



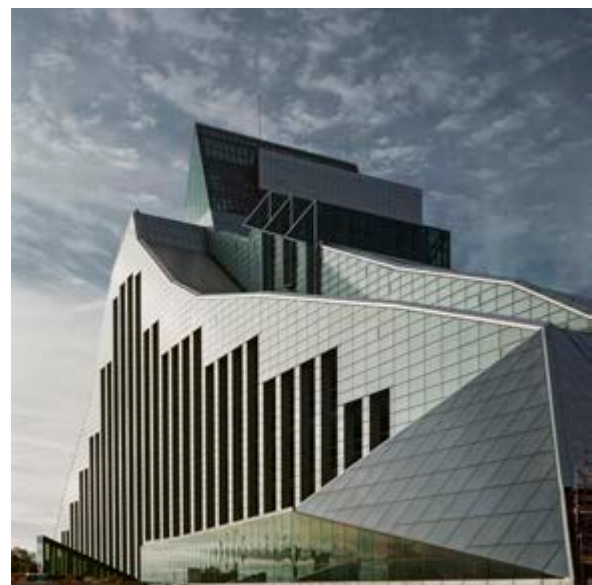
ELI

EUROPEAN
LAW
INSTITUTE



2018 Annual Conference and General Assembly

5–7 September 2018, Riga
(Latvia)



About the European Law Institute



Christiane Wendehorst, President

'Catalysing the formation of a vigorous European legal community is the European Law Institute's declared mission. A vigorous European legal community that is determined to improve European law and to enhance the role which Europe plays globally, while remaining fully committed to collaboration with colleagues from other continents, is vital to Europe's future. We strongly believe that lawyers from all vocational backgrounds and legal traditions will, together, make Europe an ever more inspiring place for legal thought.'



Sjef van Erp, Vice-President

'In a period which more and more seems to be characterised by growing international divergence, the European Law Institute can provide a forum and a platform for continuing international legal cooperation on a practice-oriented, well prepared and carefully considered, basis. Within an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding, differences of legal approaches can be discussed in a profound way, leading to workable results which are acceptable from the perspective of various legal traditions and legal professions. One of such areas is, no doubt, digitalisation and the law.'



Denis Philippe, Treasurer

'The ELI is a unique forum where judges, academics and practitioners can meet and exchange ideas on new legal developments in Europe. Practitioners also have an excellent opportunity to participate in the development of European law and in the dialogue between the ELI and European institutions. In this way, the ELI is uniquely able to facilitate communication between lawyers and policy makers in Europe.'

The law in Europe has a profound impact on the daily lives of European citizens, companies and organisations. As an independent organisation, the European Law Institute (ELI) aims to improve the quality of law, support its development and contribute to its proper implementation both on a national and European level.

At the heart of the ELI's activities are its projects, which can be either Statements or Instruments: the former are usually short-term projects that react to current developments, while the latter are proactive in nature and will often take several years of drafting. Alongside Hubs, which are national networks of ELI members, the ELI has also established Special Interest Groups (SIGs), through which it aims to scrutinise the latest, cutting-edge developments in the different fields of law. Participation in ELI activities is encouraged amongst all members, and those members wishing to play a particularly significant and decisive role in the functioning of the Institute can stand for election in the ELI Council. ELI members can also take part in various projects, either as project team members or as participants of Members Consultative Committees. The ELI is proud of its diverse membership and values the variety of expertise and perspectives, which it brings to the organisation.

The ELI is partly modelled on the American Law Institute (ALI), which was founded in 1923 and has since become a landmark institution in the American legal system. Like its American counterpart, the ELI aims to unite jurists of the highest standing from all branches and professions of the law. The Institute operates on its own initiative but is also open for cooperation with other institutions that share its vision. Since its foundation, the Institute has established close working relations with European institutions such as the European Parliament, the European Commission, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), international organisations such as the Council of Europe, United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), as well as organisations such as the Council of the Notariats of the European Union (CNUE), the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary (ENCJ) and the Academy of European Law (ERA).

Programme Overview

Wednesday | 5 September

VENUE: UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA, FACULTY OF LAW; RAIŅA BOULEVARD 19, RIGA, LV-1586

08:45 - 10:55 Registration (Council and General Assembly only), Entrance Hall

11:00 - 13:00 Council Meeting, Senate Hall, 2nd Floor

13:00 - 13:55 *Lunch*, Daily Canteen, Basement

14:00 - 15:30 Council Meeting, Senate Hall, 2nd Floor

15:30 - 15:55 *Coffee Break*, Auditorium 5, 2nd Floor

16:00 - 18:00 General Assembly, Aula Magna, 2nd Floor

19:00 - 22:00 Opening Ceremony and Reception

VENUE: NATIONAL ART MUSEUM; JAŅA ROZENTĀLA LAUKUMS 1, CENTRA RAJONS, RIGA, LV-1010

Christiane Wendehorst, ELI President

Dzintars Rasnačs, Latvian Minister of Justice

Edvīns Balševics, Director General of the Court of Administration

Anita Rodina, Dean of the Law Faculty at the University of Latvia

Book Launch

Nils Jansen, Co-Author (with Reinhard Zimmermann) of the Commentaries on European Contract Laws (2018)

Lord John Thomas, ELI Executive Committee Member, Former Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales

Thursday | 6 September

VENUE: UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA, FACULTY OF LAW; RAIŅA BOULEVARD 19, RIGA, LV-1586

08:00 - 08:55 Registration (For All Others), Entrance Hall

09:00 - 09:30 Welcome Addresses, Aula Magna, 2nd Floor

Indriķis Muižnieks, Rector of the University of Latvia

Ineta Ziemele, President of the Constitutional Court of Latvia

Christiane Wendehorst, ELI President

09:30 - 11:00 **Principles for a Data Economy**

Aula Magna, 2nd Floor

Lord John Thomas (chair)

Neil Cohen

Steven O Weise

Christiane Wendehorst

Protection of Adults in International Situations

Aula Parva, 2nd Floor

Bea Verschraegen (chair)

Pietro Franzina

Richard Frimston

Maja Groff

Patrizia de Luca

11:00 - 11:25 *Coffee Break*, Auditorium 5, 2nd Floor/Hallway at Merkela Street, 1st Floor

11:30 - 13:00 **Draft Model Rules on Online Intermediary Platforms (I)**

Aula Magna, 2nd Floor

Hans Schulte-Nölke (chair)

Christoph Busch

Christoph Schmon

Common Constitutional Traditions in Europe

Aula Parva, 2nd Floor

Mario Comba (chair)

Celestina Iannone

Jeffrey Jowell

Bostjan Zalar

Ineta Ziemele

13:00 - 13:55 *Lunch*, Daily Canteen, Basement

14:00 - 14:40 Keynote Speech: **Harriet Lansing**, Former President of the Uniform Law Commission, Aula Magna, 2nd Floor

14:45 - 16:15 **Draft Model Rules on Online Intermediary Platforms (II)**

Aula Magna, 2nd Floor

Gerhard Danneman (co-chair)

Teresa Rodriguez de las Heras Ballell (co-chair)

Hans Schulte-Nölke

Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets

Aula Parva, 2nd Floor

Denis Phillippe (chair)

Sjef van Erp

Lord John Thomas

Jos Uitdehaag

16:15 - 16:40 *Coffee Break*, Auditorium 5, 2nd Floor/Hallway at Merkela Street, 1st Floor

Programme Overview

16:45 - 18:15 **From Transnational Principles to European Rules of Civil Procedure**
Aula Magna, 2nd Floor
Anna Veneziano (co-chair)
Diana Wallis (co-chair)
Emmanuel Jeuland
Xandra Kramer
John Sorabji

Principles of Liability in Digitalised Environments
Aula Parva, 2nd Floor
Anna Birgitte Gammeljord (chair)
Ernst Karner
Hans Schulte-Nölke
Dirk Staudenmayer
Christiane Wendehorst

19:30 - 22:00 Gala Dinner with music by the Liepaja Symphony Orchestra
VENUE: KLĪVERSALA RESTAURANT, NATIONAL LIBRARY; MŪKUSALAS IELA 3; RIGA, LV-1423

Raivis Kronbergs, State Secretary of the Ministry of Justice of Latvia
Lance Liebman, Former Director of the American Law Institute

Friday | 7 September

VENUE: UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA, FACULTY OF LAW; RAIŅA BOULEVARD 19, RIGA, LV-1586

09:00 - 10:30 **Empowering European Families (Presentation of Final Results)**
Aula Magna, 2nd Floor
Jens M Scherpe (chair)
Elena Bargelli
Markus Buschbaum
Wendy Schrama
Christiane Wendehorst

A Latvian Perspective on Topics of Current and Prospective ELI Projects (I)
Aula Parva, 2nd Floor
Agris Bitāns (Civil Liability in Digitalised Environments)
Artūrs Kučs (Digitalisation)
Vadims Mantrovs (Online Platforms)

