

The logo for the Alliance of Business Lawyers (ABL), consisting of the letters 'ABL' in white on a blue square background with a white wave-like underline.

ABL

A high-angle, panoramic view of a city, likely London, showing a dense urban landscape with various buildings, streets, and a river in the distance. The image is partially obscured by a large blue circular graphic on the left side.

Alliance of Business Lawyers

44th Conference

London 2023

17th – 20th May, 2023

The Bloomsbury Hotel
London, UK

[Conference Website](#)

Hosted by:

warners
solicitors

DRUCES
SINCE 1767



London 2023

List of Delegates

Firm Name	Delegate Name	City, Country
Arraut & Asociados	Xavier Font	Barcelona, Spain
Benkhalifa Cabinet MBC INC.	Leila Aksiman	Montreal, Canada
Benkhalifa Cabinet MBC INC.	Mohamed Benkhalifa	Montreal, Canada
Brown Gee & Wenger LLP	Michael Brown	San Francisco, USA
CTM Legal Group	Joe Coli	Chicago, USA
CTM Legal Group	Jon Magna	Chicago, USA
David Zahra & Associates Advocates	Austin Sammut	Valetta, Malta
David Zahra & Associates Advocates	David Zahra	Valetta, Malta
DGM Avocats	Baudouin Dunand	Geneva, Switzerland
DMF Legal	Aslan Kaya	Ankara, Turkey
DMF Legal	R. Dilan Kaya	Ankara, Turkey
Druces LLP	Claire Rigby	London, UK
Druces LLP	Neil Pfister	London, UK
Druces LLP	Antony Cotton	London, UK
Druces LLP	Christopher Axford	London, UK
Druces LLP	Julian Washington	London, UK
Druces LLP	Lucy McGinley	London, UK
Druces LLP	Roy Campbell	London, UK
Druces LLP	Richard Bailey	London, UK
Druces LLP	Benjamin Lomer	London, UK
Druces LLP	Nigel Adams	London, UK
Druces LLP	Rob Macro	London, UK
Druces LLP	Toby Stroh	London, UK
Franzosi Dal Negro Setti	Carolina Stefanetti	Milan, Italy
FT Consultants	Hector Falla	Bogotá, Colombia
Garfias & Cía	Pilar Donoso	Santiago, Chile
Garfias & Cía	Gonzalo Garfias	Santiago, Chile
Greer, Herz & Adams, LLP	Joe Fulcher	Galveston - Houston, USA
Harneys	Massimiliano della Zonca	Luxembourg
Harneys	Stephanie Loizou	London, UK
Harneys	Robert Van Buuren	London, UK
Harneys	Rachel Graham	London, UK



London 2023

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Hartmann, Jelinek, Frana & Partners	Pavel Fráňa	Prague, Czechia
Jacobsen + Confurius Rechtsanwälte	Roland von Loßberg	Hamburg, Germany
MG Abogados	Laura Gobernado	Madrid, Spain
Miguérès Moulin A.A.R.P.I.	Emmanuel Moulin	Paris, France
Miles Legal	Bart Cools	Brussels , Belgium
Nypl Novák Kavalírová & Partners	Miroslav Nypl	Hradec Králové , Czechia
Rasco Klock Perez & Nieto, P.L. - Miami	Luis Oviedo	Miami, USA
Rasco Klock Perez & Nieto, P.L. - Miami	Juan Antorcha	Miami, USA
Rasco Klock Perez & Nieto, P.L. - New York	James Halter	New York, USA
Rasco Klock Perez & Nieto, P.L. - New York	Blaine Bortnick	New York, USA
Rasco Klock Perez & Nieto, P.L. - New York	Andica Kunst	New York, USA
Ruddy Gregory PLLC	James Gregory	Denver, USA
Ruddy Gregory PLLC	Jessen Gregory Perko	Denver, USA
Ruddy Gregory, PLLC	Mark Ruddy	Washington, USA
Ruddy Gregory, PLLC	Gregory (Greg) Smith	Washington, USA
Salomon Lipschutz & Co.	Nitza Rachel Posner	Tel Aviv, Israel
SCA Global	Silvino Boaventura	Lisbon, Portugal
Szmyrka Nawrat & Wspólnicy sp.j.	Krzysztof Szmyrka	Wroclaw, Poland
Szmyrka Nawrat & Wspólnicy sp.j.	Jakub Pokorski	Wroclaw, Poland
Szmyrka Nawrat & Wspólnicy sp.j.	Katarzyna Dumieńska-Trubiło	Wroclaw, Poland
Szmyrka Nawrat & Wspólnicy sp.j.	Maciej Wilento	Wroclaw, Poland
Warners Solicitors	Andrew Hawkins	Tonbridge, UK
Warners Solicitors	James Norman	Tonbridge, UK
Warners Solicitors	Angela Rowe	Tonbridge, UK
Willems Schmidt	Hans Mathijssen	Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Willems Schmidt	Menno Schmidt	Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Total: 27	58	



