



WORLD LAW CONGRESS 2023

Opening Session New York

April 13
United Nations HQ



60 years making Peace Through Law



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THE ORGANIZERS

“A world ruled by law, and not by force” has been the [World Jurist Association](#)’s mission since its founding in 1963. A non-governmental organization in **special consultative status with the United Nations ECOSOC**, the [WJA](#) was created as free and open forum for judges, lawyers, law professors, students, and other professionals from around the world to cooperate in strengthening the Rule of Law and its institutions. Amongst its main activities are the biennial World Law Congress and the presentation of the World Peace & Liberty Award.

As a result of the Madrid Declaration of 2019, the **World Law Foundation** was created as the executive arm to organize the main activities of the World Jurist Association. The [Board of Trustees](#) and the Advisory Board of the WLF are composed of prominent jurists and professionals, including former presidents and prime ministers, presidents of high courts, directors of prestigious institutions, lawyers, academics, and businesspeople.

THE WORLD LAW CONGRESS

The [World Law Congress](#) is a two-day event where global leaders, including heads of State, justices, policy makers, academics, lawyers, activists, and students, discuss a wide variety of current topics to which the legal community should propose solutions. The history of the World Law Congress is as extensive as the Association’s history. It began in 1963 in Athens, and has continued, almost unstoppable, every two years to this day.

The **WORLD LAW CONGRESS NEW YORK 2023** will be the 28th edition of this event. The WJA celebrates its 60th anniversary going back to its American roots. On **July 20**,

simultaneous round tables will take place at the New York City Bar Association, gathering around 250 panelists from around the world. The Closing Ceremony will be held at the **ECOSOC Hall of the United Nations Headquarters on July 21, 2023**. During this ceremony, the World Peace & Liberty Award 2023 will be bestowed to a world personality or institution distinguished for their commitment to the promotion of peace through law and the rule of law as a guarantor of freedom. The award has been previously presented to Sir Winston Churchill, Nelson Mandela, René Cassin, Felipe VI King of Spain, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and, in its latest edition, to the Colombian society, received by President Ivan Duque.

THE OPENING SESSION NEW YORK

These sessions serve as the preamble of the World Law Congress, as well as a presentation of it to the local legal communities. The Opening Session New York will serve as the framework for the in-person press presentation of the World Law Congress. The program includes a panel of discussion on **Rule of Law, Corporate Governance & Climate Change** as well as the bestowing of the **WJA Medals of Honor** to distinguished personalities.

Follow Live on UN Web TV April 13
<https://media.un.org/es/webtv>

Presentation of the World Law Congress New York 2023

UN Conference Room (CR) 11

Master of Ceremonies

Hilarie Bass

USA, Trustee of the World Law Foundation, President of the Bass Institute for Diversity & Inclusion, President of the American Bar Association (2017-2018)

10:00 am

Opening Remarks

Javier Cremades

Spain, President of the World Jurist Association

Brendan McGuire

USA, Chief Counsel to Mayor Eric Adams

10:10 am

Rule of Law, Corporate Governance & Climate

Moderator

Susan Kohlmann

USA, President of the New York City Bar Association

Speakers

Brian Preston

Australia, President of the Land and Environment Court in New South Wales

Ernest Moniz

USA, 13th United States Secretary of Energy

Luc Lavrysen

Belgium, President of the Constitutional Court. President of the European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment

Santiago Martinez Garrido

Spain, General Secretary and Secretary of the Board of Directors of Iberdrola

11:00 am

Presentation of the World Law Congress New York 2023

New York City Bar Association July 20 & UN ECOSOC Hall July 21

Speakers

Patricia Lee Refo

USA, President of the American Bar Association (2020-2021)

Susan Kohlmann

USA, President of the New York City Bar Association

Víctor Olea

Mexico. President of the Mexican Bar Association (BMA)

11:30 am

Presentation of the WJA Medals of Honor (I)

Laudatio

Deborah Enix-Ross

USA, President of the American Bar Association

Awardees

Kerry Kennedy

USA, President of the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Foundation

Luis Almagro

Uruguay, Secretary General of the Organization of American States

Laudatio

Ernest Moniz

USA, 13th United States Secretary of Energy

Awardee

Ignacio Sánchez Galán

Spain, President of Iberdrola

11:55 am

Closing Remarks

J. Clifford Wallace

USA, Chief Judge Emeritus of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

12:00 pm

Closing & Awardees Family Picture (I)

Luncheon

UN Delegates Dining Room. 4th Floor

12:30 pm

Master of Ceremonies

Patricia Lee Refo

USA, President of the American Bar Association (2020-2021)



01:25 pm

Intervention

Henry Molina

Dominican Republic, President of the Supreme Court of the Dominican Republic

01:30 pm

Presentation of the WJA Medals of Honor (II)

Laudatio

Deborah Enix-Ross

USA, President of the American Bar Association

Awardees

Brian Preston

Australia, President of the Land and Environment Court in New South Wales

Luc Lavrysen

Belgium, President of the Constitutional Court

Richard Wagner

Canada, Chief Justice of Canada

Laudatio

Bill Clinton

USA, 42nd President of the United States (video)

Brad Karp

USA, Chairman of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, Trustee of the World Law Foundation

Awardee

Stephen Breyer

USA, Retired Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States

02:20 pm

Discussion on the New Horizons of the Rule of Law

Speakers

Brad Karp

USA, Chairman of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, Trustee of the World Law Foundation

Stephen Breyer

USA, Retired Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States

02:40 pm

Closing Remarks

Robert “Bob” Menéndez, USA. United States Senator for New Jersey, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Javier Cremades

Spain, President of the World Jurist Association

03:00 pm

Closing & Awardees Family Picture (II)

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STEERING COMMITTEE

Alan Solomont, USA. Former Ambassador of the United States in Spain

Brad Karp, USA. Chairman of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison
Brian Henderson, USA. Founding partner of Henderson International Advisors

Christopher Plaut, USA. Retired Partner at Latham & Watkins

David Mills, USA. Professor of the Practice of Law at Stanford University

Frank Ryan, USA. Global Co-Chair, Global Co-CEO, and Americas Chair of DLA Piper

Hilarie Bass, USA. Former President of the American Bar Association & President and Founder at Bass Institute for Diversity and Inclusion

Javier Cremades, Spain. President of the World Jurist Association
Juan Carlos Pinzón, Colombia. Former Ambassador of Colombia in the United States

Kerry Kennedy, USA. President of the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Foundation
Lisa Sachs, USA. Director of the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment

Lucio Ghia, Italy. Former President of the World Jurist Association
Marcelo Etchebarne, Argentina. DLA Piper Partner Latin America Practice Group Regional Leader

Patricia Lee Refo, USA. Past President of the American Bar Association & Partner at Snell & Wilmer
Susan Kohlmann, USA. President of the New York City Bar & Partner at Jenner & Block

www.worldlawcongress.com