10:30 - 10:55 *Coffee Break*, Auditorium 5, 2nd Floor/Hallway at Merkela Street, 1st Floor

11:00 - 12:30 **Research and Development Tax Incentives**
Aula Magna, 2nd Floor
Georges Cavalier (chair)
Kārlis Ketners
Alain Lamassoure
Tomi Viitala

A Latvian Perspective on Topics of Current and Prospective ELI Projects (II)
Aula Parva, 2nd Floor
Inese Lībiņa-Egner (Family Law)
Lauris Liepa (Business and Human Rights) (tbc)
Daiga Rezevska (Common Constitutional Traditions)

12:30 - 13:25 *Lunch*, Daily Canteen, Basement

13:30 - 14:55 **Business and Human Rights**
Aula Magna, 2nd Floor
Jonas Grimheden (co-chair)
Diana Wallis (co-chair)
Heidi Hautala
Gabriela Quijano

Blockchain Technology and Smart Contracts
Aula Parva, 2nd Floor
Sjef van Erp (chair)
Juliette Senechal
Dirk Staudenmayer
Hubert de Vauplane
Christopher Wray

15:00 - 15:30 Keynote Speech: **Pauliine Koskelo**, Finnish Judge to the European Court of Human Rights
Aula Magna, 2nd Floor

15:30 - 15:45 ELI Young Lawyers' Award (sponsored by Interleges): Winner's Presentation, Aula Magna, 2nd Floor

15:45 - 16:10 *Coffee Break*, Auditorium 5, 2nd Floor/Hallway at Merkela Street, 1st Floor

16:15 - 17:45 **e-CODEX and its Impact on Execution of European Legal Procedures**
Aula Magna, 2nd Floor
Ernst Steigenga

17:45 - 18:00 Closing Speech: **Christiane Wendehorst**, ELI President
Aula Magna, 2nd Floor

19:30 - 22:00 Social Event
VENUE: ROZENGRĀLS MEDIEVAL RESTAURANT; ROZENA 1, RIGA, LV-1050

Egils Levits, Latvian Judge to the Court of Justice of the European Union
Christiane Wendehorst, ELI President

Other Meetings of ELI Bodies, Projects and SIGs

The following are only open to members of the respective ELI bodies and projects. ELI members that wish to join a particular SIG are welcome to attend the relevant SIG meeting below.

Meetings of Other ELI Bodies

VENUE: UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA, FACULTY OF LAW; RAIŅA BOULEVARD 19, RIGA, LV-1586

Wednesday | 5 September

09:00 - 10:55 **Executive Committee-Senate Meeting**

Dean's Gallery, 3rd Floor

09:00 - 10:30 **Membership Committee Meeting**

Auditorium 1, 1st Floor

11:00 **Senate Meeting**

Dean's Gallery, 3rd Floor

Project Meetings

VENUE: UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA, FACULTY OF LAW; RAIŅA BOULEVARD 19, RIGA, LV-1586

Thursday | 6 September

11:30 - 13:00 **Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Project Team meeting**

Auditorium 1, 1st Floor

Friday | 7 September

11:00 - 12:30 **Principles of Liability in Digitalised Environments Project Team meeting**

Dean's Gallery, 3rd Floor

16:30 - 18:00 **Draft Model Rules on Online Intermediary Platforms Project Team, Advisory Committee and MCC Meeting**

Auditorium 1, 1st Floor

Saturday | 8 September

09:00 - 14:00 **ALI-ELI Principles for a Data Economy Project Team, Advisory Committee and MCC Meeting**

Dean's Gallery, 3rd Floor

SIG Meetings

VENUE: UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA, FACULTY OF LAW; RAIŅA BOULEVARD 19, RIGA, LV-1586

Thursday | 6 September

09:30 - 11:00 **Business and Financial Law SIG Meeting**

Conference Hall, 1st Floor

15:00 - 16:30 **Fundamental Rights SIG Meeting**

Conference Hall, 1st Floor

Friday | 7 September

09:15 - 10:45 **Dispute Resolution SIG Meeting**

Conference Hall, 1st Floor

11:15 - 12:45 **Digital Law SIG Meeting**

Conference Hall, 1st Floor

14:30 - 16:00 **Family and Succession Law SIG Meeting**

Conference Hall, 1st Floor

16:30 - 18:00 **Global Private Law SIG Meeting**

Conference Hall, 1st Floor



Programme

Wednesday, 5 September 2018

VENUE: UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA, FACULTY OF LAW; RAIŅA BOULEVARD 19, RIGA, LV-1586

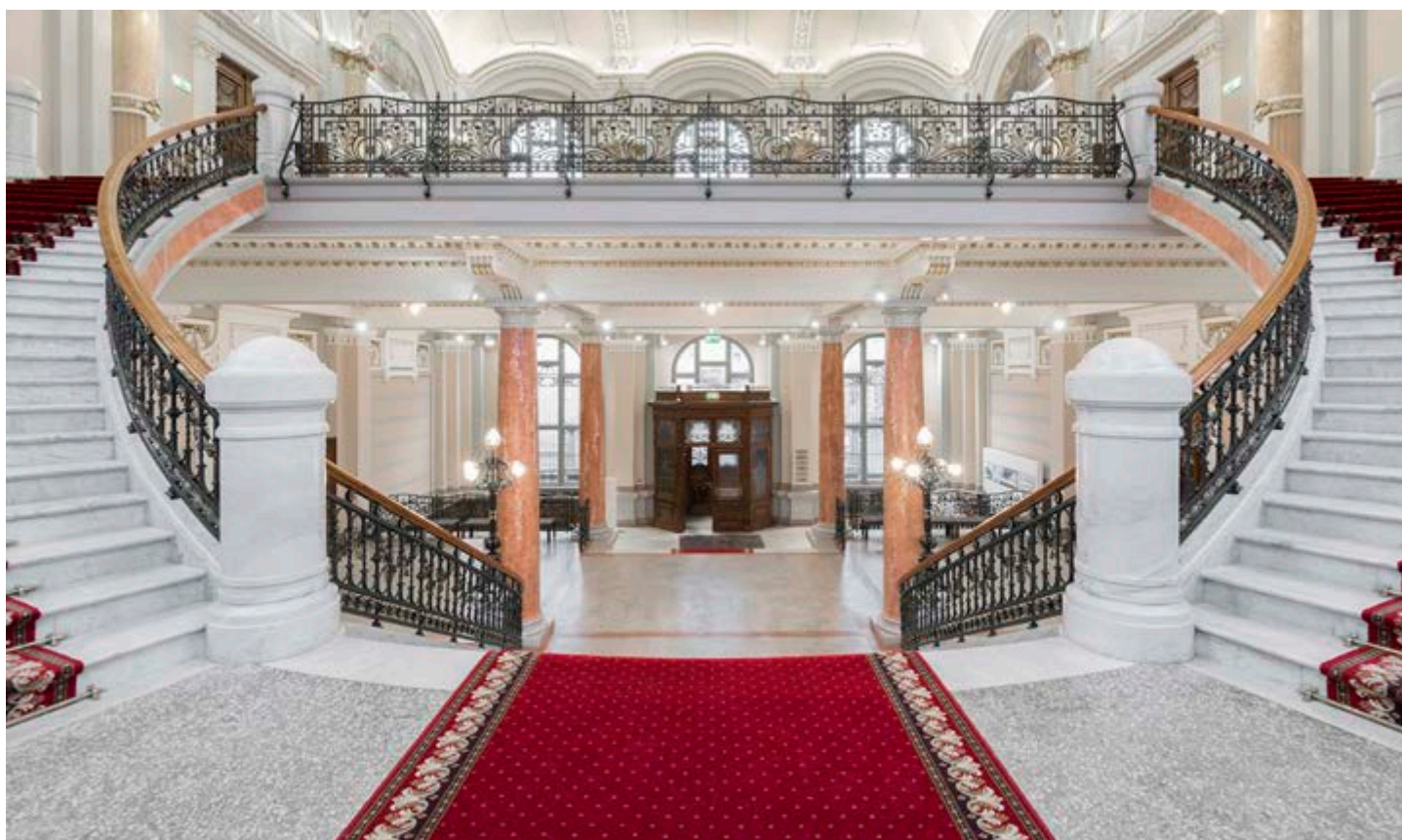
- 08:45 - 10:55 Registration (Council and General Assembly only)
Entrance Hall
- 11:00 - 13:00 Council Meeting
Senate Hall, 2nd Floor
- 13:00 - 13:55 *Lunch*
Daily Canteen, Basement
- 14:00 - 15:30 Council Meeting
Senate Hall, 2nd Floor
- 15:30 - 15:55 *Coffee Break*
Auditorium 5, 2nd Floor
- 16:00 - 18:00 General Assembly
Aula Magna, 2nd Floor
- 19:00 - 22:00 Opening Ceremony and Reception
[VENUE: NATIONAL ART MUSEUM; JAŅA ROZENTĀLA LAUKUMS 1, CENTRA RAJONS, RIGA, LV-1010](#)

