19TH SUMMER SCHOOL ON EUROPEAN BUSINESS LAW

JULY 20-31, 2026

Heinrich Heine Universität Düsseldorf

CBC Center for Business and Corporate Law

Dear Participants

We are pleased to welcome you to the **19th Summer School on European Business Law** at the Center for Business and Corporate Law at the Heinrich Heine University in Düsseldorf.

With significant academic support from our joint partners, the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya (Israel) and the University of Tilburg (The Netherlands), you will be part of an intensive program on European and International Business Law, conducted by experienced speakers from academia and the legal practice.

The comprehensive curriculum on European and International Business Law enables you to expand your knowledge of Business Law in an interdisciplinary and European context. It is also a unique opportunity to improve your professional and scientific skills in the areas of Corporate, Restructuring and Competition.

Apart from the academic experience, you have the unique opportunity to network with law firm representatives, academics and a group of highly qualified participants from all over the world. These cultural and social opportunities will also enrich your stay at the Summer School, Heinrich Heine University and Düsseldorf.

Enjoy your experience!

Best wishes,

Prof. Dr. Christian Kersting, LL.M. (Yale)
– CBC Director –

Prof. Dr. Thilo Kuntz, LL.M. (Univ. of Chicago)
– CBC Director –

Institut für Insolvenz- und Sanierungsrecht ISR

CBC Center for Business and Corporate Law

IKartR Institut für Kartellrecht

Reichman University

Tilburg University Law School

Program Schedule

1st Week	Corporate				Restructuring
	Monday July 20, 2026	**Tuesday** July 21, 2026	**Wednesday** July 22, 2026	**Thursday** July 23, 2026	**Friday** July 24, 2026
10:00	Introduction to European Law (*Riedel*)	Reasons and solutions of shareholder disputes (*Kleine-Lopp*)	Network Science and Platform Competition (*Agranat*)	Sovereign Debtors' Privileges (*Hauser*)	Introduction to Insolvency Law (*Andres*)
	Lunch Break				
13:00	European Corporate Law (*Jungmann*)	Introduction to Emerging Technologies, Law and Society (*Gaon*)	Capital Market Compliance (*Günther*)	Securitizing the World: A Tale of Buzzwords, Regulation and Commercials (*Eckner*)	
15:00	Responsibility and Liability of Board Members (*Jungmann*)	Hub Power: Power Dynamics in Platform Ecosystems (*Agranat*)	Case Study: Autonomous Vehicles and the Future of Human Driving (*Gaon*)		
17:30		**Special*** M&A (*Hiort*)		**Special*** Takeover (*Goetzke*)	

2nd Week	Restructuring	Competition			
	Monday July 27, 2026	**Tuesday** July 28, 2026	**Wednesday** July 29, 2026	**Thursday** July 30, 2026	**Friday** July 31, 2026
10:00		Introduction to EU Competition Law and Overview of Articles 101 and 102 TFEU (*Stange*)	Competition Economics (*Heimeshoff*)	Digital Markets Act (N.N.)	
	Lunch Break				
13:00		Merger Control (*dos Santos Goncalves*)	Private Antitrust Enforcement (*Raatz*)	Procedure of Arbitration Proceedings (*Gantenberg*)	**Certificate Ceremony**
15:00	Reorganisation and Restructuring (*Möhlenkamp*)	Vertical Restrictions & Distribution (*Maritzen*)	Public Antitrust Enforcement (*Raatz*)		
17:30	**Special** Restructuring (*Möhlenkamp*)			**Special*** Arbitration (*Kessler*)	

* This event includes a get-together outside the regular venue.

Program Schedule

Dr. Christian G.H. Riedel

Dr. Christian G. H. Riedel is a legal officer at the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection where he works in the unit “Sustainable Finance in the EU”. He also lectures on EU Law at the Heinrich Heine University in Düsseldorf in cooperation with the University of Hull (UK) and publishes articles on European and constitutional law topics.

