



Introduction to the German Legal System: Constitutional Framework, Legislative Process, and Commercial Regulation

May 6-14, 2026

Full Program: 10 Hours (*Anticipated*) for 60 minute states
12 Hours (*Anticipated*) for 50 minute states

Program Overview

These educational sessions provide a structured introduction to the German legal and constitutional system, examined through a comparative and practice-oriented lens and offered through the perspective of local experts. The program emphasizes the operation of the civil law tradition, its integration with European Union law, and the practical implications for cross-border legal practice, particularly in the context of German–U.S. legal and commercial relationships.

Program Objectives

The CLE Abroad Journey to Germany educational program is designed to:

- Examine the regulation of the legal profession in Germany, including admission, licensure, and ethical frameworks, and compare these structures with U.S. models of bar governance and professional responsibility
- Analyze Germany’s constitutional framework, including the structure of the Basic Law and the allocation of authority between federal and state governments
- Explore the development of rule of law principles, human rights, and international accountability through both historical and contemporary institutions, including the legacy of the Nuremberg Trials
- Evaluate the German civil law system, with particular attention to judicial administration, statutory interpretation, and criminal procedure, in contrast to the U.S. adversarial model
- Assess the relationship between German law and European Union law, including legislative processes, regulatory harmonization, and cross-border legal frameworks
- Examine key commercial and regulatory regimes affecting business operations within Germany and the European Union
- Develop practical competencies for advising clients in transnational matters involving German, European Union, and United States legal systems

CLE Agenda

Date: May 6, 2026

CLE: 60 minutes – 1.0 CLE hours

CLE Program: 5:00pm - 6:00 pm

Title: The German Bar Association (DAV): The Practice of Law and Regulation of Lawyers in Germany

Description: This program offers a comprehensive and comparative examination of the structure, regulation, and professional culture of legal practice in Germany. Set within the civil law tradition, the session explores how the German legal profession is organized, regulated, and sustained through a combination of statutory frameworks, bar governance, and professional ethics.

Participants will gain insight into the role of the German Bar Associations (Deutscher Anwaltverein and regional chambers) in safeguarding the independence of the legal profession, upholding ethical standards, and ensuring access to justice. The program will examine the rights and obligations of German attorneys (Rechtsanwälte), including admission requirements, professional conduct rules, and continuing responsibilities within a highly regulated system.

In addition, the session will address Germany's approach to legal aid and access to justice, including state-supported mechanisms that ensure representation across socioeconomic lines. Comparisons to U.S. models of pro bono service and bar regulation will provide valuable context for understanding key distinctions between civil and common law systems.

By situating these topics within both legal doctrine and practical application, this program offers a nuanced understanding of how Germany maintains professional accountability, public trust, and the effective delivery of legal services.

Speakers:

Christine Martin, Head of International Affairs, German Bar Association (DAV)

Stefan von Raumer, President, German Bar Association | Deutscher Anwaltverein (DAV)

Topics:

- Structure of Legal Practice in Germany
- Role and Function of Bar Associations (DAV and Regional Chambers)
- Admission, Regulation, and Professional Responsibility of Attorneys
- Legal Aid, Access to Justice, and State-Supported Representation
- Comparative Perspectives: Civil Law and Common Law Approaches

Location:

German Bar Association (DAV) Headquarters, Berlin, Germany

Date: May 7, 2026

CLE: 90 minutes – 1.5 CLE hours

CLE Program: 9:30am - 11:00 am

Title: Inside Germany's Criminal Justice System: A Study of Berlin's Moabit Criminal Court

Description: This program offers a focused examination of Germany's criminal justice system through the operations of the Moabit Criminal Court (Kriminalgericht Moabit) in Berlin, the largest criminal court in Europe. Using this venue as a practical framework, participants will explore how criminal matters are

investigated, prosecuted, and adjudicated within a civil law system.

The session will highlight key features of German criminal procedure under the *Strafprozessordnung* (StPO), including the roles of judges, prosecutors (*Staatsanwaltschaft*), and defense counsel in a judge-led process that differs from the U.S. adversarial model. Particular attention will be given to evidentiary standards, pre-trial investigation, and the court's duty to establish the facts (*Amtsermittlungsgrundsatz*, StPO § 244(2)).

Participants will also examine defendants' rights and procedural safeguards grounded in the German Basic Law (*Grundgesetz*), including due process protections and human dignity principles (Arts. 1 and 20 GG). The program will address victims' participation rights, including the *Nebenklage* mechanism (StPO). This session provides a concise, practice-oriented, and comparative perspective on how Germany administers criminal justice while ensuring fairness, accountability, and public trust.