Christiane Wendehorst, ELI President
Dzintars Rasnačs, Latvian Minister of Justice
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Book Launch

Nils Jansen, Co-Author (with Reinhard Zimmermann) of the Commentaries on European Contract Laws (2018)

Lord John Thomas, ELI Executive Committee Member, Former Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales



Thursday, 6 September 2018

VENUE: UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA, FACULTY OF LAW; RAIŅA BOULEVARD 19, RIGA, LV-1586

08:00 - 08:55 Registration (For All Others)
Entrance Hall

09:00 - 09:30 Welcome Addresses
Aula Magna, 2nd Floor

Indriķis Muižnieks, Rector of the University of Latvia
Ineta Ziemele, President of the Constitutional Court of Latvia
Christiane Wendehorst, ELI President



09:30 - 11:00 Principles for a Data Economy
Aula Magna, 2nd Floor

Chair: Lord John Thomas

Panellists: Neil Cohen, Steven O Weise and Christiane Wendehorst

In its new role as an asset that can be sold and exchanged, data has become a key element of transactions all over the world. The new reality creates uncertainty about what rights parties 'own' and can trade in. The discussions about 'data ownership' and its meaning in economic and legal terms are still ongoing with legislators seeking to provide solutions that would reduce the insecurities of the parties concerned. In order to do that, the existing and potential legal rules applicable to transactions in data as an asset and as a tradeable item need to be analysed and the 'suitability' of those rules must be assessed taking into account new types of transactions. To fulfil this goal, the ALI and ELI conducted a Feasibility Study to analyse how law in the US and EU applies to the new data economy. Preliminary results of this Feasibility Study revealed that it is possible to set basic principles and identify the main challenges that both lawmakers in the US and in Europe face. The ALI and ELI further decided to continue their work within a joint project aiming to produce a set of transnational principles that can facilitate the drafting of model agreements or provisions to be used on a voluntary basis and serve as a source for inspiration and guidance for courts and legislators worldwide. The panel at the ELI Annual Conference will explore relevant issues pertaining to the ongoing ALI-ELI work in the field and will discuss the draft results of the Feasibility Study with the audience.



09:30 - 11:00 Protection of Adults in International Situations
Aula Parva, 2 Floor

Chair: Bea Verschraegen

Panellists: Pietro Franzina, Richard Frimstone, Maja Groff and Patrizia de Luca

The increasing mobility of adults who are unable to protect their personal affairs or their property because of an impairment or insufficiency of their personal faculties has become an international concern. The difficulties arising out of the diversity of legal systems and the low number of accessions to the Hague Convention of 13 January 2000 on the International Protection of Adults are among the reasons why the ELI embarked on the project dealing with the Protection of Adults in International Situations in September 2017. The project takes into account the Resolution of the European Parliament of 1 June 2017 with recommendations to the Commission on the protection of vulnerable adults (2015/2085(INL)). The panel will consider the added value of future EU legislation which aims at enhancing the cross-border protection of vulnerable adults and the legal significance of the Hague Convention in this context.

11:00 - 11:25 Coffee Break
Auditorium 5, 2nd Floor/Hallway at Merkela Street, 1st Floor

11:30 - 13:00 **Draft Models on Online Intermediary Platforms (I)**

Aula Magna, 2nd Floor

Chair: Hans Schulte-Nölke

Panellists: Christoph Busch and Christoph Schmon

Following the successful presentation of the project at the ELI Annual Conference in Vienna in 2017 as well as further project team meetings in 2018, the project on Draft Model Rules on Online Intermediary Platforms is entering its final stage. This project aims at ensuring better protection of consumers and other platform users by providing clear solutions with regard to online intermediary platforms. The latter increasingly shape our economy as the number of platforms as well as their users is rapidly rising. Since the existing EU regulatory framework mainly deals with bilateral supplier-customer relations, the platforms-based economy, characterised by trilateral relations, urgently needs new rules. The two panels on the project have a slightly different format. This panel will present the draft rules elaborated by the team and discuss them with stakeholders.

11:30 - 13:00 **Common Constitutional Traditions in Europe**

Aula Parva, 2 Floor

Chair: Mario Comba

Panellists: Celestina Iannone, Jeffrey Jowell Bostjan Zalar and Ineta Ziemele

Article 6(3) of the Treaty of the European Union refers to 'common constitutional traditions'. The question of what traditions are common engages both the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) and the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). The Council of Europe's Venice Commission also seeks to establish common standards around the rule of law, democracy and human rights. The issue is of increasing importance as European legal integration develops, while at the same time liberal values are challenging. This ELI project aims at identifying these traditions and, most importantly, developing a methodology that would allow for their further identification in court practice and elsewhere. Following fruitful discussions on the topic at the ELI Annual Conference in Vienna in 2017 and the approval of the proposed project by the ELI Council in February 2018, the project team has begun elaborating on its work and will present its progress to date at the panel.

13:00 - 13:55 **Lunch**

Daily Canteen, Basement



14:00 - 14:40 **Keynote Speech: Harriet Lansing, Former President of the Uniform Law Commission**

Aula Magna, 2nd Floor



Harriet Lansing has served as a Judge on the Minnesota Court of Appeals for 28 years and five years as a senior judge. During her tenure she has been active in judicial education, including a decade with the Appellate Judges Institute at New York University Law School. Following retirement, she was elected President of the Uniform Law Commission (ULC). She continues her ULC work on its international committees and by serving on the US Delegation to the UNCITRAL Committee on Mediated Settlements.

14:45 - 16:15 **Draft Model Rules on Online Intermediary Platforms (II)**

Aula Magna, 2nd Floor

Co-Chairs: Gerhard Danneman and Teresa Rodriguez de las Heras Ballell

Panellist: Hans Schulte-Nölke

This second panel on Draft Model Rules on Online Intermediary Platforms will provide ELI members and participants of this year's Annual Conference with an opportunity to discuss the draft rules with a view to giving feedback to the team. Such input is indispensable for the furtherance of the team's work. The final Model Rules will be presented at the ELI Annual Conference in 2019.

14:45 - 16:15 **Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets**

Aula Parva, 2 Floor

Chair: Denis Philippe

Panellists: Sjef van Erp, Lord John Thomas and Jos Uitdehaag

Since the digital world is cross-border, consideration of European and even global harmonisation is vital, particularly with regard to tracing and gaining access to digital assets which could be stored on servers anywhere. An approach that overarches legal traditions is needed and consensus with and within the IT industry ought to be reached. This prospective ELI project aims to elaborate on a draft European legislative instrument, enabling the tracing and gaining of access to digital assets within the European Union in the interests of European private citizens (not only in cases of digital inheritance, but also when digital matrimonial or registered partnership property must be separated in divorce cases) and European businesses (in cases of defaulting debtors, who possess digital assets, such as digital currencies) and the panel will allow for further discussions on issues pertaining to the above topic.

16:15 - 16:40 **Coffee Break**

Aula Magna (Auditorium 5), 2nd Floor/ Hallway at Merkela Street, 1st Floor



16:45 - 18:15 From Transnational Principles to European Rules of Civil Procedure

Aula Magna, 2nd Floor

Co-Chairs: Anna Veneziano and Diana Wallis

Panellists: Emmanuel Jeuland, Xandra Kramer and John Sorabji

The divergences between national rules on civil procedure developed over a long period of time and the question of which rules are applicable in a situation when parties enter into a transaction involving more than one State, led to the conclusion that a certain degree of unification of the rules governing private international law would unequivocally contribute to the simplification of the resolution of civil disputes across Europe. Therefore, the ELI and UNIDROIT undertook a joint venture aimed at analysing the different civil procedure regimes and at drafting a set of unified regional principles of civil procedure. Greater harmony and homogeneity of such important legislation within Europe would facilitate the free movement of citizens and businesses across borders. Numerous organisations in their capacity as observers, inter alia, the European Parliament and the European Commission have shown interest in the project, which has been referred to in several working documents at EU level. As the project is soon drawing to an end, this panel will discuss its current state and the work produced by two of its working groups, on Parties and Costs.