Riedel completed his doctoral thesis focused on European fundamental rights at Bucerius Law School (Hamburg) while working as a research assistant for Professor Charlotte Kreuter-Kirchhof, who holds the Chair of German and Foreign Public Law, European Law and Public International Law in Düsseldorf. He gave lectures on the jurisprudence of the CJEU, fundamental rights and constitutional law at Heinrich Heine University and at the University of Cergy-Pontoise (France). In 2017, Riedel did an internship in the cabinet of Advocate General Professor Juliane Kokott and was a visiting researcher at the University of Luxemburg. During his legal clerkship, he worked for the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and for McDermott Will & Emery LLP. He also worked for the European Commission in Brussels. Therefore, he is specialized in all questions concerning European Union Law and German public law.

Monday (July 20, 2026), 10:00

Introduction to European Law

Program Schedule

Prof. Dr. Carsten Jungmann, LL.M. (Yale), M.Sc.

Prof. Dr. Carsten Jungmann, LL.M. (Yale), M.Sc. (Leicester) is Program Director at Bucerius Law School (Hamburg). At this institution, he is a member of the steering committee of the Bucerius Master program and coordinates the Diploma in Business Law Program at WHU - Otto Beisheim School of Management. In addition, he serves for the BIRKENSTOCK Group as Vice President Corporate Law, Governance & Structure and as the chairman in a Supervisory Board. Finally, he is a certified compliance officer and a practicing lawyer and business mediator.
Prof. Jungmann studied at the universities of Edinburgh and Bonn, where he was also employed at the Institute for Commercial and Business Law and completed his doctoral degree. Furthermore, he has obtained both, a Master of Laws from Yale Law School (USA) and a Master of Science in Finance from the University of Leicester (UK). Prof. Jungmann spent a year as an academic visitor at the London School of Economics and Political Science and was a visiting faculty member at the University of Surrey (UK) and at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich. He teaches various corporate and banking law related topics not only at Bucerius Law School but also, e.g., in the Master of Laws in Cross Cultural Business Practice Program of the Université de Fribourg (Switzerland), at WHU - Otto Beisheim School of Management and in the Master of Auditing program of Leuphana University (Lüneburg).

Monday (July 20, 2026), 13:00 and 15.00

Responsibility and Liability of Board Members

The management board is responsible for running the stock corporation and for its representation to third parties. In addition, it sets up long term goals and guidelines. Other functions of the management board are bookkeeping and the presentation of the annual accounts and reports to the general meetings that it is required to convene. The board members also have the power to represent the company in court proceedings. The members of the management board are appointed by the supervisory board for a renewable period of up to five years. Dismissal is restricted to severe reasons of gross breach of duty or incapacity and can only be effected by the supervisory board. The management board's actions in running the company's business are constrained by various statutory duties, especially by the duty of care and the duty of loyalty. Board members will be held liable for any violation of these duties. Sec. 93 of the German Stock Corporation Act contains, inter alia, the rule that the members of the management board are liable for damages that the company suffers as a result of their breach of duty. The general purpose of this rule is to protect the company's funds. What a breach of duty is and in which cases such a breach leads to the liability of a board member, however, are questions that are difficult to answer.

Readings: Jungmann, Responsibility and Liability of Board Members

Program Schedule

Dr. Sebastian Kleine-Lopp

Dr. Sebastian Kleine-Lopp advises medium-sized companies and start-ups on matters of corporate law, including corporate litigation and M&A. After several years as an associate and counsel at Glade Michel Wirtz, Sebastian not only realised that this was his preferred area of practice, but also had the opportunity to „Spin-Off" with his former boss for this purpose. Since 2021, Michel Kleine-Lopp has been operating under the name PICHACHO Niederrhein to emphasise the focus on medium-sized companies, family businesses and entrepreneurial families.

