons.

Participation in UIA activities is conditional upon adherence to and compliance with the [UIA Code of Conduct](#). Failing this, the UIA reserves the right to refuse registration for the said activity.

Neither the UIA, nor any of its managers, employees, agents, members or representatives shall be held responsible for any loss or damage of any nature suffered (directly or indirectly) by a delegate, accompanying person or a third party following any cancellations, changes, postponements or modifications, except in case of death or personal injury due to gross negligence by the UIA.

The UIA strongly advises participants to subscribe to modifiable and/or refundable services, as well as to take out cancellation insurance.

The contractual relations between the UIA and each participant (delegate or accompanying person) in relation to the Forum are subject to French law and jurisdiction, to the exclusion of any other law. Paris is the city of jurisdiction.

FORMALITIES

It is the responsibility of participants to ensure compliance with police, customs and health formalities for their journey. Participants unable to take part in the Forum because of their inability to take a flight or any other means of transportation due to being unable to provide the documents required (passport, visa, vaccination certificate, etc.) cannot claim any reimbursement.

FORCE MAJEURE

“Force majeure” means any events external to the parties, of both an unforeseeable and insurmountable nature that prevents either the client or the participants, or the agency or service providers involved in organising the Forum, from executing all or part of the obligations provided for in the present agreement. By express agreement, such will be the case in the event of a strike affecting the means of transport, hotel staff, air traffic controllers, an insurrection, a riot or any prohibition whatsoever decreed by governmental or public authorities.

It is expressly agreed that for the parties, a case of force majeure would suspend the execution of their reciprocal obligations. At the same time, each of the parties shall bear the burden of all the expenses incumbent upon them, resulting from the case of force majeure.

HEALTH

The organisers decline any responsibility in case of any health problems existing prior to the Forum that may lead to complications or be aggravated during the entire period of the stay: pregnancy, cardio-vascular problems, any allergies, special diets, any disorders under treatment and not yet consolidated on the day the seminar starts, psychic or mental or depressive illness, etc. (Non exhaustive list).

PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION

Personal data collected is processed by the Union Internationale des Avocats, in its capacity as data controller. The data is used to manage registrations for events organised by the Union Internationale des Avocats.

In accordance with the applicable regulations, you have the right to access, rectify and delete your personal data, as well as the right to data portability. You may also withdraw your consent to the processing of your personal data at any time or request that such processing be restricted.

Finally, you have the right to specify instructions concerning the fate of your data in the event of your demise.



Union Internationale des Avocats
International Association of Lawyers
Unión Internacional de Abogados

Registration Form

17th UIA Annual Business Law Forum

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

THURSDAY, 4 JUNE & FRIDAY, 5 JUNE, 2026

Register online at www.uianet.org
or please complete and return this form to: uiacentre@uianet.org

UIA (International Association of Lawyers)

■ Tel: +33 1 44 88 55 66 ■ Email: uiacentre@uianet.org

Family Name:

First Name:

UIA Identification number (if you already have one): M I _____

Firm:

Address:

Post Code: City:

Country:

Tel: Fax:

Email:

Date of Birth:

EU VAT ID-Number:

Special requests (special diet, allergies, handicap...):

Arrival/departure times & flight numbers:

Hotel:

A. FORUM REGISTRATION FEES

	On or before 4 May	From 6 May
UIA MEMBER	<input type="checkbox"/> € 395	<input type="checkbox"/> € 445
UIA MEMBER - YOUNG LAWYER (<35)*	<input type="checkbox"/> € 295	<input type="checkbox"/> € 345
NON MEMBER	<input type="checkbox"/> € 445	<input type="checkbox"/> € 495
NON MEMBER - YOUNG LAWYER (<35)*	<input type="checkbox"/> € 345	<input type="checkbox"/> € 395
STUDENT REGISTRATION**	<input type="checkbox"/> € 120	

* Please attach proof of age to the registration form to benefit from young lawyers fee.

** Reserved for students under 30 years old. Please send a copy of your student card to benefit from the special rate.

B. FORUM SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Please indicate below whether you plan to attend the following event **included** in the cost of your registration.

- Welcome Cocktail – Wednesday, 3 June Lunch – Thursday, 4 June

C. OPTIONAL DINNER

(**Not included** in the registration fees)

- Optional Dinner – Thursday, 4 June

• Please book person(s) for the dinner

€ 120 x ___ / pers €

TOTAL (C) €

D. TOTAL

TOTAL (A) – Registration Fees €

TOTAL (C) – Optional Dinner €

TOTAL (A+C) €

E. CANCELLATION CONDITIONS AND GENERAL CONDITIONS

I, the undersigned, confirm having read and accepted the cancellation policy and the general terms and conditions given on page 9 of the registration programme. My registration will only be taken into account after receipt of my payment.

The participant is aware that his/her image and/or voice may be recorded or filmed during the entire duration of the Forum and, by signing this registration form, grants UIA the right to use, reproduce and distribute the concerned images and recordings by any known or unknown means and on all types of media, for an unlimited duration, completely free of charge.

The undersigned acknowledges having been informed of the processing of the personal data contained in this form by UIA, as detailed on page 9 of the registration programme.

F. METHOD OF PAYMENT

- By bank transfer in **EUR**, without charges to the payee, in favour of the Union Internationale des Avocats, quoting “**2026 Zurich Forum**”, to the following bank and account:

Société Générale – Agence Paris Institutionnels – 50 rue d’Anjou – 75008 Paris – France

BIC / SWIFT N°: SOGEFRPP

IBAN: FR76 3000 3033 9200 0503 4165 164

Kindly attach a copy of your bank transfer order to your registration form

- By credit card: Visa Mastercard

Card N°: _____ Expiry date: __/__/__ 3 digits: ___

Name of card holder:

I authorise the Union Internationale des Avocats to debit the above mentioned credit card in the amount of € (**EUR**)

Date: / /

Signature: