

ILA Committee on Conflict-of-Laws Issues in International Arbitration: First Webinar on 18 February 2025

CONFLICT-OF-LAWS ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION COMMITTEE

This new Committee aims at fostering a harmonious approach to conflict of laws in the context of international arbitration. Currently, conflict-of-laws issues present significant challenges – there are diverging rules, approaches and methodologies, a disconnect between theory and practice, and a focus on specific jurisdictions, which inhibit the emergence of global solutions.

The ILA Committee, co-chaired by Dr Nikolaus Pitkowitz and Ms Wendy Lin, with co-rapporteurs Dr Mariel Dimsey and Prof Dr Matthias Lehmann, seeks to study the current issues and develop practical conflict-of-laws principles (both in substance and in procedure) to provide guidance, promote uniform and efficient decision making by arbitral tribunals and state courts, and enhance legal certainty for parties and practitioners.

This would be achieved via 3 phases: (1) a general methodology will be produced for conflict-of-laws issues surfacing in arbitration; (2) principles built on this methodology that can be followed and cited by arbitrators and judges will be developed; and (3) treaties, draft model laws and other rules (including arbitration rules) that can be used as blueprints by international organisations, national legislators, and arbitral institutions will be developed.

We invite all interested practitioners to apply for membership in this innovative new Committee.

Co-Chairs



Dr Nikolaus Pitkowitz
Pitkowitz & Partners Vienna



Ms Wendy Lin
WongPartnership LLP Singapore

Co-Rapporteurs



Dr Mariel Dimsey
CMS Hong Kong



Prof Dr Matthias Lehmann
University of Vienna
Radboud University Nijmegen

You're welcome to reach out to the Committee at ILA-CLC-Committee@pitkowitz.com.

The Committee is excited to host its first webinar in February 2025, offered in two sessions. Join one of the Zoom sessions (linked below) to learn more!

Topic Highlights:

- Introduction to the Committee and its mandate
- Overview of conflict-of-laws issues arising in international arbitration

18 FEBRUARY 2025

Session 1: 9am CET (8am UTC / 4pm HKT)

Session 2: 5pm CET (11am ET / 8am PT, 19 Feb)



https://www.ila-hq.org/en_GB/committees/conflict-of-laws-issues-in-international-arbitration

This post was written by Lukas Petschnig, University of Vienna.

Conflict of laws is one of the most complex and disputed subject areas in

international arbitration. An abundance of academic works has examined the issue and proposed widely diverging solutions. Yet, these studies frequently focus on isolated issues and lack overall consistency. Equally, they are often overly theoretical, lacking practical guidance useful to the average arbitrator or judge.

Forging a path toward more legal certainty, the International Law Association has established a new Committee on Conflict-of-Laws Issues in International Arbitration. It is chaired by Dr Nikolaus Pitkowitz and Ms Wendy Lin, with Professor Matthias Lehmann and Dr Mariel Dimsey acting as co-rapporteurs.

The Committee plans to exercise its mandate in three phases from 2025 to 2030. Initially, a general methodology for the resolution of conflict-of-laws issues faced by arbitrators and supervisory courts will be developed. In the second phase, the Committee will transform this methodology into draft principles, which shall provide a harmonious approach to all or most conflict-of-laws issues which may arise in the context of international arbitration. The principles will be sufficiently precise to enable their citation as *soft law* by arbitral tribunals or courts on specific subject matters. In a third phase, the Committee will explore the advisability of developing *hard law rules*, e.g. in the form of treaties, model laws, or amendments to existing institutional rules.

The Committee is excited to announce its first webinar, introducing its mandate, the envisaged timeline of the Committee's work, and the principal issues likely to be discussed. All interested individuals are expressly encouraged to participate via the following Zoom links; prior registration is not necessary.

The webinar will be held in two sessions on 18 February 2025, to enable participation from most time zones:

Session 1 (Asia, Oceania, EMEA): 8am (London) / 4pm (Hong Kong) / 7pm (Sydney)

Session 2 (Americas, EMEA): 8am (US Pacific) / 11am (US Eastern) / 4pm (London)

The Committee can be reached via email at ILA-CLC-Committee@pitkowitz.com.

More information on the Committee's work can be found [here](#).