London 2023 Conference Agenda

Day 1

Wednesday, 17th May, 2023

12h30 Board Meeting & Lunch (*Board members only*)

17h00



Druces' Offices



Business Casual

Welcome Reception & Dinner

18h30

22h30



The Bloomsbury Hotel
Queen Mary Hall



Semi-formal



London 2023 Conference Agenda

Day 2

Thursday, 18th May, 2023

Conference Day

08h45

17h00



The Bloomsbury Hotel
Tavistock



Business

08h45

Welcome Coffee

09h00

Welcome – Opening Remarks

1. **Mark Ruddy**, ABL President
2. **Angela Rowe**, Host Warners Solicitors
3. **Roy Campbell**, Host Druces LLP

09h20

Trending Topics in UK: European legislation and Security

Lord Fox, current member of the House of Lords and Business Spokesperson

10h00

Artificial Intelligence (AI) - Uses and implications of AI in Law and Business

Neil Pfister, Commercial & Technology Partner at Druces, LLP

10h40

Coffee Break

11h00

International Arbitration

Richard Bailey, Construction & Dispute Resolution Partner at Druces, LLP

11h40

Integra International – Your Global Advantage

Robert Moore, Managing Partner at Bright Grahame Murray, Integra Local Partner

12h00

Investigations- The Good The Bad and The Challenging

Laurence Brown, Regional Director, Council of International Investigators



London 2023 Conference Agenda

Day 2

Thursday, 18th May, 2023

12h30 Group Photo

13h00 Lunch

14h00 Marketing and Personal Branding – Your Differentiation Strategy

Margarida Bonito, Legal marketing specialist

14h40 Current State of International Concerns Over Conflict Minerals

Alexander Yearsley, Private Investigator, former Head Of Special Projects for Global Witness

15h20 What Does a Sustainable Law Firm Look Like and
How Can the Legal Sustainability Alliance help?

Jim Haywood, Director, Achill Management - hosts of the Legal Sustainability Alliance

16h00 Coffee Break

16h30 Closing Remarks

Mark Ruddy, ABL President

17h00 End of Conference Sessions

18h30 **Dinner** Gather at the lobby at 18:30. The restaurant is a 12 min walk away.

22h30



Balthazar



Smart-casual



London 2023 Conference Agenda

Day 3

Friday, 19th May, 2023

Conference Half-Day

09h00

14h00



The Bloomsbury Hotel
Tavistock



Business

08h45 Welcome Coffee and Opening Remarks

Sharing Experiences:

09h00 Chilean Constitutional Convention [2021 – 2022]: A failed approach
Gonzalo Garfias, Garfias & Cia, Chile

09h30 New regulatory framework for investment funds in Malta
David Zahra, David Zahra & Associates Advocates, Malta

10h00 Amendments to the BVI Business Companies Act 2004
Rachel Graham, Managing Partner, Harneys London

10h20 SAFEs & KISSEs
Blaine Bortnick, Rasco Klock Perez Nieto, New York

10h50 Coffee Break

11h10 New Member Presentation
Joe Fulcher, Greer, Herz & Adams, L.L.P., Galveston, Houston

11h30 **State of ABL:**

1. Elections
2. Approval MoM Chicago
3. Update on Developments
4. Closed 2022 Financial Accounts
5. Referrals & CPC Report
6. Next Conference Venues
 - a. Fall 2023 – Tel Aviv (approved)
 - b. Spring 2024 – Malta (to be approved)
 - c. Fall 2024 – Fortaleza (approved)
7. Applications

13h00 Lunch

14h00 End of Conference Sessions



London 2023 Conference Agenda

Day 3

Friday, 19th May, 2023

16h00

Sir John Soane's Museum Tour

17h00

The museum is a short walk away from the hotel. Gather at 15h30 at the lobby.
Please note stilettos and narrow heels are not permitted as these cause considerable damage to the Museum's original 200 year old wooden flooring. No photography, food, drink, or chewing gum is permitted.



