

STICHTING BOB WESSELS INSOLVENCY LAW COLLECTION

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Annual Report 2025 (draft)

Introduction

The Stichting Bob Wessels Insolvency Law Collection is a Dutch incorporated legal person ('Foundation'). It was founded in August 2016, at the initiative of Prof. em. Bob Wessels. The Foundation has acquired the private collection of books and other media in the field of national and international insolvency law of Prof. em. Wessels (the 'Collection') and it aims to secure, maintain and expand this Collection for the future, provide access to it by national and international students and researchers and to organise related activities for a broad, general public.

The Foundation's main goal is to provide access to the Collection as well as maintaining and safekeeping of the Collection. For this reason, the Foundation concluded an agreement regarding the custody and management of a substantial part of this unique collection with Leiden University or similar institutions in 2018. Furthermore, it aims to achieve its goals by organising public meetings and lectures, courses and taking initiatives in the field of publications related to the Collection. Pursuant to its articles of incorporation, it may also employ any lawful means that could contribute to the purpose(s) of the Foundation. This annual report describes the activities, management and financial situation of the Foundation over 2025 with an outlook for 2026.

Activities

During 2025, the Foundation dealt with the following topics:

- The seventh annual Bob Wessels Insolvency Law Collection PhD Workshop ("PhD Workshop") was held on 7 and 8 May 2025. In line with the board's decision, the workshop is organized alternating years in Leiden. After having taken place in Vilnius in 2024, in 2025 it was organized in Leiden, in conjunction with the third Conference on European Restructuring and Insolvency Law (CERIL), which took place on 8 and 9 May 2025, and the valedictory lecture of the current chair of the Foundation on 9 May 2025, Prof. Reinout Vriesendorp. All events were kindly hosted by the Leiden University. During the PhD Workshop, thirteen PhD candidates from universities across Europe presented their research to fellow PhD researchers and other senior academics in the field of international and European insolvency law (see [Annex 1](#) for the program and [Annex 2](#) for some pictures).

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This year, the board awarded again three prizes to the most convincing research presentations and one prize for the most original poster presentation. These prizes were awarded by Prof. Reinout Vriesendorp during the CERIL dinner on Thursday 8 May 2025, based on the results of the jury this year comprised of Prof. Joeri Vananroye (KU Leuven, Belgium), Prof. Stephan Madaus (Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany), Gert-Jan Boon and Prof. Reinout Vriesendorp (Leiden University, The Netherlands). The first prize was awarded to Kenneth Gharthey (University of Royal Holloway, United Kingdom). Sebastian Böhning (Fulda University and Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany) received the second prize and the third prize went to Anne Verboom (University of Leiden, the Netherlands). Finally, Noor Mendonck (University of Ghent, Belgium) received the prize for the most appealing poster presentation. The PhD Workshop also hosted the Fourth BWILC Lecture by Dr. Dr. David Ehmke (Germany) and was titled '*When Debtor-Friendliness Becomes a Problem*' (<https://www.insolvencylawcollection.org/news/7th-bwilc-phd-workshop-brings-younger-academics-to-leiden/>).

- In 2025, with the assistance of Jiahui Plomp, BWILC continued the periodic research blogs by rotating PhD Workshop's alumni blogging about various topics on restructuring and insolvency law. In 2025, the following Research blogs have been published on BWILC's website and on LinkedIn:
 - [Trademarks and other Intellectual Property Rights Protection in correspondence with Insolvency Proceedings](#), Stella Kaprane, doctoral student at the University of Latvia
 - [When Data meets Insolvency Proceedings: the Interface between China's New Data Protection Laws and China's Insolvency Law](#), Shuaihao Mi, Lecturer at Shanxi University of Finance and Economics
 - [Research blog: Cross-border recognition of restructuring proceedings](#), Sebastian Böhning, Ass. iur., PhD Candidate at Fulda University and Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg
 - [Research blog: AI as a decision support system in commercial courts: The key to proactive identification and evaluation?](#), Aruna Audenaert and Stijn Van Ruymbeke, PhD Candidates at Ghent University
 - [China's pre-pack trials: Legal and policy perspectives](#), Xingyu Tian, PhD Candidate at University of Leeds
- In 2025, the Foundation supported the organization of the annual colloquium of the Global Network of Insolvency Law Experts IEEI (International Exchange of Experience on Insolvency Law). This event was held from 25-27 June 2025 in Leiden (The Netherlands).
- The Collection was further supplemented with books and other materials from several foreign colleagues, in particular from visitors to the CERIL conference held in Leiden on 8 and 9 May 2025 and the IEEI Colloquium held from 25-27 June 2025 in Leiden and part of the private collection of books and other media in the field of national and international insolvency law of Prof. em. Vriesendorp.

