



WOMEN BAR PRESIDENTS OF THE WORLD

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## Conference

***Lead. Inspire. Transform.***

***Women's leadership in the pursuit of justice***

**Monday 12 October 2026 · Geneva**

*“Alone we opened the doors. Together, we are changing the rules.”*

*Women leading bar associations. A voice that advances the law.*

Women Bar Presidents of the World brings together women who currently lead or have led bar associations around the world, united by a shared conviction: that women's leadership is a key driver for strengthening the rule of law, promoting equality and building a more inclusive justice system.

Stemming from the Call from Women Bar Presidents Around the World, launched in Paris in October 2024 during the Women's Forum, the initiative has now become an international association bringing together female leaders from the legal profession across all continents.



Together, they share their experiences, develop joint initiatives and speak out strongly in favour of equality, women's rights, the independence of the legal profession and access to justice.

To mark the occasion, Women Bar Presidents of the World is organising an international conference open to members of the legal profession, institutions, the academic community and anyone committed to equality.

# Programme



## 1.00 – 1.15 PM Reception for participants

### 1.15 – 2.00 PM Opening address

- **Sandrine Giroud** · Partner LALIVE, Past President of the Geneva Bar Association, Vice-President of Women Bar Presidents of the World
- **Vanessa Bousardo** · Partner at Vanessa Bousardo, former Vice-President of the Paris Bar, President of Women Bar Presidents of the World
- **Daniel Kinzer** · President of the Geneva Bar Association
- **Deborah Enix-Ross** · Senior Advisor, Global Engagement at Debevoise Plimpton, former President of the American Bar Association and Secretary-General of the International Bar Association
- **Carole-Anne Kast** · State Councillor, Department of Institutions and Digital Affairs
- **Fawzia Koofi** · Former Member of the Afghan Parliament and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Afghanistan

### 2.00 – 2.45 PM Panel 1 — Protecting women, protecting the rule of law: taking action against violence

Violence against women is one of the most widespread human rights violations. In some parts of the world, it forms part of genuine systems of institutionalised discrimination, sometimes described as ‘gender apartheid’. This panel will bring together female lawyers, judges and human rights defenders to identify legal, judicial and institutional responses aimed at preventing such violence, guaranteeing access to justice and upholding the rule of law.

*Moderator — **Caroline Larouche**, Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions, Montreal Public Prosecutor’s Office, former President of the Montreal Bar Association*

- **Sophie Bobillier** · Partner, Les Avocates GE, Member of the Geneva Parliament
- **Justine Devred** · Partner at Cabinet Saint-Frambourg (Senlis), Past President of the Senlis Bar Association and Vice-President of the French National Conference of Bar Associations
- **Florence Loan-Messan** · Partner at SCPA Konan Loan et Associés, President of the Côte d’Ivoire Bar Association
- **Patricia Schulz** · Commissioner, International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), Senior Research Associate, UNRISD

### 2.45 – 3.30 PM Panel 2 — Women, the law and artificial intelligence: shaping the world of tomorrow

Artificial intelligence is already reshaping access to the law, the justice system and the practice of the profession. How can we prevent algorithmic bias, protect fundamental rights and use innovation as a driver of equality? This panel will explore the conditions for ethical, responsible and inclusive AI that serves women’s rights and justice.

*Moderator — **Stéphanie Chuffart-Finsterwald**, Partner at Schellenberg Wittmer, Member of the Council of the Geneva Bar Association, Chair of the Bar's Innovation and Modernisation Committee*

- **Elise Dufour** · Partner at Stephenson Harwood
- **Vinciane Gillet** · Partner at Gillet-Lex, Chair of the Private International Law Commission of the Brussels Bar and Founder of the European Incubator of the Brussels Bar
- **Racheal Muldoon** · Partner at Ogier
- **Marie-Pascale Piot** · Partner, EY Société d'Avocats, President of the Hauts-de-Seine Bar



### 3.30 – 4.00 PM Break and networking

#### 4.00 – 4.45 PM Panel 3 — Men as allies

Equality cannot be achieved without those in positions of responsibility. This panel will demonstrate how leaders, both women and men, can bring about change in workplace cultures, remove systemic barriers and promote leadership based on inclusion, diversity and merit.