Speakers: Hon. George Plüür, Presiding Judge, Amtsgericht Tiergarten (Berlin)

Topics:

- German Criminal Procedure under the *Strafprozessordnung* (StPO)
- Judicial Role and Fact-Finding Obligations (*Amtsermittlungsgrundsatz*)
- Rights of the Accused under the *Grundgesetz*
- Victims' Rights and the *Nebenklage* Process
- Coordination with Prosecutors and Law Enforcement
- Legal Aid and Access to Justice

Location:

Moabit Criminal Court (Kriminalgericht Moabit)
Berlin, Germany

Date: May 8, 2026

CLE: 90 minutes – 1.5 CLE hours

CLE Program: 8:00pm - 9:30 pm

Title: German & EU Lawmaking and Parliamentary Governance: A Study from Inside the Bundestag

Description: This program provides a focused examination of Germany's legislative process and the central role of the Bundestag within both the German constitutional framework and the broader European Union system. Participants will explore how legislation is developed, debated, and enacted under the German Basic Law (*Grundgesetz*), and how national law interacts with binding European Union directives and regulations.

The session will examine the structure and function of the Bundestag, including committee work, coalition governance, and the legislative process as set forth in Articles 76–78 of the *Grundgesetz*. Particular attention will be given to the relationship between the Bundestag and the Bundesrat, and the mechanisms through which federal states participate in lawmaking.

Participants will also gain insight into how EU law is incorporated into German domestic law, including the principles of supremacy and direct effect as recognized by the Court of Justice of the European Union, and Germany's constitutional approach to EU integration (Arts. 23 and 24 GG). The program will further address transparency, democratic accountability, and ethical considerations in parliamentary governance.

By situating these issues within the working environment of the Bundestag, this session offers a practical

and comparative perspective on legislative governance in a modern civil law democracy.

Speakers:

Representatives of the German Bundestag

Topics:

- Legislative Process under the *Grundgesetz* (Arts. 76–78 GG)
- Structure and Function of the Bundestag and Parliamentary Committees
- Role of the Bundesrat in Federal Lawmaking
- EU Law and Its Incorporation into German Domestic Law
- Principles of EU Supremacy and Direct Effect
- Democratic Accountability and Parliamentary Ethics

Location:

German Parliament (Bundestag), Berlin, Germany

Date: May 9, 2026

CLE: 120 minutes – 2.0 CLE hours

CLE Program: 10:00am - Noon

Title: From Statute to Atrocity: The Role of Lawyers at Wannsee Conference

Description: This program provides a rigorous examination of the Wannsee Conference of January 20, 1942, as a defining moment in the bureaucratic and legal coordination of the Holocaust. Rather than marking the decision to commit genocide, the conference functioned as a high-level administrative meeting to formalize and operationalize policies already underway, translating ideology into coordinated state action.

Through a legal and historical lens, participants will analyze how lawyers, jurists, and government officials facilitated the transition from discriminatory legislation to systematic mass atrocity. The session will explore the role of legal frameworks, including the Nuremberg Laws (1935), in establishing the foundation for exclusion, dispossession, and deportation, and how administrative law mechanisms were used to legitimize and implement these measures.

The program will also examine the evidentiary record of the Wannsee Protocol as a critical legal document, later relied upon in post-war prosecutions, including the Nuremberg Trials, and its relevance to the development of modern international criminal law. Discussion will connect these events to contemporary legal principles, including crimes against humanity as articulated in the Nuremberg Charter (1945) and subsequent codifications under international law.

By situating these issues within the historic site of the House of the Wannsee Conference, this session offers a profound and practice-oriented reflection on the ethical responsibilities of lawyers, the misuse of legal systems, and the enduring importance of the rule of law.

Speakers:

Representatives of the House of the Wannsee Conference

Topics:

- The Wannsee Conference and the Bureaucratization of Genocide
- The Nuremberg Laws (1935) and Legal Foundations of Persecution
- Lawyers and the Administration of the “Final Solution”
- The Wannsee Protocol as Legal and Evidentiary Record

- Crimes Against Humanity (Nuremberg Charter, 1945)
- Deportation, State Action, and Administrative Law Mechanisms
- Ethical Responsibilities of Lawyers and the Rule of Law

Location:

House of the Wannsee Conference, Berlin, Germany

Date: May 11, 2026

CLE: 120 minutes – 2.0 CLE hours

CLE Program: 10:00am – 12:00pm

Title: Nuremberg Palace of Justice: From Courtroom 600 to the Foundations of Modern International Criminal Law

Description: This interactive, site-based session at the Nuremberg Palace of Justice places participants inside Courtroom 600, where the Nuremberg Trials fundamentally reshaped the trajectory of international law. Through guided analysis and facilitated discussion, participants will engage directly with the legal, historical, and institutional significance of the International Military Tribunal and the twelve subsequent proceedings.