16:45 - 18:15 Principles of Liability in Digitalised Environments

Aula Parva, 2 Floor

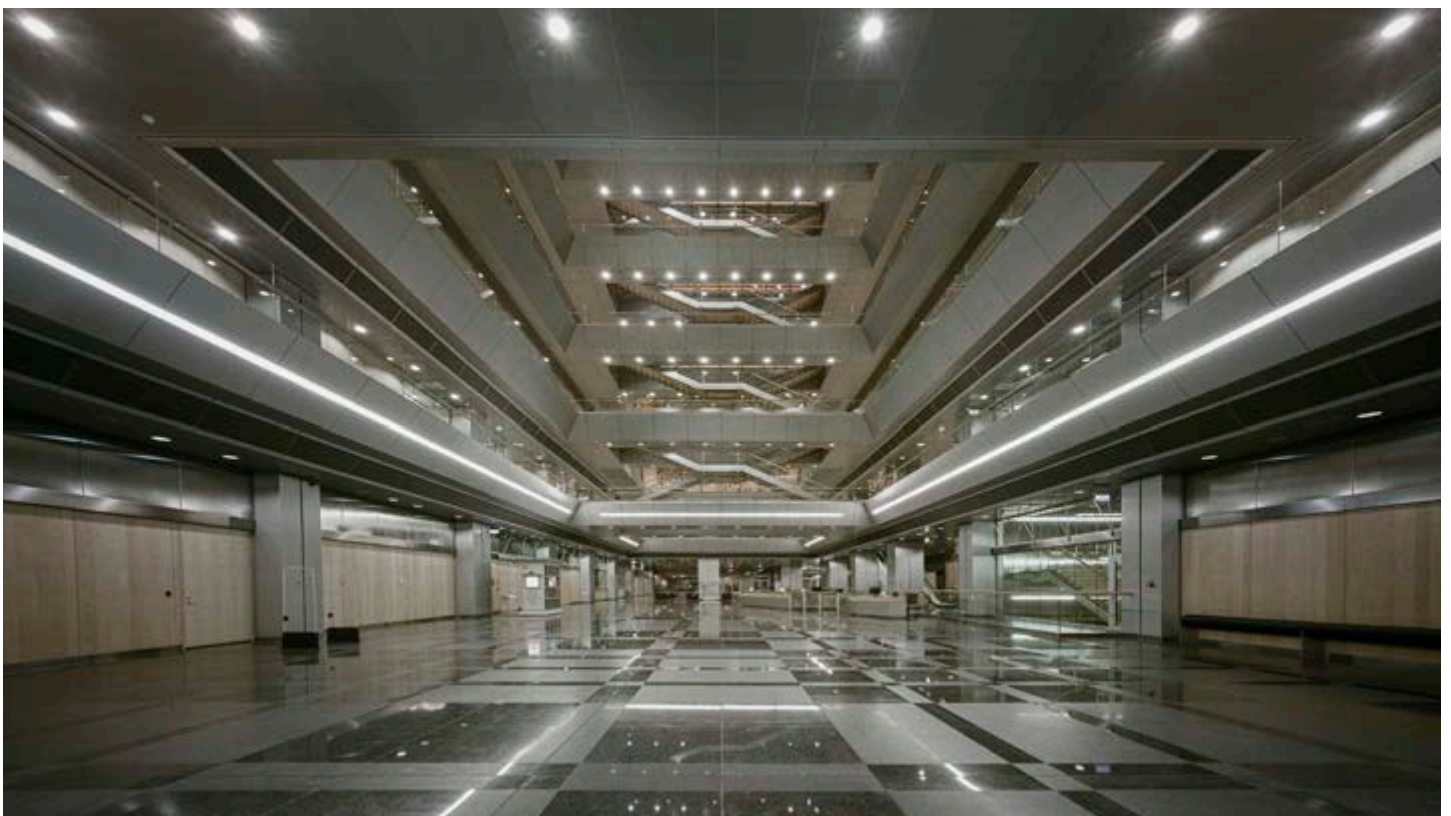
Chair: Anna Birgitte Gammeljord

Panellists: Ernst Karner, Hans Schulte-Nölke, Dirk Staudenmayer and Christiane Wendehorst

The location of data is no longer in a physical jurisdiction but in clouds which may change rapidly. In addition, damage may be caused by autonomous agents acting according to patterns derived from deep learning or by centralised autonomous organisations. As a prospective ELI project, the panel devoted to the Principles of Liability in Digitalised Environments will explore the feasibility of embarking on work to improve existing legal regimes and developing transnational model rules to be used as sources of inspiration by legislators.

19:30 - 22:00 Gala Dinner with music by members of the Liepāja Symphony Orchestra

Venue: Klīversala Restaurant, National Library, Mukusalas Iela 3, Rīga, LV-1423



Friday, 7 September 2018

VENUE: UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA, FACULTY OF LAW; RAINA BOULEVARD 19, RIGA

09:00 - 10:30 **Empowering European Families (Presentation of Final Results)**

Aula Magna, 2nd Floor

Chair: Jens M Scherpe

Panellists: Elena Bargelli, Markus Buschbaum, Wendy Schrama and Christiane Wendehorst

After more than ten years of working group meetings and following numerous presentations of the interim output of the project at several public workshops and conferences, including the 2016 and 2017 ELI Annual Conferences, the team is now ready to present the final results and findings of the Empowering European Families: Towards More Party Autonomy in Family and Succession Law project, embarked on by experts from the Universities of Vienna and Utrecht with the help of an EU action grant and conducted as an ELI project. The aims of this project were to reduce obstacles faced by international families and to facilitate the free movement of citizens by providing better certainty and predictability of results and by reducing the costs of litigation in matters of family and succession laws. Moreover, it also aimed to promote the use of family mediation in the EU. The panellists will have the opportunity to discuss the resulting ELI Instrument with those present.

09:00 - 10:30 **Latvian Perspectives on Topics of Current and Prospective ELI Projects (I)**

Aula Parva, 2 Floor

Panellists: Agris Bitāns (Civil Liability in Digitalised Environments), Artūrs Kučs (Digitalisation) and Vadims Mantrovs (Online Platforms)

Projects lie at the centre of the ELI's activities. As an Institute committed to the principles of comprehensiveness and collaborative working, the ELI strives to bridge the oft-perceived gap between different legal cultures, between public and private law, as well as between scholarship and practice. On this panel, the ELI seeks to garner insights from the perspectives of experts from the host country of our 2018 Annual Conference, Latvia, on current ELI projects and on ones to be voted upon at the September 2018 Council meeting, with a view to providing members of those project teams with thought-provoking contributions with which to develop their projects further.

10:30 - 10:55 **Coffee Break**

Aula Magna (Auditorium 5), 2nd Floor/ Hallway at Merkela Street, 1st Floor



11:00 - 12:30 **Research and Development Tax Incentives**

Aula Magna, 2nd Floor

Chair: Georges Cavalier

Panellists: Karlis Ketners, Alain Lamassoure and Tomi Viitala

Research and Development (R&D) is one of the areas of particular interest for the European Union. There are various methods of incentivising enterprises active in the field of R&D, for example through tax incentives. The R&D tax incentives that are currently in place, are not harmonised within Europe. However, the European Commission recently proposed a Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (CCCTB), including a super deduction for qualifying tax expenses, with the aim of providing a common corporate tax base for EU Member States. This should improve the situation by reducing administrative burdens, compliance costs and tax obstacles for companies operating in several EU Member States.

There is much ongoing debate about the EU super deduction and its possible relation with national tax incentives. In particular, the definition of qualifying R&D expenses eligible for super deduction has to be refined. Following the approval by the ELI Council of this ELI project in November 2017, the team is now ready to present its Statement. It focuses on providing a general framework detailing what would be eligible for R&D tax incentives. The participants of the panel will discuss the output of the project.

11:00 - 12:30 **Latvian Perspectives on Topics of Current and Prospective ELI Projects (II)**

Aula Parva, 2 Floor

Panellists: Inese Libiņa-Egner (Family Law), Lauris Liepa (Business and Human Rights), Daiga Rezevska (Common Constitutional Traditions)

Projects lie at the centre of the ELI's activities. As an Institute committed to the principles of comprehensiveness and collaborative working, the ELI strives to bridge the oft-perceived gap between different legal cultures, between public and private law, as well as between scholarship and practice. On this panel, the ELI seeks to garner insights from the perspectives of experts from the host country of our 2018 Annual Conference, Latvia, on current ELI projects and on ones to be voted upon at the September 2018 Council meeting, with a view to providing members of those project teams with thought-provoking contributions with which to develop their projects further.

12:30 - 13:25 **Lunch**

Daily Canteen, Basement



Co-Chairs: Jonas Grimheden and Diana Wallis

Panellists: Heidi Hautala and Gabriela Quijano

As some multinational corporations gain economic and social influence, which rivals that of nation states, it is necessary to also review their impact on human rights. Where this impact amounts to violations of human rights, effective remedies should be made available to victims. At present, access to justice in ensuring the maintenance of such standards is often hindered by a number of factors, partly inherent in the imbalance of power between victims of human rights abuses and international businesses. The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and the ELI have recently embarked on a joint project to tackle the issue of access to remedies for human rights abuses and encourage deterrence of corporate practices and activities harmful to stakeholders and the wider community. The Business and Human Rights panel will explore and identify a range of relevant issues pertaining to the ongoing ELI-FRA work in this area, discuss measures intended to increase access to remedies and ensure greater corporate responsibility. A discussion on the horizontal effect of human rights on businesses will also be had.