*Moderator — **Benjamin Pitcho**, Partner at Pitcho Fassina Petkova, Secretary of Women Bar Presidents of the World*

- **Louis Burrus** · Partner at Schellenberg Wittmer, Co-Chair of the Equality Committee of the Geneva Bar Association
- **Grégoire Mangeat** · Partner at Mangeat, former President of the Geneva Bar Association
- **Sanne van Oers** · President of the Dutch Bar Association
- **Charlotte Palazzo** · Partner, Sphera Avocats

### 4.45 – 5.30 PM Interactive round tables — Session 1

#### **WORKSHOP 1** Asserting your leadership: finances, credibility and public speaking

Develop the essential skills to lead with confidence, strengthen credibility, understand key financial issues, take your place in decision-making forums and overcome the barriers that continue to limit women's access to leadership positions.

##### *Workshop in French*

- **Christine Charlot** · Past President of the Guyane Bar Association
- **Ségolène Ducrot** · Managing Director, UBS SA
- **Marie Dupont** · Partner at Intakt, Past President of the Brussels Bar, Vice-President of Women Bar Presidents of the World
- **Diana-Paola Lévy** · Cabinet Beby

- **Anne Reinach Droissart** · Founder & Managing Partner, Monrey Patrimonial
- **Fanette Sardet** · Partner, Allia

#### *Workshop in English*

- **Vicki Blanton** · President of the Dallas Bar Association
- **Tana Adkin KC** · 15 NBS Chambers, Chair of the Criminal Bar Association of England & Wales, Secretary General of Women Bar Presidents of the World

### **WORKSHOP 2 Mental health: coping with mental strain**

To discuss the challenges associated with work-related pressure, mental load and balancing responsibilities, with a view to identifying practical solutions that promote sustainable leadership and the wellbeing of female leaders.

- **Rebecca Stockhammer** · Partner at Stockhammer Avocate, former First Secretary of the Geneva Bar Association
- **Delphie Hug** · Coach and therapist, Founder of human4human
- **Christine Sattiva-Spring** · Partner, Sattiva Gétaz Kunz

### **WORKSHOP 3 The role of professional organisations**

To share the initiatives undertaken by bar associations and professional organisations to promote equality, support women in their careers and enhance diversity within the profession.

#### *Workshop in French*

- **Karin Grobet-Thorens** · Partner at Grobet Thorens Hohl-Chirazi, Member of the Board of the Swiss Federation of Lawyers
- **Mercedes Novier** · President of the Vaud Bar Association
- **Léna Nussbaumer-Laghzaoui** · Lawyer at BMG, Co-Chair of the Equality Committee of the Geneva Bar Association

#### *Workshop in English*

- **Karin Grobet-Thorens** · Partner at Grobet Thorens Hohl-Chirazi, Member of the Board of the Swiss Federation of Lawyers
- **Julia Heise** · Partner at Heise Law, former Vice-President of the German Law Association
- **Sadina Montani** · Partner at Crowell & Moring, former President of the D.C. Bar (Washington, D.C.)

## **5.30 – 6.15 PM Interactive round tables — Session 2**

### **6.15 PM Conclusions and future prospects**

- **Christina Kitsos** · Mayor of the City of Geneva

## **6.30 PM Aperitif**

## Registration

Participation is free for members of Women Bar Presidents of the World.

During registration, you will also be able to choose the two workshops you wish to attend.

REGISTER AT THE FOLLOWING LINK

<https://infomaniak.events/en-ch/shop/battonnieres-du-monde-2026-lead-inspire-transform-womens-leadership-in-the-service-of-justice-3XPSKC4FFN>

### VENUE & LANGUAGES

**FER Auditorium** · Rue de Saint-Jean 98, 1201 Geneva  
Interpreting simultaneous French–English

### FEES

**Women Bar Presidents of the World members** · free  
**Other** · CHF 50

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