



## **IAFL Introduction to European Family Law Conference**

### **23 & 24 October 2025**

**Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025: 10:15 -11:45**

**Between borders and best interest: Child Protection in a Multi-Level legal framework**

Speaker profiles:

Keynote speaker: Prof. Dr. Henrike von Scheliha	2
Panel chair: Soma Kölcseyi, Hungary	3
Panel: Sandra Strahm, Switzerland	4
Carolina Marín Pedreno, England & Wales	5

**Prof. Dr. Henrike von Scheliha**

Assistant Professor of Civil Law, Family &amp; Inheritance Law

Bucerius Law School

## Hamburg

## Germany



Website: [www.law-school.de/profil/henrike-von-scheliha](http://www.law-school.de/profil/henrike-von-scheliha)

## Profile

Henrike von Scheliha holds the Junior Professorship for Civil Law, in particular Family and Inheritance Law since June 2024. Previously from 2022 on, she was a research assistant at the Federal Constitutional Court in the department of Federal Constitutional Judge Prof. Dr. Henning Radtke in Karlsruhe. She studied law at the Universität zu Köln and Université Paris I (Panthéon Sorbonne) within the French-German Law Degree Programme (DFM). In 2017, she passed her First State Examination. Afterwards she was a research assistant to Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Barbara Dauner-Lieb. In 2019 she received her doctorate at the Universität zu Köln with a dissertation on „Family autonomy and autonomous family“. After her legal traineeship in Cologne and Brussels, she passed her Second State Examination in 2021.

**Soma Kölcsényi**

**IAFL FELLOW**

**ZHK Zöld-Horváth-Kölcsényi Law Firm**

**Budapest**

**Hungary**



Email: [soma@legalexpert.hu](mailto:soma@legalexpert.hu)

Website: <http://www.legalexpert.hu/en/>

2008 – member of the Budapest and Hungarian Bar Associations

2014 – fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL)

2015 – expert delegate to the European Judicial Network

2019 – Central European Mediation Institute – Vice President

2023 – International Academy of Family Lawyers European Chapter - Vice President

2023 – Mikk eV Ambassador

professional expertise

cross border divorce and family litigation lawyer, practitioner

Ministry of Justice (Hungary) - member of the mediation workgroup

Ministry of Justice (Hungary) - member of the workgroup for family law procedure reform

registered mediator (Hungarian registry)

Budapest Bar Association – Academy of Lawyers, lecturer and co-head of family law division

Szent István University – ADR course, lecturer

Budapest Metropolitan University - ADR course, lecturer

Judges for Mediation Association – non-judicial member

latest publications:

2023 ORAC – Commentary to the Brussels II ter Regulation (1111/2019/EU)

2025 Family Law – A Global Guide From Practical Law by Thomson Reuters – co-author (Hungary)

**Sandra Strahm**

**Schwärzler Attorneys at Law Ltd**

**Partner**

**Zurich**

**Switzerland**



Email: [sast@s-law.com](mailto:sast@s-law.com)

Website: <https://www.s-law.com/>

Profile:

Sandra Strahm completed her studies in Lucerne. After working for the courts, lawyers' offices and public authorities, she was admitted to the bar of the Canton of St. Gallen. Since then she has been working as an attorney and advises and litigate mainly in the areas of family and inheritance law, but also in contract and criminal law. In addition to divorce, her areas of practice also include family law disputes concerning children of unmarried couples. She is also involved in international settlements concerning visitation and maintenance law.

**Carolina Marín Pedreño**

**IAFL FELLOW**

**Dawson Cornwell**

**Partner and Head of Children Department**

**London**

**England**



Email: [carolinamarin.pedreno@dawsoncornwell.com](mailto:carolinamarin.pedreno@dawsoncornwell.com)

Website: <https://dawsoncornwell.com/the-team/carolina-marin-pedreno/>

Profile:

Carolina is a cross qualified Spanish Abogado (2003) and Solicitor (2006). She is the Head of the Children's Department at Dawson Cornwell, a leading family law firm based in London.

Her specialisations include all aspect of the international movement of children, child protection, recognition and enforcement of foreign orders, family formation and assisted reproduction rights.

Carolina has been awarded "*International Lawyer of the Year*" and The Times "*Lawyer of the Week*". She was selected by the USA Embassy in London to participate in their world-renowned International Visitors Leadership Programme. She is consistently ranked by Chambers & Partners and The Legal 500 and is highly sought after as "one of the foremost international children's lawyers".

Carolina has acted in many of the leading cases in the field of international family law, including cases in the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, the European Court of Human Rights, and the Inter-American Courts of Human Rights.

Carolina is also a lecturer and author, contributing with many articles on international family law and a manual in Spanish on child abduction. She is co-author of Family Law Children's Right to Identity, Selfhood and International Family Law published by Edward Elgar. She is the editor of the Anthology on Human Rights from Different Regions published by LexisNexis for UIA.

Carolina is the former President of the Westminster & Holborn Law Society in London, Former elected Vice President of IAFL, Vice President of AIJUDEFa and President of the Family Commission of UIA.

Carolina's native language is Spanish. She speaks English and Italian.