

12TH ANNUAL
HARVARD INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CONFERENCE

LEGITIMACY, MULTIPLICITY, AND INNOVATION

PERSPECTIVES ON THE FUTURE
OF ARBITRATION

5-7
MAR
2026



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ASSOCIATION



Dear Guest,

We are living through a pivotal moment for international arbitration and for international law more broadly. Rapid geopolitical shifts, economic pressures, and institutional transformations are reshaping the global dispute resolution landscape, often in unpredictable ways. In times of uncertainty, international arbitration can only endure and thrive if it draws strength from all those who shape, use, scrutinize, and defend it.

That strength lies in multiplicity. Arbitration depends on the engagement of its many stakeholders: counsel and arbitrators, judges and states, expert witnesses, third-party funders, academics, and users of the system. Only by bringing together this diversity of perspectives can the community continue to innovate, reinforce its legitimacy, and meaningfully respond to the challenges ahead.

Over the next three days, we will hear from an exceptional range of voices, each offering distinct insights into the present and future of international arbitration. Our discussions will span emerging trends, systemic critiques, and forward-looking solutions, enriched by the perspectives of law firm partners, arbitrators, state representatives, former and current Supreme Court Justices from across jurisdictions, expert witnesses, funders, academics, and young practitioners. Arbitration, after all, prospers not in isolation, but through collective engagement.

We very much look forward to sharing these days with you, which will feature 11 substantive panels and a series of social and networking events, culminating in our Gala at the Harvard Art Museums. We hope this Conference provides a space not only for rigorous debate, but also for meaningful connections across the global arbitration community.

It has been our privilege to craft this program alongside more than 50 outstanding speakers, each contributing a vital piece to an evolving conversation. Challenging times demand creative and inclusive solutions, and those can only emerge when all voices are heard. We invite you to join us in strengthening this community and in shaping international arbitration as a forum that is innovative, legitimate, and truly plural.

With gratitude,

Mar & Juan Pablo

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AGENDA

4 MAR 2026

Harvard Law School
1585 Massachusetts Ave,
Wasserstein Hall,
Milstein Conference Center,
Cambridge, MA 02138

PRE-CONFERENCE MASTERCLASS & RECEPTION

16:30-18:00 **HIALSA 2025-2026 Masterclass Series**
Arbitration Rewired: AI in Practice

HIALSA's Masterclass Series connects Harvard Law School students with the dynamic field of international arbitration through practical, practitioner-led sessions and meaningful networking opportunities.

The 2025–2026 Edition, led by HIALSA in collaboration with Three Crowns, provides practical guidance for navigating key stages of an arbitration and demonstrates how strategic decision-making can influence the outcome of a case.

As a warm-up to the Conference, on March 4, we will host a special Masterclass, open to all Conference participants, that will address the following questions: **How is artificial intelligence reshaping international arbitration, what legal AI tools exist for arbitration practice, and how are law firms using them?**

This panel brings together specialists to explore AI in arbitration from three critical vantage points: law firm, client, and legal AI developer. Together, they will examine how AI tools are being used in practice, where their limits and risks lie, and the ethical boundaries for counsel and tribunals — with a focus on the responsible, effective integration of AI into day-to-day legal work.

Hugh Carlson | CEO, Three Crowns (D.C.)

Ben Longlet | Legal Advisor to the CLO, Chevron (San Francisco)

Robert Mahari | CEO & Founder, Akiva AI (Boston)

Pierce Kelaita | Executive Director, Liftlab (Stanford Law School)

Millie Kim | J.D Candidate, Harvard Law School (Moderator)

RSVP: tinyurl.com/preconfMC (Open to HLS students and all HIALSA Conference participants)

18:00-20:00 **Pre-Conference Cocktail**

The conversation doesn't end with the Masterclass. Join us afterwards to continue the discussion and connect with speakers, practitioners, and fellow attendees in a more intimate setting.