The session moves beyond a traditional lecture format to incorporate on-site interpretation, primary source context, and comparative dialogue. Participants will examine how the trials marked a decisive shift from doctrines of sovereign immunity and victor's justice toward the establishment of individual criminal responsibility under international law.

Particular emphasis will be placed on the trials' groundbreaking contributions to the development of international criminal law, including the articulation of crimes against humanity, war crimes, and crimes against peace, as well as their enduring influence on contemporary tribunals and institutions. The discussion will also consider procedural innovations, evidentiary challenges, and critiques of legitimacy that continue to inform modern international legal practice.

By situating legal analysis within the physical and historical setting of Courtroom 600, this session provides a dynamic and immersive exploration of how Nuremberg continues to shape the interpretation, enforcement, and evolution of international law today.

Speakers: **Hon. Stephan Husemann**, Judge, Higher Regional Court (Oberlandesgericht) Nuremberg

Nina Lutz, M.A., Director of the *Memorium* Nuremberg Trials

Axel Fischer, Research Specialist, *Memorium* Nuremberg Trials

Dr. Pablo Gavira Diaz, Project Officer, International Nuremberg Principles Academy

Topics:

- Sovereign Immunity and Head of State Immunity
- International Criminal Law
- Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes
- Statutory Limitations in Atrocity Crimes
- Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Accountability

Location: Palace of Justice, Nuremberg, Germany

Date: May 13, 2026

CLE: 90 minutes – 1.5 CLE hours

CLE Program: 10:00 – 11:30am

Title: Judicial Governance in Bavaria: Structure, Administration, and Comparative Insights

Description: This lecture offers a rare "behind-the-scenes" look at the Bavarian State Ministry of Justice, the supreme authority for one of Germany's most robust judicial landscapes. This session examines the administrative and political heart of the justice system in the Free State of Bavaria.

Hosted by representatives of the Ministry, the lecture explores how the state manages a portfolio that includes over 100 courts, the public prosecution service, and the entire Bavarian correctional system.

Speaker: Dr. Isabella Schayan (Rpfl), Ministerial Councillor, Bavarian State Ministry of Justice

Topics:

- Inside Judicial Governance: How Courts Are Managed in Bavaria
- Balancing Independence and Accountability in the Judiciary
- Prosecutorial Authority within a Civil Law System
- Administration of Corrections and Sentencing Policy
- Efficiency, Case Management, and Access to Justice
- Judicial Staffing, Training, and Career Pathways
- Administration of Corrections and Sentencing Policy
- Comparative Perspectives on Judicial Administration
- Judicial Administration, Constitutional Law, Comparative Law, Correctional System

Location: Palace of Justice, Munich, Germany

Date: May 13, 2026

CLE: 60 minutes – 1.0 CLE hours

CLE Program: 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Title: From Stein to Statute: Legal Regulations of Beer & the German Beer Purity Act

Description: This lecture explores the unique legal history of one of Germany's most protected cultural assets: beer. Far from being a mere beverage, beer in Germany is governed by a complex web of historical decrees and modern statutes that have shaped the nation's consumer protection laws and industrial standards for centuries.

The session traces the evolution of brewing regulations from medieval guild rules to the world-renowned Reinheitsgebot (Purity Law) and its integration into contemporary European law.

Speaker: Dr. Michael Zepf, Beer Sommelier, World Brewing Academy, Doemens Academy

Topics:

- Historical Foundations of Beer Regulation in Germany
- The Reinheitsgebot: Origins, Purpose, and Legal Evolution
- Beer as Food Law: Safety, Ingredients, and Consumer Protection
- Taxation and Excise Regulation of Alcoholic Beverages
- Intellectual Property, Branding, and Geographical Indications
- Environmental Regulation and Sustainability in Brewing
- EU Harmonization and the Modern Legal Framework for Beer

Location: Hofbrauhaus Munchen

Presenters



Stefan von Raumer, President, German Bar Association | Deutscher Anwaltverein (DAV)

For 30 years, Stefan von Raumer served as a litigation attorney for his clients in matters of restitution law and property / ownership law, and since 1997 also in matters of constitutional law and matters governed by the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). In 2001, he founded his own law firm specialized in these areas in Berlin, Germany, Rechtsanwaltskanzlei von Raumer.

