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HCCH a|Bridged: Innovation in Transnational Litigation Edition 2025

Enhancing the Global Circulation of Judgments with the HCCH 2019 Judgments Convention



Dr Christophe Bernasconi is the Secretary General of the HCCH (Hague Conference on Private International Law) since July 2013. He was reappointed twice, in 2018 and in 2023. Having joined the Permanent Bureau in 1997, he has held various positions there, including that of Deputy Secretary-General from 2011 to 2013.

He holds a doctoral degree (Dr iur. utr.) in Private International Law from the University of Fribourg (summa cum laude), an LL.M. in Comparative Law from McGill University, and a bilingual (German/French) law degree from the University of Fribourg.

Dr Bernasconi has contributed to numerous HCCH projects spanning its three areas of activity, and in particular, he initiated and led the implementation of the electronic Apostille Program (e-APP). As Secretary General, he initially focused on strengthening the governance of the Organisation and now places particular emphasis on its strategic development, with a specific focus on universality and inclusiveness.

Prior to joining the HCCH, Dr Bernasconi lectured on PIL at the University of Fribourg, worked at the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law and at the Federal Office of Justice in Switzerland. He has also advised practitioners on a range of Private International Law matters.



The Hon David Goddard KC was the Chair of the Diplomatic Session of the HCCH that adopted the 2019 Judgments Convention, a Vice-President of the Diplomatic Session that adopted the 2005 Choice of Court Convention, and a member of the drafting committee for the Choice of Court Convention.

David served as a judge of the New Zealand Court of Appeal from July 2019 to July 2025.

During his time as a judge David led development of the Digital Strategy for Courts and Tribunals adopted by the New Zealand judiciary in March 2023. Following his retirement from the bench, he continues to lead the New Zealand judiciary's digitalisation programme as Special Advisor to the Chief Justice on Digital Technologies.

David is currently a Professorial Fellow of the University of Melbourne Law School, where he teaches in the intensive LLM programme, and an International Fellow of the Singapore Judicial College. He also acts as a mediator and arbitrator, with a particular focus on commercial disputes.

David has been appointed as an International Judge of the Singapore International Commercial Court with effect from January 2026. David's current research and teaching focuses on the design of effective laws, and the implications of digital technology for the design of law and the delivery of justice. He is the author of *Making Laws That Work: How Laws Fail and How We Can Do Better* (Hart Publishing, 2022). Before his appointment as a judge David had a wide-ranging litigation practice, with a focus on appellate litigation. He also had an extensive involvement in law reform in New Zealand and overseas, advising ministers and government agencies, representing New Zealand in bilateral and multilateral negotiations, and drafting legislation and international agreements. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2003. David studied mathematics, law and French at Victoria University of Wellington before reading law at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar.



Melissa Ford is the Secretary of the Transnational Litigation and Apostille Division at the Permanent Bureau of the HCCH. Melissa has primary responsibility at the Permanent Bureau for the 1961 Apostille Convention, 1965 Service Convention, 1970 Evidence Convention, 1980 Access to Justice Convention, 2005 Choice of Court Convention, and 2019 Judgments Convention. Melissa also has responsibility for the ongoing work of the Jurisdiction Project. Prior to joining the Permanent Bureau, Melissa worked in the Australian Government across a range of policy and legal areas. Melissa was the Director of the Private International & Commercial Law Section of the Attorney-General's Department.

This Section is the National Organ to the HCCH and the Central Authority for the 1965 Service and 1970 Evidence Conventions.



Marcos Sebastián Dotta Salgueiro, Doctor in Law and Social Sciences, Notary Public and BA in International Relations (Faculty of Law, Universidad de la República, Uruguay), distinguished with Gold Medal. Director of International Law Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay. Adjunct Professor of Private International Law (Faculty of Law, Universidad de la República, Uruguay). Vice-President for International Relations of the American Association of Private International Law (ASADIP, 2024-2027). Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration. Agent of the Uruguayan State before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Vice-President of the 22nd Session of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) (2019). Representative of the Region of the Americas to the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products (2024-2025). Member of Working Groups at the HCCH and UNIDROIT. Author of articles in journals and book chapters in his field. Lecturer in events in Latin America, Europe and Asia. Tutor of undergraduate final projects and graduate theses.