Management

The Foundation is managed by a board consisting of eight law professors and practitioners: Prof. Reinout Vriesendorp (Chair) and Gert-Jan Boon (secretary/treasurer) (both of The Netherlands), Prof. Stephan Madaus (Germany), Dr. Paul Omar (England), Prof. Joeri

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Vananroye (Belgium), Dr. Neeti Shikha (England), Prof. Juanitta Calitz (South Africa) and Smitha Menon (Singapore).

The board convened for two board meetings. The first meeting was held virtually on 28 February 2025. The second meeting took place on 7 May 2025 (a hybrid meeting), prior to the PhD Workshop.

The day-to-day management was performed by Reinout Vriesendorp as Chair and Gert-Jan Boon as Secretary/Treasurer who have been assisted by Joël Lozeman (Leiden University) as Adjunct Secretary in the organisation of the PhD Workshop.

Financials

The purchase price for the Collection was borrowed from the contributor and was repaid in 5 years' time from committed gifts. In addition, the Foundation received the first ten years an additional annual gift from the contributor as a contribution to satisfy costs required for cataloguing, maintenance and expansion of the Collection and to cover the costs of the Foundation's support of the Younger Academics Network of Insolvency Law (YANIL) of INSOL Europe. Furthermore, the Foundation received generous donations for the occasion of Prof. Vriesendorp's valedictory lecture on 9 May 2025.

a) ANBI status

The Foundation is a charitable foundation under Dutch tax laws (ANBI), which includes several formal requirements, including the maintenance of a [website](http://www.insolvencylawcollection.org) (www.insolvencylawcollection.org) and the publication of a policy plan.

b) Annual Accounts 2025

Balance sheet year-end 2025		amounts in EUR (€)	
Assets		Liabilities	
<i>Fixed assets</i>		<i>Equity</i>	
Collection	€ 135.000,00	per 31 December 2025	€ 178.939,84
<i>Floating assets</i>	€ 45.977,40	<i>Short term debt</i>	€ 2.037,56
Total assets	€ 180.977,40	Total liabilities	€ 180.977,40

c) Budget 2026

Over the past five years, the founder continued a generosity towards the Foundation with a 5-year gift (*lijfrente*) in cash (€ 12.500 p.y.). The final payment under this gift was received in 2025. For 2026 the Foundation will pursue activities to further its independent financial income, both through sponsoring and through new activities.

The eight PhD Workshop will be held in Leuven, the expenses for travel and accommodation of the participants are expected to be somewhat higher than last year (approx. € 10.000), updating and digitising the Collection (approx. € 2.500) and professionalising the website and administrative expenses (approx. € 2.500).

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Envisaged activities in 2026 onwards

The Foundation has focused on improving the size and quality of the Collection with new books. The PhD Workshops' alumni have been asked to act as 'ambassadors/ correspondents' and make suggestions from the jurisdictions they originate or master otherwise. A 'wishlist' of books is being created and a policy for acquiring new books will be discussed with the Leiden University's law library. The Foundation will continue to pro-actively ask for complementary copies of relevant books to be donated to the Collection.

The Collection should become more easily accessible. This requires digitising and improving access to the Collection. Upon earlier decisions by the board to investigate digital access, the website has been seriously upgraded and moved to a better traceable and modernised website with a new website address: www.insolvencylawcollection.org.

The Collection aims to attract more – physical and internet – visitors for the Collection and intensify its contacts with (young) international researchers and judges from all over the world who are interested in studying international/cross-border insolvency law. The Foundation may act as a conduit for starting PhD researchers who face difficulty to become connected to existing networks, also in providing a form of informal mentorship. It is envisaged to liaise also with the Younger Academics Network of Insolvency Law (YANIL) to develop ideas.

