

HCCH a|Bridged: Innovation in Cross-Border Litigation and Civil Procedure Edition 2020: Golden Anniversary of the HCCH 1970 Evidence Convention



Dr Margaretha Sudhof

State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, Germany

Dr Margaretha Sudhof is a former judge at Frankfurt am Main Administrative Court and has been State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection since July 2019. Before joining the Ministry, she was State Secretary at the Berlin Senate Department for Finance (2012–2019). She has previously held the positions of Permanent Deputy to the Director-General for Crisis Management and Civil Protection at the Federal Ministry of the Interior (2010–2012) and Deputy Director-General for Interior and Legal Policy at the Federal Chancellery.



Dr Christophe Bernasconi

Secretary General, HCCH

Christophe Bernasconi has been Secretary General of the HCCH since 2013. He has long-standing expertise in the fields of international civil procedural law, international commercial and finance law, and international family and child protection law. Dr Bernasconi holds a law degree from Fribourg University, an LL.M. degree in comparative law from McGill University (Canada), and a doctoral degree in Private International Law from Fribourg University. Before joining the Permanent Bureau, he lectured in the field of Private International Law at the University of Fribourg, worked as Legal Expert at the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law in Lausanne, and as Scientific Collaborator at the Federal Office of Justice in Switzerland. He also advised practitioners on various Private International Law matters.



Professor Dr Michael Stürner

Professor, University of Konstanz and Judge, Higher Regional Court, Karlsruhe

Michael Stürner is Professor of Civil Law, Private International Law and Comparative Law at the University of Konstanz, Germany. He also serves as a judge at the Higher Regional Court in Karlsruhe, Germany, with a special responsibility for the recognition and enforcement of foreign titles and arbitral awards. From 2009 to 2012 he has held a chair of Civil Law, Private International Law and Comparative Law at Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), Germany. He has been appointed as a member of the Council of the International Association of Procedural Law (IAPL) and as a Fellow of the European Law Institute. His main research interests lie in the fields of cross-border dispute resolution, comparative law, conflict of laws, and European private law.



Ruth Schröder

Head of Directorate General I (Civil Law) at the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection

Ruth Schröder has held the office of Head of Directorate General I (Civil Law) at the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection since August 2018. She previously served as Head of Directorate General for the Prison Service at Hesse Ministry of Justice. Ruth Schröder studied law at the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster and started her professional career as a Judge. Before joining the Hesse Ministry of Justice in 2013 she has been the President of Regional Court in Fulda, Hesse, Germany.



Dr João Ribeiro-Bidaoui

First Secretary, HCCH

João Ribeiro-Bidaoui has primary responsibility for the HCCH Evidence Convention, among other portfolios. Previously, Dr Ribeiro-Bidaoui was Head of the UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific and served as Head of International Affairs of the Ministry of Justice of Portugal. He has also served as Deputy Secretary General of the Conferences of Ministers of Justice of the Iberian-American countries (COMJIB) and of the Portuguese Speaking countries (CMJPLOP). He holds a bachelor's degree and a masters in law from the University of Coimbra (Portugal), a masters in juridical sciences from the University of Macau (China), and a doctoral degree from the New University of Lisbon (Portugal).



Kerstin Empt

Judge, Higher Regional Court, Cologne

Kerstin Empt has been a Judge in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, since 2006. She is currently seconded as a Judge to the Higher Regional Court Cologne and was previously seconded to the Federal Office of Justice from 2017 to 2019. She practiced as a lawyer with an international law firm in Hamburg from 2004–2006. She holds a master’s degree (LL.M.) in International and Comparative Law from the University of Iowa.



Colleen McMahon

Chief Judge, U.S. District Court, Southern District New York, United States of America

Colleen McMahon has been appointed to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York by President William J. Clinton in 1998. She received her undergraduate education at The Ohio State University (B.A.) and her legal education at Harvard Law School (J.D.). After a few years in private practice at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, Judge McMahon served as a Speechwriter and Special Assistant to the Honorable Donald McHenry, United States Mission to the United Nations. She then returned to Paul, Weiss, where in 1984 she became the first woman litigator to be elected as a partner of that firm. Judge McMahon served as a Judge of the New York Court of Claims (1995) and as an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court of the New York Supreme Court (1995–1998).



Dr Marcelo De Nardi

Federal Judge, Federal Court of First Instance of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

Dr Marcelo De Nardi has been a judge at the Federal Court of First Instance of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil since 1993. Currently he is presiding the Environmental, Land and Indigenous Peoples Issues Federal Court of Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, the southernmost State of Brazil. He holds a PhD in Law from the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul – UFRGS, Brazil and is Professor of International Trade Law and Private International Law at the Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos – UNISINOS, LL.M. and graduate programs in Brazil. Dr Marcelo De Nardi has been invited lecturer to various Universities and other institutions, including the HCCH and the WIPO. He also serves as expert advisor for different institutions, including the Brazilian Delegation to the Experts Group on the Jurisdiction Project of the HCCH.



Haerang Lee

Judge, Suwon District Court, Republic of Korea

Haerang Lee is a judge of South Korea since 2011. She holds a LL.M. from Georgetown Law Center; and a MA, BA from Seoul National University, College of Law and has been a panel Judge in the Civil Division, in the Criminal Division and in the Administrative Division of the court before. She has been a member of International Judicial Cooperation Team of Supreme Court of South Korea since 2016. Haerang Lee was a member of the preparatory committee of HCCH Asia Pacific Week 2017 (Seoul, Korea), presented “Hague Principles on choice of law in International Commercial Contracts”, and coordinated the “International Litigation & Information technology: Taking Evidence by Video-links” section. Her recent publications include “Hague Principles on Choice of Law in International Commercial Contracts” and “A People-Centered Approach to Access to Justice and the Efforts of Korean Judiciary”.