[Andreas Stein](#) is Head of Unit responsible for civil justice at the European Commission's Directorate General for Justice. He is a German lawyer holding a doctoral degree (University of Hamburg) and a postgraduate degree in International Relations (Johns Hopkins University SAIS Bologna). After several years of practising as judge at a district court and then at a labour tribunal he joined the Commission in 2001 and has worked in the areas of private international law, contract law, equality and anti-discrimination law and competition law before taking his current position.



[Maxine Cristiano](#) is Head of Private International Law at the UK Ministry of Justice, where she leads on cross-border legal frameworks and international cooperation. She has held senior roles within the Ministry, including Head of International Engagement and Head of the Courts and Tribunals Joint Unit. Maxine's career includes significant international experience, having worked on Justice and Home Affairs policy at the then UK Permanent Representation to the EU, and on consular assistance policy at the British Consulate General in Milan. With a background as a lawyer, she brings a strong foundation in legal analysis and diplomacy to her leadership in cross-border justice initiatives. Her work reflects a commitment to advancing international cooperation and legal frameworks and Maxine regularly engages with international partners and stakeholders to shape policy and promote collaboration in private international law.



[Raquel Vargas Jaubert](#) is a Costa Rican lawyer and international leader with over 18 years of experience in global governance, international law, and cross-border cooperation. As Head of International Legal Cooperation, she represents Costa Rica before the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) and leads national participation in the Conventions on Service, Evidence, and Access to Justice.

Raquel has directed large-scale institutional transformation projects, including Costa Rica's Biometric Passport, Digital Visa System, and modernization of international legal cooperation mechanisms. She has represented her country in bilateral and multilateral missions with the United Nations, OAS, EUROJUST, and HCCH, advancing digital diplomacy and access to justice.

She is also a professor of Public and International Law at the Universidad Autónoma de Centroamérica and a lecturer at the Costa Rican Diplomatic Academy, fostering academic and practical dialogue on transnational law and judicial cooperation.



[Joseph N. Khawam](#) served as an attorney in the Office of the Legal Adviser at the U.S. Department of State from 2012 to 2025, where he specialized in private international law and transnational litigation. He represented the United States as Head of Delegation in negotiations at the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). Mr. Khawam led U.S. efforts to implement both the 2005 Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements and the 2019 Hague Judgments Convention, including drafting legislative proposals and coordinating stakeholder engagement. He is the author of "Breaking the Ratification Logjam: A Path Forward for U.S. Implementation of the Hague Choice of Court and Judgments Conventions," forthcoming in the Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law (March 2026). Mr. Khawam currently serves as Legislative Director at the Law Reform Institute in Washington, D.C.



[Raman Maroz](#) is the Topic Lead of the Dispute Resolution team at the World Bank Business Ready Unit. In this role, he oversees the development and implementation of global indicators related to court litigation and alternative dispute resolution. Raman previously was in charge of the Enforcing Contracts indicator and contributed to the Resolving Insolvency topic in Doing Business. Prior to joining the World Bank Group, he worked for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and clerked at the Constitutional Court of Belarus. Raman holds a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from the University of Notre Dame Law School where he was a Fulbright scholar, a Law degree from the Belarusian State University, and a University degree in Political Science and European Studies from the Université Montesquieu - Bordeaux IV.



Daniela Dyer Melhado is a Legal Analyst and senior member with the Dispute Resolution topic of the Business Ready Unit, where she also leads the Methodology Handbook & Manual and Guide function. She joined the team in August 2021, following internships with the Resolving Insolvency indicator of the Doing Business project and the Legal Vice Presidency of the World Bank Group. Daniela also completed a two-year judicial internship in Judge Charles Brower's investment treaty arbitration practice and held internships with the Peruvian Embassy and Mission in El Salvador, Belgium, and Switzerland.

