

# IWIRC NEWSLETTER

Network News



*Connecting Women Worldwide*



**Be Connected**



**Be Informed**



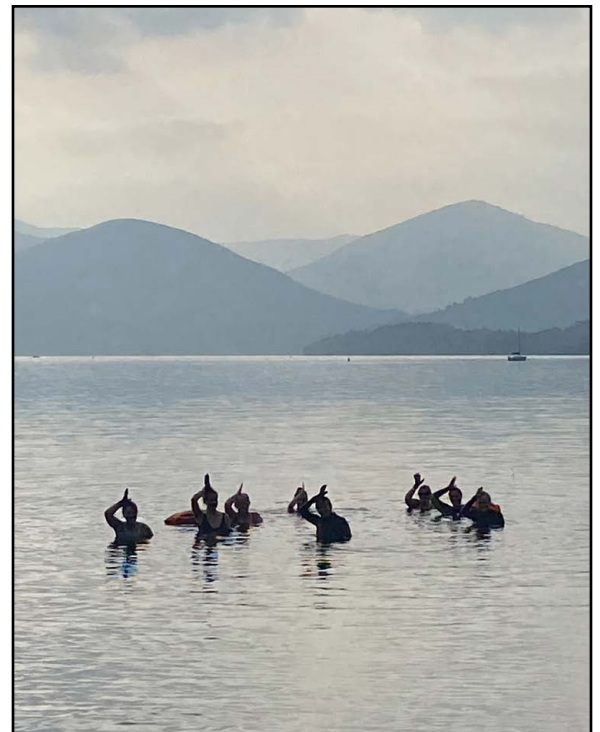
**Be Inspired**

# Network News

## Scotland Network

The Scotland Network held a silent disco event in Edinburgh – the weather was not on their side, but they braved it out in their hastily purchased and very stylish ponchos, and had a fabulous time.

They also held their first wellbeing event where they went cold water swimming on the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond. It was stunning; serene, calm and a lovely bunch of women daring to plunge themselves into the cold water! It was a great success and they hope to make it a regular event.



## Delaware, New Jersey and New York Networks

On August 15th, the New York, New Jersey, and Delaware Networks came together to celebrate summer with a beautiful Hudson River sunset cruise. This annual social event is a delightful opportunity to connect the IWIRC community across different chapters. Guests enjoyed a festive sit-down dinner and dessert with fun networking alongside it. All of this with the Statue of Liberty and the beautiful NYC skyline in the background. As always, this popular summer networking event was a hit, and neighboring chapters plan to continue hosting it in the future.



## British Virgin Islands Network

The BVI Network hosted a complimentary technical event on 9 September 2024 for its members and guests generously supported by sponsor organisation, Wilberforce Chambers.

Tara Taylor of Wilberforce, a chancery barrister who focuses on civil fraud, insolvency, shareholder disputes and offshore work provided an insightful overview of the recent mammoth 533-page judgment (Re BHS Group Ltd [2024] EWHC 1417 (Ch)) in the misfeasance and wrongful trading claims brought against the directors of the failed retailer. The decision follows on from the earlier ground-breaking decision in Sequana (BTI 2014 LLC (Appellant) v Sequana SA and others (Respondents) [2022] UKSC 25) and provides further judicial guidance on the required standard expected from company directors.

Jenni Jenkins, a litigation partner of Mourant (BVI) and also an IWIRC BVI board member gave some tips and tricks on asset recovery and enforcement of claims. Members enjoyed her highly personalised content on lessons learned and in particular were regaled with a very amusing story about her own personal efforts to obtain possession of a rug which the vendor stupidly attempted to fail to deliver to her. Suffice to say, the fraudster was no match for this international asset recovery specialist!



Finally, they enjoyed a comparative overview of Receivership options from Keshia Adonis of Maples (BVI). Keshia used her significant experience to offer insights on the various pros and cons of in-court versus out of court receivership appointments.

The event was well supported with over 60 attendees enjoying the drinks and canapes and networking opportunities, following the long Summer vacation and just ahead of the start of the new legal year.

## Midlands & North of England Network

On 12 September 2024, the Midlands & North of England Network hosted a concert to celebrate “inspiring women” through music. Madalina Rusu’s captivating performance showcased pieces inspired by remarkable women and works composed by female musicians, aligning perfectly with the event’s theme.



