



ABA Section of
International Law
Your Gateway to International Practice

ABA
Defending Liberty
Pursuing Justice
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION



2018
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NEW YORK CITY

GRAND HYATT
NEW YORK
APRIL 17-21, 2018

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Broadway

Blockchain: Disrupting the Economy of Trust in International Trade

Following the lead of the financial industry, international trade has already begun to integrate the use of blockchain in its instruments, regulations, and transactions. In September 2016 Barclays self-reported the first use of blockchain platform in an international trade finance deal. Since then, various actors have begun to explore the myriad applications of blockchain including but not limited to leveraging the internet of things to track goods and equipment between ports, expediting customs and border security, financing transactions, and facilitating exchange of digital content and IP across borders with inconsistent regulatory schemes. Additionally, some have even proposed that widespread access to real-time transparency could potentially decrease threats of corruption and human trafficking. By removing risks associated with trade, blockchain allows actors hailing from countries with weak institutions or infrastructure unprecedented opportunities to access markets and financing. Simultaneously, its use is already encouraging institutions whose role it has been to manufacture trust via centralization, such as banks, insurers, and governments, to rethink their purpose and potential redundancies.

Legal practitioners will need to learn how to leverage the use of blockchain in trade agreements, contract drafting and negotiation, and dispute resolution. As the use of blockchain and its applications in international trade and cross border payments expands, this panel will explore opportunities in and intersections with the legal industry with an interdisciplinary faculty of experts in technology, supply chain, and international trade.

Committee Sponsor:
International Trade

Panel Chair & Moderator:
N. Isabelle Figaro, *Brooklyn Legal Services, New York, NY*

Speakers:

Cyndee Todgham Cherniak, *LexSage, Toronto, Canada*

Glen Kutler, *IBM, New York, NY*

Rebecca Liao, *Skuchain, San Francisco, CA*

Aileen Schultz, *Integra Ledger, Toronto, Canada*

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Uris/Julliard

The Rise of Foreign Agent Laws: The Emerging Trends in their Enactment and Application in the U.S., Russia and Across the Globe

The U.S. Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) has been on the books for 80 years and has seen limited application. Russia's more recent Foreign Agents Law, purportedly modeled on FARA, has targeted NGOs which receive foreign funds and engage in a broadly defined "political activity." The Russian law has adversely affected a great number of NGOs in that country and some are challenging it before the European Court of Human Rights. It also inspired other States across the globe to enact similar laws which affect NGOs and the civil society space. In the United States, the application of FARA to Russian media companies has been recently debated. The panel will explore and compare these laws in the context of globalization, legal pluralism, national security, and human rights.

Committee Sponsor:
Eurasia/Russia

Committee Co-Sponsors:
International Litigation, International Human Rights, UN and International Organizations

Panel Chair:

Maria Zulick Nucci, *Sparks, NV*

Panel Chairs & Moderators:

Michael Shapiro, *Philadelphia, PA*

Diana Tsutieva, *Foley Hoag LLP, Washington, DC*

Speakers:

Jess Gavron, *Middlesex University, London, United Kingdom*

Melissa Hooper, *Human Rights First, Washington, DC*

Maria Kanevskaya, *NGO Lawyers Club, Russian Advocates for Civil Society, Washington, DC*

Robert K. Kelner, *Covington & Burling LLP, Washington, DC*

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Ballroom I

Break

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Booth

Books Board Meeting

Our Section's Books Board meets periodically to assess book proposals, formulate feedback to aspiring authors and editors, guide the progress of book marketing, and propose recommendations regarding publication initiatives. Our Section's Publications Officer, Nancy Stafford, extends an open invitation for you to attend this meeting. If you already are a published Section author, if you would like to become a Section author, if you would like to advance the work of your Committee by involving it in Section Publications, or if you simply are curious about the publication process, please join us.

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Ballroom III

Brexit and Beyond: What Does It Mean? What Lies Ahead? What Do I Need to Know to Draft a More Brexit Proof Contract?

In June 2016, the citizens of the United Kingdom voted in a referendum to exit the European Union. Almost a year later the United Kingdom held snap elections with the Tories losing their majority in Parliament. With negotiations underway to exit the European Union it is still not clear what form the exit will take: will it be a "Hard Brexit" or a "Soft Brexit." A majority of businesses are not interested in waiting for the British and European politicians to give form to the exit have already moved their European headquarters in London to

the continent or are adding a continental Europe headquarters. Our panel, which includes high profile experts from the UK and Europe, will continue their discussion from the Spring 2017 Meeting in Washington, DC and discuss how this political uncertainty will impact investment opportunities, which jurisdictions will attract increased investment in this new climate and how best lawyers should advise their clients in these uncertain times. Our panelists will analyze various legal topics affecting your practice (such as M&A, contracts, enforceability of arbitral awards) in light of the most recent negotiation developments. Join us to remain vigilant as the situation develops and keep you apprised of all updates.

Committee Sponsor:
Europe

Committee Co-Sponsors:
International Trade; International M&A Joint Venture

Panel Chairs & Speakers:

Mattia Colonnelli de Gasperis, *Colonnelli de Gasperis Studio Legale, Milan, Italy*

Nancy Matos, *Deloitte Legal, Amsterdam, Netherlands*

Moderator:

Ann Liebschutz, *DMGS, Washington, DC*

Speakers:

Kate Matthews, *Boddy Matthews Solicitors, Surrey, United Kingdom*

Jeffrey Golden, *P.R.I.M.E. Finance / 3 Hare Court Chambers, London, United Kingdom*

David Greene, *Edwin Coe LLP, London, United Kingdom*

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Ballroom IV

International Arbitration & The Middle East/North Africa Region

Arbitration has a long – albeit complicated – heritage in the Middle East/North Africa region. Historically a favored means of dispute resolution, arbitration's reputation was tarnished and its development slowed to a crawl in the decades following a string