Tuesday (July 21, 2025), 10:00

Reasons and solutions of shareholder disputes

Program Schedule

Dr. Aviv Gaon

Dr. Aviv Gaon is an associate Professor at the Harry Radzyner Law School, Reichman University (IDC Herzliya). He holds a Ph.D. from Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, and LL.B (Cum Laude) and LL.M from Reichman University. His work in the area of intellectual property and technology earned him the IP Osgoode David Vaver Medal for Excellence in IP Law in 2019. In 2019-2020, Dr. Gaon was a Post-Doc Fellow at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto. Dr. Gaon is a research fellow at IP Osgoode Center for Intellectual Property and Technology at Osgoode Hall Law School, and in 2019 he joined the Intellectual Property Journal (IPJ) editorial board – a leading Canadian journal for intellectual property and technology research. Dr. Gaon is also a member of the Bracing for Impact Artificial Intelligence Challenge conference series organizing committee. These conferences facilitate legal discussions about Canadian tech policy and attract academic scholars, tech companies, and government leaders. The Bracing for Impact conferences is supported by Canada Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

Dr. Gaon's research focuses on Intellectual Property, Law & Technology and Competition Law. His publications address the legal implications of emerging technologies, intellectual property, and artificial intelligence. In 2019-2021 he served as the Director of the Harry Radzyner Law School Experiential Programs and the Academic Director of the Honours Program. In 2022 Dr. Gaon served as the Executive Director of the school. Dr. Gaon serves as the Secretary of the University. In this role, his primary responsibility is supporting the governance of the University and facilitating the work of the University's Board of Directors.

Tuesday (July 21, 2026), 13:00

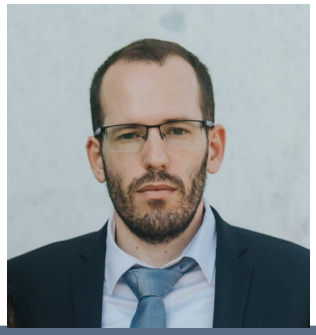
Introduction to Emerging Technologies, Law and Society

Wednesday (July 22, 2026), 15:00

Case Study: Autonomous Vehicles and the Future of Human Driving

Program Schedule

Dr. Raz Agranat



Dr. Raz Agranat is an Assistant Professor of Law at the Harry Radzyner Law School, Reichman University. His research leverages insights from network science to refine the legal frameworks governing platform ecosystems and AI services, with significant implications for antitrust law and related fields. It also extends to the economic analysis of law, law and technology, and business regulation. A member of the International Association of Competition Law Scholars (ASCOLA) and the Dynamic Competition Initiative (DCI), his scholarship has been featured at international conferences and published in premier venues, including the Antitrust Law Journal. Prior to joining Reichman University, Raz earned his LLB (magna cum laude) from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 2015, his LLM from the University of Chicago Law School in 2020, and his JSD from the University of Chicago in 2024, where he studied under the supervision of Professors Omri Ben-Shahar, Eric A. Posner, and William H. J. Hubbard. Raz also practiced as an associate at one of Israel's leading antitrust law firms.

Tuesday (July 21, 2026), 15:00

Hub Power: Power Dynamics in Platform Ecosystems

Wednesday (July 22, 2026), 10:00

Network Science and Platform Competition

Program Schedule

Dr. Malte J. Hiort

Dr. Malte J. Hiort is partner of the law firm GvW Graf von Westphalen and a member of the firm's China and US desks and heads the firm's Aviation focus area. He has extensive experience in advising national and international corporations on complex, often multinational M&A transactions (including acquisitions out of insolvency) with a broad industry focus (e.g. aerospace, healthcare, IT, fashion and insurance) and in corporate law (in particular with cross-border implications). He also regularly publishes on corporate and M&A topics, lectures and was a lecturer in M&A at Heinrich-Heine University Düsseldorf (2017).

Tuesday (July 21, 2026), 17:30

Private M&A

Following the lecture:
Reception hosted by GvW Graf von Westphalen

Directions:
GvW Graf von Westphalen Rechtsanwälte Steuerberater Partnerschaft mbB
Königsallee 61 – Köblick
40215 Düsseldorf

Program Schedule

Dr. Nicholas Günther, LL.M. (Georgetown)

Dr. Nicholas Günther, LL.M. (Georgetown) is partner at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, Düsseldorf. He advises listed and non-listed clients on national and cross-border private and public M&A transactions.

His practice also includes stock corporation law and capital markets law.

