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INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 2025

A conference presented by the IBA North American Regional Forum, supported by the IBA Closely Held Companies Committee, the IBA Corporate and M&A Law Committee, the IBA Intellectual Property and Entertainment Law Committee, and the IBA Technology Law Committee

IBA 6th Silicon Hills – the Tech Epicentre of Texas: from Start-Up to Exit

12–14 February 2025, The Otis Hotel Austin, Austin, USA

Working programme

WiFi
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All speaker materials and biographies can be found at www.ibanet.org/conference-details/conf2559

Conference Co-Chairs

Luis Gonzalez Nieves *Perez Correa Gonzalez, Mexico City; LPD Representative, IBA Diversity & Inclusion Council*

Clara-Ann Gordon *Niederer Kraft Frey, Zürich; Co-Chair, IBA Online Services Committee*

Thomas Kulnigg *Schoenherr, Vienna*

Shimrit Roznek *Gornitzky & Co, Tel Aviv*

Sajai Singh *JSA, Bengaluru, Karnataka; LPD Council Member*

Stefan Weidert *Gleiss Lutz, Berlin; Member, IBA Technology Law Committee Advisory Board*

Lynda Zadra-Symes *Knobbe Martens, Irvine, California; Co-Chair, IBA Regional Fora Coordination Committee*

Wednesday 12 February

1900 – 2000 **Welcome reception**

Bar AC, The Otis Hotel Austin

All registered delegates are welcome to attend.

Thursday 13 February

All working sessions will take place in Otis B
All coffee/tea breaks and lunch will take place in the Otis foyer

0830 – 0900 **Welcome coffee/tea**

0900 – 0910 **Welcome remarks**

0910 – 0930 **Keynote speaker**

Judge Amber L Hagy *Lead Administrative Patent Judge, US Patent and Trademark Office, Austin, Texas*

0930 – 1045 **Around the tables: hot topics one**

1. Impact of European Data Laws on USA and Asia

Moderators

Jevan Neilan *Mason Hayes & Curran, Dublin*

Philip Kempermann *HEUKING, Düsseldorf*

2. Cybersecurity and AI (AI and cybersecurity risks and regulation/tech policies)

Moderators

William Tanenbaum *Moses & Singer, New York*

Alexander Sand *Eversheds Sutherland, Austin, Texas*

MOBILE TELEPHONES

Delegates are requested to ensure that mobile telephones and any other portable devices are switched to silent in working sessions.

Headline social event sponsors

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3. What's hot in the USA

Moderators

Heather Antoine *Stoel Rives, Los Angeles, California*

Travis LeBlanc *Cooley, Washington, DC*

4. Copyright ownership for AI generated content

Moderators

Oliver Sume *Fieldfisher, Hamburg*

Takashi Nakazaki *Anderson Mori & Tomotsune, Tokyo; Associations and Committees Liaison Officer, IBA Technology Law Committee*

5. Patentability of inventions created using AI tools

Moderators

Massimo Sterpi *Gianni & Origoni, Rome*

Ian Cohen *AECOM, Austin, Texas*

6. IP infringement involving digital or virtual goods (in online games etc)

Moderators

Ping Gu *Zhong Lun, Beijing*

Yoshifumi Onodera *Mori Hamada & Matsumoto, Tokyo; Co-Chair, Intellectual Property and Entertainment Law Committee*

7. Cross-border M&A: navigating regulatory and compliance hurdles

Moderators

Pavan Jawanda *McCarthy Tetrault, Vancouver, British Columbia*

Shafaq Uraizee Sapre *Chandhiok & Mahajan, Mumbai, Maharashtra*

Bradley Weber *Troutman Pepper Locke, Dallas, Texas*

8. Structuring earnouts and navigating employee equity in startup Acquisitions

Moderators

Jeremy Glaser *Mintz Levin, San Diego, California*

Nate Gallon *O'Melveny, Menlo Park, California*

9. Strategic vs. financial investors: the impact on startups in VC / PE deals

Moderators

Shani Peled *TechnoArt, Tel Aviv*

Shannon Sibold *Morrison & Foerster, Austin, Texas*

Andy Smetana *Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, Austin, Texas*

