

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

Paulinum, Leipzig University
Official conference language: German with simultaneous English translation.





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., Polish Academy of Sciences Warsaw, Poland, 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

Prof. Dr. Janne Salminen, Chancellor of Justice of Finland, formerly University of Turku, Finland

Hallbera Frida West Ph.D., University of Agder Kristiansand, Norway, Department of Political Science and Management, and Aarhus University, Sweden

Prof. Mihail Chiru, University of Oxford, Department of politics and international relations, and Median research centre, Bucharest, Romania

Chair: *Jan Němec, Ph.D.*, 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?

Statements will be collected at the tables and used for the High-Level Panel

17:30-19:00

High Level Panel: High-Level Panel: Societies in Turmoil – Are Courts the Saviors of Democracy?

- *Prof. Dr. Constanze Geiert*, Saxon Minister of Justice
- *Dr. Stefanie Hubig*, Federal Minister of Justice
- *Michael McGrath*, EU Commissioner for Justice (tbc)
- *Prof. Dr. Janne Salminen*, Chancellor of Justice of Finland
- *Waldemar Żurek*, Poland, Minister of Justice (tbc)
- *Bruno Bachini*, France, Member of Conseil d'Etat

Chairs: *Prof. Dr. Astrid Lorenz*, Leipzig University, *Prof. Dr. Mattias Wendel*, Hamburg University

19:00-21:00

Reception



Leipzig Rule of Law
Conference

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, Luxemburg <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>PD Dr. Werner Reutter</i> , Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany
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