

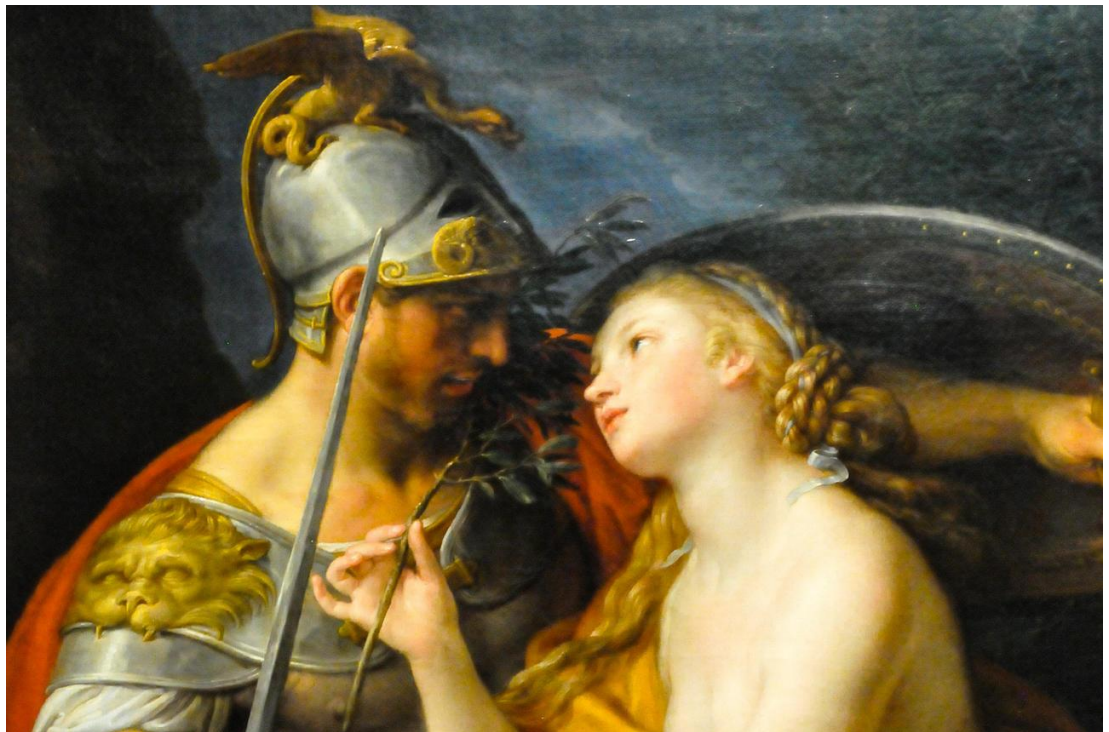
INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CONFERENCE 2025

War & Peace, and International Arbitration

The Prospect of Accountability
for Violent Conflicts

8-9 MAY 2025 | Bocconi University - Milano

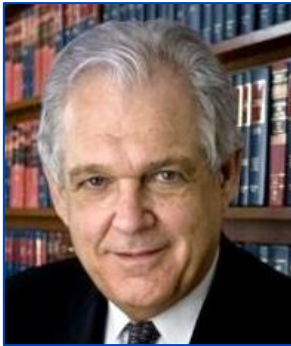
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George A. Bermann

George A. Bermann is the director of the Center for International Commercial & Investment 300 Arbitration at Columbia Law School. He is a world-renowned authority on comparative law, EU law, international trade contracts, WTO dispute resolution, and transnational litigation and arbitration. For more than four decades, he has been an active international arbitrator in commercial and investment disputes in all sectors, including general commercial contract, construction, intellectual property, energy, oil and gas, competition law, insurance, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, distributorship and franchising, transportation, and employment. He also serves regularly as an expert witness before international arbitral tribunals as well as before courts in arbitral-related cases.

Bermann joined the Columbia Law School faculty in 1975. He founded both the Columbia Journal of European Law and the European Legal Studies Center, where he serves as the director. In addition to teaching full-time at the Law School, he is an affiliated faculty member of the School of Law of Sciences Po in Paris and the MIDS Masters Program in International Dispute Settlement in Geneva.

Bermann was the chief reporter for the American Law Institute (ALI) for its *Restatement of the Law, The U.S. Law of International Commercial and Investor-State Arbitration*, a 12-year project that was completed in 2019; it was the first ALI Restatement on this area of the law. Bermann is also co-author of the *UNCITRAL Guide to the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards*, chair of the Global Advisory Board of the New York International Arbitration Center (NYIAC), co-editor in chief of the *American Review of International Arbitration*, and founding member of the governing body of the ICC Court of Arbitration and a member of its standing committee.



