



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Friday 24 April

19h00 – 21h30

RECEPTION

Venue: Libertine Lounge, Hotel Casa Bonay

Address: Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes, 700, 08010 Barcelona

Welcome words:

- Vânia Costa Ramos, Chair of the ECBA, Portugal
- Cristina Diaz Malnero, Barcelona Bar Association (ICAB)

Saturday 25 April

9h00

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE

Venue: Barcelona Bar Association

Carrer de Mallorca, 283, L'Eixample, 08037 Barcelona

9h30

CONFERENCE OPENING | WELCOME SPEECH

- Vânia Costa Ramos, Chair of the ECBA, Portugal
- Maria Eugènia Gay Rosell
Deputy Mayor, Barcelona | Former ICAB Dean

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Saturday 25 April

09h45

Scott Crosby Human Rights Award 2025

- Ali Yildiz, The Arrested Lawyers Initiative
- Alexis Anagnostakis, ECBA HR Officer, Greece

10h00

Keynote speech

Prof. Dr. Dr. H.C. Lorena Bachmaier Winter
Universidad Complutense, Madrid, Spain

10h15

PANEL 1 | FREEDOM OF SPEECH

For centuries, the intersection of political power and free expression has tempted those in authority to silence their critics. Freedom of speech can be limited in certain cases, but as shown by the experience of defence lawyers such possibility is often overused. Our panellists will share insights from cases involving journalists, climate activists, and others who have faced repercussions for their public criticism of the authorities.

Chair: Katarzyna Dabrowska, ECBA Advisory Board, Poland

- Ben Keith, defence lawyer, United Kingdom
- Jaantje Kramer, defence lawyer, The Netherlands
- Christophe Marchand, defence lawyer, Belgium
- Benet Salellas, defence lawyer, Spain

Q&A

11h45

COFFEE BREAK

12h15

PANEL 2 | E-EVIDENCE REGULATION

This panel examines the intersection between technological developments and procedural challenges in the field of justice, with a focus on the implications these changes have for fundamental rights. Through a critical and multidisciplinary perspective, the panel addresses how judicial systems and procedural frameworks respond – or fail to respond – to technical transformations that may compromise essential guarantees for citizens.

Chair: Maria Barbancho, ECBA Advisory Board, Spain

- Judge José Manuel Sánchez Sicard, Spain
- Julian Hayes, defence lawyer, United Kingdom
- Brendan Newitt, defence lawyer, The Netherlands
- Stephanie Schott, defence lawyer, Germany

Q&A

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Saturday 25 April

13h45

**Group photo (Palace entrance) and
Lunch (Patí de Columnes – Columns’ Hall)**

14h45

BREAK-OUT SESSIONS (split rooms)

Join us in one of the three breakout sessions, during which participants will engage in focused, small group discussions on key issues. These breakout sessions are designed for interactive participation, on a voluntary basis, offering a deeper dive into specialized topics beyond the main conference agenda, with hands-on insight from practitioners.

**A) BUSINESS CRIME (Conference Room – Saló d’Actes)
Innovative approach on the interrogation of fraud suspects**

Coordinator: Rosa van Zijl, ECBA Advisory Board, The Netherlands
Speaker: Tom Willems, PhD Researcher, University of Luxembourg

Tom Willems will discuss a strategic interviewing approach for white-collar crime suspects, integrating insights of criminology and social and cognitive psychology. While his study focuses on the legal setting for interviewing in Belgium, France and Germany, the novelty and scope of his method may be of interest to all criminal defence lawyers. He invites the ECBA to contribute to the legal and ethical evaluation of his approach.

**B) PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS (Meeting Room 62)
Prisoners' rights and detention conditions around Europe**

Coordinators:

- Carla Reyes, ECBA Advisory Board, Switzerland
- Elena Fedorova, defence lawyer, France

Speaker: Hugues de Suremain, director of the European Prison Litigation Network (EPLN)

With the participation of:

- Cristiana Bianco, ECBA Human Rights Committee, Germany/Italy
- Federico Cappelletti, ECBA Human Rights Committee, Italy
- Diana Silva Pereira, defence lawyer, Portugal
- Alex Tinsley, ECBA Human Rights Committee, United Kingdom
- Lillia Kuznets, defence lawyer, Ukraine
- Daniel Trajilovic, defence lawyer, Switzerland

This breakout session is an opportunity for practitioners from around Europe to share insights, confront disparities, and explore how legal practice, associations' work and advocacy can align to uphold fundamental rights behind bars.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Saturday 25 April

C) BUSINESS CRIME (Meeting room 63)**Environmental Criminal Law and Companies' Liabilities
New scenarios**

Coordinator: Tanneguy de Bellescize, defence lawyer, France

Speakers:

- Jean-Baptiste Maillart, defence lawyer, Switzerland
- Dirce Rente, defence lawyer, Portugal

The session will explore, through a fictional environmental criminal law case, the various defence strategies that can be implemented for legal entities, including negotiated justice solutions.

16h00

ECBA General Assembly (Conference Room, Saló d'Actes)

Financial report 2025

Neil Swift, ECBA Treasurer

16h15

Closing the Conference

19h30

Dinner (optional)

Venue: Gala restaurant

Address: Carrer de Provença, 286, L'Eixample, 08008 Barcelona



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Sunday 26 April

10h00-12h30

**Barcelona Architecture sightseeing tour
(in English, optional)**9h45 | meeting in front of the Barcelona Bar Association
(Conference venue)

Discover the remarkable story of the urban development of Barcelona and explore its architectural history through its most impressive landmarks.

**CONFERENCE VENUE**

Il·lustre Col·legi de l'Advocacia de Barcelona

ICAB (Barcelona Bar Association)

Address: Palauet Casades | Carrer de Mallorca, 283, L'Eixample, 08037
Barcelona**DINNER PARTY**

Gala restaurant

Address: Carrer de Provença, 286, L'Eixample, 08008 Barcelona

HELPDESK

Antoaneta Roman

secretariat@ecba.org

ECBA | European Criminal Bar Association

An association of European defence lawyers

Mondriaantoren 19th floor, Amstelplein 40,
1096 BC Amsterdam, The Netherlands