Sir John Soane's Museum



Smart-casual

18h30

Cocktail Reception & Dinner

22h30

With a presentation by **Lord Garnier**, Kings's Counsel at 4 Pump Court
Meet the group there at the scheduled time.



Herbert Berger
at Innholders Hall



Semi-formal

Day 4

Saturday, 20th May, 2023

10h00

Tower of London with Crown Jewels Exhibition

12h30

The group will be taking the tube to the Tower of London.
Gather at the lobby at 10h.



Casual



London 2023 Conference Speakers



Lord Fox

Member of the House of Lords

Christopher Francis Fox is a Chemistry graduate from Imperial College, London. He has a long track record in a range of businesses. His corporate experience spans 30 years in the petroleum, nuclear, food, automotive and aerospace sectors and his operational activity spans more than 20 countries. Lord Fox will be speaking about **Trending Topics in UK: European legislation and Security.**



Lord Garnier

Kings's Counsel at 4 Pump Court

Edward Garnier KC is a highly experienced silk in England & Wales and Northern Ireland. His practice includes corporate advisory and financial services work, corporate crime and international human rights as well as defamation, privacy, confidence, malicious falsehood, contempt and related media law cases. His extensive experience in practice is underpinned by a parallel career in politics and as one of the Government's two Law Officers: he served as an MP from 1992 until 2017 and was HM Solicitor General from 2010 to 2012. He is now in the House of Lords.

When in Government as Solicitor General, he developed and introduced into this jurisdiction from the United States the Deferred Prosecution Agreement, a means of dealing with companies who admit their offending to supplement prosecutions against individuals suspected of economic crime. He appeared for the Serious Fraud Office in two of the DPAs so far approved by the Court, the first one, Standard Bank, in 2014, and the then-largest, Rolls-Royce, in 2017. In 2020-21 he led the legal team acting for two respondent companies in the 11th and 12th DPAs to be approved by the Court.

In the media law sphere, Edward acts for individual and corporate claimants, both within England & Wales and Northern Ireland and abroad, and for individual defendants and corporate defendants from the publishing, internet and broadcasting world.

Lord Garnier will be **joining us for Dinner at at Innholders Hall on Friday** to speak to us about **Sanctions in the International Arena.**



London 2023 Conference Speakers



Richard Bailey

Partner at Druces LLP

Richard is a highly regarded Construction lawyer with broad experience across the sector. This encompasses the drafting of all forms of construction contracts and the handling of complex disputes in construction and engineering cases, both domestic and international. His clients include contractors and subcontractors; property owners and developers; consultants and project stakeholders.

Today, Richard splits his time fairly equally between dispute resolution and non-contentious advisory work. Richard regularly advises on the terms of contracts and other related contractual documentation. He provides a contract review and advisory service to his contractor clients and regularly advises developers on development agreements and putting together suites of contract documents for major projects.

Richard will be speaking about **International Arbitration**.



Neil Pfister

Partner at Druces LLP

Neil is a specialist Commercial, IT & IP Partner in our Corporate and Commercial Department. He brings his real-life experience at the sharp-end of the IT world to the advice he gives in his core specialism of Commercial Law. Neil specialises in advising clients based in technology and software, particularly on terms and conditions, agency agreements, confidentiality / NDAs, consultancy, distribution, e-commerce, franchising and intellectual property law. He also advises commercial clients on how to structure their businesses, buying and selling companies, partnerships, LLPs or sole trader businesses. Prior to entering the law, Neil set up an IT company specialising in providing bespoke software to Local Government. He began his legal career in Surrey, joining Downs Solicitors, rising through the ranks to become Head of Corporate and Commercial. He is also the founder and editor of the technology law website, IT Legal. Neil will be presenting about **Artificial Intelligence (AI) - Uses and implications of AI in Law and Business**.



London 2023 Conference Speakers



Alexander Yearsley

Managing Director at Martello Risk

Alex Yearsley has over 25 years' experience as an investigator, campaigner and adviser on all issues relating to natural resource corruption and conflict. Deftly switching careers as an MTV presenter in the mid-90s to going undercover to document the illegal logging trade of the genocidal Khmer Rouge in Cambodia for the UK NGO Global Witness he went on to launch and run the global campaign on Blood Diamonds and a variety of other campaigns. He has worked on hundreds of investigations relating to the illicit trafficking of natural resources especially gold and diamonds and actively works with a variety of global law enforcement partners once spending 4 years assisting the DEA on Operation Cassandra investigating the global financial operations of Hizballah and Iran. He established Martello Risk in 2009 with former United Nations Security Council Investigator Dr Caspar Fithen which is a boutique investigation, advisory and audit firm working on the natural resource sector, terrorist finance, conflict and corruption. They regularly conduct field investigations into human rights abuses, environmental crimes, illicit trafficking of commodities and are official auditors for the International Conference on the Great Lakes established to end the trade in conflict minerals.. Alexander will be speaking about **Current State of International Concerns Over Conflict Minerals**.



