

JUNE 27, 2026

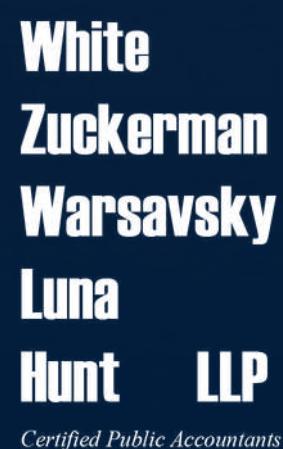
SHUTTERS ON THE BEACH · SANTA MONICA



LOS ANGELES CONFERENCE

INTERNATIONAL LAW: CROSSROADS
OF NORTH AMERICA, ASIA & EUROPE

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WELCOME

Welcome to the ABAL Los Angeles Conference 2026.

This is a curated, application-only gathering of senior international family law professionals from more than a dozen jurisdictions, brought together for one day in Santa Monica to examine the realities of cross-border practice.

Over the course of the day, we'll hear from judges, barristers, solicitors, and practitioners whose work shapes how international family disputes are argued, applied, and decided. The conversations are designed to be candid, comparative, and practical.

Thank you for being part of it.

Aina Khan OBE
Founder, ABAL

Alphonse Provinziano, CFLS
Managing Partner, Provinziano & Associates



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ABALLA Conference

HOSTED AND LED BY ALPHONSE PROVINZIANO, CO-HOST AINA KHAN

SATURDAY, JUN 27TH

9:00 AM - 9:45 AM	Registration and Coffee with Pastries
9:45 AM - 10:00 AM	Welcome & ABAL Introduction <i>Alphonse Provinziano & Aina Khan OBE</i>
10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Keynote Address: Navigating Hague Convention Cases in Los Angeles Superior Court <i>Judge Shelley Kaufman</i>
10:15 AM - 10:45 AM	Panel 1: Global Families, Global Conflicts <i>Hon. Scott Gordon & Makiko Mizuuchi</i> A deep dive into international family disputes, including child abduction, jurisdictional conflicts, and enforcement challenges across borders. Panelists will explore practical strategies when legal systems collide and urgent decisions must be made.
11:00 AM - 11:40 AM	Panel 2: High Net Worth Families & Cross-Border Wealth <i>Simon Bruce & Alphonse Provinziano, Esq.</i> This panel explores the complexities of cross-border wealth in family disputes, including asset tracing, jurisdictional advantages, and differences in marital property regimes. A comparative look at how major jurisdictions handle high-value divorces.
11:40 AM - 12:00 PM	LEAP Sponsorship Demo
12:05 PM - 1:35 PM	Buffet Lunch
1:40 PM - 2:10 PM	Panel 3: Culture, Religion & the Law Across Borders <i>Aina Khan, OBE, Ahmad Nizam Abbas & Waheb Hussaini</i> How do cultural and religious legal frameworks intersect with international law? This panel examines Islamic law, Asian legal systems, and the challenges of navigating identity, jurisdiction, and fairness in cross-border disputes.
2:10 PM - 2:30 PM	Featured Speaker: Case studies in Mexico-US Estate Planning: Common Challenges and Solutions - <i>Violeta Schultz, Esq.</i>
2:30 PM - 2:35 PM	Chair of BHBA International Section - <i>Jonathan Sue</i>
2:50 PM - 3:20 PM	Panel 4: Dispute Resolution Without Borders <i>Ruth Cabeza & Michael Horton KC</i> With increasing cross-border disputes, traditional litigation is not always the best solution. This panel explores arbitration, mediation, and hybrid dispute resolution models, offering practical insights into resolving international disputes efficiently.
3:20 PM - 4:15 PM	Afternoon Networking Break
4:15 PM - 4:25 PM	Guest Speaker: Cross- Border Issues in Iran in a Time of Conflict <i>Abbas Hadjian</i>
4:25 PM - 4:55 PM	Panel 5: Jurisdictional Strategy & Forum Shopping <i>Alessandro Gravante, Gemma Lindfield & Claudia Ribet</i> Where your file can determine the outcome. This panel examines forum shopping, conflicting jurisdictions, and strategic decision-making in cross-border disputes, with real-world examples from Europe, the UK, and beyond.
4:55 PM - 5:00 PM	Closing Takeaways & Thank You - <i>Alphonse Provinziano & Aina Khan OBE</i>
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Cocktail Reception with Drinks & Light Bites

*Schedule Subject to Change

SPEAKERS

The ABAL Los Angeles Conference 2026 brings together senior international family law professionals from the UK, India, Italy, Singapore, Japan, Mexico, and the United States.



