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INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 2025

A conference presented by the IBA Law Firm Management Committee

The Law Firm of the Future

23–24 October 2024, Sommerro Hotel, Sommerogata 1, Oslo, Norway

This conference will focus on topics relevant to law firm management and building the law firm of the future. The conference will explore the impact of geopolitical developments, national security concerns, and the technological/AI advancements on law firms and their services. How can we best meet the evolving needs of our clients?

Speakers include a range of law firm leaders and acknowledged experts:

- Law firm leaders and domain experts from Wachtell, Covington, Vinge, Noerr, Krogerus, Travers Smith, Gorrissen Federspiel, Mannheimer Swartling, Wikborg Rein and Kromann Reumert
- Eirik Kristoffersen, Chief of Defence, Norway
- Ambassador Barry White, previous US Ambassador to Norway
- Øystein Tunsjø, Professor at the Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies and an expert on US – China foreign relations
- Thomas Arendt, General Counsel at Vestas Wind Systems
- Anders Rimstad, Chief Security Officer at Aker ASA

By attending, you will be rewarded by not only hearing some great advice which will enable you to plan the future of your law firm, but you will be able to meet and network with all your friends from the law firm management community.

Whether you are a law firm partner, business services professional or general counsel, this is a must-attend conference if you would like to understand the future of law firms and the legal world.

For more information and to book online visit:

<https://event.thommessen.no/20/1029/landing-pages/rsvp-blank.asp>

Programme

Conference Co-Chairs

Jan Dernestam *Mannheimer Swartling, Stockholm; Member, IBA Law Firm Management Committee Advisory Board*

Martin André Dittmer *Gorrissen Federspiel, Copenhagen; LFMC Materials Co-Officer, IBA Law Firm Management Committee*

Sverre Tyrhaug *Thommessen, Oslo; Member, IBA Law Firm Management Committee Advisory Board*

Wednesday 23 October

1800 – 2000 **Opening reception and welcome remarks**

Eero, Ambassaden (the previous US embassy), Henrik Ibsens gate 48

Guest speaker

Ambassador Barry White *former US Ambassador to Norway and CEO of Foley Hoag, Boston, Massachusetts*

Social event sponsored by Gorrissen, Mannheimer Swartling and Thommessen

Thursday 24 October **All working sessions will be held at Sommerro Hotel**

0800 – 0900 **Registration**

Sommerro Hotel

0900 – 0910 **Welcome remarks from the Conference Co-Chairs**

0910 – 0940

Setting the scene: US-China foreign relations

The US and China are the superpowers of our time. They are engaged in a struggle for global dominance that will shape the 21st century. The rivalry between the USA and China leads to increased geopolitical and military tension, new technological and economic developments, as well as a changed international order. How has China become so powerful that it can challenge the USA? What consequences will the new superpower rivalry have for NATO, Europe and the Nordics?

Øystein Tunsjø *Professor, Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies*

0940 – 1010 **Coffee/tea break**

1010 – 1030

Adapting to a changing security situation

Eirik Kristoffersen *Chief of Defence, Norway*

1030 – 1130

Panel discussion: How geopolitics and national security impact international business

National security concerns are becoming increasingly important across various sectors of society. What are the effects of today's geopolitical landscape on businesses today? What key challenges and opportunities do they face in this context? And, at a time where national security is becoming increasingly important, what opportunities can businesses capitalise on to gain a competitive edge?

Moderator

Hedvig Moe *Thommessen. Previously deputy Director Norwegian Police Security Service (PST) and Deputy and Acting Director at the Norwegian National Authority for Investigation and Prosecution of Economic and Environmental Crime (Økokrim)*

Panelists

Anders Rimstad *Chief Security Officer, Aker ASA, Bærum*

Ambassador Barry White *former US Ambassador to Norway and CEO of Foley Hoag, Boston, Massachusetts*

Andreas von der Heide *CEO Consilio AB, Stockholm*

Opening reception sponsors



Gorrissen Federspiel



MANNHEIMER
SWARTLING

THOMMESSEN

1130 – 1200

Cyber security

In 2021, Vestas Wind Systems was the victim of a ransomware attack. During the attack, data was illegally extracted from IT systems, and the attackers threatened to make the stolen data public. Thomas Arendt, General Counsel at Vestas Wind Systems, spearheaded the legal and risk management handling of the regulatory, contractual and communication aspects of the incident across multiple jurisdictions. In this session, Thomas Arendt will, in conversation with Tue Goldschmieding, explore the various legal challenges that companies face when a cyber-attack strikes and the demands it places on the legal function and the company's external legal advisors.

