



## **International Conference on Judicial Independence**

***Focus: Contemporary Challenges of Implementing the ELI Mount  
Scopus European Standards on Judicial Independence***

**15-17 February 2026**

**Kiel University**

**We hereby cordially invite to the next Conference on Judicial Independence, which will be organized by the JIWP in cooperation with the Institute of East European Law of Kiel University in February 2026.**

The JIWP Conference will be preceded by another conference organized by the Institute of East European Law, which has a focus on law in Eastern Europe, but the topics relate also to subjects of interest to the JIWP.

### **Earlier Conference (Optional)**

#### **FOCUS EASTLAW 12-14 February 2026**

**The International conference “Focus Eastlaw” is taking place in Kiel on 12–14 February 2026.** It is organized as part of a broader academic framework and will address fundamental and current legal issues relating to Eastern Europe, the Caucasus region, and Central Asia, including constitutional law, civil law, civil procedure, private international law, and international economic law.

Participants of the JIWP Conference are warmly invited to attend also the **“Focus Eastlaw” Conference (12–14 February 2026)**. If they wish, they are also very welcome to give short presentations in this Conference (in



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case of interest, please inform the organizers of this Conference in advance).

The draft program of this conference (also English version) is accessible at <https://www.eastlaw.uni-kiel.de/de> (“Ankündigungen und Mitteilungen”) or at [https://www.eastlaw.uni-kiel.de/en?set\\_language=en](https://www.eastlaw.uni-kiel.de/en?set_language=en)

## **JIWP International Conference**

**21<sup>st</sup> JIWP International Conference on  
Judicial Independence**

**Focus: *Contemporary Challenges of Implementing the ELI Mt Scopus  
European Standards on Judicial Independence***

**15-17 February 2026**

**Christian-Albrechts-University at Kiel**

**Draft Program**

**The International Association of Judicial Independence and World Peace (JIWP), in cooperation with the Institute of East European Law, Faculty of Law, Christian-Albrechts-University at Kiel, will host the 21<sup>st</sup> JIWP International Conference: Focus: Contemporary Challenges of Implementing the ELI Mt Scopus European Standards on Judicial Independence.**

### **Co-Chairs of the Conference**

**Prof. Dr. Shimon Shetreet**, President, International Association of Judicial Independence and World Peace (JIWP) Greenblatt Chair of Public and International Law, Hebrew University of Jerusalem



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**Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Alexander Trunk** Director, Institute of East European Law Faculty of Law, Christian-Albrechts-University at Kiel

**Prof. Hiram Chodosh**, President, Claremont McKenna College, Vice-President, International Association of Judicial Independence and World Peace (JIWP)

**Online participation** in the Conference is possible using the following **ZOOM link**:

<https://uni-kiel.zoom-x.de/j/68386879523?pwd=N2QxqsZCsmmtn5gkcEdCNAjlEH6JOv.1>

Meeting-ID: 683 8687 9523

Kenncode: 991748

## **Schedule**

### **Sunday 15th February 2026**

#### **Arrivals (individually)**

**Evening:** As from 19 h informal get-together at the Hotel Steigenberger Conti-Hansa Kiel.

### **Monday 16 February 2026**

**Venue:** University of Kiel, Leibnizstrasse 1, Room 204, Kiel, Germany

#### **Opening Session: 9:30 - 10:00**

**Chair:** Professor Alexander Trunk, Director, Institute of East European Law, Faculty of Law, University of Kiel, Co-Chair of the Conference



**Welcome addresses:**

**The Hon. Dr. Ulf Kämpfer**, Mayor of the City of Kiel (welcome address in writing)

**The Hon. Dr. Dirk Bahrenfuss**, President of the Appellate Court of Schleswig-Holstein

**The Hon. Dr. Carl-Sebastian Zoellner**, Vice-President of the Regional Court Kiel

**Prof. Dr. Utz Schliesky**, Director of the Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein (tbc)

**Prof. Dr. Shimon Shetreet** President, International Association of Judicial Independence and World Peace (JIWP) Greenblatt Chair of Public and International Law, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Co-Chair of the Conference

**Second Session: 10:00-11:30**

**The impact of information technologies and digitalization on courts and judicial processes- Article 23 of ELI Mt Scopus European Standards of Judicial independence**

**Chair: Prof. Dr. Giuseppe Franco Ferrari**, Milano Bocconi University

**Prof. Dr. Marieta Safta**, Titu Maiorescu University, Bucharest,  
*Digitalization of Judicial Processes and Random Case Assignment: Safeguarding Judicial Impartiality (online)*