Aina Khan OBE
Founder, Aina Khan Law & ABAL

Aina Khan O.B.E. is a leading Family Law specialist with 30+ years' experience and over 5,000 cases. A recognised expert on international families and Islamic law, she founded her law firm - Aina Khan Law in 2018 and ABAL (Across Borders Alliance of Lawyers) providing cross-border legal expertise. Awarded an OBE in 2018 for services to Marriage Law Reform, Aina advises UK Government departments, including No. 10 Downing Street, on weddings and marriage law. She is also a Fellow of IAFL (International Academy of Family Lawyers), recognised globally for her leadership in family law.



Alphonse Provinziano Esq
Managing Partner & Senior Trial Attorney (CFLS), Provinziano & Associates

Alphonse Provinziano is a leading California divorce and family law attorney based in Beverly Hills. As Managing Partner and Senior Trial Attorney of Provinziano & Associates, he is widely recognised for representing celebrities and high-net-worth individuals in high-stakes divorces and complex financial matters. A Certified Family Law Specialist (CFLS) by the State Bar of California, Alphonse has represented clients in over 2,000 legal matters, earning a strong reputation for successful courtroom outcomes. He serves on the CLA Family Law Executive Committee and the Beverly Hills Bar Association Board of Governors. Alphonse previously served as a Deputy District Attorney, bringing extensive trial experience and strategic insight to his family law practice.



Judge Shelley Kaufman

Judge Shelley Kaufman was appointed to the Los Angeles Superior Court by Governor Jerry Brown in December 2013 and has served in Family Law Department 60 at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse since January 2014. Prior to her judicial appointment, Judge Kaufman was a partner at the prominent law firm Geragos & Geragos, where she managed complex civil litigation and represented a diverse range of civil and criminal clients. With extensive experience handling demanding caseloads, Judge Kaufman brings a wealth of practical knowledge to family law matters, combining judicial insight with a deep understanding of the challenges faced by families and practitioners alike. Her expertise encompasses high-volume family law cases, complex property and financial disputes, and intricate civil litigation, making her a respected voice in both the courtroom and the wider legal community.



Gemma Lindfield MCI Arb

Gemma Lindfield is a barrister and specialising in international family law, extradition, and human rights. She has extensive experience in high-profile crossborder litigation, including cases arising from the Rwandan genocide, and advises on complex matters involving international custody, abduction, and recognition of foreign orders.

A qualified family law arbitrator and advocate for NonCourt Dispute Resolution, Gemma is committed to trauma-informed, culturally aware, and rights-based approaches to justice. She speaks internationally on gender justice, transitional law, and family protection and is a regular commentator for BBC, Sky, ITV, Channel 4, The Times, The Guardian, and The Telegraph.



Claudia Ribet

Claudia Ribet is one of California's leading family law appellate practitioners, with more than 40 years of litigation experience. Widely recognised for handling complex family law appeals, she has helped shape California family law through numerous landmark appellate decisions involving child support, custody, parentage, financial disclosure, and marital property issues.

Claudia is a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and the International Academy of Family Lawyers, and a member of the California Academy of Appellate Lawyers. She has been AV-rated by MartindaleHubbell for over 30 years and named a Southern California Super Lawyer from 2010 to 2025.

A founding partner of Ribet & Silver, Claudia brings extensive experience in both appellate and trial advocacy. She has also served on the California State Bar's Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation and taught advocacy through Harvard Law School's Trial Advocacy Program and the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA).