Wednesday (July 22, 2026), 13:00

Capital Market Compliance

Program Schedule

Dr. Patrick Hauser

Dr. Patrick Hauser is an attorney (*Rechtsanwalt*) at Berner Fleck Wettich in Düsseldorf. He counsels clients on all aspects of German corporate law with a focus on corporate litigation in shareholder disputes and management liability cases.

Patrick studied law at Bucerius Law School in Hamburg and the National University of Singapore. He completed his legal clerkship at the Higher Regional Court Düsseldorf and holds a doctoral degree from Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf (HHU). Patrick teaches and undertakes research in business law, focusing on corporate law, competition law and some aspects of finance law, including state finance law.

Prior to his current position, Patrick practised law at Gleiss Lutz from 2016 to 2018 focusing on litigation and arbitration in corporate, banking and capital markets law. From 2019 to 2022 he then served as the manager of the Institute for Competition law at HHU.

Thursday (July 23, 2026), 10:00

Sovereign Debtors' Privileges

Program Schedule

David Eckner, LL.M. (KCL), EMBA

David Eckner, LL.M. (KCL), EMBA (Quantic) is Counsel at Chartered Investment Germany and attorney-at-law with a particular emphasis on investment, banking and securities regulation. David has been sales manager and strategist for a multinational credit institution with headquarters in London and Hong Kong and has worked as attorney-at-law for top tier German law firms in the field of asset management and investment funds. He studied in Düsseldorf, London, New York City, Washington, D.C., and Cambridge (MA). David is senior lecturer at universities in Germany, the Netherlands and Liechtenstein and frequently publishes on matters concerning asset and investment management as well as banking.

Thursday (July 23, 2026), 13:00

Securitizing the World: A Tale of Buzzwords, Regulation and Commercials

The securitization of assets as a structured finance tool as well as capital investment has a long-standing reputation, periods of glamour and glory going hand in hand with the most horrendous moments in contemporary economic history. More than fifteen years after the severe breakdown of the global securitization industry, securitizing assets has never been more in vogue for companies and investors likewise. Such development not only stems from regulatory improvements but also and very particular from technological innovation.

This lecture dives into the world of securitization and all its participants, exposes the buzzwords associated with the current landscape (including the opaque world of sustainability), depicts the regulatory environment in multiple jurisdictions (in particular USA, Luxembourg and several offshore jurisdictions) and gets into case studies.

Program Schedule

Dr. Oda Goetzke

Dr. Oda Goetzke is a partner at Hengeler Mueller in Düsseldorf. She advises on national and international M&A transactions. She acts for private equity investors, listed companies and family businesses on mergers and acquisitions and public takeovers, including auction processes (buy-side and sell-side), co-investments and corporate law.

A particular focus of Oda's work is advising on public takeovers. Recent matters in this area include advising KKR on the take-private of Encavis AG and the partnership (including the public takeover) with OHB SE as well as Silver Lake on the take-private of Software AG.

Oda studied law at Heinrich-Heine University Düsseldorf and University of Nantes . She worked as a foreign associate at Davis Polk & Wardwell in London.

Thursday (July 23, 2026), 17:00

Special: Takeover

Following the lecture:
Reception hosted by Hengeler Mueller

Directions:
Hengeler Mueller Partnerschaft von Rechtsanwälten mbB
Benrather Strasse 18-20
40213 Düsseldorf

