Call for Papers: The Role of Judicial Actors in Shaping Private International Law. A Comparative Perspective

On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Swiss Federal Tribunal, the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law (SICD) is pleased to announce its 35th **Conference on Private International Law, to be held on 19–20 November 2025 in Lausanne**.

The conference addresses how courts, lawyers, and litigants have shaped—and how they continue to shape—private international law. Special emphasis will be placed on how legal practice drives the development of private international law at both the national and supranational levels. Judges, through landmark rulings, have clarified conflicts of laws rules, set precedents on the recognition of foreign judgments, and adapted legal frameworks to globalization and digital commerce. Lawyers, by crafting novel arguments, have influenced judicial reasoning and contributed to evolving legal doctrines. Finally, strategic litigation, led by litigants and advocacy groups, has driven major jurisprudential shifts, particularly in fundamental rights, corporate liability, and cross-border regulation. The conference will analyse these actors' distinct but interconnected roles in shaping contemporary private international law.

We invite scholars (both established and early-career researchers), legal practitioners, and policymakers to submit papers addressing these issues.

Possible topics include:

- The role of national and supranational courts in shaping private international law
- The impact of key judicial decisions on cross-border legal relationships
- The influence of legal practitioners in driving jurisprudential change
- Strategic litigation as a tool for legal evolution in private international law
- Comparative approaches to judicial reasoning in international private law

cases
- Judicial responses to global challenges such as migration, digital commerce, corporate responsibility, and human rights protection

Paper Submission
Please submit an abstract (up to 500 words) of your proposed paper by **11 May 2025** to Ms. Marie-Laure Lauria (marie-laure.lauria@isdc-dfjp.unil.ch), with the subject line "*ISDC 35th PIL Conference Submission*". Abstracts may be submitted in English, German, or French.

All submissions will undergo a double-blind peer review and decisions will be communicated by **3 June 2025**. Accepted papers will be considered for publication in an edited volume or a special journal issue.

Organization
The conference will be hosted by the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law.

Funding
The Swiss Institute of Comparative Law will provide funding for the travel costs and accommodation of all presenters.