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**IAP Global Training Academy webinar:
Cultural Property Awareness: From Crime to Court
Friday 14 November 2025, 08:00 hrs ET / 14:00 hrs CET**

Speaker Biographies

Patty Gerstenblith

Patty Gerstenblith, PhD, JD, DHL h.c., is Distinguished Research Professor of Law at DePaul University and Director of its Center for Art, Museum and Cultural Heritage Law. President Clinton and President Obama appointed her as a Member and then Chair of the President's Cultural Property Advisory Committee in the Department of State. Since 2020, she has served as President of the Board of Directors of the US Committee of the Blue Shield and Chair of the Blue Shield International Working Group on Trafficking of Cultural Objects. Her book, *Cultural Objects and Reparative Justice: A Legal and Historical Analysis*, was published by Oxford University Press in 2023. The fifth edition of her casebook, *Art, Cultural Heritage and the Law*, will be published in 2025. Her most recent article, "Cultural Heritage and Security Policy," co-authored with Morag M. Kersel, was published in the *University of Chicago Legal Forum*. Gerstenblith received her A.B. degree in Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology from Bryn Mawr College, Ph.D. in Art History and Anthropology from Harvard University, and J.D. from Northwestern University. Before joining the DePaul faculty, she clerked for the Honorable Richard D. Cudahy of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Sophie Hayes

Sophie Hayes joined the Metropolitan Police in 2007 and qualified as a detective in 2014. Since 2016 she has worked in the Art and Antiques Unit, the only team in the UK specialising in the investigation of cultural heritage crime. Their focus is on disrupting and detecting organized crime utilising the London art market. Prior to joining the police she obtained her degree in Experimental Psychology from Oxford University. She completed her MA in Cultural Heritage Studies at UCL's Institute of Archaeology in 2021.

Nataraj J Muneesamy

Nataraj J Muneesamy is an Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions in Mauritius. He is currently in charge of the Serious Fraud Unit within the prosecutor's office. Between 2014 to 2019, Nataraj was a Trial Lawyer for the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court where he worked in the *Prosecutor v Al Mahdi* case. The Al Mahdi prosecution resulted in a landmark case focusing on the destruction of cultural heritage as a war crime – a first at the International Criminal Court. Nataraj



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has shared his experience as a resource person in a number of trainings, including events organised by UNESCO or more recently in relation to the conflict in Ukraine.

Karin Orenstein

Karin Orenstein was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of New York from 2008 to 2021. During that time, she developed a national expertise in criminal and civil cultural property cases and served as her district's Cultural Property Coordinator. She also served as a member of the U.S. Department of State's Cultural Heritage Coordinating Committee and Cultural Antiquities Task Force. As a prosecutor, she brought multiple cultural property cases in federal court; trained law enforcement agents, customs officers and prosecutors in the U.S., Italy, Greece and Latvia; and repatriated cultural property to Egypt, Italy, Mongolia, France, and Iraq. She continues to consult on cultural property matters and otherwise keeps busy as a volunteer and Town Councilor in Yarmouth, Maine.