The program featured a delightful mix of classical masterpieces and contemporary compositions, all centered around the idea of female empowerment and achievement. Madalina’s exceptional piano skills brought these pieces to life, weaving a musical narrative of women’s strength and creativity throughout history.

A highlight of the evening was the debut performance of a piece written by Jeni Warder, Madalina’s friend and business partner. This composition, dedicated to Madalina’s baby girl Freya, was particularly moving. One of its movements drew inspiration from a poem celebrating talented women who use their abilities and determination to achieve incredible feats, metaphorically climbing mountains while making those mountains taller for the women who follow.

The mother-daughter duet between Madalina and her ten-year-old daughter Ruby added a touching, personal dimension to the theme of inspiring women across generations. Their performance was not only technically impressive but also emotionally resonant, embodying the spirit of mentorship and shared passion. Madalina’s virtuosic technique was on full display throughout the concert, her hands moving with astonishing speed and precision across the keys. Her ability to convey deep emotion through her playing created an intimate connection with the audience, making the event feel truly special and inspirational.

The concert left a lasting impression on attendees, with many describing it as the most inspiring event they had ever experienced. It served as a powerful reminder of the impact of women in music and beyond, encouraging all present to pursue their passions and lift others as they climb.

## Channel Islands and London Networks

The Channel Islands and London Networks held a joint event in Guernsey in September which was kindly sponsored by Teneo. It was held following the INSOL Channel Islands conference.

It was a beautiful sunny day attended by over 80 IWIRC Members and non-members who had the opportunity to connect over coffee and a light breakfast.



## Carolinas, Florida, Georgia, Gulf Coast, and KIT Networks

The IWIRC Southeast Networks Luncheon, hosted during the ABI Southeast Bankruptcy Institute in Naples, took place following the morning panels in the Estuary. Attendees enjoyed a Tuscan Garden buffet lunch, providing a relaxed environment for networking and professional development. This event was a collaborative effort between the IWIRC Georgia, Florida, Carolinas, Gulf Coast, and KIT Networks, aimed at strengthening connections among attendees.



## Europe Network

### *Europe Network Hosts Insightful Panel on UNCITRAL Working Group V at Dublin International Disputes Week*

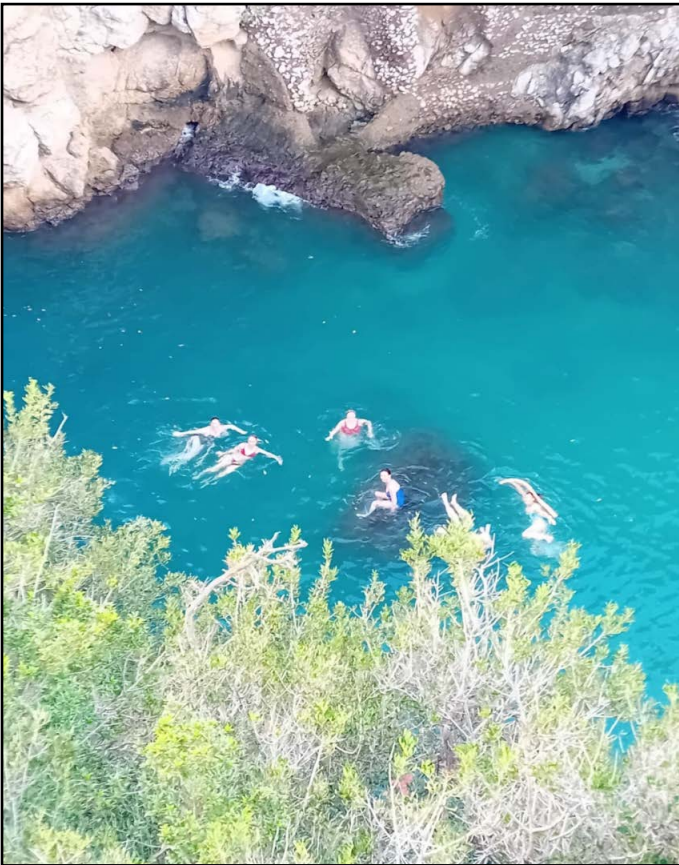
During the recent Dublin International Disputes Week, the Europe Network hosted a compelling side event at the Museum of Literature Ireland, generously sponsored by Maples and Calder (Ireland) LLP. The panel discussion focused on the work of UNCITRAL Working Group V (WGV) and featured distinguished speakers Kathlene Burke, Maples (IWIRC Europe), Debby Lim, Dentons (IWIRC Singapore), Olya Antle, Cooley (IWIRC Virginia), and Louise Brittain, Azets (IWIRC London).