RSVP: tinyurl.com/confRECEP (The cocktail reception is limited to HIALSA Conference participants. Conference participants who do not attend the Masterclass are welcome to join the Reception).

5 MAR 2026

Smith Campus Center
1350 Massachusetts Ave, 10th Floor,
Cambridge, MA 02138

8:30-9:30	Harvard Campus Tour <i>Sign up: tinyurl.com/hlstourconf</i>
9:00-10:00	Breakfast
10:00-10:30	Welcome Remarks & Opening Keynote Rahim Moloo Partner, Gibson Dunn (New York)
10:45-12:15	When Deals Fail: Arbitrating Post-M&A Conflicts and Risk Allocation Dr. Niels Schiersing Arbitrator, Arbitration Chambers Tim Cameron Partner, Cravath (New York) Carla Chavich Executive VP, Compass Lexecon (New York) José Antonio Payet Partner, Payet, Rey, Cauvi, Pérez Abogados (Peru) Moderated by Casey Wang , Associate, King & Spalding (New York)
12:15-13:15	Lunch
13:15-14:45	The Power — and Price — of Dissent: The Role of Separate Opinions in International Arbitration Horacio A. Grigera Naón Arbitrator & Legal Consultant Nadine Debbas Achkar Arbitrator & Judge (Supreme Court of Bahrain) Patricia Shaughnessy Arbitrator & Professor, Stockholm University David Arias Partner, Arias SLP Moderated by Sebastián Briceno , Associate, Debevoise & Plimpton (New York)
15:00-16:30	States as Stakeholders: The Evolving Role of Nations in International Arbitration Ana María Ordóñez Former Director of International Legal Defense, National Agency for Legal Defense of Colombia David Anibal Ortiz Gaspar State Attorney, Ministry of Transport and Communications of Peru Makhdoom Ali Khan Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan Fernando Tupa Partner, Curtis (Buenos Aires; New York) Moderated by Abril Elverdin , Associate, Clifford Chance (New York)
16:45-18:15	Green Arbitration: Climate-Related Disputes and ESG Challenges Loukas A. Mistelis Partner, Clyde & Co & Professor, Queen Mary University of London Richard Deutsch Partner, Pillsbury (Houston) William Holloway Senior Managing Director, FTI Consulting (Madrid) Alberto Fortún Partner, Cuatrecasas (Madrid) Moderated by Bastien Tirel , Associate, Arnold & Porter (London)
19:00-22:00	Networking Event <i>Russell House Tavern — 14 John F. Kennedy St, Cambridge, MA</i> <i>Due to limited capacity at the venue, this event is restricted to speakers and registered Conference participants.</i>