**Gian Andrea Danuser**, Senior Advocate Zurich, Secretary General JIWP  
*The Challenges of Computerized Assignment of Judges to Court Panels: Principles and Empirical Findings based on the Swiss Federal Administrative Court*

**Ali Osman Ozdilek**, Chairman, Akhadia Holding, The Netherlands  
*Artificial Intelligence in the Judiciary and the Scoring of Judges: Implications for Judicial Independence*



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**Dr. Caroline Expert-Foulquier**, University of Limoges, France,  
Secretary General JAR  
*Governance, Status of Judges, and AI: Between Ruptures and  
Continuities, What Safeguards for the Independence of Justice in France?*

**Prof. Dr. Daniela Piana**, University of Bologna, Italy,  
*The mechanisms that hinder the rule of law protection at the aftermath of  
the AI breakout (online)*

**Break 11:30-12:00**

**Third Session: 12:00-13:30**

**Emerging challenges to judicial independence in democratic systems:  
Contemporary developments in the implementation of the ELI–Mount  
Scopus Standards**

**Chair: Prof. Dr. Shimon Shetreet**, President, International Association of  
Judicial Independence and World Peace (JIWP) Greenblatt Chair of Public  
and International Law, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Co-Chair of the  
Conference

**The Hon. Justice Dr. Nataša Plavšić**, Constitutional Court of Serbia  
*Judicial Independence and the Role of the Constitutional Court in Serbia  
(online)*

**Prof. Dr. Haim Sandberg**, Management College, Rishon-Lezion, Israel,  
*Creativity, Judicial Appointment, and the Independence of the Judiciary*

**Dr. Serhii Kravtsov**, Luxemburg Centre for European Law, University of  
Luxemburg  
*Judicial Consistency and Legal Certainty: The Ukrainian Perspective*

**Prof. Dr. Hüseyin Demir**, President of Human Rights Defenders e.V.,  
*Judicial Independence in Turkey: The Role of The Constitutional Court*



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**Prof. Dr. Giuseppe Franco Ferrari**, Milano Bocconi University,  
*Separating the Prosecutors from the Judiciary in Italy*

**Jaroslav Gwizdak**, Lawyer, Former judge, WSB Academy Dąbrowa  
Górnicza (Poland)  
*Polish judiciary (after) crisis? - measures undertaken, obstacles faced,  
lessons learned*

**Lunch Break 13:30-14:30**

**Fourth Session: 14:30-16:00**

**The Judicial Role in Safeguarding Freedom of Expression and Other  
Issues**

**Chair: Prof. Dr. Fryderyk Zoll**, University of Osnabrueck and  
Jagellonian University Kraków, Co-Reporter ELI-Mt Scopus Standards

**Keynote Speeches:**

**The Hon. Dr. Ninon Colneric**, former Judge at the Court of Justice of the  
European Union

**Prof. Sophie Turenne**, Cambridge University, Co-Reporter ELI-Mt  
Scopus Standards

**The Hon. Wolfgang Kubicki**, former Vice-President of the German  
Bundestag (tbc)

**Paul Galyga**, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Bremen



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*EU Constitutional-law Dimension of Judicial Independence in Poland:  
Role of National Particularities of Judicial Structures*

**Break: 16:00-16:30**

**Fifth Session: 16:30-18:00**

**Mediation and other forms of alternative dispute resolution and their implications for judicial authority**

**Chair: Prof. Dr. Alexander Trunk**, Director, Institute of East European Law, Faculty of Law, Christian-Albrechts-University at Kiel, Co-Chair of the Conference

**Keynote Speech:**

**Prof. Dr. Hiram Chodosh**, President, Claremont McKenna College, Vice President, International Association of Judicial Independence and World Peace (JIWP), Co-Chair of the Conference

***Mediation: Global Perspectives***

**Dr. Marcus Bauckmann**, Lawyer and Mediator (Hamburg and Paderborn)

*Judicial independence and mediation: which independence of the mediator? (online)*

**Concluding Remarks: Prof. Dr. Shimon Shetreet** *President JIWP, Conference Co-Chair*

**Evening: Festive Dinner at Hotel Maritim, Kiel**



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## **Tuesday February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026: Post-conference program**

**10:00-12:00** Visit of the Appellate Court of Schleswig-Holstein.  
Discussion with the President of the Court, **The Hon. Dr. Dirk Bahrenfuss**, on topical issues of the judiciary

**12:00-13:30** Lunch at Restaurant Odins at Haithabu/Haddeby, Schleswig

**14.00 – 17.00** Visit to the State Museum of **Haithabu** (famous ancient Wiking town), guided tour by the director of the Museum, **Dr. Matthias Toplak**. Focus on international trade relations of the Vikings.