Kathlene Burke, co-chair of the Europe Network, opened the session by introducing IWIRC as one of the few non-governmental organizations permitted to send a delegation to the United Nations for UNCITRAL WGV discussions. Olya Antle then provided an overview of UNCITRAL, its organizational structure, and the specific focus of Working Group V on insolvency law. She then introduced the two current projects before WG V, International Civil Asset Tracing and Conflict of Laws. The panel delved into a lively conversation on these two projects, with Louise Brittain providing an in-depth look at the asset tracing project, highlighting its background and current progress. The discussion then shifted to the conflicts of law project, with Debby Lim exploring the complexities and contentious issues surrounding the applicable law in international insolvency proceedings. The panellists discussed the differing approaches to asset tracing and insolvency proceedings in the US, the UK, the EU and Singapore. The panellists agreed that that asset tracing project could come to a close rather quickly, but further discussions are needed to address the complexities of an international conflicts of law model law. The event was a testament to the collaborative efforts of IWIRC members across the globe and highlighted the importance of continued dialogue and development in the field of international insolvency law.



## Europe Network

The Europe Network hosted colleagues and friends at the Europe Network's annual boat trip. This year's stunning location was Sorrento along the Amalfi coast. They extend a huge thank you to all members and non-members who joined them for a drink, some snacks and of course, swimming. Thank you to Kathlene Burke, Federica Pietrogrande, Gemma Freeman, Antonia Mottironi, Joanne Cooney, Joanna Gąsowski and Andrea Brennan who gave their very joyful energy to organise this event!





## Europe Network

On October 10, 2024, WIR, IWIRC and III hosted a highly informative and engaging virtual conference titled “Evolutions récentes en matière de restructuration et d’insolvabilité : leçons tirées du droit et de la pratique des Etats-Unis. (Recent Developments in Restructuring and Insolvency: Lessons from US law and practice)”. The conference brought together leading US, French and European restructuring professionals to discuss in-court and out-of-court trends in insolvency and restructuring. Over 100 attendees joined them with live translation in both French and English.

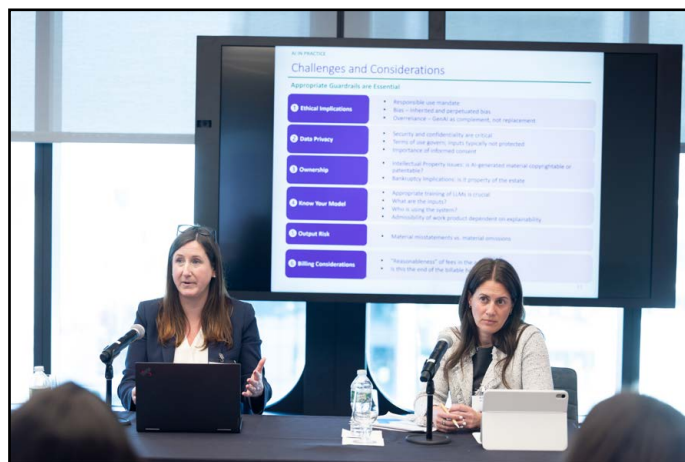
The first panel on in-court restructurings, moderated by Hélène Bourbouloux, and featuring Judge Elizabeth Stong, Evan Zucker, Patrick Coupeaud, Agnès Piniot and Laure Sanchez-Sepval, delved into cross class cramdown, class composition and valuation disputes. The second panel on out-of-court transactions, moderated by Mylène Boché-Robinet and featuring Kathlene Burke, Fabienne Beuzit, Patrick Sayer, Molly Jobe and Marie-Hélène Monsérié-Bon, explored the trend of Liability Management Exercises in a European context, directors’ duties and French alternatives like the modat ad hoc and conciliation proceedings.

The conference provided a platform for in-depth discussions on the latest developments in French restructuring and transcended language barriers with live translation services. Over 100 restructuring professionals listened in both English and French. As European restructurings continue to evolve, IWIRC remains committed to fostering knowledge exchange and professional growth among its members.