Alexander Blumrosen

Partner, Polaris Law

Alexander Blumrosen is the founding partner of the Paris law firm Polaris Law, specialized in the litigation of international commercial business disputes (before courts and arbitration tribunals), with particular experience in technology, IP and cross-border privacy. He is appointed Hague Commissioner and Privacy Monitor by U.S. courts under the Hague Evidence Convention of 1970, and is selected as an expert on French law and procedure in U.S. litigation. He has been appointed by the EU and the US to sit on the Privacy Shield arbitration panel. A graduate of Dartmouth College, Georgetown Law School and the University of Paris I, he is admitted to the Bars of New York and Paris.



Nicola Engels

Judge, Higher Regional Court Düsseldorf, Central Authority for North Rhine-Westphalia

Nicola Engels has been a Judge in North Rhine-Westphalia since 1997. She was seconded to the Ministry of Justice of North Rhine-Westphalia from 1998 to 2000. Since 2013 she is a Judge at the Higher Regional Court Düsseldorf, where she is responsible, inter alia, for legal assistance. She also holds a Diploma in Public Administration.



Noëlle Lenoir

Avocate à la Cour, Partner, Attorney at law

As a practicing lawyer in Paris, Noëlle Lenoir focuses her practice on compliance and social responsibility, international investigations and litigation, data protection, public and constitutional law, European regulation, and strategic alliances. She was the first woman and the youngest Justice ever to have served on the French Constitutional Court (1992–2001). Beforehand she served as Justice on the Conseil d'Etat (French Supreme Court on administrative matters). As French Minister for Europe (2002–2004). Ms. Lenoir has taught at Columbia Law School, University College London and several French universities. She is Honoris Causa of UCL and Suffolk University.



Willem Visser

Court Registrar & Senior Law Clerk, Netherlands Commercial Court – Utrecht District Court, the Netherlands

Mr Visser studied Private Law at Utrecht University (the Netherlands) and obtained a MA in 1998. He worked as a Student Researcher for the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights. Since his graduation he has been in the employ of the Dutch Judiciary. First as a Senior Law Clerk assisting judges in drafting judgments in complex civil cases, in particular in the area of private international law. In 2019, he became the Registrar and Administrator of the Netherlands Commercial Court. In this capacity, he oversees the general operations of the court. He was appointed member of several national judicial expert groups, including the Expert Group on European Private Law which he continues to serve. Mr Visser is the author of a practical handbook for the Dutch Judiciary on the execution of Letters of Requests under the Hague Evidence Convention.



Paula Pott

Judge, Court of Appeal, Lisbon, Portugal

Paula Pott is a Judge at the Court of Appeal of Lisbon in Portugal and Portuguese Contact Point of three judicial networks – EJM Civil (European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters), IberRed (Latin American Judicial Network) and the Judicial Network of CPLP (Portuguese speaking countries Judicial Network), as well as national Coordinator of the Latin American Judicial Summit (Cumbre Judicial Iberoamericana). Previously, she has been national Judge in Portugal since 1992 and Seconded National Expert at the European Commission (European Personnel Selection Office) from June 2005 to June 2011. Paula Pott holds a degree in Law from Coimbra University (Portugal) and an advanced Master in Interdisciplinary Analysis of European Construction from the University of Louvain (Belgium). She attended a Law and Logic Summer Course of the European University Institute (Florence).



Michael Baylson

Judge, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, United States of America

Michael M. Baylson was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania by President George W. Bush and took office in July 2002. He graduated from the Wharton School of Finance & Commerce (B.S. Econ.) and the Law School (LL.B.) of the University of Pennsylvania. Before Judge Baylson joined Duane Morris and became a partner in 1974, he served as an Assistant District Attorney, as Chief of the Homicide Division. He handled complex civil litigation matters and tried numerous cases, specializing in class actions, antitrust and securities issues. Judge Baylson served as a member of the Advisory Committee on Civil Rules of the Judicial Conference of the United States from 2005–2010. He currently serves on the Third Circuit Committee on Model Criminal Jury Instructions. He is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he leads a seminar in Commercial Litigation Strategy.



Elizabeth Zorrilla

Legal Officer, HCCH

Elizabeth Zorrilla joined the Permanent Bureau in 2019 as part of the international legal cooperation and civil procedure team. Ms. Zorrilla practiced law in Mexico in the arbitration team of an international law firm and was trained in Hong Kong, Geneva and Paris. She taught alternative dispute resolution courses at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and at the Centre of Alternative Justice of Mexico City Superior Court of Justice. Ms Zorrilla obtained an LL.M. in International Dispute Settlement (MIDS) as a Hans Wildorf Scholar from the Graduate Institute and the University of Geneva, and received a law degree from UNAM.



Dr Anna-Julka Lilja

Legal Officer at the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, Germany

Anna-Julka Lilja started her professional career as a lawyer, specialised in international Dispute Resolution in 2009. She studied law at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and holds a master's degree (LL.M.) in Dispute Resolution from the University of Minnesota, USA, and a master's degree in Mediation from the Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), Germany. In 2017 she started working for the German Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection.