

The Lawyer

European In-house Litigation Summit 2026

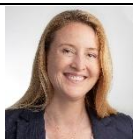
Strategically navigating the European disputes landscape

Capital C, Amsterdam

27 October 2026

2026 Sponsors



Advisory Board 2026			
John Alderton Head of Litigation and Investigations Nomura 	Amaury de Bruijn Head of Litigation Royal FrieslandCampina	Gemma Foale Robinson Global Legal Strategy Lead Unilever 	Sandra Kilbourne Chief Risk & Compliance Officer Amadeus 
Cameron Mills Senior Legal Counsel - Litigation & E-Discovery Booking.com 	Jason Otto Global Head of Litigation & Investigations, Managing Director EFG Bank 	Alison Pearsall Group Head of Litigation, Dispute Resolution, Risk Management & Insurance Atos SE (prior) 	Carreen Shannon Head of Litigation, Investigations & regulatory ASML 

Please note this is a draft agenda and is subject to change

The Lawyer European In-house Litigation Summit 27th October 2026	
8:00-9:00	Breakfast Roundtable: Big ideas for curious minds Early riser? We've got you covered. Please join our breakfast roundtable discussion (limited spaces available!) and start the day with a simulating conversation alongside like-minded peers. More details on this session to follow soon.
8:15-9:00	Registration and networking breakfast
9:00-9:05	Introduction from The Lawyer <i>Christian Smith, Litigation Editor, The Lawyer</i>
9:05-9:25	Keynote: Managing uncertainty and an ever-changing live geopolitical situation A focused and concise overview of the geopolitical landscape will set the scene for the day's discussions, identifying the events, currents and volatility which are driving increased risk, instability and litigation both in Europe and internationally. <i>Geopolitical expert, to be confirmed</i>
9:25-10:05	Danger Zones: risks and opportunities in the European collective actions landscape Europe has seen a considerable growth in collective actions over the last decade. This is expected to continue with major procedural changes and an expanding litigation funding market, which are in turn helping to establish numerous litigation hot spots. This session will examine the current European collective actions landscape, the risks and opportunities European in-house litigators should be aware of, and how it may evolve in the coming years. - How have different European jurisdictions developed as hot spots for collective actions, and why? - What do in-house litigators need to know about the similarities and differences between the collective action regimes of different EU member states? - What kinds of collective actions should organisations be particularly wary of? - How might we see more change in the European collective actions landscape over the next 6-12 months? Where could we see the next collective actions hot spot?
10:05-10:45	Creating a framework to aid your disputes strategy: which dispute resolution mechanism should you use? Arbitration, litigation or ADR? How are in-house teams determining which form of dispute resolution they should use and how helpful can the creation of a formal dispute resolution framework be? During this session, in-house litigators will share their insights on the differences between dispute resolution mechanisms, and their experiences of developing a policy to simplify the choice of mechanism within their organisation. - What are their main considerations when choosing a disputes resolution mechanism? - Learnings from experiences of different mechanisms: when has the choice of a mechanism backfired?

	- What could a framework for dispute resolution strategy look like? What are the steps that must be taken for this to be successful? - Is there a way to use AI to support with workflows for this? Speakers: <i>Alison Pearsall, Group Head of Litigation, Dispute Resolution, Risk Management & Insurance, Atos SE (prior)</i> <i>Matthias Hart, Head of Dispute Resolution, Merck</i> <i>Glenn Baumgarten, Senior Counsel, Head of Dispute Resolution Hub, Deutsche Telekom</i> Moderator: <i>Senior representative, Addleshaw Goddard</i>
10:45-11:15	Coffee
11:15-11:55	AI and the changing face of litigation With the development of AI tools, how in-house litigators manage disputes and discovery is changing. Administrative tasks and processes including document production and discovery could look completely different in years to come. In 2026 how are in-house litigation teams trying to control the costs of disputes, and how are they utilising AI and other tools for processes including document production and discovery? - How could AI tools revolutionise litigation, and facilitate lengthy processes such as document review? - What actions can in-house litigators take to contain the costs of disputes at the contracting stage? - How are in-house teams managing this without relying on their law firms' tools? - How are document discovery and production approached differently across jurisdictions, and how do you deal with document access requests outside of your jurisdiction? - How will the usage of AI extend to other administrative processes, such as budget tracking and spend management? Speakers: <i>Heike Brehm, Senior Legal Counsel, Siemens</i>
11:55-12:35	AI, investigations, and differences in privilege across jurisdictions Differences in how privilege is recognised and treated can majorly complicate multijurisdictional disputes and investigations. All team members understanding what, when and where privilege applies and is recognised across jurisdictions is critical. This session aims to unpick the complications that arise with differing recognitions of privilege, what we can learn from situations where some legal systems recognise it while others do not, and communicating the importance of this with the business. - What are the complications of differing recognitions of privilege for investigations and multijurisdictional cases? - How can you communicate to the business what best practice is across jurisdictions?