Today, Stefan von Raumer is one of the most acknowledged specialists for application proceedings at the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) in Strasbourg and for constitutional complaints at the Bundesverfassungsgericht (BVerfG, Federal Constitutional Court) in Karlsruhe. He has conducted application proceedings at the ECtHR both against the Federal Republic of Germany and against several of the other 45 signatory states to the European Convention on Human Rights. At these courts, he leads cases in all areas of substantive law, from administrative law to civil law and criminal law. In 2021, the European Court of Human Rights accepted five of his applications and communicated them to the addressed governments. This is one of the highest rates of ECtHR communicated applications among German law firms.

Besides his many other publications on matters of jurisprudence, Stefan von Raumer has been serving as editor and member of the team of authors of the fifth edition of the Commentary on the European Convention on Human Rights "Meyer-Ladewig/Nettesheim/von Raumer, EMRK" published by NOMOS Verlag.

Stefan von Raumer is also sought after as an expert, instructor, and consultant both nationally and internationally considering his comprehensive expertise:

He is President and member of the Board of the Deutsche Anwaltverein (DAV, German Bar Association). He represented the DAV on the European level as Head of the German delegation at the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), Brussels to December 2025.

In his capacity as Chair of the Human Rights Committee of the German Bar Association and as Commissioner for European Affairs of its Human Rights Committee Stefan von Raumer deals with all human rights issues which address the legal profession in Germany.

He is one of currently ten members of the Committee on Constitutional Law of the German Bar Association and in this role he regularly prepares so-called "Voten" (proposals for decisions) on constitutional law regarding pending constitutional complaints at the request of the Federal Constitutional Court. In many cases, these proposals are taken into account by this highest German court in the decisions it finally issues.

Stefan von Raumer is spokesman of the German Bar Association at the Deutsche Institut für Menschenrechte (DIMR, German Institute for Human Rights) and represents the German Bar Association

as member of the Council of the International Bar Association (IBA) and as member of the European Lawyers Foundation (ELF) Advisory board.

As Chair of the Human Rights Committee with the CCBE, Brussels, Stefan von Raumer influenced all topics of relevance to human rights and to the rule of law that lawyers must face in Europe and worldwide to the February 2025. As one of the members of the CCBE Permanent Delegation at the European Court of Human Rights, he represents the interests of more than 1 million European attorneys vis-à-vis the judges and the presidency of the Strasbourg court and he discusses current developments at regular round-table meetings with them.

Stefan von Raumer is also active on behalf of the Stiftung für Internationale Rechtliche Zusammenarbeit e.V. (IRZ e.V., German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation). He has worked in numerous countries, particularly in Eastern Europe, by training lawyers, judges, and public prosecutors in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, constitutional law, restitution law, and property and ownership law.

In addition to these activities, Stefan von Raumer also participates in international humanitarian missions.



Christine Martin, Head of International Affairs, German Bar Association

Christine Martin is a highly accomplished legal professional serving as the Head of International Affairs at the German Bar Association (Deutscher Anwaltverein - DAV) in Berlin. In her capacity as Head of International Affairs, she is responsible for the strategic representation of the German legal profession on the global stage. This involves fostering and maintaining robust relationships with foreign bar associations, monitoring international legal developments, and ensuring that the interests of German lawyers are well-represented in international forums and organizations. Her work is pivotal in navigating the complexities of cross-border legal cooperation and managing the DAV's presence in key international legal hubs, including Brussels.

She specializes in Family Law as well as Landlord, Tenant, and Real Estate Law. She is a key figure in the "Law - Made in Germany" initiative, which is a collaborative effort designed to promote the advantages of the German legal system and the use of German law in international contracts and dispute resolution. Her dual role allows her to bridge the gap between domestic legal specialization and global advocacy. Her professional background is rooted in extensive academic and practical experience. She is a licensed attorney (Rechtsanwältin) and holds the title of certified specialist in criminal law (Fachanwältin für Strafrecht). Her academic journey began at the Julius-Maximilians-University of Würzburg, followed by a legal clerkship at the Higher Regional Court of Bamberg. She furthered her expertise through doctoral studies at the Karl-Franzens-University of Graz. Before stepping into her leadership roles at the DAV, she gained valuable experience in private practice at a prominent commercial law firm in Hamburg and contributed to legal education as a lecturer at the Ansbach University of Applied Sciences.