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Ahmad Nizam Abbas

Ahmad Nizam Abbas is a leading family and divorce lawyer in Singapore, recognised by Doyle's Guide (2025) and named a 'Litigation Star' by Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific (2020). He holds an LLM in Islamic Law and Finance from Singapore Management University and serves as Chairman of the Muslim Law Practice Committee of the Law Society of Singapore. He has contributed significantly to the development of Muslim law in Singapore through landmark cases before the Syariah Appeal Board, shaping key areas such as jurisdiction, custody, and matrimonial assets. An accredited family law mediator, he is actively involved with the Family Justice Courts and serves on several advisory panels and public bodies. Ahmad is a regular speaker at international conferences and has published widely on Islamic law and the interaction between civil and Syariah legal systems. He was awarded the Public Service Medal (PBM) in 2007 for his contributions to society.



Alessandro Gravante

Alessandro Gravante is Senior Partner and Head of Litigation & Dispute Resolution at Giambrone & Partners - Studio Legale Associato. Admitted to the Bar of Palermo in 2002, he is also qualified to practice before the Supreme Court of Cassation and other superior jurisdictions. Alessandro holds a PhD in Private Economic Law (University of Catania) and has completed advanced studies in Comparative and European Law and Family and Juvenile Law. He has lectured at the University of Palermo, LUMSA University, and the Euro-Mediterranean Master's Course in International Business Law. His practice covers civil and commercial litigation, with expertise in family law, cross-border divorce, international child abduction, and private international law. Frequently appointed as an expert in Italian law by foreign courts, he has advised courts in the UK, US, Australia, and South Africa. Alessandro is a fellow and member of several professional bodies, including International Bar Association, ABAL, ICALI, BILA, PEOPIL, and is a founding member of International Lawyers Worldwide.



Makiko Mizuuchi

Makiko Mizuuchi is a Japan-qualified attorney and a California-licensed lawyer, specializing in international family law and cross-border inheritance matters. She has over 15 years of experience handling complex multi-jurisdictional cases, including international divorce, child custody, Hague Convention matters, cross-border adoption, and global estate planning. Makiko is Partner at Legal Profession Corporation CastGlobal Tokyo Office and a Fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers. She serves on the Family Law Committee of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations and collaborates with family law experts across Europe, North America, and Asia-Pacific. She has published extensively in international journals, including the ABA International Law Section and the International Family Law Journal (UK), and co-authored books on international divorce and domestic relations law in Japan. Her international background, including a year as an AFS exchange student in California, underpins her crossborder perspective and commitment to providing clear, empathetic, and professional guidance to clients worldwide.



Michael Horton KC

Michael Horton KC is a senior family law barrister at Coram Chambers, called to the Bar in 1993 and appointed King's Counsel in 2021. He specialises in complex financial remedies, property disputes between cohabiting couples (ToLATA), and international family law matters, including jurisdictional and cross-border enforcement issues. He has appeared in multiple Supreme Court and Court of Appeal cases and is widely recognised for his incisive analysis, robust advocacy, and ability to anticipate and neutralise opposing arguments. A qualified financial arbitrator, private FDR judge, and civil mediator, Michael also advises on pre- and post-nuptial agreements, cohabitation agreements, and interveners' property claims. He has contributed to family law literature, including *Compromise in Family Law: Law and Practice* (2016), and engages actively with law reform, giving evidence to parliamentary committees on cohabitation law. A Fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers, he frequently handles high-profile international and multijurisdictional cases, providing expertise on enforcement, pension sharing, and complex property and financial disputes.



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Ruth Cabeza

Ruth Cabeza is a specialist family law barrister focusing exclusively on cases involving children. She has extensive experience in international family law, jurisdictional disputes, adoption (including Convention adoptions), surrogacy, and both public and private law children matters. At the heart of her work is a commitment to protecting the best interests of children and families in crisis. Ruth is accredited by the Bar Council for direct access work and is recognized by both Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners as a leading junior.

She regularly advises on complex child arrangements, international abduction, adoption, modern family law, and appeals, and has appeared in numerous landmark cases in the English Family Court, including cross-border and Hague Convention matters.



Judge Scott Gordon

Judge Scott M. Gordon (Ret.) is a highly respected neutral and arbitrator with Signature Resolution and a former Family Court judge in New York. With over three decades of judicial and dispute resolution experience, he is recognized for his thoughtful leadership and deep expertise in complex family law matters, including high-asset divorce, child custody, and international family law disputes.