1045 – 1115 **Coffee/tea break**

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Conference dinner sponsor

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1115 – 1245 **AI panel: steering AI governance strategies for emerging risks**

This panel will focus on the evolving global landscape of artificial intelligence (AI) regulation, examining centralised and decentralised frameworks and cross-border challenges. Our panellists will provide strategies and insights on how organisations navigate regulatory compliance while driving innovation, with a focus on industry-specific needs, intellectual property, data governance and risk management.

Moderators

Yuval Horn *Gornitzky & Co, Tel Aviv; Member, IBA Technology Law Committee Advisory Board*

Stefan Weidert *Gleiss Lutz, Berlin; Member, IBA Technology Law Committee Advisory Board*

Speakers

Linda Bernardi *CEO & Co-Founder, XdMind, Mercer Island, Washington*

Audrey Chen *JunHe, Beijing; Publications Officer, IBA Corporate and M&A Law Committee*

Njeri Mutura *Assistant General Counsel, Microsoft Corporation, Irvine, California*

Elisabeth Vestin *Snellman, Stockholm; Scholarship Officer, Technology Law Committee*

1245 – 1415 **Lunch**

1415 – 1545 **IP panel: standardised technology and the startup – an implementers strategy**

Panel discussion focusing on IP strategies for startups/companies that integrate standardised technology into products and services (eg, wireless communications, video and audio codecs, etc).

Moderator

Kris Kappel *Husch Blackwell LLP, Kansas City*

Mauricio Uribe *Knobbe Martens, Seattle, Washington*

Speakers

Jeff Blumenfeld *Access Advance, Washington, DC*

Spencer Guy *Avanci, Dallas, Texas*

Reed Hablinski *HP, Houston, Texas*

1545 – 1615 **Coffee/tea break**

1615 – 1745 **Investing in tech startups. Is it still worth it?**

Is it still worth investing in tech startups? Some investors are starting to become sceptical about tech startups: for every new productivity app, or the next uber of whatever app, there are already two or three competitors that already do similar things or, worse yet, Big Tech can replicate them in no time and drive them of business. Also, the (current or future) M&A environment may not be beneficial to achieve the intended exit valuations. Is the regulatory environment supporting international startup investments, or is regulation hindering investments?

This panel will explore whether it is still a good idea to invest in a tech startup or if it's time to start looking into other more traditional ventures, not necessarily involving 'tech', ie, services, food, even cookies.

Moderators

Maria Bofill *TozziniFreire Advogados, São Paulo*

Luis Gonzalez Nieves *Perez Correa Gonzalez, Mexico City; LPD Representative, IBA Diversity & Inclusion Council*

Speakers

Nicholas Dorsey *Cravath Swaine & Moore, New York; Entrepreneurship Conference Know-How Officer, IBA Closely Held Companies Committee*

Daren Orzechowski *A&O Shearman, Silicon Valley, California*

Mathew Verghese *Executive Vice President, Texas Stock Exchange, Houston, Texas*

Hubert Zajicek *CEO, Co-founder & Partner, Health Wildcatters, Dallas, Texas*

1900 – 2200 **Conference dinner**

*Perry's Steakhouse & Grille, Downtown Austin 114 W 7th Street
Austin, Texas 78701*

Entry is by pre-purchased ticket only.

Ticket price \$160

Transport will not be provided.