Thomas Arendt *General Counsel, Vestas Wind Systems, Copenhagen*

Tue Goldschmieding *Gorrissen Federspiel, Copenhagen*

1200 – 1330 **Lunch**

Sommerro Hotel

1330 – 1350

Setting the scene: M&A and Foreign Direct Investments

This session will provide an overview on M&A and FDI and the need to balance commercial considerations with national security and geopolitical developments.

Speaker

John L Robinson *Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, New York*

1350 – 1500

FDI & M&A: US considerations and panel discussion

This session will start with an overview of the US FDI regime and recent developments.

Heather Finstuen *Covington, Washington, DC*

Panel discussion: The evolving FDI regimes in the Nordics, the UK and the US comparative analysis and recent developments.

Moderator

Heather Finstuen *Covington, Washington, DC*

Panelists

John L Robinson *Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, New York*

Heidi Jorkjend *Thommessen, Oslo*

James Marshall *Covington, London*

Camilla C Collet *Gorrissen Federspiel, Copenhagen*

Johan Carle *Mannheimer Swartling, Stockholm*

1500 – 1530 **Coffee/tea break**

1530 – 1600

The Impact of AI on law firms?

How will AI impact the legal landscape and specifically law firms worldwide. This practical session will offer insights into the transformative capability of AI within law firms based on data collected by the IBA from over 300 law firms in more than 75 jurisdictions, through an IBA sponsored survey and individual deep dive interviews with law firm AI experts. This data was gathered as part of the 2024 IBA Presidential AI Task Force Project. Discover how law firms of all sizes are assessing AI to enhance efficiency, accuracy, and strategic decision-making, while also addressing the challenges and ethical considerations involved. The session will deal with issues including how law firms are using AI and what is foreseen over the next 5+ years. Discover the approaches to critical questions that will redefine the future of the legal profession.

Itzik Amiel *Founder and CEO, The Switch, Amsterdam*

Martijn Lesterhuis *Venturis Consulting Group, Amsterdam*

Sönke Lund *Écija, Barcelona*

1600 – 1700

Geopolitics, national security, cyber security, AI and law firm strategy

We will hear from law firm leaders how the topics covered during this conference impact law firm strategy and leadership.

Moderator

Sverre Tyrhaug *Thommessen, Oslo*

Panelists

Louise Brorsson Salomon *Vinge, Stockholm*

Christina Bruun Geertsen *Kromann Reumert, Copenhagen*

Uri Doron *Covington, New York*

Caroline Edwards *Travers Smith, London*

Mårten Knuts *Krogerus, Helsinki*

Alexander Ritvay *Noerr, Berlin*

Geir Sviggum *Wikborg Rein, Oslo*

1700 **Closing remarks**



International Bar Association

the global voice of the legal profession



About the IBA

The International Bar Association (IBA), established in 1947, is the world's leading organisation of international legal practitioners, bar associations, law firms and law societies.

The IBA influences the development of international law reform and shapes the future of the legal profession throughout the world. It has a membership of more than 80,000 individual lawyers and more than 190 bar associations and law societies spanning over 170 countries.

Inspired by the vision of the United Nations, the IBA was founded in the same spirit, just before the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was proclaimed in 1948.

The IBA covers all practice areas and professional interests, providing members with access to leading experts and up-to date information, enabling them to better represent their clients' interests.

Through its various committees, fora, and task forces, the IBA facilitates the exchange of information and views among its members as to laws, practices and professional responsibilities relating to the practice of law around the globe.

Law Firm Management Committee

The Committee's diverse membership is drawn from the profession around the world and from firms of all sizes and areas of practice.

The Committee pursues its mission through a number of activities including the annual IBA conference at which the Committee regularly offers a wide range of sessions addressing current top-of-mind issues; regional conferences, generally in coordination with the IBA's regional fora, which address current law firm management issues of regional interest; webinar programs; e-bulletins; and our publications and other material accessible to members on our website.

Once you join the Committee, you may actively contribute to its work by:

- Joining one of the Committee's five subcommittees: Strategy and Finance; Business Development and Marketing; Talent and Leadership; Knowledge Management and IT; or Small and Medium Firms
- Contributing to Law Firm Management publications including the e-bulletins
- More generally, sharing your own know-how while learning from others and participating actively at IBA conferences and the committee events and initiatives including its webinars

For more information please visit the **Law Firm Management Committee home page**.

International Bar Association

Chancery House, 53-64 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1QS, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)20 7842 0090 Email: member@int-bar.org Web: www.ibanet.org

