**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

**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

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