Chair: Sjef van Erp

Panellists: Juliette Senechal, Dirk Staudenmayer, Hubert de Vauplane and Christopher Wray

Blockchain Technology and Smart Contracts is one of three upcoming ELI projects. Blockchains are technologies that have a huge potential to fundamentally change many areas of private law transactions. Blockchain technology is already used to produce digital currency and to replace some back-office functions of banks and insurance providers. Its application in land registration and numerous other fields is constantly being considered. Within a few years, blockchain technology, and its distributed ledger system, could be the basis of the registration of vast values in real property and currency. It would be irresponsible not to scrutinise the legal basis for these applications and consider how the law can enshrine sufficient operational security and whether minimum standards should be regulated, either at national or European level. At the same time, blockchain technology is starting to offer interesting opportunities for private transactions in the form of smart contracts. Such contracts eliminate the need for trust and good faith, but can easily be frustrated at the slightest change of contractual circumstances. Whether the current system of private law can readily cope with these novel forms of 'self-executing' agreements, or whether new solutions are required, are fundamental questions and this panel will aim at finding the answers.



15:00-15:30 Keynote Speech: **Pauliine Koskelo**, Finnish Judge to the European Court of Human Rights
Aula Magna, 2nd Floor



Pauliine Koskelo is a Judge at the European Court of Human Rights. She was member (2000–2005) and President (2006–2015) of the Supreme Court of Finland. Earlier in her career she served the Finnish Ministry of Justice as Senior Adviser in Legislative Affairs (1985–1995) and the European Investment Bank in senior positions at the Directorate of Legal Affairs (1995–2000). She chaired the Judicial Appointments Board of Finland (2006–2012) and was a Member of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) Article 255 panel (2014–2018).

15:30-15:45 ELI Young Lawyers' Award (sponsored by Interlegas): Winner's Presentation
Aula Magna, 2nd Floor

15:45-16:10 Coffee Break

16:15–17:45 e-CODEX and its Impact on Execution of European Legal Procedures
Aula Magna, 2nd Floor

Ernst Steigenga

e-CODEX is the digital infrastructure to exchange case-related data between legal authorities in the European Union. e-CODEX also improves cross-border access of citizens and business to legal services in other Member States. At the moment, the main effort of the e-CODEX community is extending e-CODEX support in more Member States and implementing better legal procedures. In addition to extensive coverage, procedural expertise with e-CODEX is on the rise. The ELI is keen to assess e-CODEX experiences with a view to addressing the challenges that the use of technology brings to justice. What is the impact of IT processes on the law? What about IT governance and the independence of the judiciary? What do we know about the impact of procedural law on digitalisation? How to create trust in digital solutions? What can be improved at EU level and what should remain the responsibility of Member States? How can the use of clear and coherent legal terminology facilitate the building of digital tools for legal practice? This panel will seek to address these questions and will briefly explain the role of e-CODEX, report on a legislative proposal on the subject and describe the e-CODEX domain, including the impact of e-CODEX in the preparation and execution of legal procedures.



17:45-18:00 Closing Speech: **Christiane Wendehorst**, ELI President
Aula Magna, 2nd Floor

19:30-22:00 Social Event
Venue: Rozengrals Medieval Restaurant, Rozena 1, Riga, LV-1050

Egils Levits, Latvian Judge to the Court of Justice of the European Union
Christiane Wendehorst, ELI President



Speakers



Edvins Balševics has been Director of the Court Administration of the Republic of Latvia since 2009, helping to develop the services provided by Latvian courts and Land Registry Offices. He holds two degrees: one in IT sciences and the other in law. Balševics is an active member of the Council of the Latvian Judicial Training Centre. Previously, he was Director of the Land Registry Department of the Court Administration and also Head of the Land Registry Unit at the Ministry of Justice. He is actively involved in the Twinning projects as a high-level expert on the management and organisation of the judicial system and the implementation of IT technologies.



Elena Bargelli is currently Professor of private law at the University of Pisa (Italy). She was a Research Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung at the Max Planck Institute in Hamburg (Germany) from 2008–2009. She is currently a member of the ELI Council and Membership Committee and a coordinator of the Family and Succession Law SIG. She is also a member of the International Association of Comparative Law (IACL), the European Network for Housing Research (ENHR), and the European Centre of Tort and Insurance Law (ECTIL). In 2017 she was appointed as member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the European Tort Law (ETL), Vienna (Austria). Her main areas of research are contract, tort, family and housing law.



Agris Bitāns is the Managing Partner of Eversheds Sutherland Bitāns Law Office. With more than 20 years of legal experience, he is a widely recognised and acclaimed litigator in Latvia. His main focus is on civil and commercial litigation, civil liability including liability for non-pecuniary loss, intellectual property and contract disputes. In addition to his work at the law firm, Bitāns is a Lector at the University of Latvia's Faculty of Law. He also serves as an Arbitrator at the Court of Arbitration of the Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Christoph Busch is Professor of European private and business law at the University of Osnabrück (Germany). His research interests focus on European consumer and contract law, digital services, algorithmic transparency and standardisation of services. He is a member of the ELI Council, co-coordinator of the ELI Digital Law SIG and a Co-Reporter for the ELI project on Online Intermediary Platforms. Christoph is also co-founder and editor of the Journal of European Consumer and Market Law (EuCML) and a member of several standardisation committees.



Markus Buschbaum is currently a Civil Law Notary in Cologne (Germany). After undertaking his law studies in Cologne, Paris (France) and Düsseldorf (Germany), Markus worked as a lawyer at Redeker Sellner Daks & Widmaier, Bonn (Germany). Between 2007–2009 he was a Candidate Civil Law Notary at the Notarial Chamber of Rhineland before becoming legal adviser and Director of the Brussels office of the Federal Chamber of German Civil Law Notaries and German Advisor for European Notarial Network.



Georges Cavalier is Associate Professor of Law at the University of Lyon (France) and Academic Director for International Programs (USA). He holds two PhDs in Law and a LLM from Georgetown University Law Center. Cavalier was a member of the team drafting the 'Paying Taxes' section of the 'Doing Business' reports published by The World Bank Group. He is currently directing research on collective tax with the ELI.



Neil Cohen is the Jeffrey D Forchelli Professor of law at Brooklyn Law School and serves as the Director of Research of the Permanent Editorial Board for the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC). Since 2009, he has been a member of the US Department of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law. He has served as a member of the US delegation to UNCITRAL for its work on harmonising and modernising the law of secured credit, as a member of the Working Group at the Hague Conference on Private International Law and as an observer and Working Group member for the work of UNIDROIT in its development of principles for international contracts.



Mario Comba is Full Professor of public comparative law at the University of Turin (Italy). Since 2013, he has served as the President of the University Institute of European Studies and as Director of the LLM program in 'Public Procurement Management for Sustainable Development'. From 2010 to 2013 he was President of the School of International Studies at the Faculty of Political Sciences at the University of Turin. His forthcoming publications include an edited book on 'Modernising Public Procurement: The Approach of EU Member States' and a chapter on 'Dutch Public Administration: A Laboratory for the Evolution of the Separation of Powers Doctrine'.



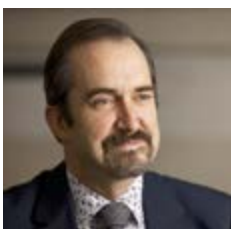
Gerhard Dannemann is Professor for English law, British economy and politics at Humboldt University, Berlin (Germany), and Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute of European and Comparative Law, University of Oxford (UK). He is founder and General Editor of the Oxford University Comparative Law Forum and Co-Reporter for the ELI project on Online Intermediary Platforms. His research interests include comparative law (contracts, torts and unjust enrichment), conflict of laws and academic integrity.



Sjef van Erp is a Professor of civil law and European private law at Maastricht University (The Netherlands), where he teaches foundations of *Ius Commune*, comparative, European and Dutch property law. He is also deputy justice at the Court of Appeals in 's-Hertogenbosch. He is a member of the ALI. van Erp is one of the ELI's Founding Members and is its current Vice-President.



Pietro Franzina is Associate Professor of international law at the University of Ferrara (Italy). He has published extensively in the field of private international law. He was a Director of Studies at the Hague Academy of International Law and a Trainer for the Italian School of the Judiciary and the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN). He is a member of the Editorial Board of the *Rivista di Diritto Internazionale Privato e Processuale*, and serves as an expert to the Italian Ministry of Justice as regards civil judicial cooperation.



Richard Frimston is Partner and Head of the Russell-Cooke LLP Private Client Group in London (UK) and advises clients in relation to their wills, probate and tax planning issues. His areas of expertise include cross-border estates and private international law. He qualified as an English solicitor in 1979 and as an English Notary Public in 1995. He was awarded the STEP 2014 Geoffrey Shindler Award and is currently Chair of the STEP EU Committee and Co-Chair of the STEP Public Policy Committee and sits on the Law Society of England & Wales' EU Committee. Furthermore, he has co-edited 'The International Protection of Adults' for Oxford University Press.



Anne Birgitte Gammeljord is a practising Danish Supreme Court lawyer. She is assistant lawyer in insolvency matters at the Maritime and Commercial Court in Denmark. She previously served on the Disciplinary Committee of the Danish Bar and Law Society and as a member of the Council of the Danish Bar and Law Society. She was President of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) in 2009 and has been a Member of the ELI Council and its Membership Committee since 2012. Gammeljord is now a member of the ELI's Executive Committee.



