



INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC LAW
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER



SOVEREIGN DEBT FORUM

Launch Program

International Monetary Fund

Cedar Hall

October 21, 2019, 10:00 am -12:00 noon

Low and middle-income countries around the world are facing another wave of acute debt distress. For some, it brings the latest in a long string of debt crises. For others, it threatens nascent market access. New actors and new forms of lending complicate creditor coordination and debt workout strategies. Countries across the national income spectrum are struggling to adjust to the new legal and institutional landscape. Opaque debt structures and outdated disclosure regimes compound the challenge.

The Sovereign Debt Forum is a collaboration among Georgetown's Institute of International Economic Law, Queen Mary University of London, and Duke Law schools. The Forum's mission is to help improve sovereign debt management drawing on innovative interdisciplinary legal research. The Forum will serve as a research hub and a platform for research dissemination and capacity-building programs. The Forum's work will focus on the unmet needs of low and middle-income countries at risk of sovereign debt distress, as well as countries that have recently gained market access and have limited debt management experience.

10-10:15 Introduction

- Rhoda Weeks-Brown, General Counsel, International Monetary Fund
- James V. Feinerman, Associate Dean, Graduate and International Programs, Georgetown Law

10:15-10:45 Overview of Sovereign Debt Forum and Q&A with Academic Directors

- Anna Gelper, Georgetown Law IIEL
- Rosa M. Lastra, Queen Mary University of London

10:45-11:30 Why Is Good Debt Management Important? ... and What Makes It Good?

Managing an Addiction: Sovereign Debt in the 21st Century

Lee C. Buchheit, Queen Mary University of London, Founding Director

- Michel Heijdra, Deputy Treasurer General, the Netherlands Ministry of Finance
- Tobias Adrian, Financial Counsellor and Director of the Monetary and Capital Markets Department, International Monetary Fund

11:30-12:00 Concluding Panel: Recent Developments and New Challenges

- Lee C. Buchheit, Queen Mary University of London, Founding Director
- Sean Hagan, Georgetown Law, Founding Director
- Nicole Kearse, African Legal Support Facility
- Rodrigo Olivares-Caminal, Queen Mary University of London, Affiliated Faculty
- Mark Weidemaier, University of North Carolina, Affiliated Faculty