Conference: Conflict of Laws in International Arbitration (Vienna, 30 Nov & 1 Dec)

This announcement has kindly been provided by Matthias Lehmann and Lukas Petschning (University of Vienna).

On 30 November and 1 December 2026, the University of Vienna (Section for Comparative, Uniform and Private International Law) will host a conference entitled *„Conflict of Laws in International Arbitration*“.

universität wien

Conference: Conflict of Laws in International Arbitration

Senate Chamber, University of Vienna

Conflict of laws has long been a neglected area of study in international arbitration. Though a limited number of questions receive outsized public attention, the broader array of conflicts issues encountered by arbitrators every day is less well-studied. The conference, organized by Professor Matthias Lehmann of the Department for Comparative, Uniform and Private International Law of the University of Vienna, will aim to address this gap, complementing the work of the ILA Committee on Conflict of Laws Issues in International Arbitration.

Monday, 30 November 2026
2:30pm – 4:00pm

The Law Governing Arbitrability and the Arbitration Agreement

Chair:
Christian Koller (University of Vienna)

Speakers:
Stefan Kröll (Bucerius Law School)
Manuel Penades Fons (King's College London)
Katharina Plavec (European Central Bank)

4:30pm – 6:00pm

The Law Governing the Conduct of Proceedings

Chair:
Nikolaus Pitkowitz (Pitkowitz & Partners, Vienna)

Speakers:
Vesna Lazić (University of Utrecht / Asser Institute)
Hayk Kupelyants (King's College London)
Sylvain Bollée (University of Paris 1)

6:00pm

Mulled Wine Reception

7:30pm

Conference Dinner

Venue: Vienna City Hall

Tuesday, 1 December 2026
9:30am – 11:00am

The Law Governing Privilege and Document Production

Chair:
Paul Oberhammer (University of Vienna)

Speakers:
Mariel Dimsey (MD Arbitration, Hong Kong)
Patricia Shaughnessy (Stockholm University)
Friedrich Rosenfeld (Hanefeld, Hamburg)

11:30am – 1:00pm

The Law Governing the Merits and Overriding Mandatory Rules

Chair:
Burkhard Hess (University of Vienna)

Speakers:
Jan Kleinheisterkamp (JK ADR, Brussels)
Yuliya Chernikh (University of Inland Norway)
Andrea Bjorklund (McGill University)

Early-bird registration has now opened!
conflictoflaws-in-arbitration.univie.ac.at/registration

Four thematic sessions will consider current issues revolving around the law governing (1) arbitrability and the arbitration agreement, (2) the conduct of proceedings, (3) privilege and document production, as well as (4) the merits of the dispute. The panels include academics and practitioners from Asia, Europe, and the Americas, with plenty of time reserved for discussion and networking.

Early winter is an optimal time to visit Vienna, and Christmas markets will already be in full swing. A *Mulled Wine Reception* in the evening of the first conference day will hopefully spread a festive mood among participants, and will be followed by the optional *Conference Dinner* at Vienna City Hall.

The **preliminary agenda** for the conference is now available here.

Registration is possible here and **free of charge** for full-time academics, students, and public servants; early-bird prices of **EUR 80** are still available for other participants.

A charge of **EUR 60** applies for the optional **conference dinner**.

We are looking forward to welcoming many of you to Vienna!