Jonas Grimheden is Senior Policy Manager at the European Union's Advisory Body for Human Rights within the EU, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in Vienna (Austria). He has been with the Agency since 2009 and previously headed FRA's access to justice work. He is a specialist in International Human Rights Law, with work focused on justice, business and human rights, indicators and monitoring mechanisms.



Maja Groff is Senior Legal Officer at the Hague Conference on Private International Law. Her current responsibilities focus on Hague Conventions that address the cross-border protection of vulnerable adults, three Hague Children's Conventions and the pioneering International Hague Network of Judges. She has played a key role in the potential new conventions and international co-operation mechanisms, and liaises with professional bodies and other international organisations. She has drafted a range of Hague Conference preliminary documents and published book chapters. A graduate of Harvard (USA), Oxford (UK) and McGill (Canada) universities, she is an attorney admitted to practice in New York (USA).



Heidi Hautala is Vice-President of the European Parliament and a former Minister for International Development and State Ownership Steering of Finland. Hautala is currently a member of the Development Committee, the Committee on Legal Affairs and the International Trade Committee. She has focused on human rights, transparency and responsible business. She recently established a cross-party working group on Responsible Business Conduct at the European Parliament. Between 2009–2011, she chaired the Subcommittee on Human Rights.



Celestina Iannone has been Head of Unit of the Research and Documentation Directorate of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) since 2013. The Directorate assists EU courts in the performance of their judicial functions and analysing and disseminating the case law of both jurisdictions. Iannone is particularly tasked with, and involved in, the coordination of the analysis of EU case law. Previously, she was Legal Secretary (*référéndaire*) at the General Court and, subsequently, at the Court of Justice. Her main areas of interest are fundamental rights, EU procedural law and State aid.



Emmanuel Jeuland completed his Master of Law at the University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne (France) and holds an LLM from King's College (London, UK). His PhD on the law of obligations focused on the procedural law relating to the substitution of persons in contractual matters. He is currently Professor at the Sorbonne Law School (University Panthéon Sorbonne, France) and Director of the Sorbonne Institute of Legal Research Research. He has published textbooks and essays on procedural law and legal theory. He was a member of two working groups in the ELI project on Civil Procedural Rules (Service and Obligation) and Co-Reporter in the working group on Parties.



Sir Jeffrey Jowell QC is a practicing barrister at Blackstone Chambers in London (UK). From 2010–2015 he was also the Founder-Director of the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law. He is Emeritus Professor of Public Law at UCL where he was twice the Dean. He has published and advised widely in the area of public law. He has been awarded a number of honorary degrees and was knighted in 2011 ‘for services to human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe’.



Ernst Karner is Director of the Institute for European Tort Law (ETL), Austrian Academy of Sciences and University of Graz, and of the European Centre of Tort and Insurance Law (ECTIL). He holds a chair in civil law at the University of Vienna. He is co-editor of the Journal of European Tort Law (JETL) and a member of the European Group on Tort Law (EGTL) and the World Tort Law Society (WTLS).



Karlis Ketners is Professor of taxation and public finance at BA School of Business and Finance. Ketners has more than 20 years of experience in public administration in Latvia and is now a Director of Budget Policy Development Department at the Ministry of Finance. Ketners’ experience in public sector includes position of State Secretary and Deputy State Secretary at Ministry of Health (2015–2017), Director of the Budget Department of the Ministry of Finance (2004–2006) and Director General of the State Revenue Service (2003–2004). Ketners is an author of various scientific publications on taxation matters, including on Tax Policy in the European Union’s Environment (2013).



Xandra Kramer is Professor of law at the Erasmus School of Law in Rotterdam and at Utrecht University (The Netherlands). She conducts research and lectures in the area of private international law, international litigation and European private law. She was project leader and has participated in studies for the Dutch Ministry of Justice, the European Parliament and the European Commission. She serves as editor-in-chief of the Dutch journal on Private International Law (NIPR), and is on the editorial board of several other journals.



Raivis Kronbergs has been the State Secretary of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Latvia since 2014 and has worked for the Ministry of Justice since 2007. He has an education in law. In the course of his work, he is motivated by the achievement of efficient and high quality results. At the same time, he is analytical and looks for innovative solutions. This is confirmed by a certification of Appreciation of First Level awarded by the Ministry of Justice (2011) and the Minister of Justice Creativity for Judicial Latvia Award (2014), as well as the Prime Minister’s Appreciation Award (2015).



Artūrs Kučs is a judge of the Constitutional Court of Latvia and Professor of the Faculty of Law of the University of Latvia. He served as a member and chair of the Board of Ethics of Latvian Association of Journalists. His research areas include comparative human rights law and media law, especially analysis of privacy and data protection, defamation and hate speech laws. Kučs has been Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the University of Connecticut (USA) and DAAD Visiting Scholar at Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg (Germany).



Alain Lamassoure graduated from Sciences Po and ENA (National School of Administration, France). He was advisor to the Court of Auditors, Minister for European Affairs, Minister for the Budget and Government spokesman and Member of the French Parliament. He was elected as a Member of the European Parliament for the first time in 1989. He returned to the European Parliament in 1999 and has been a MEP ever since. Alain is a former Member of the European Convention. He chaired the Budgets Committee (BUDG) as well as the special committees on Tax Rulings and Other Measures Similar in Nature or Effect (TAX 1 & 2). He is currently Vice-President of the European People's Party (EPP) French Delegation and Rapporteur on the Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (CCCTB).



Egils Levits graduated in law and in political science from the University of Hamburg (Germany). Levits was a Research Assistant at the Faculty of Law of the University of Kiel (Germany); Adviser to the Latvian Parliament on questions of international law, constitutional law and legislative reform; Ambassador of the Republic of Latvia to Germany and Switzerland (1992–1993), Austria, Switzerland and Hungary (1994–1995); Vice-Prime Minister and Minister for Justice, acting Minister for Foreign Affairs (1993–1994); Conciliator at the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration within the OSCE (from 1997); member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (from 2001); Levits was elected as Judge at the European Court of Human Rights in 1995, re-elected in 1998 and 2001. He is an author of numerous publications in the spheres of constitutional and administrative law, law reform and European Community law. Levits has been a Judge at the Court of Justice since 11 May 2004.



Inese Lībiņa-Egnere is a Deputy Speaker of the 12th parliament (Saeima), Chairperson of the National Security Committee and Deputy Chairperson of the Legal Affairs Committee. Head of the Latvian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. In addition to being an active parliamentarian, Lībiņa-Egnere is also an academic: an Assistant Professor in civil law at the University of Latvia. She completed her Bachelor of Law degree at the University of Latvia and acquired a Master of Law degree from Albert-Ludwigs-University Freiburg (Germany). She continued her education at the University of Latvia's and Copenhagen Business School's joint-programme and obtained a Doctor of Law degree.



Lance Liebman is the William S Beinecke Professor of Law at Columbia Law School. He teaches and does research in the areas of employment law, property law and social welfare law. He began his tenure in Columbia (USA) in 1991 as Dean. He stepped down as Dean in 1996 and then led the Parker School of Foreign and Comparative Law for almost 20 years. From 1999 to 2014, he was Director of the ALI, a private American law reform organisation now approaching its 100th anniversary. Before coming to Columbia, Liebman was a professor at Harvard Law School for 21 years. In the Supreme Court's 1967 term, he was a law clerk to Justice Byron White and from 1968 to 1970, he was an assistant to Mayor John V Lindsay of New York (USA).



Lauris Liepa is the Managing Partner of COBALT Latvia Law Office and a recognised practitioner in litigation, constitutional law, banking and finances and M&A. Liepa is also a Lecturer at the University of Latvia's Faculty of Law and a Visiting Lecturer at the Riga Graduate School of Law. He takes an active involvement in the Latvian Venture Capital Association, is a member of the Supervisory Committee of NASDAQ OMX Riga and also serves at the Supervisory Board of the Arbitration Court of the Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Patrizia de Luca is Team Leader for External Relations in the Civil Justice Policy Unit in the Directorate General Justice and Consumers, at the European Commission. She worked as a civil lawyer until 2003, when she joined the Commission. Her main responsibility is to preserve the exclusive external competence of the European Union in civil judicial cooperation matters. She has drafted the Regulations allowing Member States to negotiate and conclude bilateral agreements with third States in some specific areas of EU competence and conceived the Commission's position which has led to Opinion 1/13 of the Court of Justice of the European Union on the matter of international child abduction.



Vadim Mantrov (dr iur) is docent of civil law and a research fellow at the University of Latvia, Faculty of Law. His scientific activities covers civil law and its special branches (consumer protection, insurance and competition). Mantrov is the author of more than 50 scientific publications (12 indexed in Scopus & Web of Science). He has delivered papers in more than 20 scientific conferences and participated in significant international and domestic scientific projects. Mantrov is an approved expert in legal science by the Latvian Council of Science.