6 MAR 2026

Smith Campus Center
1350 Massachusetts Ave, 10th Floor,
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-
- 8:30-9:30** **Harvard Campus Tour**
Sign up: tinyurl.com/hlstourconf
-
- 9:00-10:00** **Breakfast**
-
- 10:00-11:30** **Financing International Arbitration: Market Realities and the Future of Third-Party Funding**
- Jaime Sneider** | Managing Director, Fortress Investment Group
Daniel V. Ward | Partner, Ropes & Gray (Boston)
Maya Steinitz | Professor, Harvard Law School & Boston University School of Law
Mark R. Cheskin | Partner, Hogan Lovells (Miami)
Tafadzwa Pasipanodya | Partner & Chair of Africa Practice, Foley Hoag (D.C.)
Moderated by **Roberto Cuchi**, Associate, Freshfields (New York)
-
- 11:45-13:15** **Public Policy and Judicial Oversight: The New Constitutional Frontiers of International Arbitration**
- Alfredo Gutiérrez Ortiz Mena** | Former Justice of the Supreme Court of Mexico
Syed Mansoor Ali Shah | Former Senior Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan (via Zoom).
Sanjiv Khanna | Former Chief Justice of India
José María Macías | Justice of the Constitutional Court of Spain
Moderated by **Hafsa Ahmad**, International Associate, Three Crowns (D.C.)
-
- 13:15-14:15** **Lunch**
-
- 14:15-15:45** **The Corporate Client's Perspective on International Arbitration: Efficiency, Predictability, and Control in Energy Disputes**
- Michele Lyra** | Senior Legal Counsel Litigation for Latin America & Caribbean, Shell
Nicolas Alejandro Moffat | Legal Manager, Pluspetrol
Daniel Gruenbaum | Legal Counsel, Petrobras & Professor, UERJ
Erik Brannsten | Legal Counsel, Equinor
Moderated by **Miljana Bigović**, President, HIALSA
-
- 16:00-17:30** **Interim Measures and Enforcement Challenges in Investment and Commercial Arbitration**
- Gretta Walters** | Partner, Chaffetz Lindsey (New York)
Diora Ziyaeva | Partner, Dentons (New York)
Ximena Herrera-Bernal | Partner, Gaillard Banifatemi Shelbaya Disputes (London)
Katharine Menéndez de la Cuesta | Partner, Holland & Knight (Miami)
Saadia Bhatt | Partner, Gide Loyrette Nouel (London)
Moderated by **Mar Villora Valero**, VP Conference, HIALSA
-
- 19:00-22:00** **12th Harvard International Arbitration Conference Gala**
Harvard Art Museums — 32 Quincy St, Cambridge, MA
Dress code: Cocktail attire.

7 MAR 2026

Harvard Law School
1585 Massachusetts Ave,
Wasserstein Hall, Milstein East,
Cambridge, MA 02138

9:00–10:00 **Breakfast**

10:00–11:30 **Arbitration in a Sanctioned World: Navigating the Crossroads of International Law**

Kabir Duggal | Partner, Akin Gump (New York) & Lecturer in Law, Columbia Law School

Marija Ščekić | Director, Squire Patton Boggs (London)

Tom Childs | Counsel, King & Spalding (New York)

Andrew J. Finn | Partner, Sullivan & Cromwell (New York)

Moderated by **Aleix Pérez-Pitarch**, Attorney, Sidley Austin (New York)

11:45–13:15 **The New Frontier: Arbitration in the Age of Data Centers**

Lindsey D. Schmidt | Partner, Gibson Dunn (New York)

José María Balboa | General Counsel for Iberia & Latin America, Inetum

Daniel Flores | Managing Director, Quadrant Economics (D.C.)

Christian Vandergeest | Senior Associate, Freshfields (New York)

Moderated by **Mohamed Bouzagou Ouali**, Associate, Wordstone (Paris)

13:15–14:15 **Lunch**

14:15–15:45 **Arbitration 2036: How the Next Generation Is Redefining Practice**

Oriol Valentí i Vidal | Partner, RocaJunyent

Santiago Escobar | Partner, Bufete Asali

Felipe Nazar | Partner, Akin Gump (New York)

Juliana De Valdenebro | Counsel, Hogan Lovells (Miami)

Filip Nordlund | Legal Engineering Manager, Legora (Hong Kong)

Moderated by **Jaebok Lee**, Associate, White & Case (D.C.)

15:45–16:15 **Closing Ceremony: The Next Chapter in Arbitration**

Philippe Sands KC | Professor of Law, University College London & Samuel and Judith Pizar Visiting Professor, Harvard Law School; Barrister and Arbitrator, 11 King's Bench Walk

18:00–20:00 **Networking Event – Dining Around Cambridge**

Sign up: tinyurl.com/dincamb

LOCATIONS

March 5 and 6, 2026 (Thursday and Friday)

SMITH CAMPUS CENTER

1350 Massachusetts Ave, 10th Floor, Cambridge, MA 02138



March 7, 2026 (Saturday)

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

1585 Massachusetts Ave, Wasserstein Hall, Milstein East,
Cambridge, MA 02138



Networking Event (Thursday, March 5)