Program Schedule

Prof. Dr. Dirk Andres

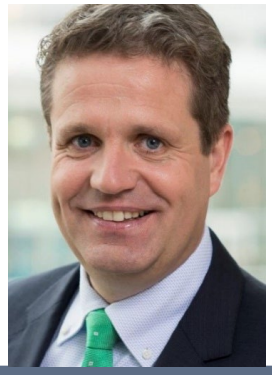
Prof. Dr. Dirk Andres is a specialist solicitor for insolvency law and partner of the law firm AndresPartner. He is appointed insolvency administrator by numerous insolvency courts in North Rhine Westphalia. In addition, he supports companies, managing directors, shareholders and creditors in all issues of corporate restructuring. Andres regularly publishes on insolvency law issues and co-publishes a commentary on the insolvency code for C.H. Beck. He is also a member of the Advisory Board of the Institute for Bankruptcy and Restructuring Law at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf. He is a member of Gravenbrucher Kreis, the association of the leading insolvency administrators and restructuring experts in Germany, as well as of Forum 270 focussing on quality and responsibility of self-administrated restructuriung (Eigenverwaltung). The renowned JUVE publishing house lists him in its handbook 2017/2018 to the leading names in insolvency administration. Since 2018, WirtschaftsWoche has included him in its list of Germany's most renowned insolvency lawyers, and the specialist publisher Best Lawyers has included him in its ranking of Germany's Best Lawyers 2020 for the area of restructuring and insolvency law.

Friday (July 24, 2026), 10:00

Introduction to Insolvency Law

Program Schedule

Dr. Andreas Möhlenkamp, LL.M. corp. restruc.



Dr. Andreas Möhlenkamp, LL.M. corp. restruc. is a Lawyer in Duisburg/Essen and Co-owner of Dr. Möhlenkamp & Cie. Unternehmensberatung GmbH, Essen. He practices insolvency law and the restructuring of companies. Andreas studied in Münster and Paris. He received a Doctorate Degree in Münster and a Master-Degree at the University of Heidelberg. He started his career as a judge at the LG Köln (District Court) and worked as Expert of Competition Law for the Federation of German Industries (BDI). For more than 10 years Andreas Möhlenkamp was Director of an Industry Federation. Before specialising in restructuring in his own firm, Andreas was Director of a restructuring company affiliated to an insolvency law firm.

Monday (July 27, 2026), 15:00

and

Special: case study Restructuring at 17:30

Reorganisation and Restructuring

Program Schedule

Beatrice Stange, LL.M. (London)

Beatrice Stange, LL.M. (London) is a salary partner at the Düsseldorf office of Heuking Kühn Lüer Wojtek. She was admitted to the bar in 2007 and advises clients on all areas of Antitrust / Competition Law, e.g. proceedings before the competition authorities, ensuring the compliant behaviour of clients in their day-to-day business and drafting and implementing compliance programmes. She also handles merger control proceedings, coordinates multi-national merger control applications and is involved in civil law litigation.

She studied law at the universities of Konstanz and Hamburg and holds a licence en droit from Université Paris 2 Panthéon-Assas and a Master of Laws in Economic Regulation (LL.M.) from King's College London / University of London.

Tuesday (July 28, 2026), 10:00

Introduction to EU Competition Law and Overview of Articles 101 and 102 TFEU

Program Schedule

Dr. David Julien dos Santos Goncalves

Dr David-Julien dos Santos Goncalves is part of the Antitrust and Foreign Investment Group of Linklaters LLP. He specialises in European and German competition law, including merger control, foreign investment, foreign subsidies regulation (FSR), cartel and abuse of dominance proceedings before the European Commission, the German competition authority and the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action as well as before national and European courts. His focus lies on the coordination of multijurisdictional merger control and foreign investment proceedings. David also advises on complex compliance programs (e.g. syndicated loans) as well as antitrust questions related to vertical agreements and the compliant restructuring of distribution systems with a particular focus on online sales channels. His focus is on the financial, automotive, energy, semiconductor, postal and logistic services, cosmetics, and private equity sectors.

David studied law at the University of Münster and wrote his PhD thesis at the University of Münster. He also studied economics (bachelor and master degree) at the University of Münster, St. Gallen and Aberdeen. David joined Linklaters as a lawyer in March 2016 and has been promoted to Partner in Mai 2024. He was working at the London Office in 2019 and to the New York Office in 2016.

David regularly publishes on competition law, including recent publications of foreign investment control. He is co-author in Deutsches und Europäisches Kartellrecht – Kommentar (Berg/Mäsch).