Indriķis Muižnieks has been the Rector of the University of Latvia since 2015. After receiving his PhD in Biology in 1980 (Moscow, Russia) he continued his academic and research career at the University of Latvia as a Senior Research Assistant, Assistant Professor, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, Dean of the Faculty of Biology and Vice-Rector for Research. Muižnieks has worked in the universities of Regensburg, Cologne and Nüremberg-Erlangen (Germany). His research interests include genetics and physiology of recombinant microorganisms and the influence of the unspecific immune response modulators upon different adult stem cells. Muižnieks is a Full Member of the Latvian Academy of Sciences.



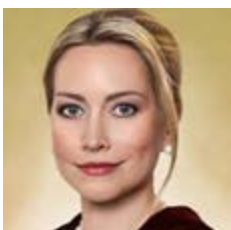
Denis Philippe is Professor at the University of Louvain (Belgium) and Visiting Professor at the University of Paris Ovest (France). He is a lawyer at the Brussels and Luxemburg bar and managing partner of Philippe & Partners. He is one of the ELI's Founding Members and currently is its Treasurer.



Gabriela Quijano is the legal adviser on business and human rights at the International Secretariat of Amnesty International. Since 2009, she has led the organisation's work on access to remedy for business-related human rights abuses. In this capacity, she has done research on cases in the Americas, Asia and Africa, legal analysis on barriers to justice and advocacy to improve corporate legal accountability and remedial mechanisms. Quijano is the lead author of Amnesty International's main publication on this topic. She holds a Master's degree from the Human Rights Centre of Essex University (UK). Gabriela practiced civil, commercial and corporate law in Buenos Aires (Argentina), prior to moving to the UK.



Dzintars Rasnačs is the current Minister of Justice of the Republic of Latvia. He has been a member of the parliament (the Saeima) since 1998 and has been elected in the Presidium by two convocations of the Saeima. Rasnačs has served as a member of the Legal Affairs Committee during three convocations of the Saeima. He has also been a member of various parliamentary committees such as the European Affairs Committee, Defence, Internal Affairs and Corruption Prevention Committee, Public Administration and Local Government Committee and the Latvian delegation to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Parliamentary Assembly. Rasnačs holds a MA and BA degree in law from University of Latvia.



Daiga Rezevska is a Justice of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia, an ad hoc judge at the European Court of Human Rights and an arbitrator of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. She has a full Professorship at the Faculty of Law, University of Latvia and a Visiting Professor at Riga Graduate School of Law (Latvia). Rezevska is author of more than 40 publications and has participated in numerous international conferences and seminars.



Anita Rodiņa is Dean of the Law Faculty, University of Latvia. In addition to administrative obligations, Rodiņa was elected Associate Professor at the Law Faculty. At the Law Faculty, she teaches constitutional law, constitutional court procedure law and is a Director of the Study Programme. Rodiņa is a member of a Committee established by the State President for improvement of the legal environment in Latvia as well as a member of the European Public Law Organization. She is an author of several articles published in Latvia and abroad. Rodiņa actively participates in scientific projects in Latvia and at the University, as well as in scientific conferences.



Teresa Rodríguez de las Heras Ballell is Associate Professor of commercial law at the University Carlos III of Madrid (Spain). From 2017–2018 she was Chair of Excellence at Oxford University (UK). Previously, Teresa was a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Tulane Law School (USA), a Marie Curie Fellow at the University of Bremen (Germany) and Visiting Professor at HMC Oxford University, Columbia Law School (USA), UW, Tokyo and University College London (UCL, UK). She is currently a Fellow at Stanford Law School TTFL, a European Central Bank LRP 2018 Scholar and a member of the ELI Draft Model Rules on Online Platforms project team as well as an arbitrator, Spanish Delegate before UNIDROIT (MAC Protocol) and representative at UNCITRAL.



Jens Scherpe is Reader in comparative law and Director of Cambridge Family Law at the University of Cambridge (UK). He is also a Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, Honorary Professor at the University of Aalborg (Denmark) and Cheng Yu Tung Visiting Professor at the University of Hong Kong (China), as well as Academic Door Tenant at Queen Elizabeth Building (London, UK). Scherpe's publications include major comparative studies on marital agreements and matrimonial property, cohabitants, same-sex relationships, legal gender and surrogacy as well as a four-volume book set on European family law.



Christoph Schmon is Senior Legal Officer and Team Leader Consumer Rights at the European Consumer Organisation (BEUC). Prior to working for BEUC, Schmon was researcher at the University of Vienna (Austria) and worked for an international law firm. His key fields of expertise are consumer law and enforcement, digital rights, private international law and law and method. He regularly publishes on related subjects in scientific journals and newspapers.



Wendy Schrama is Full Professor of family law and comparative law at Utrecht University, the Netherlands. She is Director of the Utrecht Centre for European Research into Family Law (UCERF). She is a part-time judge at the District Court of Noord-Holland. Schrama is also editor-in-chief of the Dutch Family and Youth Law Journal and editor/reviewer of several other family law journals. She authors many commentaries, books and articles on family law issues. Previously, she worked at the Dutch Ministry of Justice and at the Free University Amsterdam, Groningen University and University of Antwerp (The Netherlands).



Hans Schulte-Nölke is Professor of law and legal history at the European Legal Studies Institute at the University of Osnabrück (Germany) and Professor of Law at the Radboud University Nijmegen (The Netherlands). He is the author of several books and of a large number of articles in several European journals. He regularly advises committees of the European and the German parliaments as well as national ministries and international organisations. He was also elected to the Academia Europaea in 2016 and is one of the ELI's Founding Members and serves as member of the ELI Executive Committee.



John Sorabji is the Senior Judicial Institute Fellow at UCL's Judicial Institute as well as being the Principal Legal Adviser to the Lord Chief Justice and Master of the Rolls. At UCL he convenes undergraduate and postgraduate courses on Alternative Dispute Resolution, and a postgraduate course on Principles of Civil Justice. He is also a Visiting Professor at the University of Paris-II (France) where he teaches on its international law course. He is assistant editor of both the International Journal of Procedural Law and the Civil Justice Quarterly. He is a member of the White Book's editorial board and editor of Civil Procedure News. He has published widely on civil justice and acted as an expert for the Council of Europe. He is a Governor of the Expert Witness Institute.



Dirk Staudenmayer has been Head of Unit for Contract Law of the Directorate-General Justice and Consumers at the European Commission since July 2010, as well as Honorary Professor of the Law Faculty of the University of Münster (Germany) and Associate Editor of two law reviews. After undertaking his law studies in Germany and France, Staudenmayer was awarded a PhD magna cum laude from the University of Bonn (Germany). Between 1994–2004, he worked at various positions in the European Commission, including in the Transactions Unit and as Assistant to the Director in the Consumer Policy Directorate, before becoming Head of Unit for Financial Services and Redress at the DG Health and Consumers until July 2010.



Ernst Steigenga has worked for the Dutch Ministry of Justice since May 2004 as an IT Policy Officer. Since 2010, he has been responsible for the Dutch contribution to e-CODEX. Steigenga is President of the Permanent Expert Group on e-CODEX, an expert group under the Working Party e-Law (e-Justice). He is also managing the efforts on marketing and communication of e-CODEX. His professional interest is to service citizens and companies in Europe by contributing to the harmonised handling of family matters, property and the like. To that end, Steigenga has initiated research into and the development of digital interaction for cross border legal procedures. Steigenga has degrees in information management and political science.



Lord John Thomas has been Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales since 2013. He was appointed a judge of the High Court of England and Wales in 1996, became Judge in Charge of the Court in 2002 and in 2003 he was appointed Lord Justice of Appeal. Lord Thomas was the Senior Presiding Judge for England and Wales (2003–2006) and Vice-President and then President of the Queen's Bench Division (2008–2013). He was President of the European Networks of Councils for the Judiciary (ENCJ) (2008–2010). He is an Honorary Fellow of Trinity Hall, Cambridge and serves as a member of the ELI Executive Committee.



Jos Uitdehaag is an enforcement agent in the Netherlands. For 12 years, he was a board member of the Dutch Chamber of Enforcement Agents. He is a board member of the International Union of Judicial Officers (UIHJ), a Founding Member of the ELI, and with 93 member-countries, one of the major legal NGOs in the world. During the past 20 years, he has been active as an international legal reform expert for the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), European Commission, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Uitdehaag is active as an advisor the Depository Network, a multi-platform network that enables lenders to accept digital assets as collateral, combining traditional lending and blockchain technology.