Mélida Hodgson

Mélida Hodgson is a *Chambers* ranked investor-state and commercial arbitration practitioner and arbitrator. Hodgson is president of the American Society of International Law. With three decades of experience practicing at the intersection of international arbitration and sovereign obligations, she represents clients operating worldwide across the range of arbitration fora, including the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), The Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), America Arbitration Association (AAA/ICR), and under the rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

In May 2024, President Joe Biden designated Hodgson to the ICSID Panel of Conciliators. She will serve the standard six-year term on the ICSID panel. Hodgson is also a vice chair of the ICC Institute of World Business Law and serves on the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR and its Task Force on

Corruption in Arbitration, as well as on the Council of the AAA/ICDR. She is a founding member of the Washington Women in International Arbitration.

Earlier in her legal career, Hodgson was a U.S. government litigator at the U.S. Department of Justice, where she litigated claims brought by bank shareholders against the United States, and an associate general counsel at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, where she litigated international trade disputes before the WTO and provided counsel in NAFTA Chapter 11 investor-state arbitrations involving the United States, Canada and Mexico. Before entering the legal profession, she was a banker at Chemical Bank (now JP Morgan Chase).

Hodgson is active in the profession beyond her immediate practice, frequently speaking at conferences and writing articles on international investment and commercial arbitration and international law, issues, as well as serving in leadership roles of related organizations.



Harold Hongju Koh

Harold Hongju Koh is Sterling Professor of International Law at Yale Law School. He returned to Yale Law School in January 2013 after serving for nearly four years as the 22nd Legal Adviser of the U.S. Department of State.

Professor Koh is one of the country's leading experts in public and private international law, national security law, and human rights. He first began teaching at Yale Law School in 1985 and served as its fifteenth Dean from 2004 until 2009. From 2009 to 2013, he took leave as the Martin R. Flug '55 Professor of International Law to join the State Department as Legal Adviser, service for which he received the Secretary of State's Distinguished Service Award. From 1993 to 2009, he was the Gerard C. & Bernice Latrobe Smith Professor of International Law at Yale Law School, and from 1998 to 2001, he served as U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.

Professor Koh has received 18 honorary degrees and more than 30 awards for his human rights work, including awards from Columbia Law School and the American Bar Association for his lifetime achievements in international law. He has authored or co-authored nine books, published more than 200 articles, testified regularly before Congress, and litigated numerous cases involving international law issues in both U.S. and international tribunals. He is a Fellow of the American Philosophical Society and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, an Honorary Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, and a member of the Council of the American Law Institute.

He holds a B.A. degree from Harvard College and B.A. and M.A. degrees from Oxford University, where he was a Marshall Scholar. He earned his J.D. from Harvard Law School, where he was Developments Editor of the Harvard Law Review. Before coming to Yale, he served as a law clerk for Justice Harry A. Blackmun of the United States Supreme Court and Judge Malcolm Richard Wilkey of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, worked as an attorney in private practice in Washington, and served as an Attorney-Adviser for the Office of Legal Counsel, U.S. Department of Justice.





David Vaughn

David Vaughn is an attorney with more than 20 years of experience in designing, implementing, and evaluating legal and judicial reform projects throughout Europe and Eurasia, Africa and Latin America. He acted as Rule of Law Advisor for ABA/CEELI in Kazakhstan, helping to establish a legislative drafting office, a regional bar association, and a judicial advocacy organization.

Mr. Vaughn also served as Deputy Chief of Party for the USAID Russian-American Judicial Partnership in Moscow, Russia, where he led judicial education and court administration programs. As Director at Chemonics International, he supervised and provided technical guidance to rule of law and commercial law reform projects in Albania, Armenia, Bosnia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Russia, and Zambia. Mr. Vaughn also served as Chief of Party for the USAID Women's Legal Rights Initiative, a worldwide project that focused on legal drafting, justice sector enforcement, civil society advocacy, and public awareness with activities in Albania, Benin, Guatemala, Madagascar, Rwanda, and regional programs in southern Africa that included Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa, and Swaziland.

He also served as a member of the board of directors of Chemonics International. Mr. Vaughn served as Chief of Party for the USAID/Ukraine New Justice Program, which focuses on strengthening judicial independence and self-governance, increasing judicial accountability and transparency, improving the administration of justice, raising the quality of legal education, and expanding access to justice and protection of human rights.

He holds a J.D. from the American University Washington College of Law, as well as a M.A. in political science and B.A. in Russian from the University of Vermont. Mr. Vaughn also completed a certificate program in mediating disputes at the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School. He is fluent in Russian and also speaks Ukrainian, French, and Spanish.

