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INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 2025

A conference jointly presented by the IBA Antitrust Section, the IBA African Regional Forum and the Nigerian Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission

2nd IBA African Competition Law Conference

29–30 May 2025, Four Points by Sheraton, Lagos, Nigeria

Working programme

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All submitted speaker materials and biographies can be found at
www.ibanet.org/conference-details/CONF2645

Conference Co-Chairs

Babatunde Ajibade SAN *SPA Ajibade & Co, Lagos, Nigeria; SPPI Chair*

Sydney Chisenga *Corpus Legal Practitioners, Lusaka; African Regional Forum Liaison Officer, IBA Antitrust Section*

Michael-James Currie *Primerio, Sandton; Advisory Board Member, IBA African Regional Forum*

Heather Irvine *Bowmans, Johannesburg; Working Group Officer, IBA Antitrust Section*

Thursday 29 May

All sessions will take place in Galaxy Hall
Coffee/tea breaks will take place in the foyer of Galaxy Hall
Lunch will take place in Sun Hall

0700 – 1600 **Registration** – *Galaxy Hall*

Four Points by Sheraton – address: Plot 9/10 Block 2 Oniru Chieftaincy Estate, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria

0730 – 0945 **Training session: competition law fundamentals**

Speakers

Professor Eleanor Fox *New York University School of Law, New York, NY*

Babatunde Irukera *SimmonsCooper Partners, Lagos*

1000 – 1020 **Welcome and opening remarks**

Babatunde Ajibade SAN *SPA Ajibade & Co, Lagos, Nigeria; SPPI Chair*

Kolawole Alabi *Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, Lagos*

Sydney Chisenga *Corpus Legal Practitioners, Lusaka; African Regional Forum Liaison Officer, IBA Antitrust Section*

Michael-James Currie *Primerio, Sandton; Advisory Board Member, IBA African Regional Forum*

Heather Irvine *Bowmans, Johannesburg; Working Group Officer, IBA Antitrust Section*

Ozofu Latunde Ogiemudia *Nigeria Bar Association Section on Business Law, Lagos*

1020 – 1100 **The intersection between competition law and consumer welfare**

While several agencies are mandated to consider both competition law and consumer welfare concerns, other agencies are limited only to competition law assessments. There is, however, an increasing trend to utilise competition law to address consumer protection concerns. This session will explore the interplay and tensions.

Session Chair

Joyce Wambui Karanja *Bowmans, Nairobi; Diversity and Inclusion Officer, IBA African Regional Forum*

Speakers

Azeezah Muse-Sadiq *Banwo & Ighodalo, Lagos*

Willard Mwemba *COMESA Competition Commission, Lilongwe*

Pieter Steyn *LEX Africa, Johannesburg; Member, IBA Constitution and Governance Committee*

1100 – 1115 **Coffee/tea break**

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

Conference refreshment break sponsor

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Conference luncheon sponsor



Thursday continued

1115 – 1200 **Competition goals and policy objectives development – Keynote Speech**

Keynote Speaker

Professor Eleanor Fox *New York University School of Law, New York City, NY*

1200 – 1300 **Lunch**

1300 – 1345 **Merger control: the role of public interest considerations – a practitioner's perspective**

Public interest in merger control remains one of the most contentious aspects in competition law in Africa, and this session will explore the developments from a practitioner's perspective.

Session Chair

Olufolake Elias Adebawale *Udo Udoma & Belo-Osagie, Lagos*

Speakers

Judge Dennis Davis *Former Competition Appeal Court Judge President, Cape Town*

Lerisha Naidu *Baker McKenzie, Johannesburg*

Chukwubuike Onwuzurumba Nnaeto *Oake Legal, Abuja*

Tiwalola Osazuwa *AELEX, Lagos; Newsletter Editor, IBA International Franchising Committee*

1345 – 1400 **Coffee/tea break**

1400 – 1415 **Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between COMESA and FCCPC**

Babatunde Ajibade SAN *SPA Ajibade & Co, Lagos, Nigeria; SPPI Chair*

1415 – 1500 **Cartel enforcement: detection tools and the role of leniency policies?**

A practical discussion on what tools are proving most effective in detecting cartel conduct and whether leniency regimes are still as effective as they once were.

Session Chair

John Oxenham *Primerio, Sandton; Regional Representative Africa, IBA Anti-Corruption Committee*

Speakers

Molly Askin *Antitrust Attorney, Washington, DC*

Patrick Chengo *Zambia Competition & Consumer Protection Commission, Lusaka*

Hardin Ratshisusu *South Africa Competition Commission, Pretoria*

1500 – 1515 **Coffee/tea break**

1515 – 1600 **The good the bad and the ugly about competition law enforcement: a view from the bench – Keynote Speech**

A practical discussion on what tools are proving most effective in detecting cartel conduct and whether leniency regimes are still as effective as they once were.

Keynote Speaker

Judge Dennis Davis *Former Competition Appeal Court Judge President, Cape Town*

1600– 1615 **Good will message**

Senator Adeniyi Adegbonmire SAN *Senate Committee of the Nigeria Judiciary, Abuja*

1700 – 1900 **Welcome reception**

Four Points by Sheraton – The Palm Terrace Bar

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Friday 30 May

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Lunch will take place in Sun Hall

0830 – 1430 **Registration**

0900 – 0945 **The interplay between competition law and intellectual property**

From patents to plant breeders' rights, FRAND terms to pay-for-delay, this session will unpack important theories of harm and recent cases and consider how to reconcile competition law with intellectual property rights.

Session Chair

Michael Currie *Primerio, Sandton; Advisory Board Member, IBA African Regional Forum*

Speakers

Seye Ayinla *Duale Ovia & Alex-Adedipe, Lagos*

Yeye Nwidaa Jackson *Etti & Edu, Lagos*

Clare-Alice Vertue *Webber Wentzel, Cape Town*

0945 – 1015 **How to present the economics of a competition law case – Keynote Speech**

Keynote Speaker

Hon Justice David Unterhalter *Supreme Court of Appeal, Bloemfontein*

1015 – 1030 **Coffee/tea break**

1030 – 1115 **Regional competition frameworks and African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) developments**

An update on the AfCFTA Competition Protocol – the harmonisation between ECOWAS / CEMAC and COMESA / EAC.

Session Chair

Ikem Isiekwena *SimmonsCooper Partners, Lagos*

Speakers

Malick Diallo *African Continental Free Trade Area, Accra*

Professor Eleanor Fox *New York University School of Law, New York City, NY*

George Lipimile *Former CEO, COMESA Competition Commission, Lilongwe*

Chilufya Peter Sampa *Consultant, competition and consumer protection, Lusaka*

1115 – 1200 **Fireside chat: shared experiences**

Moderators

Florence Abebe *Federal Competition & Consumer Protection Commission, Lagos*

Folakanmi Pinheiro *University of Cambridge, Cambridge*

Speaker

Babatunde Irukera *SimmonsCooper Partners, Lagos*

1200 – 1300 **Lunch**

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Friday continued

1300 – 1345 **Protectionism, foreign direct investment and state aid in Africa**

In the current volatile geopolitical landscape, the approach to tariffs, state aid and foreign direct investment regimes needs to be carefully managed in order to avoid protectionism, which may have significant unintended consequences for competition in African markets, particularly as we move to implement the African Continental Free Trade Agreement. This panel will explore some of the risks – and the potential solutions – drawing on experiences from across the Continent and abroad.

Session Chairs

Sydney Chisenga *Corpus Legal Practitioners, Lusaka, Zambia; African Regional Forum Liaison Officer, IBA Antitrust Section*
Heather Irvine *Bowmans, Johannesburg; Working Group Officer, IBA Antitrust Section*

Speakers

Nourhan Aly Ahmed Elsayed Elda *Egyptian Competition Authority, Giza, Egypt*
Ajibola Asolo *Aluko & Oyebo, Lagos, Nigeria*
Hon Justice David Unterhalter *Supreme Court of Appeal Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa*

1345 – 1430 **Digital markets in Africa, focus on whether AI is a competition law concern**

This panel session will explore key policy and enforcement developments in digital markets across Africa. It will also focus on algorithmic collusion; artificial intelligence (AI); and abuses of dominance and AI in merger control. This session will discuss the theories of harm; recent cases; and how competition law might respond to these risks.

Session Chair

Vellah Kedogo Kigwiru *Technical University of Munich, München, Germany*

Speakers

Phil Alves *Berkely Research Group, Johannesburg, South Africa*
Ikem Isiekwena *SimmonsCooper Partners, Lagos, Nigeria*
Jacob Muller *RBB Economics, Johannesburg, South Africa*
Leonard Ugbajah *TBE Advisory Ltd, Abuja, Nigeria*

1430 – 1445 **Coffee/tea break**

1445 – 1500 **Paper presentation**

This slot will provide an author who has submitted a paper to be considered for the IBA Conference an opportunity to present their paper and findings. Preference to be given to a young competition law scholar or practitioner in Africa, although we welcome submissions from all competition law specialists.

Speakers

Enyinnaya Uwadi *University of East Anglia, Norwich, England*

1500 – 1600 **Meet the enforcers**

A round table between agency representatives participating in the workshop to provide an update on key developments from their perspective and respond to a Q&A session.

1600 – 1610 **Closing remarks**

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