Just as in 2025, the Foundation has decided for its PhD Workshop to team again with CERIL, the independent Conference on European Restructuring and Insolvency Law (www.ceril.eu), in a combined event with the fourth international CERIL conference, directly following the eight PhD Workshop and attracting a variety of insolvency practitioners, judges and academics to Leuven (Belgium) on 26 and 27 March 2026. The board will explore initiatives to expand the reach of its workshop to more broadly engage with young researchers from different parts of the world.

Annex 1: Program BWILC PhD Workshop



**PROGRAM OF THE 7TH EDITION OF THE
Bob Wessels Insolvency Law Collection PhD Workshop
Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 May 2025**

Venue: Restaurant, Academy Building | Rapenburg 73, Leiden, the Netherlands (Leiden University)

Day 1 Wednesday 7 May 2025	
13:00-13:10	Prof. Em. Bob Wessels Welcome at Leiden University
13:10-13:15	Prof. Reinout Vriesendorp Welcome on behalf of BWILC
13:15-13:30	Introductions
Session I Chair: Prof. Joeri Vananroye	
13:30-13:55	Sebastian Boehning Recognition of Preventive Restructuring Frameworks from Third Countries - Theory, Dogmatics and Practice
13:55-14:10	<i>Discussion</i>
14:10-14:35	Xingyu Tian The Impact of Administrative Intervention on the Chinese Corporate Reorganization Regime: The Past Decade of Pre-Pack Administration in China
14:35-14:50	<i>Discussion</i>
14:50-15:50	<i>Coffee/tea break, including visit to BWILC collection</i>
Session II Chair: Prof. Paul Omar	
15:50-16:35	Aruna Audenaert & Stijn van Ruymbeke Artificial Intelligence as Decision Support in Commercial Courts: The Key to Proactive and Precise Identification and Evaluation?
	Anhelina Andrieieva A Stay of Individual Enforcement Actions and Exercise of Secured Creditors' Rights in Restructuring Proceedings
16:35-17:00	Anne Verboom A Dutch Perspective on the Role of Restructuring Experts in Preventing Abuse
17:00-17:15	<i>Discussion</i>
17:15-17:35	BWILC Lecture
17:35-17:45	David Ehmke When Debtor-Friendliness Becomes a Problem
	<i>Discussion</i>
17:45-17:50	Prof. Reinout Vriesendorp Closing
17:50-19:00	<i>Drinks</i>

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20:00-...	Diner Le Malle Jan (Nieuwsteeg 9-11)
Day 2 Thursday 8 May 2025	
Session III Chair: Prof. Stephan Madaus	
08:55-09:00	Welcome back
09:00-09:25 09:25-09:40	Ishana Tripathi Reassessing the Role of Deposit Insurance in Bank Resolutions <i>Discussion</i>
09:40-10:05 10:05-10:20	Alok Verma Cross-Border Insolvency in India: The Role of Comity in the Absence of a Legal Framework <i>Discussion</i>
10:20-10:50	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
Session IV Chair: Prof. Reinout Vriesendorp	
10:50-11:35	Lauryn Daville The Shareholder in Preventive Restructuring Frameworks: From Expectations to Reality Noor Mendonck Sectoral Insolvency Frameworks: Why Certain Sectors Require Tailored Approaches Jari Vermeulen Non-Adjusting Creditor Protection Against Non-Corporate Law Techniques of Internal Asset Shielding
11:35-12:00 12:00-12:15	Nkem Romanus Amadike Crypto-Assets, Crypto-Business and the Cross-Border Insolvency Issues: A Nigerian Perspective <i>Discussion</i>
12:15-12:40 12:40-12:55	Kenneth Ghartey Arbitral Modified Universalism: Arbitration in Aid of the Universalist Enterprise in Cross-Border Insolvencies <i>Discussion</i>
12:55-13:00	Prof. Reinout Vriesendorp Closing, including group photo
13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00: ...	<i>Start conference</i>
Evening	<i>Conference dinner</i> Award Ceremony of BWILC PhD Workshop

Annex 2: Impressions of the BWILC PhD Workshop



Participants and jury of the 6th PhD Workshop



A vivid presentation during the PhD Workshop

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2025 Prize Winners of the PhD Workshop, awarded by Prof. Vriesendorp



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