RUSSELL HOUSE TAVERN

14 John F. Kennedy St, Cambridge, MA



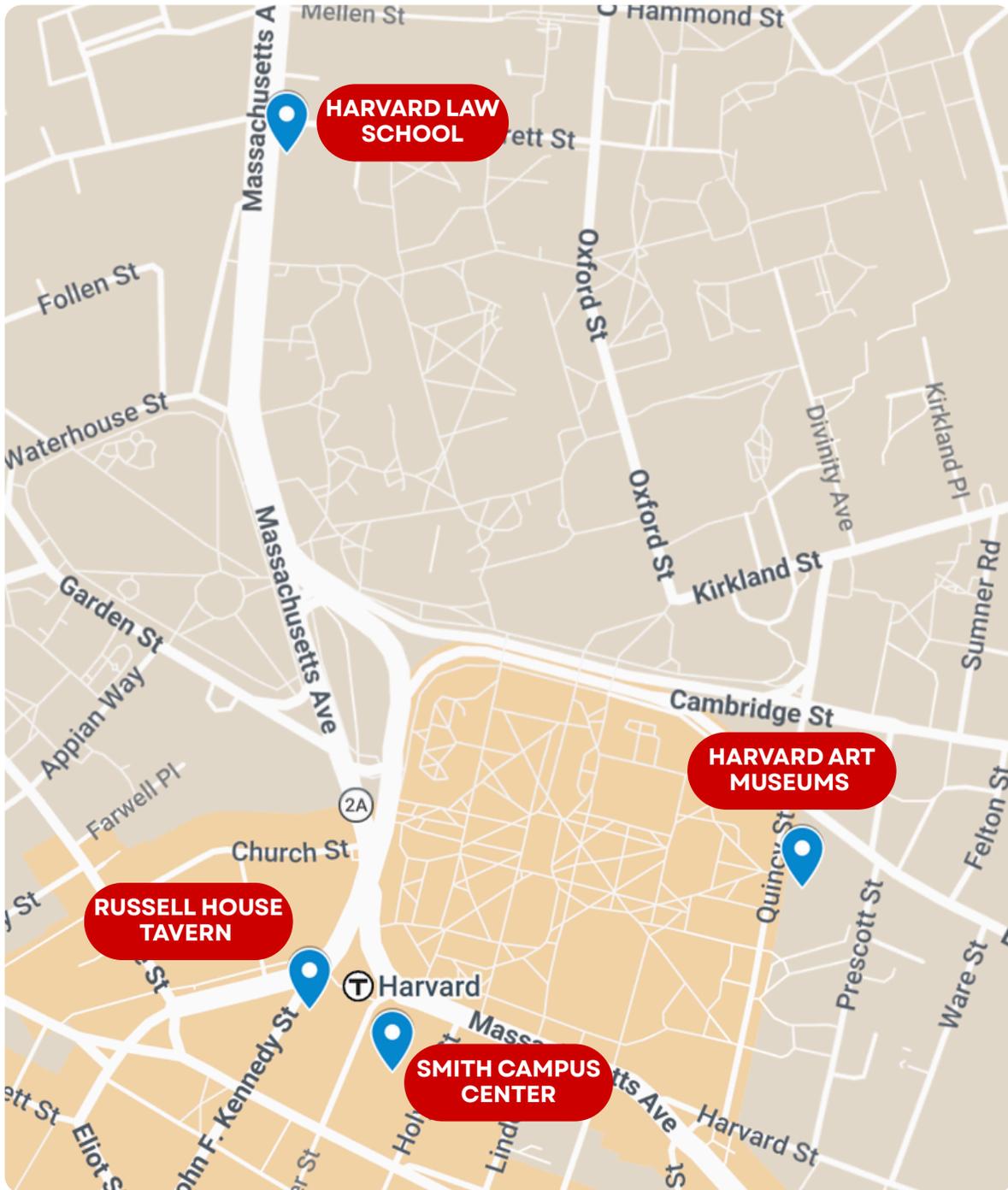
Conference Gala (March 6, Friday)