	- How does AI complicate privilege further, and what are the implications for risk management? Speakers: <i>Jason Otto, Global Head of Litigation & Investigations, Managing Director, EFG Bank</i> <i>Carreen Shannon, Head of Litigation, Investigations & regulatory, ASML</i>	
12:35-12:50	Tech Spotlight This short but punchy session will put the spotlight on one type of legal tech. Expect a quickfire session with plenty of opportunities for learning, and the possibility of a demo.	
12:50- 13:50	Lunch	
13:50-14:30	From Ukraine to Taiwan: supply chain disruption as a source of international disputes - are you prepared? The rules-based international order is unravelling. In its place, a new model is emerging, one defined by economic nationalism, state capitalism, and strategic self-reliance. For litigation counsel, this transition is not abstract: it is already generating a new wave of disputes over contract performance, force majeure, sanctions exposure, and sovereign interference. How is the structural fragmentation of global supply chains reshaping the litigation landscape? This panel discussion will address the following pertinent questions: - What does a resilient supply contract look like in 2026? Which contractual provisions are failing first? - Where is the line between a genuine force majeure event and a commercial setback that a sophisticated party should have anticipated? How best can in-house litigators deal with this? - How should companies approach regulatory risk allocation in a world where government intervention is no longer the exception but the rule? - The question of where and under what law to resolve disputes has become critical: how should in-house counsel advise on forum and governing law clauses today? <i>Senior representatives, Eversheds Sutherland</i>	
14:35-15:35	Roundtables All roundtables will take place at the same time, and each will be led by an industry expert. Prior to the conference, you will select one of these topic-specific roundtable discussions to benchmark, learn and debate with your peers on a topic that is a priority for you.	
	Risky business: Introducing a risk-structured approach With macroeconomic uncertainty, organisations are seeing an uptick in the emergence of risks. Organisations' approaches to this differ, with some taking on greater levels of risk in a high-risk environment, while others lag	The impact of EU tech regulation on litigation risk The EU has tried to position itself strategically and commercially as a leader in tech. Various tech-related acts have been passed, however, now that they are in play, there is confusion around enforcement and best practice.

	behind. What does a risk-structured approach look like, and what benefits can it bring? Join this roundtable to learn about the following: - What is a risk-structured approach, and what could this look like within your organisation? - What is the value of a risk-structured approach? How can in-house litigators communicate this to their organisation and secure their buy-in? - How could a pre-mortem risk workshop help your organisation to perceive risk differently? - How often should organisations change their risk appetite in the current climate?	This roundtable discussion will focus on the litigation risks emerging from a divergent EU tech regulation landscape, and how organisations can protect themselves. - How are organisations dealing with a fragmented approach to tech regulation? - How is the EU's approach to tech regulation and enforcement impacting business in Europe and globally? What is the impact of this on competition? - In light of recent tech-related cases, e.g. Meta, how can organisations prepare for a possible rise in cases brought against them for their approach to data or online safety? Facilitator: <i>Senior representative, Taylor Wessing</i>
	The EU Product Liability Directive: how will the amended directive affect litigation risk? Following the EU's amendments to the EU product liability directive, how might in-house litigation teams expect to see an impact on litigation risk and collective actions? During this roundtable discussion, expect to learn about how your organisation may be affected and how to prepare for the potential impacts to your organisation. - Should organisations expect to see an increase in collective actions? - How will the Directive be enforced? - Disclosure obligations are changing: how can you avoid being caught out by these? - How might organisations be affected by extended limitation periods?	The changing ESG litigation landscape and trends With an increase in activist litigation, diverging regulatory approaches, and differing attitudes to enforcement across jurisdictions, the ESG litigation risk landscape continues to evolve. Which emerging ESG litigation risks do in-house teams need or be aware of? This roundtable discussion will cover the following: - What kinds of ESG litigation are we seeing, and where? - How is regulatory divergence across jurisdictions impacting ESG litigation? - What challenges do organisations face in jurisdictions where there has been a rise in ESG activist litigation? - How and where are newer ESG litigation risks emerging?

	- How could product liability insurance be affected? Facilitator: <i>Senior representative, CMS</i>	
	Reputation management during disputes The reputational impact of litigation can be enormous, yet many organisations are not prepared for it. Which steps should in-house litigation teams take to limit the damage, develop a framework for action, and communicate the importance of reputational risk management? During this roundtable, participants will discuss strategies and actions to take during and after litigation. - The media: how should you deal with PR and press when you are facing litigation? Should you ever go on the record? - What are some tried-and-tested strategies for limiting reputational damage mid-dispute? - How could you approach the media regarding certain landmark points in litigation, whether it is the start of a litigation or when judgements are made?	
15:35-16:05	Coffee	
16:05-16:35	“Breaking News” Roundtable feedback A spokesperson for each of the five roundtable sessions will share with the rest of the attendees the key 2-3 ‘headlines’ / take-aways that were concluded in their discussion. <i>Christian Smith, Litigation Editor, The Lawyer</i>	
16:35-17:05	Litigation funding: the in-house experience The litigation funding market is rapidly changing and developing across Europe. Following the European Commission’s light touch judgement on the litigation funding market, how might we see the market change? What do in-house litigators need to be aware of? This panel discussion will aim to answer the following questions: - Combined with an improved class actions mechanism, will the lack of regulation of third-party funding accelerate the generation of more claims? - How is the litigation funding landscape developing across Europe, and what are the limitations of funding for claimants and defendants? - What are the experiences of in-house counsel of litigation funding? - Where lies the balance between access to justice and litigation funding? Panellist: <i>Charlie Rooke, Director, Burford Capital</i> Moderator: <i>Christian Smith, Litigation Editor, The Lawyer</i>	
17:05-17:10	Closing remarks from The Lawyer	
17:10-18:00	Drinks reception	