She is a member of the District of Columbia Bar and holds a Juris Doctor (J.D.) and a Master of Arts (M.A.) in International Affairs from George Washington University. Additionally, she earned a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in International and Cultural Studies, with minors in French and History, from the University of Tampa. Daniela speaks Spanish and English fluently and is proficient in French.



Yoshihisa Hayakawa serves as a professor of law at Rikkyo University, Tokyo. He also teaches and researches in a number of foreign universities, including Columbia University, Cornell University, QM College of the University of London and the Australian National University. He also serves as a partner at Uryu & Itoga, Tokyo. He serves as a counsel in many cases of transnational litigation and international commercial arbitration, as well as serving as an arbitrator in many arbitration cases. He also serves as a representative from Japan for a number of inter-governmental organizations including UNCITRAL, APEC (ODR Project), ISO (ODR Project) and the Hague Conference on PIL. And he serves as President of Sport Law Commission of UIA, Japanese Member for Commission on Arbitration and ADR of ICC, Japanese Member of Users Council of SIAC, Arbitrator for Court of Arbitration for Sport and Member of the WADA Independent Ethics Board. He also serves as Chair of IT/ODR Section of Japan Federation of Bar Associations.



Jos Uitdehaag, first vice-president of the International Union of judicial officers (UIHJ). Treasurer of the International Institute of Justice Excellence. Enforcement agent in the Netherlands.

During the past 25 years Jos has been mainly active as a legal reform and legal drafting expert in numerous countries both within and outside Europe, mainly in the field of enforcement law (for European Commission, IMF, World Bank, EBRD, USAID). Currently active in: Western Balkan region, Azerbaijan, Mongolia, Laos and EU member states (on privacy).

He has been active as a lecturer at the Dutch University of Applied Sciences in Utrecht, the Netherlands, the Prishtina State University and as a guest lecturer at different universities and judicial academies.

He is a reporter of the Project Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets of the European Law Institute; was a project member of the Blockchain and smart contracts project team (also European Law Institute). He is an observer member of the Unidroit project on principles for effective enforcement.



Zlaty Mihailova is an international development expert working on rule of law, economy, and democracy projects. She has 25 years of experience in legal reforms and development work. Recently she directed the Balkans Enforcement Strengthening Project, funded by the Dutch government and implemented by the Center for International Legal Cooperation (CILC) that supported civil enforcement reforms across five legal systems in the Western Balkans – Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. Zlaty is passionate about policy reforms and capacity building, fostering development and collaboration throughout the world and facilitating people's lives.



Francisco Garcimartin is a Chair Professor of Law at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. His main fields of expertise are focused on international transactions, cross-border insolvency, international litigation as well as cross-border company law. He has represented the Spanish government as national expert in different international organisations, such as UNIDROIT, UNCITRAL, the Hague Conference or the Counsel of the European Union. He is a member of the EU Commission's Expert Groups on insolvency, company restructuring, assignment of claims and securities, and a permanent member of the Spanish Law Commission. He is a co-author of the Explanatory Report to the Judgments Convention. He is a consultant at Linklaters Madrid.



Mr. M.F.J.N. (Tijn) van Osch

1982: Graduated University/Law School

1982-1983: Jurist

1983-1999: Lawyer/attorney

1999-2004: Judge at the Court of First Instance Zutphen (The Netherlands)

2004-2023: (senior) Appeal Judge at the Court of Appeal Arnhem-Leeuwarden (The Netherlands)

2023-now: (after retirement) deputy Judge at the Court of Appeal Arnhem-Leeuwarden (The Netherlands)

2023-now: deputy Chair of the Disciplinary Court of Appeal for Lawyers

2015-now: Member/Chair of the International Committee of the Dutch Association for the Judiciary (NVvR) and Representative for NVvR at the International Association of Judges (IAJ/UIM)

2018-now: Observer on behalf of IAJ/UIM at the Hague Conference on Private International Law

2023-now: Vice-President of the 2nd Study Commission Civil Law of the International Association of Judges (IAJ/UIM)

2020-now: Chair Advertising Standards Authority (ASA)/Reclame Code Commissie

Mr. Van Osch has written over the years several essays in legal magazines (see LinkedIn) and teaches law courses at different Legal Training Institutes.



