



WORLD LAW CONGRESS
NEW YORK CITY 2023



OPENING SESSION
NEW YORK

April 13
2023



PROGRAM

THE ORGANIZERS

"A world ruled by law, and not by the force" has been the [World Jurist Association's](#) mission since its founding in 1963. A non-governmental organization in **special consultative status with the United Nations ECOSOC**, the [WJA](#) was created as free and open forum for judges, lawyers, law professors, students and other professionals from around the world to cooperate in strengthening the Rule of Law and its institutions. Amongst its main activities are the biennial World Law Congress and the presentation of the World Peace & Liberty Award.

As a result of the Madrid Declaration of 2019, the **World Law Foundation** was created as the executive arm to organize the main activities of the World Jurist Association. The [Board of Trustees](#) and the Advisory Board of the WLF are composed of prominent jurists and professionals, including former presidents and prime ministers, presidents of high courts, directors of prestigious institutions, lawyers, academics, and businesspeople.

THE WORLD LAW CONGRESS

The [World Law Congress](#) is a two-day event where global leaders, including heads of State, justices, policy makers, academics, lawyers, activists, and students, discuss a wide variety of current topics to which the legal community should propose solutions. The history of the World Law Congress is as extensive as the Association's history. It began in 1963 in Athens, and has continued, almost unstoppable, every two years to this day.

The **WORLD LAW CONGRESS NEW YORK 2023** will be the 28th edition of this event. The WJA celebrates its 60th anniversary going back to its American roots. On **July 20**, simultaneous round tables will take place at the New York City Association, gathering around 250 panelists from around the world. The Closing Ceremony will be held at the **ECOSOC Hall of the United Nations Headquarters on July 21, 2023**. During this ceremony, the World Peace & Liberty Award 2023 will be bestowed to a world personality or institution distinguished for their commitment to the promotion of peace through law and the rule of law as a guarantor of freedom. The award has been previously presented to Sir Winston Churchill, Nelson Mandela, René Cassin, Felipe VI King of Spain, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and, in its latest edition, to the Colombian society, received by President Ivan Duque.

THE OPENING SESSION NEW YORK

These sessions serve as the preamble of the World Law Congress, as well as a presentation of it to the local legal communities. The Opening Session New York will serve as the framework for the in-person press presentation of the World Law Congress. The program includes a panel of discussion on **Rule of Law, Corporate Governance & Climate Change** as well as the bestowing of the **WJA Medals of Honor** to distinguished personalities.



Opening Session New York

April 13, 2023

United Nations Headquarters. New York

WEDNESDAY APRIL 12

07:00 pm Awardees Dinner (*by invitation only*)

THURSDAY APRIL 13

United Nations Headquarters. New York

Master of Ceremonies: **Patricia Lee Refo**, Past President of the American Bar Association

10:00 am ***PANEL ON THE RULE OF LAW, CORPORATE GOVERNANCE & CLIMATE CHANGE***

Moderator: **Susan Kohlmann**, USA. President of the New York City Bar

Speakers:

- **Ricardo Pérez Manrique**, Uruguay. President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.
- **Norma Piña**, Mexico. President of the Supreme Court of Mexico
- **Ignacio Sánchez Galán**, Spain. President of Iberdrola
- **Luc Lavrysen**, Belgium. President of the Constitutional Court of Belgium. President of the European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment.
- **Brian Preston**, Australia. President of the Land and Environment Court in New South Wales.

12:00 pm ***BREAK***

12:30 pm ***LUNCHEON & AWARDING CEREMONY OF THE WJA MEDALS OF HONOR***

Master of Ceremonies: **Hillarie Bass**, Former President of the American Bar Association

Speakers:

- **Luis Almagro**, Uruguay. Secretary General of the Organization of American States
- **Kerry Kennedy**, USA. President of the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Foundation
- **Richard Wagner**, Canada. Chief Justice of Canada
- **Henry Molina Peña**, Dominican Republic. President of the Supreme Court of Dominican Republic
- **Víctor Olea**, Mexico. President of the Mexican Bar Association (BMA)

13:00 pm ***PRESENTATION OF THE WORLD LAW CONGRESS 2023***

DISCUSSION ON THE NEW HORIZONS OF THE RULE OF LAW

- **Javier Cremades**, Spain. President of the World Jurist Association
- **Stephen Breyer**, USA. Retired Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States

13:30 pm ***PRESENTATION OF THE WJA MEDALS OF HONOR***

Laudatio: Brad Karp, Chairman of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

03:00 pm ***CLOSING***

MEMBERS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Alan Solomont, USA. Former Ambassador of the United States in Spain

Brad Karp, USA. Chairman of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison

Brian Henderson, USA. Founding partner of Henderson International Advisors

Christopher Plaut, USA. Retired Partner at Latham & Watkins

David Mills, USA. Professor of the Practice of Law at Stanford University

Frank Ryan, USA. Global Co-Chair, Global Co-CEO, and Americas Chair of DLA Piper

Hilarie Bass, USA. Former President of the American Bar Association & President and Founder at Bass Institute for Diversity and Inclusion

Javier Cremades, Spain. President of the World Jurist Association

Juan Carlos Pinzón, Colombia. Former Ambassador of Colombia in the United States

Kerry Kennedy, USA. President of the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Foundation

Lisa Sachs, USA. Director of the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment

Marcelo Etchebarne, Argentina. Partner at DLA Piper

Patricia Lee Refo, USA. Past President of the American Bar Association & Partner at Snell & Wilmer

Susan Kohlmann, USA. President of the New York City Bar & Partner at Jenner & Block

www.worldlawcongress.com