## New York Network

Earlier this summer on May 20, 2024, the New York Network continued with its “Hot Topic Series” and this time focused on an informational and interactive discussions regarding “Leveraging AI for Restructuring Professionals.” The evening of networking and learning was held at the Offices of Cooley LLP in midtown Manhattan, and included an eminent panel of financial and legal advisors and subject matter experts from our industry. The panel was comprised of the Honorable Lisa Beckerman (U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of New York), Kizzy Jarashow (Parter, Goodwin Procter LLP), Richelle Kalnit (Chief Commercial Officer, Hilco Streambank), Dr. Mary Catherine Sullivan (Senior Director, FTI Consulting) and Lara Sheikh (then Senior Legal Editor, Practical Law at Thomson Reuters). Attendees learned about the critical considerations for legal and financial advisors in restructuring regarding AI and how to use AI as a tool to improve efficiency of our practices without compromising ethics and credibility, followed by Q&A and networking. The event proved to be yet another success in the New York Network’s Hot Topic Series and was sold out at 60 guests.



## Cyprus Network

The Cyprus Network held a networking event on 17 October, jointly with the Insolvency Practitioners Association.



## Midwest Network

Midwest Network members came together for their second annual Spa Retreat and Celebration on October 23rd in Kansas City, the day before the ABI Midwest Bankruptcy Institute. They enjoyed a lovely spa day followed by dinner in Kansas City. Everyone enjoyed catching up in-person and networking with fellow members and prospective members.



## Georgia Network

The Georgia Network hosted a private lesson this month at the state-of-the-art Bobby Jones Golf Course. They had an amazing time connecting with some of their incredible members during a golf clinic led by the talented Tonya Gill Danckaert, PGA, LPGA. It was a fantastic opportunity to sharpen their skills on the course while building valuable professional relationships at the happy hour that followed, sponsored by B. Riley Financial and organized by Irene Byela, 2024 IWIRC International Rising Star Finalist.



## Georgia Network

The Georgia Network hosted a panel discussion and cocktail reception on October 22 exploring in-court and out-of-court restructuring options, considerations, and emerging trends that was moderated by the Honorable Judge Sage Sigler. They learned so much from their speakers, Ronit Berkovich (Weil Gotschal), Laura Davis Jones (Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones), and Sean Harding (FTI), including which restructuring paths have been gaining ground, the pros and cons of available options, and considerations when counseling clients.

The Georgia Network event filled Alston & Bird's largest conference room with members and non-members, including new and seasoned professionals from across the restructuring industry, law clerks, and students. Attendees had a wonderful time networking and learning with Georgia's restructuring community.



## Greater Philadelphia Network

### *The Power of Connection: IWIRC Greater Philadelphia Celebrates a Member Success Story*

One of the principal goals of IWIRC is to connect women in the insolvency and restructuring professions. The story behind Cisse Diawara's new job is a testament to IWIRC's effectiveness in that mission.



As part of its ongoing effort to increase membership, promote interest in the insolvency profession, and improve overall diversity in the field, the Greater Philadelphia Network hosted several events at local law schools this past Spring. Board members and recently-graduated IWIRC members gave crash courses in restructuring and bankruptcy, discussed future opportunities in our profession, and—of course—sang the many praises of IWIRC membership.

Among those attending the panel at Rutgers Law School in Camden was Cisse Diawara, a student in the JD/MBA program nearing the completion of her final year. Following the event, Cisse joined IWIRC and asked the Network Co-Chair, Lauren Berret, for advice on her job search. Lauren happily connected Cisse with other IWIRC Greater Philadelphia members. Becca Earl, the Network's Vice Chair and Career Clerk for Chief Judge Michael Kaplan, remembered Cisse from the Rutgers program. During their subsequent conversations, Cisse impressed Becca with her work ethic and Cisse earned a summer internship position with the Bankruptcy Court in the District of New Jersey. When a paid law clerk position unexpectedly opened up in August 2024, Cisse was at the top of the candidate list. Now—mere months after attending an IWIRC event—Cisse is thriving as term clerk to the Chief Judge in one of the busiest bankruptcy courts in the country.

