



Building Strategic Alignments for a More Effective Administration of Justice

HYBRID CONFERENCE

19 Oct 2026

Royal University for Women (RUW)

RUW is the first private, purpose-built, international university in the Kingdom of Bahrain dedicated solely to educating women. RUW provides a comfortable environment in which to create leaders, develop vibrant personalities, dynamic decision makers, independent thinkers and community-conscious individuals.

RUW's main focus is on academic excellence and personal development. RUW's initial degree programmes were designed in collaboration with two reputed universities, McGill University in Canada and Middlesex University in the U.K.

For more details and information, please visit:

<https://www.ruw.edu.bh>

The International Institute for Justice Excellence (IIJE)

The IIJE is an international nonprofit and nonpolitical organization headquartered in The Hague (Netherlands). Based on a need for dynamic, nonprofit work in the international judicial and court administration communities, the IIJE aims to provide research and guidance by way of best practices for the benefit of independent national justice systems throughout the world. The IIJE continues to grow and expand in many areas touching upon the administration of justice, thanks to the contributions of the numerous and impressive members of the international judicial and court communities.

For more details and information, please visit:

<https://iije.org>

Conference Objectives

The overarching objective of the conference is to foster stronger working relationships between law schools, legal professionals, law students and judicial institutions in regard to court administration and the administration of justice. The focus is on reinforcing the importance of strategic planning and leadership among courts, Judicial Councils, Ministries of Justice, related institutions, law school professionals, and law students. These relationships and partnerships are vital to continue strengthening the evolution of legal practice, court administration and justice systems in all jurisdictions.

A key priority will be to examine the interplay between legal professionals and justice systems in areas such as access to justice, electronic case management, strategic planning, artificial intelligence, hybrid hearings, ethics and integrity, as well as cooperative law school curriculum development.

One of the main goals of the conference is to foster a more effective involvement of law schools in building stronger capacity in the administration of justice. Other important goals for all conference stakeholders, i.e., law schools, governments, the judiciary, courts, and organizations can be summarized as follows:

1.Enhanced Collaboration:

Strengthening ties between law schools, courts, and judicial bodies, as well as legal practitioners, leading to improved collaboration in the administration of justice, ultimately benefiting the government and improving efficiencies in national court systems. This can be achieved by strategic planning frameworks, which ensure that all stakeholders can contribute to the overall effectiveness of justice systems, as well as their alignment with governmental objectives.

2.Developing Legal Education:

Ensuring that future legal professionals are well-prepared and informed about current practices and challenges in national court systems, which can also lead to better legal representation by way of opportunities to jointly develop law school curricula.

3. Access to Justice Initiatives:

Increasing awareness and actionable strategies aimed at improving access to justice, fostering initiatives that ensure fair treatment for all and which also enhance public trust in government, the judiciary and national court systems

4.Innovation in Legal Practice:

Promoting the exchange of ideas in regard to innovative practices, such as the use of AI in case management and hybrid hearings, leading to a more adaptable and efficient legal environment that courts and governments can implement.

Intended Conference Audience:

- The Judiciary and national courts (via international online attendance and in-person attendance at the Royal University for Women in Bahrain); Law Schools (Law Professors and students, both undergrad and postgrad);
- Institutes and NGOs whose focus is on legal education or other sectors of the legal and justice communities.

Conference Format and Participation:

Given the global nature of the conference, the event will be conducted in a hybrid format, allowing participants to attend either in person at the Royal University for Women in Bahrain or virtually through a live online platform. The schedule has been designed to accommodate international participation across multiple time zones, with sessions beginning at 9:50 AM (Bahrain time) to ensure broad accessibility for participants in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Western Hemisphere.



Agenda

Time	Agenda
8:30 am - 9:00 am	Registration and welcome coffee
9:00 - 9:05	National Anthem of the kingdom of Bahrain
9:05 - 9:15 am	Opening Address: H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Ali bin Abdulla Al Khalifa , Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council and President of the Court of Cassation of the Kingdom of Bahrain
9:15 - 9:22 am	Opening remarks: Mr. Jeffrey Apperson , Chairperson of the International Institute for Justice Excellence (IIJE).
9:22 - 9:29 am	Opening remarks: Prof. Riyad Hamzah , President of the RUW
9:30 - 9:45 am	Recognition Ceremony
9:45-9:50 am	Group photo
9:50am	Transition to the first session

