

# International Conference

## Ensuring Uniform Judicial Practice: Forms and Challenges

September 4–5, 2025  
Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Vilnius

This year, as we celebrate the 35th anniversary of the restoration of Lithuania's independence, we also mark many other significant anniversaries related to this historic date. Among them is the 30th anniversary of the reformed Lithuanian judicial system and the cassation competence of the Supreme Court of Lithuania. More than 25 years ago, the Supreme Court of Lithuania became the sole cassation court in the country responsible for ensuring the uniform interpretation and application of laws by courts of general jurisdiction. Its rulings are binding on all lower courts applying the interpreted law, as well as on any other relevant entities. In this role, the Supreme Court provides society with stability, legal certainty, predictability, and coherence. Its insights promote legislative development and reform and contribute significantly to shaping legal culture.

Ensuring uniform court practice is one of the fundamental requirements of the rule of law. A consistently developed, coherent, and substantive body of case law is a necessary condition for any law-based system. Meeting this condition ensures not only legal clarity and certainty but also enables the entire judicial system to function more efficiently, avoid conflicting interpretations of the law, harmonize positions on the most significant legal issues, and thereby contribute to upholding the ideal of the rule of law.

As the convergence between continental and common law traditions continues to expand, states are employing various tools to ensure consistent judicial practice: precedents, the doctrine of jurisprudence constante, advisory opinions, and the so-called preventive harmonization of legal interpretation, which includes both formal and informal forms of judicial cooperation, among others. The aim of this international conference is to present, review, and analyze these and other legal instruments used to ensure consistent interpretation and application of the law within a country – thus ensuring uniform judicial practice.

### Organizational information:

Only individuals who have registered in advance may attend the conference.  
Please arrive as early as possible and have your identification document with you.  
Simultaneous interpretation into Lithuanian and English will be provided during the conference.  
There will be no live broadcast.  
If you have any questions about the conference, please contact [j.zokaite@lat.lt](mailto:j.zokaite@lat.lt)

Organized by



**LITHUANIAN  
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The Supreme  
Court of Lithuania



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# Programme | Ensuring Uniform Judicial Practice: Forms and Challenges

## Day One | September 4

8.30–9.20 Participant Registration, Coffee

9.20–9.50 **Conference Opening**

Welcome Addresses by the Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and the Acting Minister of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania

Opening Remarks by the President of the Supreme Court of Lithuania and the Dean of the Faculty of Law, Vilnius University

9.50–10.20 **Opening Keynote**

Prof. habil. Dr. Burkhard Hess, University of Vienna

### Part 1 | Precedent as a Source of Legal Uniformity in the Practice of Supreme Courts

10.20–11.00 ***Precedent as a Source of Law Harmonization in Supreme Court Practice***

Prof. Dr. Margaret Y. K. Woo, Northeastern University School of Law

11.00–11.20 Coffee Break

11.20–12.00 **Introductory Remarks for the Discussion**

Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eglė Zemlytė, Judge of the Supreme Court of Lithuania; Faculty of Law, Vilnius University

***Precedent in the Lithuanian Legal System: Between Illusion and Reality***

Prof. habil. Dr. Valentinas Mikelėnas, Faculty of Law, Vilnius University

***Precedent in Lithuanian Constitutional Doctrine***

Prof. Dr. (HP) Egidijus Kūris, Faculty of Law, Vilnius University

***The Absence of Precedent in the Civil Law Tradition?***

Prof. Dr. Mr. Remme Verkerk, Utrecht University

***Court of Justice of the European Union: Court of Precedent?***

Dr. Rimvydas Norkus, Advocate General at the Court of Justice of the European Union

12.00–13.00 Continuation of the Discussion and Audience Q&A

13.00–14.00 Lunch Break



## Part 2 | Preliminary Rulings in the Supreme Court: Comparative Aspects and Future Perspectives

14.00–14.40 ***The Dutch Preliminary Ruling Procedure***

Prof. Dr. Bart Krans, Leiden University

14.40–15.05 Coffee Break

15.05–15.45 ***Introductory Remarks for the Discussion***

Moderator: Assist. Prof. Dr. Jurgis Bartkus, Faculty of Law, Vilnius University

***The Netherlands: May We Have Your Votes, Please?***

Martijn Polak, Vice President and Chairman of the Civil Law Chamber of the Hoge Raad der Nederlanden; Vice President of the Benelux Court of Justice

***The Court's Right to Ask and the Constitution***

Prof. habil. Dr. Vytautas Nekrošius, Academician, Professor at the Faculty of Law, Vilnius University

***Preliminary Questions in the Supreme Court: A New Method in Finland***

Dr. jur. Tatu Leppänen, President of the Supreme Court of Finland

***Preliminary Questions as an Instrument of Judicial Supervision by the Supreme Court in the Polish Legal System***

Dr. Aleksandra Klich, Faculty of Law and Administration, University of Szczecin

15.45–16.45 Continuation of the Discussion and Audience Q&A



## Day Two | September 5

8.30 – 9.30 Participant Registration, Coffee

### Part 3 | Other Forms of Achieving Consistent Judicial Practice

9.30 – 10.15 ***The Different Ways of Ensuring the Consistency of Case Law in Civil Law Jurisdictions***

Prof. habil. Dr. Aleš Galič, University of Ljubljana

10.15 – 11.05 **Introductory Remarks for the Discussion**

Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Danguolė Bublienė, President of the Supreme Court of Lithuania

***Achieving Uniform Application of Law – the Swedish experience***

Anders Eka, President of the Supreme Court of Sweden and President of the Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the EU (NPSJC-EU)

***Instruments of the Supreme Court of Latvia Ensuring Uniform Application of Law***

Aigars Strupišs, President of the Supreme Court of Latvia

***Other Forms of Achieving Consistent Judicial Practice: Estonian example***

Nele Siitam, Justice of the Administrative Law Chamber of the Supreme Court of Estonia

***Other Methods of Ensuring Uniformity of Court Practice: The Lithuanian Experience***

Dr. Artūras Driukas, Chair of the Civil Cases Division of the Supreme Court of Lithuania

***The Uniformity of Judicial Practice and the Independence of the Judiciary: Different Sides of the Same Principle of the Rule of Law***

Dr. Irmantas Jarukaitis, Judge at the Court of Justice of the European Union; Professor at the Faculty of Law, Vilnius University

11.05 – 12.00 Continuation of the Discussion and Audience Q&A

12.00 – 12.10 Conference Closing