The Greater Philadelphia Network extends its warmest congratulations to Cisse Diawara on her new role and continued success! We also want to thank IWIRC and its members for helping create this safe space for women to be connected, be informed, and be inspired, and hope this success story serves as a reminder that one meaningful connection can make all the difference.

## Korea Network

The Korea Network had its official inaugural networking lunch held on Tuesday, 8 October 2024, following INSOL Seoul one day seminar. The event was supported by many Justices from various courts, including Justice Hyungdu Kim of the Constitutional Court of Korea and special guest, Chiyong Rim of Kim & Chang. The lunch event was oversubscribed with 26 participants attended, including many new members from Korea. The event was very well received, and the Korea Network had a great start with a new board being constituted.



## IWIRC on the Vine

IWIRC on the Vine was hosted in Napa, CA September 29 – October 1, 2024. This event is a Western US and Canada IWIRC favorite which rotates between Southern California, Northern California, Western Canada and the Mountain/Desert IWIRC Networks. Over two days, attendees enjoyed a lovely family-style dinner, educational events, a wine tasting in Yountville and a lovely private dinner and wine tasting evening at the Napa home of IWIRC long-time member, Debra Grassgreen. What a special evening that was enjoying friends, wine and an absolutely spectacular sunset over the Napa Valley. They thank all that attended and the educational panels for giving them tremendous insights on Cross Border and AI issues. They are looking forward to next year in the Mountain/Desert IWIRC on the Vine.





## Latin America Network

The Latin America Network hosted a dinner in Santo Domingo on October 1. In attendance from the LATAM Network were Rosa Rojas, Pamela Benzá, and Aimee Prieto. They were also joined by special guests Magistrate Marlene Guerrero from the Dominican Republic's Commercial Restructuring Court and Ms. Daviana Bello from the Directorate of Ethics and Government Integrity.



## Singapore Network

The Singapore Network had a fun-filled October as their members had the opportunity to refresh their body and mind while connecting with like-minded professionals. Jointly organized by the Singapore Network, Aon, and Omni Bridgeway, an informative panel discussion was held where the panels discussed practical tips and strategies on how to utilize third-party funding and insurance to maximize returns for companies in distress or insolvency.



## Dubai and Hong Kong Networks

The Hong Kong Network hosted a technical seminar “Court-sanctioned Restructurings: Navigating Court Approvals & Creditors’ Considerations Across Jurisdictions” jointly with the Dubai Network on 24 September 2024. Distinguished speakers from multiple jurisdictions (Hong Kong, Singapore, United Kingdom, Cayman/ BVI and UAE) led an insightful discussion illuminated recent trends in their respective jurisdictions and considerations for cross-border restructuring options.

The seminar and networking drinks were graced by over 60 members and friends of IWIRC.



## Hong Kong Network

After a 5-year hiatus, the Hong Kong Network is pleased to have brought back the ever so popular Charity Quiz on 22 October 2024. Fourteen teams competed against each other and finally the funds raised at the night were donated to “Box of Hope”, the charity nominated by the winning team.



# CONNECT WITH OUR NETWORKS



Follow IWIRC networks on social media! Click the icons below to be directed to their pages.

IWIRC Brazil 

IWIRC London  

IWIRC Carolinas 

IWIRC Malaysia 

IWIRC Cayman Islands  

IWIRC Mexico  

IWIRC Chicago  

IWIRC Michigan  

IWIRC Dallas/Fort Worth 

IWIRC Midlands & North of England 

IWIRC DC  

IWIRC New England  

IWIRC Delaware 

IWIRC New Jersey 

IWIRC Europe 

IWIRC New York  

IWIRC Greater Maryland 

IWIRC Northern California 

IWIRC Greater Philadelphia 

IWIRC Ontario 

IWIRC Georgia 

IWIRC Puerto Rico 

IWIRC Florida   

IWIRC Scotland 

IWIRC Houston  

IWIRC Singapore  

IWIRC Hong Kong    

IWIRC So Cal   

IWIRC India 

IWIRC South Africa 

IWIRC Ireland  

IWIRC Western Canada  

IWIRC Latin America  

IWIRC Western Pennsylvania 

## Thanks for sharing your Network News!

Has your network hosted a great event? Have some exciting events coming up? We want to hear!

Send your submissions to [news@iwirc.com](mailto:news@iwirc.com) to be featured in future IWIRC Network News communications.



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