Agenda

Time	Panel	Description
9:50 am-10:50 am	Strategic Planning and Institutional Integration in the Administration of Justice Session Moderator: Roger Bilodeau, KC Panelists: Justice Susan Glazebrook, DNZM, <i>Supreme Court of New Zealand</i> Deputy Chief Justice Dunstan Mlambo, <i>Constitutional Court of South Africa</i> Judge Zain Al Asfoor, <i>High Civil Court Judge, Bahrain Representing the Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council and President of the Court of Cassation</i>	This theme addresses the role of joint strategic planning in advancing the administration of justice through enhanced institutional integration among law schools, judicial authorities, and ministries of justice. It focuses on achieving effective coordination among key justice-sector stakeholders and presents selected models and experiences of successful institutional cooperation between academia and judicial practice.
11:00 am-12:00 pm	Access to Justice and Public Trust in Light of Universal Principles Session Moderator: Pamela Harris, <i>President - International Association for Court Administration</i> Panelists: Mr. Jeffrey Apperson, <i>Chairperson of the International Institute for Justice Excellence (IIJE)</i> Dr. Noora AlShamlan, <i>Associate Professor at the University of Bahrain (UoB), Chair of the Advisory Board of the International Institute for Justice Excellence (IIJE)</i> Judge Moustafa Ahmad Kamal, <i>Vice-president of the Council of the State of Egypt and Legal Counsel of the National Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development of Egypt.</i>	This theme explores the impact of technological innovation and modern justice systems on enhancing access to justice and strengthening public trust, within the framework of well-known universal principles such as the rule of law, judicial independence, the right to a fair trial protection of rights and freedoms.
12:00 pm- 1:00 pm	Lunch Break	
1:00 pm-2:15 pm	Alternative and Digital Dispute Resolution Mechanisms Session Moderator: Meead Jasim, Senior Lawyer, <i>Private Notary & Legal Office Manager, Representative of Ali Al Aradi Attorneys & Legal Consultants, Kingdom of Bahrain.</i> Panelists: Mr. Aleš Zalar, <i>Director, Patent Mediation and Arbitration Centre (PMAC).</i> Dr. Abdullah Al-Mandhari, <i>CEO of Oman Commercial Arbitration Centre</i> Dr. Raed Alnimer, <i>Dean of the College of Business & Law of RUW.</i>	This theme examines the development of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in the digital era, including arbitration, mediation, and conciliation, as well as the use of technological tools in online dispute resolution, and their role in improving dispute resolution efficiency and reducing the burden on courts.

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2:15 pm- 3:15pm	Artificial Intelligence and Automation in the Administration of Justice Session Moderator: Mr. Jeffrey Apperson, <i>Chairperson of the International Institute for Justice Excellence (IIJE)</i> Panelists: • Judge Jiang Huiling, <i>Dean and Distinguished Professor, Law School of Tongji University, China.</i> • Pamela Harris, <i>President - International Association for Court Administration</i> • Dr. Fredric I. Lederer, <i>Chancellor Professor of Law and Director, Center for Legal & Court Technology, William & Mary Law School - USA.</i>	This theme focuses on the deployment of information and case management systems that are strategically integrating Artificial Intelligence capacity into the processes of the justice system to improve the management of performance baselines and decision making, while examining the associated legal and ethical challenges. theme examines the development of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in the digital era, including arbitration, mediation, and conciliation, as well as the use of technological tools in online dispute resolution, and their role in improving dispute resolution efficiency and reducing the burden on courts.
3:15 pm- 3:45 pm	Coffee Break	
3:45 pm- 4:45 pm	The Development of Legal Education and the Future of the Legal Profession Session Moderator: Professor Dr. Luis Maria Palma, <i>Immediate Past President of the International Association for Court Administration (IACA), Director of the International Institute for Justice Excellence (IIJE) and President of E-Justicia Latinoamérica.</i> Panelists: • Dr Christophe Bernasconi, <i>Secretary General- Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH)</i> • Fabricio Bittencourt da Cruz, <i>Federal Judge and Professor of Law - Federal Regional Court of Appeals of the 4th Circuit (TRF4), Brazil</i> • Christie S. Warren, <i>Professor of the Practice of International and Comparative Law - Director, Center for Comparative Legal Studies and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding - William & Mary Law School- Williamsburg, Virginia - USA.</i>	This theme exclusively addresses the development of legal education and the future of the legal profession, considering rapid technological transformations, through curriculum modernization, enhanced practical training, and the integration of digital skills and alternative dispute resolution, with a view to preparing legal professionals capable of meeting the demands of the modern legal market.
4:45 pm- 5:45 pm	Digital Transformation of Justice Systems and of Legislative\Regulatory Frameworks Session Moderator: Dr. Hassan Mohamed - <i>Assistant Professor of Commercial Law, College of Law, United Arab Emirates University</i> Panelists: • Chief Judge Katharine M. Samson; <i>Member, U.S. Judicial Conference Committee on International Judicial Relations ; Chief Bankruptcy Judge, United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Mississippi - USA.</i> • Jos Uitdehaag; <i>First Vice-president - International Union of Judicial Officers; Treasurer of the International Institute for Justice Excellence (IIJE)</i> • Professor Valsamis Mitsilegas- <i>Dean of the School of Law and Social Justice, University of Liverpool, UK.</i>	This theme addresses the digital transformation of justice systems, including electronic discovery in litigation, hybrid hearings, international judgment enforcement, as well as the legislative and regulatory frameworks required to support digital justice, cybersecurity, and data.
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm	Reception	