Hon. George Plüür, Presiding Judge, Amtsgericht Tiergarten (Berlin)

Georg Plüür is a presiding judge at the Tiergarten Local Court in Berlin. In addition to his duties in court administration, he currently serves as a juvenile judge and as the head of enforcement for the Berlin Juvenile Detention Center and the Women’s Correctional Facility. Since the Victims’ Rights Reform Act of June 24, 2004, he has been intensively engaged with civil claims proceedings and, through nationwide training programs at courts of various levels in nearly all federal states as well as at the German Judges’ Academy, has made a significant contribution to increasing acceptance of this procedure, which many criminal law experts find challenging. Georg Plüür is a co-author of various publications on civil claims in criminal proceedings and has been a lecturer at the German Judges’ Academy for many years. His commitment to education and training is further demonstrated by his role as an examiner for the first and second state bar exams.

Judge Stephan Husemann, Judge, Higher Regional Court (Oberlandesgericht) Nuremberg

Judge Husemann is a career jurist in the Bavarian judiciary. He began his legal career as a public prosecutor in Ansbach and later served at the German Federal Ministry of Justice. He has held judicial appointments at the Local Court in Fürth and the Regional Court in Nuremberg-Fürth, where his work included commercial, competition, and intellectual property law. He currently serves as a judge at the Higher Regional Court in Nuremberg.



Nina Lutz, M.A.

Nina Lutz is the Director of the Memorium Nuremberg Trials, the museum and educational center located in the historic Palace of Justice in Nuremberg, site of the International Military Tribunal. In this role, she oversees exhibitions, public programming, and educational initiatives that examine the legacy of the Nuremberg Trials and their foundational impact on modern international criminal law. Her work focuses on historical interpretation, legal legacy, and public engagement

with issues of justice, accountability, and human rights.



Axel Fischer,

Axel Fischer is a research specialist at the Memorium Nuremberg Trials, the museum and educational center located in Courtroom 600 of the Nuremberg Palace of Justice. His work focuses on exhibitions, archival research, and historical documentation related to the Nuremberg Trials and their enduring impact on international criminal law. He has contributed to scholarly and public history initiatives examining war crimes trials, transitional justice, and the use

of documentary evidence in postwar prosecutions.



Pablo Gavira Díaz

Dr Pablo Gavira Díaz is a Spanish lawyer, specialised in international humanitarian law and international criminal law. He received his doctorate in International Law from the Walther Schücking Institute for International Law at the University of Kiel, where his doctoral research focused on the international protection of immovable cultural property and the criminal liability for attacks against those objects in international criminal law.

His academic background includes a teaching position at the University of Kiel and a consultancy for the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI). Dr Gavira Díaz also has provided legal support to the Supreme

Headquarters of Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE) which is responsible for the planning and execution of all NATO military operations.

He earned a Licenciatura en Derecho from the University of Seville in Spain and participated in a specialisation course on Human Rights and Democratisation at the same university.

He is fluent in Spanish, English and German.

Dr. Isabella Schayan, (Rpfl)

Dr. Isabella Schayan is a senior legal official currently serving as a Ministerialrätin (Ministerial Counselor) at the Bavarian State Ministry of Justice in Munich. She is the Head of the Training and Education Department (Leiterin des Ausbildungsreferats), where she oversees the academic and professional development of judicial staff within the Free State of Bavaria. In addition to her ministry role, she is a judge at the Munich Higher Regional Court (Oberlandesgericht München) and represents the Ministry of Justice on the Board of the Bavarian University of Applied Sciences for Public Administration and Legal Affairs (HföD). Her work focuses extensively on the modernization of judicial training and the strategic relocation and expansion of educational facilities for legal professionals in the region.



Dr. Michael Zepf

Dr. Michael Zepf is educational manager at the Doemens Academy and Director of the World Brewing Academy division Doemens and Head of the international Doemens Beer Sommelier Education. He holds a Ph.D. in brewing science from the Technical University Munich-Weihenstephan. After 6 years of scientific and educational profession in

brewing technology at the Technical University Munich and after 9 years as Head Brewmaster in a German brewery he joined as a member of the Doemens Academy faculty in 2009. The Beer Sommelier Program is profession and passion for him.



Daniel James Perez, Esq. is President of CLE Abroad, an organization dedicated to promoting international exchange for US attorneys. Daniel has nearly a decade of experience directing legal programming and educational activities for operators and organizations serving professional and accredited educational travel and postgraduate education. Daniel is a regular speaker and moderator for live lectures and panels on comparative law and international law and policy. Prior to retiring from the practice of law in 2015, Mr. Perez held diverse positions in private and public law including serving as an associate

with Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCloy LLP NYC in Milbank's Technology Transactions practice group, his own humanitarian-based Immigration Law practice, and as In-House Counsel for a Federal contractor, technology and cybersecurity services company in Carlsbad, CA. Mr. Perez received his J.D. from George Washington University Law School and B.A., Summa Cum Laude, from the University of California at Davis.