Roberta Chan is a partner in the Dispute Resolution Group of Baker McKenzie's Hong Kong office.

Roberta has a broad and versatile practice advising on an array of cross-border disputes. She regularly assists in corporate and commercial litigation, including company and shareholder disputes. Her practice often involves complex matters with a PRC-related element, such as disputes arising from joint ventures with Chinese entities, enforcement of foreign judgments and arbitral awards in Hong Kong/China, cross border corporate investments, and breaches of contracts involving Chinese counterparties. Roberta is also highly experienced in handling complex corporate and shareholder disputes for Hong Kong listed companies, including issues of corporate governance, boardroom conflicts and minority shareholders rights. Her experience extends to navigating the intricacies of regulatory frameworks and resolving disputes under various alternate dispute resolution avenues where Chinese and Hong Kong entities are key parties. Roberta is considered to have "developed a stellar reputation for significant property-related litigation, as well as corporate and commercial litigation including company and shareholder disputes." by The Legal 500 2023 and 2024. She is ranked as the "up and coming lawyer" by Chambers & Partners in 2023 and 2024.

Roberta is a solicitor-advocate with rights to appear in all levels of civil courts in Hong Kong. She has also been appointed to an examining panel by the Higher Rights Assessment Board in 2024 and 2025. She is also a member of the Civil Litigation Committee and Consents Committee of the Law Society. She was appointed and sat as the District Court Temporary Registrar in January 2023 and is a licensed GBA lawyer.



Marcelo De Nardi, Brazilian Federal Judge since 1993, currently at the Regional Federal Court for the Fourth Region, Porto Alegre, member of the First Panel on Tax and Customs. Professor at International Trade Law for the Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos - UNISINOS, LLM and graduate programs, Brazil, since 2016. Professor at Law for other institutions since 1998.

PhD in Law from the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul - UFRGS, Brazil, 2010. Expert advisor for the Brazilian Delegation to the Judgments Project of The Hague Conference on Private International Law, between 2013 and 2019, that resulted in the adoption of the 2019 HCCH Convention on Foreign Judgments. During those proceedings chaired some interim working groups.

Expert advisor for the Brazilian Delegation to the Jurisdiction Project of The Hague Conference on Private International Law, 2020.



Cara North is a Special Counsel at Corrs Chambers Westgarth in Melbourne. She has extensive expertise in complex, multi-jurisdictional disputes, specialising in domestic and international commercial litigation, arbitration, and investor–state dispute resolution. She has practised at leading disputes firms in Australia, London and Geneva. Cara holds a Master of Laws in International Dispute Settlement from the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. She regularly speaks and publishes on topics including private international law, international commercial arbitration and investment arbitration. Cara served as a consultant and, prior to that, as a legal officer to the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, contributing to the development and conclusion of the Judgments Convention.



Geneviève Saumier is Dean and Professor at the Faculty of Law of the Université de Montréal since August 1st, 2024. Prior to that, she was Peter M. Laing Professor at the Faculty of Law at McGill University from 1996-2024. She holds degrees in business and in law from McGill, a Ph.D. from Cambridge University and is a member of the Quebec Bar. An expert in private international law, she has been involved in numerous international projects including the 2015 HCCH Principles on Choice of Law in International Commercial Contracts and the 2019 HCCH Judgments Convention for which she acted as co-rapporteur of the Explanatory Report. She is currently part of a Unidroit working group on Best Practices for Effective Enforcement.