



THE COMMERCIAL BAR ASSOCIATION
North American and Offshore Meeting

The Westin Excelsior Hotel

Rome

Italy

Wednesday 27th May to Friday 29th May 2026

PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY 27th MAY – WELCOME EVENING

*Hosted in the [historic Grand Lobby](#) of the Westin Excelsior Hotel Rome
Dress code: smart casual*

18:00 Welcome Reception

19:00 [Henry King KC](#), Chair of COMBAR, will say a few words of welcome.

20:00 Reception ends.

Free evening.

THURSDAY 28th MAY – CONFERENCE DAY 1

*Hosted in the Ludovisi room of the Westin Excelsior Hotel
Dress code: smart casual*

7:00 Optional group run / walk (weather depending) around the Villa Borghese Gardens – Led by Anna Boase KC and Katie Ratcliffe – meet in the Westin lobby 5 mins before departure

8:00 - 9:00 Breakfast will be available in the Borghese Room for members and their families.

8:00 Separate Breakfast for Junior Barristers hosted by Mr Justice Henshaw in the Campidoglio room, Westin.

9:15 Introduction and welcome: [Tom Mountford](#), Chair of the North American Committee and [Andrew Burns KC](#), Vice Chair.

9:20 First Session – Should I stay or should I go? – Comparative approaches to anti-suit relief

Chair: [Philippa Hopkins KC](#) (Essex Court Chambers, London/E&W)

Panel:

1. [Sinziana R. Hennig](#) (Stikeman Elliott, Toronto/Canada)
2. [Gerard Rothschild](#) (Brick Court Chambers, London/E&W)
3. [Rosalind Nicholson](#) (Walkers, BVI)
4. [Christopher Boehning](#) (Paul, Weiss, New York/USA)

10:30 First Session Q&A

10:45 Coffee/tea break served in the Grand Lobby.

11:20 Second Session – The Rt. Hon [Lord Leggatt](#), Justice of the UK Supreme Court, in conversation with [Helen Davies KC](#) (Brick Court Chambers; E&W)

12:30 Lunch – Served in the Borghese Room

14:00 Third Session – Inference and knowledge: how much is enough in civil fraud cases?

Chair: [Jeremy Richmond KC](#) (Quadrant Chambers, London/E&W)

Panel:

1. [Georgina Peters](#) (South Square, London/E&W)
2. [Michael D. Briggs KC](#) (McMillan, Calgary/Canada)
3. [Sarah McLennan](#) (Forbes Hare, Cayman Islands)
4. [Peter Chaffetz](#) (Chaffetz Lindsey, New York /USA)

15:00 Third Session Q&A

15:15 Coffee/tea break served in the Grand Lobby.

15:40 Fourth Session – Workshop: Dealing with tricky issues

Chairs: [Mr Justice Henshaw](#) and [Anneliese Day KC](#) (Fountain Court Chambers, London/E&W).

Delegates will be divided into groups by table, with each group asked to workshop a different tricky issue raising professional or ethical considerations and strategies for how best to deal with it. Each group will then briefly present back to the room, for Q&A and discussion from the floor.

17:00 End of first day of conference.

THURSDAY EVENING – Drinks and Canapés on the Roof Terrace of the Hassler Hotel, Via Sistina, above the Spanish steps.

Dress code: summer smart (i.e. suits optional, no ties required, jackets and chinos, dresses and cocktail attire all welcome)

Delegates, spouses/partners and families are welcome to attend. Directions: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/gJrrvo5uU9rYqNC16>. The venue is a 10-minute walk from the Westin.

18:00 Reception begins. A jazz trio will play during drinks.

20:00 Reception ends.

Free evening.

FRIDAY 29th MAY – CONFERENCE

Hosted in the Ludovisi room of the Westin Excelsior Hotel

Dress code: smart casual

[An optional private tour of the **Sistine Chapel** will run this morning before breakfast and before the Sistine Chapel and Vatican Museums open to the public for those who have signed up when registering. Places are strictly limited and allocated on a first come first served basis. Further details will be provided of this visit in due course. Transport will be arranged to and from the Westin hotel]

7:00 – 9:45 Breakfast in Borghese room.

9:45 The Fifth Session: Are geopolitics affecting global commercial litigation and undermining the rule of law?

Chair: [Fionn Pilbrow KC](#) (Brick Court Chambers, London/E&W)

Panel:

1. [The Rt. Hon. Alex Chalk KC](#) (Jones Day, London /E&W)
2. [Paul Tan](#) (One Essex Court, London/E&W and Singapore)
3. [Steven F. Molo](#) (MoloLamken, New York /USA)
4. [Katherine Ratcliffe](#) (Essex Court Chambers, London/E&W)

10:45 Fifth Session Q&A

11:00 Coffee/tea break – Served in the Grand Lobby.

11:30 The Sixth Session: Debate - “It is a lawyer’s duty to properly prepare and rehearse a witness.”

Chair: Peter Banks, Justice of the King’s Bench of Alberta

Panel:

1. [Karen C. Burgess](#) (Burgess Law, Austin/USA)
2. [Thomas Mathews](#) (Mathews Samac, Toronto/Canada)
3. TBC (London/E&W)
4. [Alice Carse](#) (4 Pump Court, London/E&W)

13:00 Lunch – Served in the Borghese room

15:00 Optional activity - Italian Supreme Court of Cassation visit (limited to first 50 sign-ups – sign up link will be circulated in due course)

Dress code: lounge suits or equivalent

Tour of the monumental ‘Palazzaccio’ (built 1889-1911) on the banks of the River Tiber followed by a meeting with Judges of the Italian Supreme Court of Cassation and with Alessandro Graziani, President of the Rome Bar Association, followed by drinks hosted by BonelliErede at their offices at Via Vittoria Colonna 39 by the Supreme Court.

17:00 Buses depart for the Westin

FRIDAY EVENING – Gala Dinner at the [Chiostro del Bramante](#)

Dress code: lounge suits or equivalent formal dinner wear

18:10 Group gathers in the lobby of Westin Hotel.

18:15 Shuttle buses will take guests to the Piazza di Tor Sanguiga, 3 minute walk down Via dei Coronai to the Chiostro del Bramante

19:00 Reception starts with drinks and galleries tour.

20:00 Dinner, including:

- After-dinner remarks by [Mr Justice Henshaw](#)
- Vote of thanks by [Henry King KC](#) Chair of COMBAR.
- Opera recital – 3 Italian arias sung by singers from Opera Rome’s Fabbrica Young Artist Programme.

22:30 Guests depart.

22:30 Shuttle buses return guests to the Westin Excelsior Hotel.

22:30 Informal after-party (details to be confirmed)