HARVARD ART MUSEUMS

32 Quincy St, Cambridge, MA



LOCATIONS



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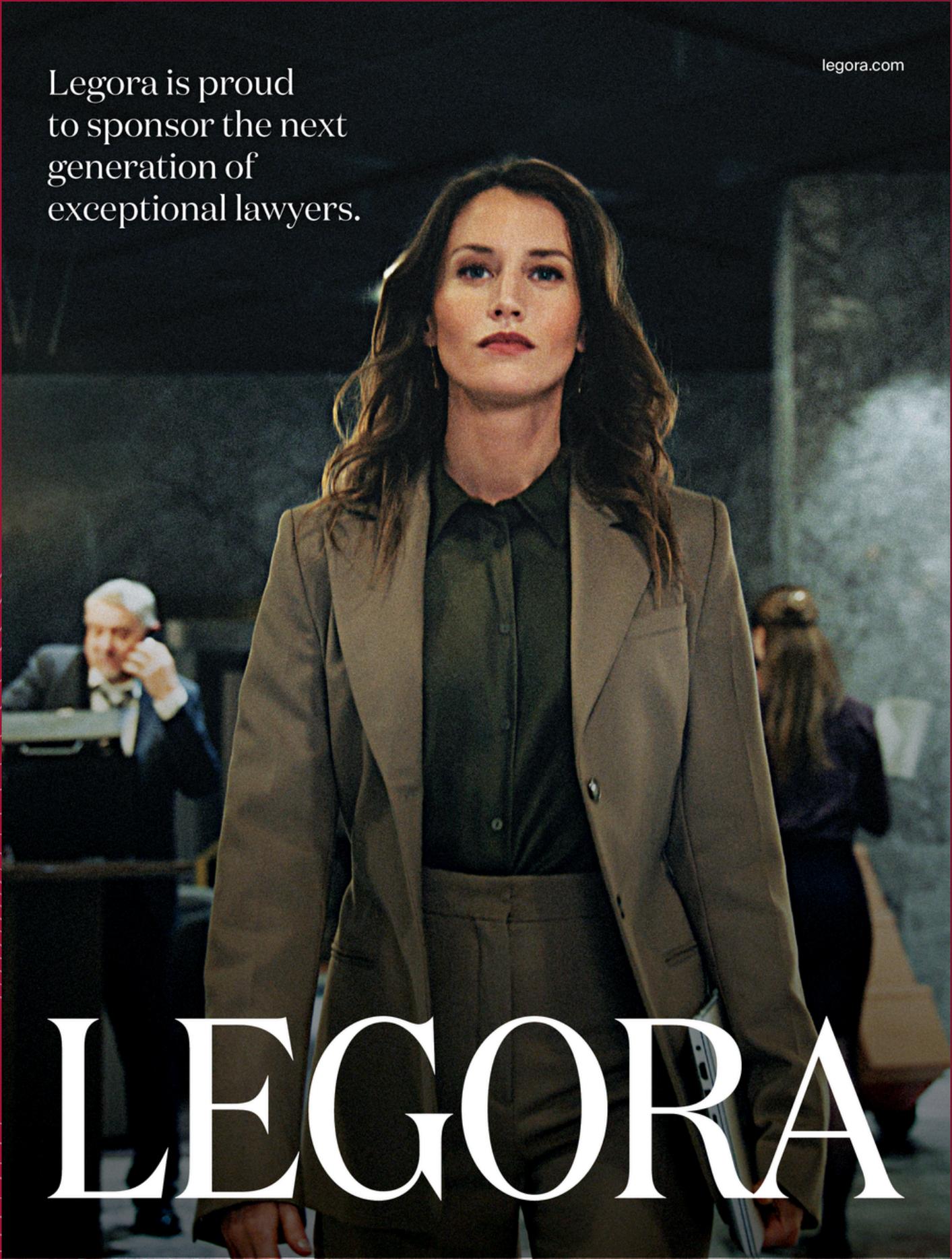