Tuesday (July 28, 2026), 13:00

Merger Control

Readings:
Case M.8660 – FORTUM / UNIPER Commission decision pursuant to Article 6 (1) (b) of Council Regulation No 139/20041 and Article 57 of the Agreement on the European Economic Area (pages 1-11

Program Schedule

Dr. Lars Maritzen LL.B. MLE

Dr. Lars Maritzen is a partner at Schalast & Partner Rechtsanwälte mbB and has been advising on competition law, compliance and commercial matters for more than ten years and is a member of the Commercial and IP practice groups. He advises his international and national clients, which include corporations, medium-sized companies and start-ups, on the drafting and negotiation of contracts in the areas of purchasing and sales, distribution and in the area of research & development, in particular research and development cooperations, with a focus on competition law.

In addition, Lars advises on the structuring and auditing of compliance management issues and internal investigations, in particular due to his in-house experience. Lars has particular expertise in the area of fine proceedings including e-discovery and assists national and international clients in antitrust and data protection fine proceedings before the respective authorities.

Finally, he acts as a mediator under the Platform 2 Business Regulation.

Tuesday (July 28, 2026), 15:00

Vertical Restrictions & Distribution

Program Schedule

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Heimeshoff

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Heimeshoff is a partner of DICE Consult and professor of economics at the Düsseldorf Institute for Competition Economics (DICE). He has extensive expertise in the application of econometric methods, particularly in the conduct of antitrust damages analyses. Here he has advised numerous clients on both the plaintiff and defendant sides (including escalators, logistics, gas-insulated switchgear (GIS), confectionery, trucks).

Professor Heimeshoff has also acted as an expert witness for Deutsche Telekom, Vodafone, RWE, EON, Siemens, ADAC, the German Trade Association (HDE), the Federal Ministries of Finance and Economics, the European Parliament and the Federal Network Agency, among others.

His research analyzes, among other things, competitive and consumer behavior in automotive and retail markets as well as in telecommunications, energy and transport markets. He has published econometric work on competition and regulatory economics in national and international journals.

Wednesday (July 29, 2026), 10:00

Competition Economics

Program Schedule

Sabrina Raatz

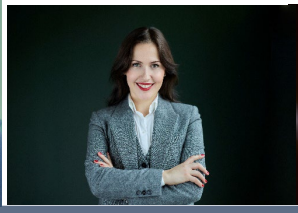
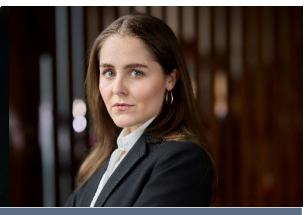
Sabrina Raatz studied law at the University of Münster from 2000 to 2005. She passed her first state exam in 2005 and her second state exam in 2008. She worked as an associate and principal associate in the antitrust and competition law team at Freshfields in Düsseldorf from 2008 to 2016, before switching to “the light side of the force” and becoming a judge at the Regional Court of Düsseldorf in 2016. Initially working in tenancy law, later in the jury court and then in trademark law and antitrust law. She then moved to the administration of the Regional Court of Düsseldorf. Today she works in the appeal chamber of the President of the the Regional Court of Düsseldorf and acts as head of training and deputy press officer. She also holds lectures on antitrust law at the University of Düsseldorf and on trademark law at the State Office for Education, Training and Personnel Affairs of the North Rhine-Westphalian Police.

Wednesday (July 29, 2026), 13:00 and 15:00

Private Antitrust Enforcement
Public Antitrust Enforcement

Program Schedule

Gantenberg Legal

Ulrike Gantenberg acts as counsel and arbitrator (sole arbitrator, chair and co-arbitrator) in international commercial arbitration (ad hoc, DIS, ICC, LCIA, VIAC, FAI, DIA, SCC etc.) investor-state disputes, and adjudication proceedings as well as counsel in litigation cases. Two main core areas of Ulrike's practice are turn-key construction (including energy related projects) and corporate / post-M&A / contract disputes. For over ten years, she had advised on corporate and M&A matters, and from which experience she now benefits as counsel and arbitrator.
As a qualified German lawyer with working experience in France, Ulrike is particularly dedicated to international work. Her experience includes arbitration proceedings under various jurisdictions (including Germany, Denmark, Greece, Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, Finland, Turkey). Her vast experience as arbitrator impacts her counsel work. Ulrike is a member of various boards and committees of international arbitration institutions and a frequent speaker on issues of international arbitration and international private law at international events and conferences.