Jim Haywood

Director at Achill Management - hosts of the Legal Sustainability Alliance

Having spent the early part of his career in engineering and management roles in the Royal Navy submarine service, Jim widened his experience further in environmental management roles with international 'blue chip' corporates, including The BOC Group (now part of the Linde Group) and AMP Incorporated (now TE Connectivity AMP). He set up the Environment Agency's centre for expertise in flood forecasting and warning before going on to head up the environment campaign of Business in the Community, one of the former Prince of Wales' responsible business charities. Jim is a Chartered Engineer, Fellow of the IMechE and a passionate environmentalist,. He now brings all his passion and expertise together through his own consultancy business, as executive producer of the regular Planet Pod sustainability podcasts and as a key member of the Achill Management team. Jim's interests include painting, wildlife photography and scale model making. Jim will be presenting **What does a sustainable law firm look like and how can the Legal Sustainability Alliance help?**.



London 2023 Conference Speakers



Margarida Bonito

Director at MBC

Margarida is a former lawyer who felt lost at some point in 2012 with the profession's day-to-day reality, so made the decision to start again.

After a while trying to find the right track, it wasn't until she started studying coaching that she realised that it was not just an amazing tool but a crucial skill set the university didn't provide and certainly would have positively impacted the beginning of her career.

As a coach, she had the privilege to work with a wide range of businesses, but Margarida is specially found of help young lawyers. In early 2021 Margarida decided to deliver this skill set to Portuguese young lawyers through a Podcast called «Artigo Zero».

Later that year Margarida released an E-book with helpful tips on how to take the first career steps.

In the same year, Margarida delivered workshops to the European Law Students Association (ELSA), about time management and the first steps after graduation Margarida has also been delivering workshops to a few regional branches of the Portuguese Lawyer Bar Association.

Last year, Margarida started a networking group and she will be speaking to us about

Marketing and Personal Branding – Your Differentiation Strategy.



London 2023 Conference Speakers



Laurence Brown

Regional Director of Council of International Investigators

Laurence Brown spent the first 15 years of his working career, between 1973 and 1987, in UK Law Enforcement (Trading Standards) investigating issues relating to Copyright and Trade Mark infringements and commerce in general. In 1987 Laurence joined the UK Video Industry, holding a pivotal role in one of the industry's leading trade associations. In 1993 Laurence joined Sega Europe Limited as Chief Investigating Officer. In November 1995 Laurence left Sega and formed his own consultancy practice working as an independent investigating consultant with a number of International Corporations.

Laurence joined TAPA EMEA in 2008 where he held the role of Executive Director, working with the Board and members of the Association to implement its policies and programs throughout the EMEA region in their fight against cargo crime.

Laurence will be speaking about **Investigations- The Good The Bad and The Challenging**.



Robert Moore

Managing Partner at Bright Grahame Murray
Integra Local Member

Robert Moore is Managing Partner at Bright Grahame Murray and is responsible for the day-to-day running of the practice. Robert is also a Main Board Director and EMEIA Board Member of Integra International.

Robert looks after a significant portfolio of clients covering many sectors including property, FCA regulated businesses, together with not-for-profit organisations. He is an RI and responsible for audits together with tax planning for clients and strategic advice.

Other responsibilities within the BGM group include being Managing Director of BGM Helmores Limited and Managing Partner of BGM Corporate Finance LLP.

Robert joined Bright Grahame Murray in 1985 and after a brief time away from the firm in the mid 1990s, he returned to become a partner in 1998. He became Managing Partner of the firm in 2016.

Outside of work Robert enjoys spending his free time with his family and travelling with his wife. Robert will be presenting **Integra International – Your Global Advantage**.



London 2023 Conference Venues

The Bloomsbury

Our **Conference** and **Welcome Reception** will be held at [The Bloomsbury](#).