During his tenure on the bench, Judge Gordon was widely admired for his fairness, clarity of legal reasoning, and ability to manage challenging and sensitive family law cases. Since retiring from the judiciary, he has served as a trusted mediator, arbitrator, and special master in both domestic and cross-border family law matters, guiding parties toward durable and equitable outcomes outside of litigation. Judge Gordon is also a sought-after speaker and trainer, known for his practical insights into effective dispute resolution strategies, judicial processes, and best practices in family law. His experience as both a jurist and neutral brings a balanced perspective to international legal dialogue and collaborative dispute resolution.



Simon Bruce

Simon Bruce is a partner at Dawson Cornwell and one of the UK's most respected family lawyers, with over 40 years of experience in high-value and international family law matters. He has appeared in six cases before the UK Supreme Court and is widely recognised for his expertise in complex crossborder financial disputes and children cases. Consistently ranked in Chambers UK and The Legal 500, Simon is described as "one of the best and best-known family lawyers in London," praised for his tactical insight, calm approach, and exceptional client care. An experienced mediator and collaborative lawyer, Simon is known for his constructive, solution-focused approach—often resolving matters through negotiation and mediation. Alongside his private practice, he is deeply committed to pro bono work, serving as Legal Director of Dads House Family Law Clinic and advising at several law centres across London. Simon has a strong international profile.

He speaks fluent French, is a past President of the Family Law Commission of the Union Internationale des Avocats, and is a member of the International Academy of Family Lawyers. He is also a regular speaker at international conferences and a contributor to the Family Law Journal.



Waheb Hussaini

Waheb Hussaini is a Partner at RPV Legal and a highly accomplished lawyer specialising in arbitration, corporate advisory, and complex dispute resolution. He has represented clients in significant matters before the Supreme Court of India and the Delhi High Court, and is experienced in both domestic and international commercial arbitration, acting as counsel as well as tribunal secretary/assistant to arbitral tribunals. He advises on corporate governance and structuring matters for companies, trusts, and societies, and regularly provides strategic guidance on business formation and cross-border establishment, including in the UAE and the Dubai International Financial Centre.

Waheb also has a strong criminal defence practice, representing clients in white-collar crime and criminal defamation matters, with experience across anti-corruption, money laundering, and foreign exchange regulation cases. A graduate of Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala, he is recognised for his strategic insight, meticulous preparation, and ability to navigate complex, multijurisdictional disputes.

FEATURED SPEAKER



Violeta Schultz

Violeta Schultz is an associate attorney at Barth Calderon LLP, where she focuses her practice on estate planning, business law, and asset protection, with a special emphasis on serving the Hispanic community in Southern California. Licensed to practice law in both California and Mexico, Violeta offers clients a valuable cross-border perspective and delivers strategic, bilingual legal guidance tailored to their personal and business goals.

With a Juris Doctor from the University of Guadalajara and a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Business and Economic Law from the University of Southern California (USC Gould School of Law), Violeta brings both global insight and local experience to her practice. Her background spans family law, business formation, and estate planning, making her a trusted legal advisor to entrepreneurs, families, and first-time planners alike. Prior to private practice, Violeta served at the Orange County Superior Court's Self-Help Center, where she played a vital role in the Spanish-speaking community.

She continues her commitment to public service as a board member of the Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County and as an adjunct professor in the Legal Studies Department at Rancho Santiago Community College. Violeta is passionate about helping clients create lasting legacies and build generational wealth. Whether she is drafting wills and trusts or guiding new businesses through legal formation, Violeta takes pride in equipping her clients with the tools they need to succeed and protect what matters most.

GUEST SPEAKER



Abbas Hadjian

Abbas Hadjian is a California Certified Family Law Specialist (CFLS), a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML), and a Fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL). Mr. Hadjian is bilingual in Farsi and English and is an expert in Iranian law, procedure, and documentation. He has provided consulting services and expert testimony in U.S. (Federal and State), U.K., and Australian courts.



THANK YOU

**FOR BEING PART OF THE
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We hope today's conversations open new connections,
sharpen your practice, and reinforce why this room matters.