6th International and Comparative Law Insolvency Symposium
Drake University Law School - Des Moines, Iowa
November 5 - 7, 2026

Conference Registration: $30.00 (Includes all 3 days). Approved for Iowa CLE Credits (in person only).

Day 1 - Thursday, November 5, 2026

Location: Drake University Law School, 2621 Carpenter Avenue, Des Moines, IA

3:30 - 5:00 pm **Students Q&A with John Ray:** Why Law Students Should Consider the Bankruptcy Practice as a Career Choice? (LL19)

5:15 pm **Ribbon Cutting** (Opperman Hall, Lower Level)

5:30 - 7:00 pm Conference Reception with **John J. Ray III, U.S. Bankruptcy Judges Michelle Harner & Christopher Lopez** (Faculty Staff Lounge/Porterhouse Lounge)

Day 2 – Friday, November 6, 2026

Location: Drake University Legal Clinic, 2400 University Ave, Des Moines, IA

Approved Iowa CLE Credit (In-Person Only)

8:30 - 9:00 am **Registration & Coffee**

9:00 - 9:15 am **Opening Remarks** (Legal Clinic Courtroom)
Professor Christoph Henkel, Drake University Law School

9:15 - 10:00 am **Panel 1 – New Cross-Border Insolvency Developments and Trends**
Chair: Eugenio Vaccari
Sarah Paterson: "The Unsafe Foundations of the Absolute Priority Rule" (remote)
Robert W. Miller: "Exported Opportunism."

10:00 - 11:00 am **Panel 2 – Common Law Insolvency Principles**
Chair: Christoph Henkel
Laura Coordes & Matthew Chippin: "Underlying Principles in Common Law Insolvency: Examples from the USA and Canada."
Stephanie Ben-Ishai & Dushyant Vyas: "Corporate Insolvency Proceedings in Canada: The Gap Between Policy Objectives and Case Outcomes."
Eugenio Vaccari: "The Kindness of English Corporate Insolvency Law."

11:00 - 11:15 am **Coffee Break**

11:15 - 12:00 pm **Panel 3 – Third-Party Litigation in Bankruptcy**
Chair: Adrian Walters
Tiia Karolina Manninen: "Between Entitlement and Investment: Third Party Litigation Funding and the Limits of Legal Transplant in Nordic Civil Law."
Aditya Jain & Dhanya Jha: "Third Party Funding of Asset Tracing in Insolvency in Asia." (remote)

Noon - 1:00 pm **Panel 4 – New Concepts and Risks**
Chair: Laura Coordes
Dianne Dick, University of Iowa College of Law: "Bankruptcy Basis."
Christoph Henkel: "Systemic Risk of Fiat-Collateralized Stablecoins: The Cascading Effect of Liquidity and Redemption Requirements."

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INTERNATIONAL INSOLVENCY INSTITUTE

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Day 2 – Friday, November 6, 2026 (*continued*)

Location: Drake University Legal Clinic, 2400 University Ave, Des Moines, IA

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1:00 - 2:15 pm **Lunch Break, Drake Law Legal Clinic**

2:15 - 3:00 pm **Panel 5 – Practical and Often Underappreciated Issues in Large Corporate Insolvencies**

Chair: Christoph Henkel

John J. Ray III: "A Practical Perspective on Corporate Insolvencies and Restructuring"

3:00 - 4:00 pm **Panel 6 – Solvency, Opportunism and Systemic Change in Bankruptcy**

Chair: Eugenio Vaccari

Ray Warner: "Resilient Bankruptcy."

Adi Marcovich Gross, Jared Mayer: "Insolvent or Not: Does It Matter? The Failure of Solvency Tests in Corporate Bankruptcy."

Thais Vitali Vieria: "The Concept of Likelihood of Bankruptcy."

4:00 - 4:15 pm **Coffee Break**

4:15 - 5:30 pm **Panel 7 – Practice and Impact of Cross-Border Insolvencies in the United States**

Chair: Kristina M. Stanger, Nyemaster Goode, P.C.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Michelle Harner

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Christopher Lopez

John J. Ray III

Christopher J. Giaimo, Squire Patton Boggs

5:30 - 5:45 pm **Closing remarks**

Professor Christoph Henkel, Drake University Law School

6:30 - 8:30 pm **Dinner and Keynote** by the Honorable Judge Michelle Harner*

*(*Dinner and Keynote at Drake Law School, Cartwright Hall, Kern Commons)*

Day 3 – Saturday, November 7, 2026

Location: Drake University Law School, 2621 Carpenter Avenue, Des Moines, IA

Approved Iowa CLE Credit (In-Person Only)

8:30 – 9:00 am Registration & Coffee, (Kern Commons)

9:00 - 10:00 am **Panel 8 – Cross-Border Insolvency** (James Albert Classroom/213)

Chair: Christoph Henkel

Shuai Guo: *"Interadaptationism in Insolvency Law: Global South and Global Norms."*

Jingxia Shi: *"Embedded Agency and the Transformation of Collectivity: From Consent to Constructed Consent in Cross-Border Restructuring."*

Vaidehi Gulati: *"Rethinking the Intangible Value: Limits of Insolvency Law in the Comparative Perspective."*

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Day 3 – Saturday, November 7, 2026 (continued)

Location: Drake University Law School, 2621 Carpenter Avenue, Des Moines, IA

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10:00 - 10:45 am **Panel 9 – Personal Bankruptcy**

Chair: Laura Cordes

Jason Kilborn: "Personal Insolvency Reforms in Asia: An Emerging Standard?"

Zingapi Mabe: "Cross-Border Issues with Married Spouses and Insolvency."

10:45 - 11:00 am **Coffee Break**

11:00 am - noon **Panel 10 – A European and Maritime Perspective**

Chair: Adrian Walters

Michael Veder: "The EU Harmonization Directive: Fit for Purpose."

Alessandra Zanardo & Lorenzo Benedettim: "The Forthcoming Duty to Introduce Pre-Pack Proceedings in EU MSs" (remote)

Matthew Chippin: "Marine Environmental Disasters: The Necessary Relationship between Marine and Insolvency Law."

Noon - 12:15 pm **Closing Remarks**

Professor Laura Coordes, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University

Professor Eugenio Vaccari, Royal Holloway, University of London

Professor Adrian Walters, Chicago-Kent College of Law/Nottingham Trent University

Professor Christoph Henkel, Drake University Law School

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