

4th Leipzig Rule of Law Conference

Rule of Law and Judicial Independence - New Perspectives

**Programme
October 1-2, 2026**

Saxon State Ministry of Justice in cooperation with Leipzig University

Venue & Conference languages

Paulinum, Leipzig University, Augustusplatz 10, 04109 Leipzig

Conference languages German and English (simultaneous interpretation DE-EN/ EN-DE)





Thursday, October 1, 2026

Time	Sections
12:00-12:45	Arrival, Welcome Reception with Lunch Buffet
12:45-13:00	Opening with Musics
13:00-13:30	Opening address <i>Vice-Rector Prof. Dr. Brigitte Latzko, Leipzig University</i> <i>Prof. Constanze Geiert, Saxon Minister of Justice</i> Introduction <i>Prof. Dr. Astrid Lorenz, Leipzig University</i> <i>Prof. Dr. Mattias Wendel, Hamburg University</i>
13:30-14:00	Keynote – How resilient are national constitutional courts? <i>Prof. Dr. Christine Langenfeld, Federal Constitutional Court, Germany</i>
14:00-15:15	Panel I: Potentials and Risks of Decentralized Constitutional Review – Experiences from Europe <i>JUDr. Peter Čuroš, Ph.D., Comenius University Bratislava and lawyer at public watchdog VIA IURIS, Slovakia</i> <i>Dr. Matthias Grünberg, President of the Constitutional Court of Saxony and Vice President of the Higher Administrative Court of Saxony</i> <i>Dr hab. Anna Rytel-Warzocha, prof. UG, University of Gdańsk, and founding member of the organisation Democracy International, Poland</i> <i>Chair: Prof. Dr. Mattias Wendel</i>
15:15-15:30	Coffee break <i>Programme to be continued on the next page</i>

15:30-16:30	Panel II: Potentials and Risks of Extra-Judicial Constitutional Review – Experiences from Europe <i>Prof. Dr. Janne Salminen</i>, Chancellor of Justice of Finland, formerly University of Turku, Finland <i>Hallbera Friða West Ph.D.</i>, University of Agder Kristiansand, Norway, Department of Political Science and Management, and Aarhus University, Denmark <i>Prof. Mihail Chiru</i>, University of Oxford, Department of politics and international relations, and Median research centre, Bucharest, Romania Chair: <i>Jan Němec, Ph.D.</i>, Leipzig University, Germany-
16:30-17:30	Coffee break in a World Café: Strengthening the Resilience of the Constitutional Court or Decentralizing Constitutional Review to Protect Judicial Independence? <i>Statements will be collected at the tables and used for the High-Level Panel</i>
17:30-19:00	High Level Panel: High-Level Panel: Societies in Turmoil – Are Courts the Saviors of Democracy? - <i>Prof. Dr. Constanze Geiert</i>, Saxon Minister of Justice - <i>Dr. Stefanie Hubig</i>, Federal Minister of Justice - <i>Michael McGrath</i>, EU Commissioner for Justice (tbc) - <i>Prof. Dr. Janne Salminen</i>, Chancellor of Justice of Finland - <i>Waldemar Żurek</i>, Poland, Minister of Justice (tbc) - <i>Bruno Bachini</i>, France, Member of Conseil d’Etat Chairs: <i>Prof. Dr. Astrid Lorenz</i>, Leipzig University, <i>Prof. Dr. Mattias Wendel</i>, Hamburg University
19:00-21:00	Reception

Friday, October 2, 2026

Time	Section
08:30-09:00	Arrival
09:00-10:30	Panel III: European Rules and Legislation (ECHR, ECJ) on the Selection of Judges and Their Internal Independence. Is There a Need for Reform? <i>Prof. Dr. Julia Laffranque</i>, Judge at Supreme Court of Estonia, Member of the Article 255 Panel and former Judge at the ECtHR, Luxembourg <i>Dr. Ulrich Karpenstein</i>, Attorney at Law, Vice President of the German Bar Association <i>Dr. Christoph Krenn</i>, Max Planck Institute Heidelberg, Germany Chair: <i>Prof. Dr. Astrid Lorenz</i>, Universität Leipzig
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:15	Panel IV: Not a Question of Rules, but of Ethics? The “Internal Independence” of Judges in Legal Education <i>Prof. Dr. Gareth Davies</i>, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Faculty of Law, Netherlands <i>Angela Glatz-Büscher</i>, President of the Local Court, Düsseldorf, Germany <i>Dr. Ana Knežević Bojović</i>, Institute of Comparative Law, Belgrad, Serbia Chair: <i>PD Dr. Dietmar Müller</i>, Leipzig University, Germany
12:15-12:30	Closing remarks
12:30-13:30	Lunch Buffet
13:30	End of conference