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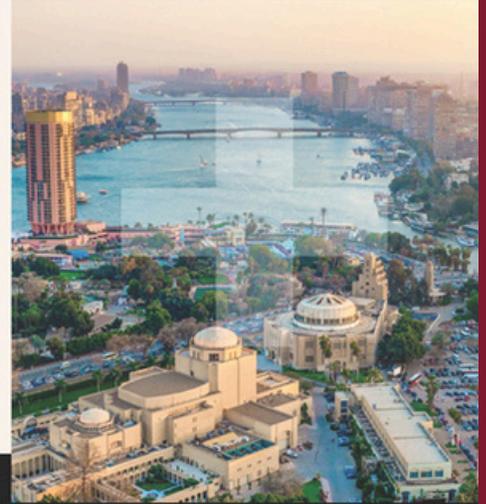
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Karim A. Youssef Forbes Middle East, 2021

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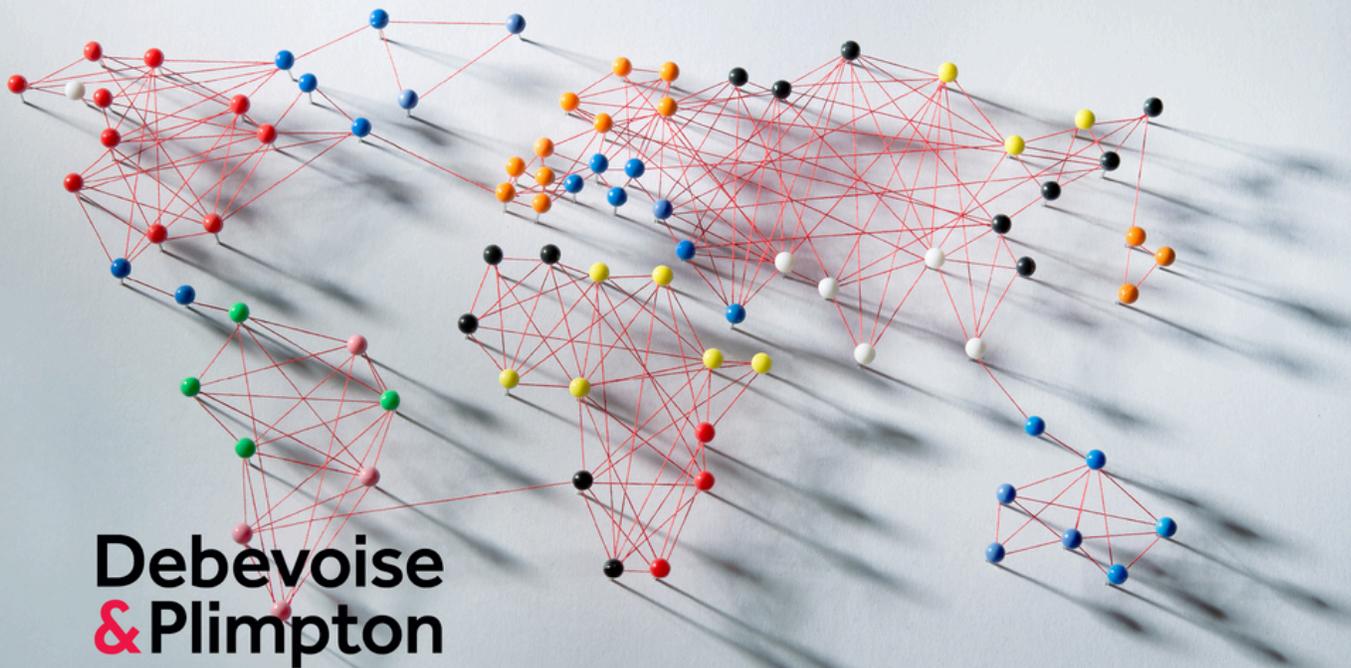
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Speakers:



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Juliana de Valdenebro Garrido
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