Hanna Shalbanava specializes in international arbitration and dispute resolution. She has represented parties and served as secretary to the arbitral tribunal in proceedings conducted under the rules of global and regional arbitration institutions, including the ICC, SCC, SAC, DIS, FAI, the ICAC at the Ukrainian CCI, the ICAC at the CCI of the Russian Federation, the IAC at the BelCCI, and the Court of Arbitration for Sport. In addition to her interest in investment arbitration, she focuses on disputes in international commerce, contract law, post-M&A, energy, and sport.
Hanna is passionate about promoting diversity and inclusion. She volunteers as an arbitrator in moot courts, publishes articles, organizes events, and speaks on topics related to international commercial law and international arbitration. She was a member of the working group for the development of the Rules on the Efficient Conduct of Proceedings in International Arbitration (the Prague Rules) and the DIS Practice Group for Settlement Facilitation within the Framework of Art. 26 DIS Rules.

Céline Brune, Rechtsanwältin (German qualified lawyer), is an Associate at Gantenberg Dispute Experts. She represents parties in complex proceedings before state courts, arbitral tribunals, and in out-of-court disputes. She also acts as secretary to arbitral tribunals. Céline Brune has experience in large-volume, technical, and mostly cross-border proceedings. She is particularly interested in and committed to corporate and post-M&A disputes, turn-key construction, and contractual disputes, especially those with an international background. Céline is passionate about the art of drafting and story telling in international arbitration. Bridging cultural gaps and educating the next generation of lawyers is one of her priorities. She is a member of various young arbitration associations and a member of the DIS Gender Champion Initiative.

Thursday (July 30, 2026), 13:00

Procedure of Arbitration Proceedings

Program Schedule

Dr. Nicholas Kessler, LL.M. (Cambridge), EMBA

Dr. Nicholas Kessler, LL.M. (Cambridge), EMBA (Münster), Rechtsanwalt and Solicitor (England & Wales) is partner in the Düsseldorf office of Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe and a member of the firm's International Arbitration Group. His practice focuses on national and international arbitration, complex litigation, product liability cases, investment disputes, restructuring, corporate law with a particular emphasis on post M&A, and construction disputes. His experience includes proceedings under the auspices of all major arbitral organizations, such as, e.g., the ICC, DIS, LCIA, SCC, Vienna-Rules and UNCITRAL-Rules. Nicholas is a visiting lecturer at the Universities of Münster and Düsseldorf, lectures on international arbitration as well as international and European procedural law and regularly publishes in these areas.

Thursday (July 30, 2026), 17:30

Special: Clash of Cultures in International Arbitration

Following the lecture:
Reception hosted by Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

Directions:
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Heinrich-Heine-Allee 12
40213 Düsseldorf

Program Schedule

Düsseldorf

Historically the river Rhine has been Düsseldorf's natural link across borders to other cities and countries. It has provided a continuous flow of trade and a constant exchange of ideas and has thus been the source of the friendliness that has become a distinguishing mark of the Rhinelander. Geographically and economically, the city lies at the heart of Western Europe. It is therefore not surprising that the state capital with almost 600,000 inhabitants has been able to build such strong international connections. Düsseldorf has established itself as a major economic partner in the European Community and as an important scientific and cultural hub in Germany's most populous federal state: North Rhine-Westphalia.

Düsseldorf, an internationally-noted banking centre and home of continental Europe's largest Japanese expatriate community, has an outstanding creative climate, to which numerous industrial designers, commercial artists, product developers and advertising agencies contribute. The new and growing Harbour Media Centre provides a setting for several top-flight communications companies and photography studios. Dubbed the Paris of Germany, Düsseldorf boasts a fashion industry which contributes to the charm and "joie de vivre" of the city. In summers its famous and elegant boulevard known as the *Kö* (*Königsallee*) turns into a vast café – a place to see and be seen. Tree-lined promenades, interspersed with beer gardens, offer inviting places to stroll and watch the boats on the Rhine or look at the eye-catching Art Nouveau facades on the opposite bank of the river.