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All coffee/tea breaks and lunch will take place in the Otis foyer

0900 – 1305 **Registration**

0900 – 0930 **Welcome coffee**

0930 – 1045 **Around the tables: hot topics two**

1. International Data Transfer

Moderators

Kai Westerwelle *CMS, Mountain View, California*

Nichole Sterling *Baker Hostetler, New York*

2. Connected cars

Moderators

Albert Agustinoy *Cuatrecasas, Barcelona; Vice Chair, IBA Technology Law Committee*

Axel von Walter *Graf von Westphalen, Munich*

3. Liability for AI errors and misconduct

Moderators

Roland Marko *Wolf Theiss, Vienna*

Mark Speegle *Baker Botts, Austin, Texas*

Kenji Tosaki *Nagashima Ohno & Tsunematsu, Tokyo*

4. Law 4.0: adapting legal systems for the digital age (including machine-to-machine law enforcement)

Moderators

Majeed Javdani *Entrepreneur, formerly Chair of the Board, Sana Pardakht, Baku*

Stephan Klinger *LGP Lawyers, Vienna*

5. Patentability for software – including patent eligibility restoration act in the US

Moderators

Vlad Teplitskiy *Knobbe Martens, Irvine, California*

Camille Aubin *Robic Montréal, Québec; Vice Chair, IBA Trademark Law Subcommittee*

6. IP rights for cannabis related inventions

Moderators

KC Branch *KC Branch Firm, San Luis Obispo, California*

Bartosz Sujecki *Van Diepen Van der Kroef, Amsterdam*

7. Robotic-assisted medical procedures – IP, regulatory and cybersecurity issues

Moderators

Jasminder Brar *MyndTec, Mississauga, Ontario*

Jeffrey Costellia *Nixon Peabody, Washington, DC; Senior Vice Chair, IBA Intellectual Property and Entertainment Law Committee*

Sebastian Heim *Graf von Westphalen, Munich; Chair, IBA IP Transactions and Technology Transfer Subcommittee*

8. US and International privacy and AI compliance enforcement trends

Moderators

Daniel Goldberg *Frankfurt Kurnit, Los Angeles, California*

Kenneth Suh *Troutman Pepper Locke, Chicago, Illinois*

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9. Post-merger integration in tech M&A transactions: avoiding pitfalls

Moderators

Jie Chen *JunHe, Beijing*

Veronica Nunn *Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, Austin, Texas*

10. Beyond financials: assessing 'intangible liabilities' in M&A

Moderators

Karen Clopton *Fellow, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts*

Garrett Johnston *O'Melveny, Houston, Texas*

1045 – 1115 **Coffee/tea break**

1115 – 1245 **IP and AI due diligence panel: effective strategies for ip due diligence in M&A transactions; what buyers and sellers need to know**

This panel will discuss identifying IP assets, verifying ownership of the IP assets, assessing how coverage of the IP assets aligns with a company's business goals, and identifying third-party IP risks. For AI technologies, the panel will discuss additional questions concerning data privacy, compliance with open-source licenses, and eligibility for patent protection.

Moderators

James Longster *Travers Smith, London*

Sajai Singh *JSA, Bengaluru, Karnataka; LPD Council Member*

Speakers

Sonia Baldia *Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton, Washington, DC*

Omri Rachum-Twaig *FISCHER, Tel Aviv*

Marissa Yu *Freshfields, Redwood City, California*

1245 – 1305 **Closing remarks**

1305 – 1415 **Lunch**

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Knobbe Martens is a proud sponsor of the IBA 6th Silicon Hills Conference – the Tech Epicentre of Texas: from Start-Up to Exit

Knobbe Martens specializes in all aspects of intellectual property and technology law. The firm's litigation group handles cases throughout the U.S. and coordinates strategy for disputes worldwide. Founded in California in 1962, the firm has over 300 lawyers with offices located in Orange County, Los Angeles, New York, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington D.C. Knobbe Martens serves a diverse international client base, from multinational corporations to emerging businesses of all stages.

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As AI reshapes industries, IP protection grows more complex and tech investments evolve, Pillsbury stands ready to answer your call.



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We understand the challenges that technology companies face across the globe, from complex mergers & acquisitions and protecting intellectual property to navigating the rapidly evolving regulatory environment. In an industry that changes quickly, Husch Blackwell provides nimble and smart solutions that move technology businesses forward.

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