

Conference European Society for Empirical Legal Studies Ljubljana 2026

18-19 June 2026

Keynote Speakers

Keynote speaker Prof. dr. Jonathan Klick, Thursday 18 June 2026



Prof. dr. Jonathan Klick (University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School)

Jonathan Klick's work focuses on identifying the causal effects of laws and regulations on individual behavior using empirical tools. Specific topics addressed by Klick's work include the relationship between abortion access and risky sex, how alcohol affects crime, the effect of police on crime, addiction as rational choice, how liability exposure affects the labor market for physicians, as well as a host of other issues.

His scholarship has been published in numerous peer-reviewed journals, including The Journal of Economic Perspectives, The Journal of Law & Economics, The Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization, The Journal of Legal Studies, The Journal of Empirical Legal Studies, The Journal of Quantitative Criminology, The Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, The Journal of Applied Psychology, and many others. He has also published papers in The Stanford Law Review, The Columbia Law Review, and The University of Chicago Law Review.

Keynote speaker Prof. dr. Peter Grajzl, Thursday 18 June 2026



Prof. dr. Peter Grajzl (Washington & Lee University)

Grajzl teaches courses in introductory economics, microeconomics, economics of institutions and mathematical methods. His research centers on comparative institutional economics, law and economics, and political economy.

Having witnessed the birth of a country, the accompanying change in the political system, and the transition from socialist to market economy, Professor Grajzl developed an interest in comparative institutional economics, law and economics, and political economy. He has published on a range of topics pertaining to the emergence, the functioning, and the impact of different legal, political, and economic institutions and modes of governance, as well as cultural norms and ideas, in multiple parts of the world.

Professor Grajzl is a Research Network Fellow at CESifo in Munich, Germany, and a non-resident visiting scholar at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and the University of Maryland, College Park. He was awarded teaching awards from both the University of Maryland and the Central European University where he was an assistant professor between 2005 and 2009.

Keynote plenary, Friday 19.6.2026

Empirical legal studies, judiciary and legal practitioners: challenges and opportunities



Justice Heico Kerkmeester (Judge at the Supreme Administrative Court for Trade and Industry, Netherlands)

Heico Kerkmeester is a lawyer and economist who primarily functions as a Senior Judge at the Supreme Administrative Court for Trade and Industry in The Hague specializing in cases where economic evidence is presented. Heico Kerkmeester obtained degrees in both Economics and Law at the Erasmus University Rotterdam and an LL.M. at the University of Chicago. He wrote a Ph.D.-dissertation on Law and Game Theory. He is also a Senior Associate Professor in Economic Analysis of Law at the University of Antwerp, Belgium.



Justice Damjan Orož (President of the Supreme Court of Slovenia)

Mr Damjan Orož was born in 1975. In 1998, he graduated from the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana, and earned a doctorate in enforcement law in 2019. Justice Orož began his professional career

as a first instance judge at Ljubljana Local Court, where he was the head of the court's Enforcement Department and the Organisational Unit for Insolvency Matters (Personal Bankruptcy). Until his election as a higher court judge, Mr Orož was also the Vice-President of Ljubljana Local Court. He was appointed a higher court judge in September 2011. He performed his function as a higher court judge of Ljubljana Higher Court at the Enforcement and Commercial Law Departments of the relevant court. Mr Orož was elected a supreme judge in December 2021. He currently works at the Commercial Law Department and, as a member of a panel, is involved in the work of other departments of the Supreme Court as well. In recent years, he has led the Case Law Monitoring Department. He is a member of the Supreme Court Staff Council, the head of the New Functionalities of the Knowledge Base project group, a member of the commission for issuing and revoking permissions to perform the function of an administrator, and a member of the Expert Council of the Judicial Training Centre. He has participated in several work and project groups of the Supreme Court.

Justice Orož is also an active lecturer and author of expert articles, particularly on insolvency law, enforcement law, civil procedural law, property law, and the law of obligations. As part of his judicial work responsibilities, he participated in the development of legislation, primarily of the Financial Operations, Insolvency Proceedings and Compulsory Dissolution Act and the Enforcement and Security Act. Occasionally, he has been involved in the formation of other acts and implementing regulations.



Dr. Ana Kerševan (State Attorney General of the Republic of Slovenia)

Dr. Ana Kerševan graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana in 2003, and after an internship in one of Ljubljana's most prominent commercial law firms and a judicial internship, she passed the state bar exam in 2006. In 2007, she completed a dual master's degree at Bucerius Law School/WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Management in Hamburg, Germany. In 2008, she received a Fulbright scholarship at Columbia Law School in New York, USA. From 2009 to 2019, she was employed as a legal associate at the Commercial Litigation Department of the District Court in Ljubljana. In 2017, she defended her doctoral dissertation with honors at the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana, entitled Interim Measures in Arbitration Proceedings and the Role of National

Courts in the Procedure of Their Issuance and Enforcement. She was also a visiting researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Private Law in Hamburg. In 2019, she joined the State Attorney's Office of the Republic of Slovenia in Ljubljana as a senior state attorney, where she was primarily active in drafting legal opinions in the advisory and analytical department, handled disputes in the civil and commercial law department, and participated in representing the Republic of Slovenia in investment arbitrations. In 2022, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia appointed her to the position of State Attorney General. She began her six-year term on 27 September 2022.



Špela Vizjak (President, Chamber of insolvency practitioners of Slovenia)

Špela Vizjak graduated from the School of Economics and Business University of Ljubljana and is an insolvency practitioner in Slovenia. Currently she serves as the President of the Chamber of insolvency practitioners of Slovenia, which is a professional association that connects insolvency practitioners. Its fundamental mission is to promote professionalism, ethical conduct and independence of insolvency practitioners, while ensuring the legal security of all participants in the procedures. Chamber actively participate in the creation of legislative solutions, provide professional training and represent the interests of its members in relation to state authorities and the public. The Chamber thus contributes to the regulation and development of the insolvency practitioner's profession and is strengthening trust in insolvency procedures in the Republic of Slovenia.



Prof. dr. Urška Šadl (University of Copenhagen and European University Institute)

Professor Urška Šadl primary research interests include the empirical studies of European courts and their jurisprudence, the language of courts, the theory and practice of judicial precedents as well as topics in European constitutional law more generally. Urška studied law in Ljubljana, Slovenia (BA and MA postgraduate degree) and obtained a LLM degree from The College of Europe in Brugge, Belgium. She defended her PhD thesis, *The European Palimpsest: Justificatory practices and precedent construction at the Court of Justice of the European Union*, at the University of Copenhagen in 2012. Since then, Urška was a guest researcher at King's College, London, the Institute of European and Comparative Law at the University of Oxford, a Grotius Scholar at the University of Michigan, and a visiting professor at the Columbia Law School (EUI exchange). Her articles appear in the leading legal and political science journals, including the *Common Market Law Review*, the *European Law Review*, *The American Journal of Comparative Law*, *European Law Open*, and the *Journal of Common Market Studies*.

Urška is currently directing a five-year project *Judging Under the Influence*, financed by the Sapere Aude Research Leader Grant (Danish Council for Independent Research). The project critically revisits the influence of national courts, the European Commission, and the Member State governments on the Court of Justice's interpretive techniques, case outcomes, and the fashioning of legal concepts and doctrines.