Hubert de Vauplane co-leads the Alternative Investment Management practice in Kramer Levin's Paris office. He provides legal counsel on FinTech, blockchain and cryptocurrency assets as well as financial regulatory issues. He also advises corporates, asset managers, corporate and investment banks and institutional investors in relation to the entire range of disintermediated financings. He is an expert at the French Financial Market Supervisory Authority (AMF), as well as at the European Commission and European Central Bank (ECB). de Vauplane is a member of various market place organisations, including the Financial Market Law Committee, Paris Europlace, PRIME and the French High Legal Committee for the Paris Finance Marketplace. He is a Professor of international banking and financial law at the Paris Institute for Political Sciences (Sciences Po IEP Paris, France).



Anna Veneziano is Deputy Secretary-General of UNIDROIT. She is Professor of comparative law at the University of Teramo (Italy) and is affiliated to the University of Amsterdam (the Netherlands) as Professor of European property law. Her educational background includes an LLM degree from Yale Law School (USA) and a PhD from the University of Firenze (Italy), as well as periods of study in Germany. Her main research areas are on international, comparative and European secured transactions and contract law. She sits on the Steering Committee of the ELI-UNIDROIT project on European Rules of Civil Procedure.



Bea Verschraegen is Full Professor of private international law and comparative law at the University of Vienna. She is a member of the Academia Europaea, titular member of the International Academy of Comparative Law and chair of the Austrian Committee, member of the ALI, Fellow of the ELI as well as a member of the experts' group on cross-border recognition and enforcement of agreements in family disputes involving children (HCCH) and of international research groups.



Tomi Viitala is Assistant Professor of tax law at Aalto University Business School (Finland). Prior to joining Aalto University in 2015 he worked as tax consultant at a BIG4 and at the Finland Chamber of Commerce specialising in corporate and international tax. In the past, Viitala worked at the Finnish Ministry of Finance where he also participated in the EU Commission's and Council's tax working groups as a Finnish delegate.



Diana Wallis is a Senior Fellow of the Law School at the University of Hull (UK), a member of the Law Society's EU Committee, a Trustee of the European Law Academy in Trier, a member of the Board of Trustees of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL) as well as an Honorary Associate of the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies at the University of Oxford (UK). After spending time as a litigation lawyer, she was a Member of the European Parliament before acting as its Vice-President. Between 2013–2017, Wallis was President of the ELI and is currently also a Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.



Steve Weise has extensive experience in commercial law and contract matters, especially in transactions secured by personal property. He is a member of the Council of the ALI. He also lectures widely on commercial law topics and legal opinion letters and is the author of over 100 articles on these topics. He has been a member of, and an Advisor to, Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) Article 9 Drafting Committees and is the representative of the American Bar Association (ABA) to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Working Group on Secured Transactions. He is also a member of the Permanent Editorial Board for the UCC.



Christiane Wendehorst is Professor of Law at the University of Vienna (Austria). She is a member of the ALI, the Academia Europea, the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the International Academy of Comparative Law and several international research groups. Before coming to Vienna, she held Full Professorships in Germany and served as Managing Director of the Sino-German Institute for Legal Studies. She is on the board of a range of academic bodies and associations and provides expert advice to governments and legislative bodies. Wendehorst is President of the ELI and is one of its Founding Members.



Christopher Wray, as Mattereum’s Chief Legal Officer, heads both the in-house corporate legal function and client-facing legal consultancy delivering ‘smart contract’ software automation and integration with commercial agreements. Wray read Physics and Philosophy at New College, University of Oxford (UK), before co-founding ophthalmic lens technology startup Adlens in 2004. Called to the Bar of England and Wales in 2011, he has experience of shareholder litigation and technology licensing.



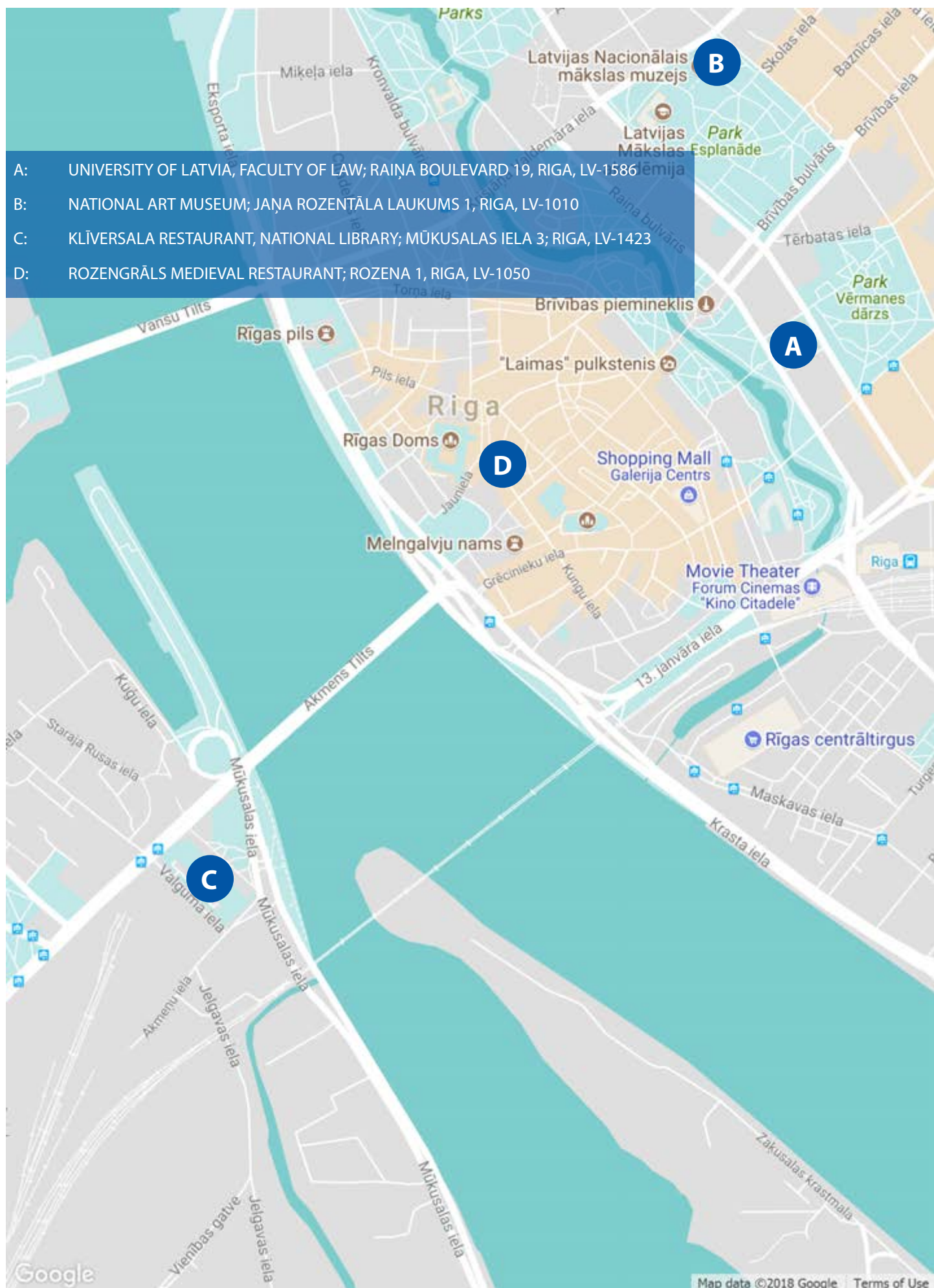
Ineta Ziemele has been a Justice of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia since 2015. In 2017 she was elected President of the Constitutional Court. Ziemele is a doctor of law (University of Cambridge, UK) and a Professor at the Riga Graduate School of Law. She has gained notable international experience at European organisations, inter alia, by serving as a Judge at the European Court of Human Rights. She was the President of a ECHR Chamber and chaired the Committee on the Status of Judges. Ziemele has acted as an expert in numerous international projects. Her professional and research achievements are linked to the fields of international law, constitutional law and human rights.



Boštjan Zalar is a Senior High Court Judge of the Administrative Court of the Republic of Slovenia and an ad hoc Judge of the European Court of Human Rights. He is also a lecturer at the Legal Clinics on Refugee Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), the Vice-President of the European Chapter of the International Association of Refugee Law Judges (IARLJ-Europe) and the Co-Chair of the Working Party on Country of Origin Information and Country Guidance of the IARLJ. He is the former co-chair of the Working Party on Asylum and Immigration of the Association of European Administrative Judges and a member of the Council of the ELI. He is a member of the Editorial Team under the International Association of Refugee Law Judges-European Asylum Support Office (IARLJ-EASO) three-year-contract for development of core judicial training materials in the field of the Common European Asylum System.



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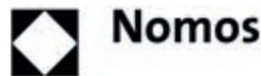
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2019 ELI Conference

The 2019 ELI Annual Conference will take place from **4–6 September** in **Vienna (Austria)**. Please take note of this date.

We look forward to seeing you there!

ELI in Vienna

The Secretariat of the ELI, which is hosted by the University of Vienna, is located in the heart of the Austrian capital, close to the main building of the University, the representation of the European Commission in Austria as well as the information office of the European Parliament.

We cordially invite you to visit us whenever you are in Vienna.



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