Meadows and parks provide extensive grounds for those keen on sports, and a setting for the annual *Kirmes* (outdoor fair) on the Rhine. The Old Town isa popular entertainment area and one of Düsseldorf's most extensive pedestrian districts. It abounds with narrow alleys, restaurants, cafes and pubs as well as old-fashioned comfort and hospitality. This historic core of the city survived World War II intact and is still carefully preserved today.

Under Jan Wellem of the Palatinate, who reigned from 1679 to 1716, the town began to thrive, and the foundation was laid for the rich and multifaceted cultural life which can be found today. The *Deutsche Oper am Rhein* offers classical and modern repertoire and remarkable ballet performances. The theatre scene is varied, with an internationally renowned playhouse as its focal point, plus a political cabaret, numerous studio theatres and the puppet theatre. The concert hall or Tonhalle stands out for its artistic design as well as its diverse music programme. All aspects of modern art are very well represented at the State Art Collection *Kunstsammlung*. Düsseldorf's Academy of Fine Arts is one of the leading art schools in Germany. With numerous internationally known galleries Düsseldorf is one of the European art centres. Apart from the Heinrich Heine University and the Academy of Fine Arts, Düsseldorf is the home of a number of research institutes and educational facilities; among them the Robert Schumann Conservatory, the University of Applied Sciences (*Fachhochschule*) and the Academy of Business and Administration.

Düsseldorf

Even though the French emperor Napoleon I had planned to found a university in Düsseldorf in 1811, with the Rhine area being thought of as an intellectual buffer zone between France and Prussia, Düsseldorf had to wait another century for its university. In 1907 the Düsseldorf Academy for Applied Medicine was founded and opened together with the newly built Municipal Hospital, which was the most modern clinical complex in the German Empire at that time. Since the Academy was not chartered as a university, it was only allowed to instruct medical trainees. The academy itself, supported by the local population, launched several initiatives to change the status of the institution. In 1923 they finally succeeded when a university charter permitting the right to lecture students was given to the Medical Academy of Düsseldorf. The study of dental medicine was subsequently incorporated, and by 1935 doctoral degrees could be awarded in Düsseldorf. After World War II, the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia and the city of Düsseldorf signed a contract which stated that the federal state would take over the Medical Academy, while the hospitals remained municipally owned. In November 1965 the Medical Academy became the University of Düsseldorf and in January 1966 it became a university with a Medical Faculty and a combined Faculty of Arts and Natural Sciences.

In December 1988 the University Senate decided to change the institution's name to Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, in commemoration of one of the city's most renowned sons, Heinrich Heine, whose critical and inquisitive poetic mind reached out across national borders and fought against small-mindedness. Today the university forms the backbone of Düsseldorf's academic reputation. Faced with nationwide cuts in university spending, the university has continued to thrive. Despite its recent founding, it has gained a reputation usually associated with universities rich in age and tradition. The university's continuous development has made it home to a distinguished range of subjects, including medical science, natural sciences, economics, law and the humanities. The degree requirements allow for numerous combinations of subjects. Study programs can be tailored to fit individual needs. Some subjects, such as Literary Translation, Yiddish Culture, Language and Literature and Media Science are unique features of the curriculum. Social Sciences and Linguistics rank prominently in comparisons. Further specialties in the Faculty of Arts include Modern Japan Studies and German as a Foreign Language, which address the needs of the international business community.

The present Law Faculty is one of the youngest in Germany. It is housed in two modern, spacious buildings that were constructed, respectively in 1996 and 2005, and which are specially equipped for legal studies. The buildings offer an excellent working environment to the approximately 1,500 people from Germany and beyond who study at the Faculty of Law. The comparatively low number of approximately 200 students who begin legal studies each year allows for outstanding conditions for study, characterized by close personal contact between students and faculty members, and distinguishing academic teaching in Dusseldorf from other faculties in Germany.

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