16-22 Great Russell Street

London WC1B 3NN

United Kingdom

+44 20 7347 1000

BLOOMSBURY@DOYLECOLLECTION.COM

The Bloomsbury is a stylish hotel housed in a historic and beautifully restored Lutyens' 1930s' neo-Georgian building and located in London's literary heartland, only moments from Covent Garden, Soho, Theatreland and Oxford Street.

Like its iconic architecture, The Bloomsbury evokes a sense of glamour – one inspired by the past yet emphatically contemporary.





London 2023 Conference Venues

Balthazar

Dinner on Thursday will be at the Le Grand Salon Privé at [Balthazar London](#).



4-6 Russell St, London
+44 0203 935 1942



An elegant evocation of a traditional French brasserie, with an authentic Parisian feel, Balthazar offers informal all-day dining from its home in Covent Garden's historic Flower Cellars building. Classic cuisine, impressive wine and an irresistible bonhomie combine to make every meal at Balthazar an occasion. Balthazar is a short walk away from the Hotel. ***Gather at the lobby at 18:30.***

Herbert Berger at Innholders Hall

Dinner on Friday will be at the [Herbert Berger at Innholders Hall](#).

30 College St,
London EC4R 2RH

After 55 glorious years in the kitchen, Herbert Berger will be retiring this summer, so this will be one of the last opportunities to enjoy the famous chef work. ABL will be welcomed in The Great Hall. The Hall is richly panelled in oak, the original cladding dating from 1670, with subsequent renovations and restoration – the most recent in 1941, following bomb damage. There is a 17th century minstrels' gallery, originally sited across the north-east corner, but now repositioned centrally on the east wall.



Meet the group there at 18h30.

Taxi fare from the hotel is around 10 GBP and takes 20min.



London 2023 Conference Social Tours

Sir John Soane's Museum Tour

Our Friday afternoon tour is [Sir John Soane's Museum](#).

13 Lincoln's Inn Fields



The extraordinary house and museum of Sir John Soane is a true hidden gem in the centre of London.

Sir John Soane, one of the greatest English architects, built and lived in it two centuries ago.

The museum has been kept as it was at the time of his death in 1837, and displays his vast collection of antiquities, furniture, sculptures, architectural models and paintings.

The museum is a short walk away from the hotel. This is tour will be made in two different turns, one at 15h00, other at 16h. ***Gather at 14h40 and 15h40 respectively at the lobby.***

The museum requested the group is informed that stilettos and narrow heels are not permitted as these cause considerable damage to the Museum's original 200 year old wooden flooring. No photography, food, drink, or chewing gum is permitted.

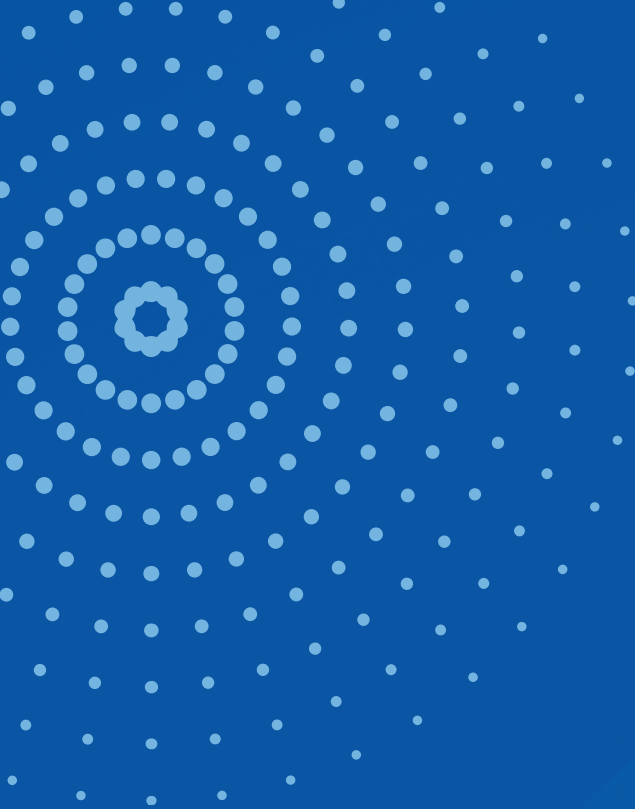


Tower of London with Crown Jewels Exhibition



Our Saturday morning tour will be to the [Tower of London with Crown Jewels Exposition](#).

We will take the Tube there. Gather at the lobby of the hotel at 10h00. We plan to arrive the Tower of London at 10h30. It is expected to find some lines at the exposition, so be prepare to take around 2 hours to complete the tour.



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