Introduction to International Anti-Money Laundering Law and Compliance: An International and Regional Perspective

SYLLABUS
VU Amsterdam Summer School

20-24 July 2026

Any general questions for the Summer School support team? Contact amsterdamsummerschool@vu.nl.

Course Details

Title	Introduction to International Anti-Money Laundering Law and Compliance: An International and Regional Perspective
Coordinator(s)	Dr. Prosper S. Maguchu (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
Other lecturers	Dr. Fausto Martin de Sanctis (Federal Appeals Judge, Brazil) Prof. Abraham Hemman (University of the Western Cape) Prof. Simon Young (University of Hong Kong)
Form(s) of tuition	On campus, seminars, working groups, study visit
Approximate contact hours	25 hours
Approximate self-study hours	15 hours
Study credit	Equivalent to 2 ECTS

Teaching staff (in order of appearance)

Dr. Prosper Simbarashe Maguchu
Dr. Fausto Martin De Sanctis
Prof. Abraham J Hamman
Prof. Simon NM Young

Course description

This summer school bridges the knowledge gap specifically for current and future legal practitioners. The course focuses on the multifaceted nature of AML compliance, emphasizing its impact on designated non-financial businesses and professions (DNFBPs). We'll explore the evolving legal and regulatory landscape, the critical role of DNFBPs focusing mainly on legal professionals in combating money laundering, and their ethical and professional obligations. This program equips law students and practitioners alike with the expertise to ensure compliance and navigate the ever-changing world of AML.

Learning objectives

By the end of this course, the participants will be able to:

- Analyze the structure and key principles of international AML law.
- Identify the major international organizations and treaties shaping global AML frameworks.
- Differentiate between various sources of legal basis for AML compliance, including domestic legislation, international agreements, and regulatory guidance and evaluate the interplay between international standards and national implementation.
- Explain the critical responsibilities of legal practitioners in upholding AML regulations.

- Analyze ethical considerations for lawyers supporting AML compliance efforts.
- Identify and assess the main methods for achieving AML compliance within organizations.
- Develop a framework for designing and implementing a customized AML program for a specific organization.
- Gain practical skills in conducting risk assessments and applying due diligence procedures

Assignments and Assessment

We advise you to read the following in preparation of the course:

- FATF, Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Vulnerabilities of Legal Professionals June 2023 (2013 FATF/OECD)
- FATF, Guidance for a Risk-Based Approach for Legal Professionals (2019 FATF/OECD Paris)
- International Bar Association, A Lawyers Guide to Detecting and Preventing October 2024 (IBA/ABA/CBLSE)

Assignment

- Pre-Course Self-Assessment multiple choice (15 mins):
  This multiple choice assessment will be administered on the first day of the course to assess your baseline understanding of key AML concepts and regulations. It will serve as a diagnostic tool to identify areas where you may need more focus and will help tailor the learning experience to the group's needs.

- Collaborative Case Study Analysis and Presentation (30 mins): Working in teams, you will dissect a real-world case study related to AML and the legal profession. Analyze the case, considering the legal and ethical issues involved. On Day 4, each team will present their findings and analysis to the class, fostering a collaborative learning environment and encouraging critical thinking skills.

Grading

Assessment Criteria	**Weight (%)**
Content	(60%)
▪ Structure	(20%)
▪ References	(20%)
▪ Originality	(20%)

Presentation	(40%)
▪ Presentation Skills	(20%)
▪ Argumentation	(20%)
Total	(100%)

Provisional reading list

▪ Young, Simon NM. "Money Laundering in International Law". https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo- 9780199796953/obo-9780199796953-0233.xml
▪ Hamman, Abraham & Koen, Raymond, “Cave Pecuniam:Lawyers as Launderers” (2012) 15 Potchefstroomse Electronic Law Journal 68-100.
▪ Levi, Michael. “Lawyers as money laundering enablers? An evolving and contentious relationship” 23 Global Crime 126-14. 2.2089122
▪ Hofmann, Robin & Lustenberger, Livio. “Reporting Obligations for Attorneys in Money Laundering Cases: Attorney-Client Privilege Under Pressure?” (2023) 24 German Law Journal 825- 837. https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/german-law-journal/article/reporting-obligations-for-attorneys-in-money-laundering-cases-attorneyclient-privilege-under-pressure/D4B1554592E241DA66360D1B9FF1FE20
▪ Tilahun, Nathaneal. “Legal Professionals As Dirty Money Gatekeepers: The Institutional Problem”. In Katie Benson, Colin King, and Clive Walker (eds.), Assets, Crimes And The State: Innovation In 21st Century Legal Responses in, Assets, Crimes, and the State: Innovation in 21st Century Legal Responses (Routledge, 2020) 97-110.
▪ Benson, Katie. Lawyers and the Proceeds of Crime: The Facilitation of Money Laundering and its Control (Routledge, 2020) excerpts.
https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17440572.202 Oxford Bibliographies in International Law, October 2021, http://www.scielo.org.za/pdf/pelj/v15n5/05.pdf

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Convener	Reading
Monday 10:00 – 12:00 13:00 – 15:00	Seminar: Introduction to international AML Work group: Regional mechanisms African, Asia and Americas	Prof Simon Young Prof. Simon Young, Dr. Martin De Sanctis, Prof. Abraham Hamman	Young, Simon NM. "Money Laundering in International Law"
Tuesday 10:00 – 12:00 13:00 – 15:00	Seminar: Customer Due Diligence Work group on CDD (4 Workgroups)	Dr. Fausto Martin De Sanctis All	Money Laundering: Does it require a precedent or underlying crime? *Fausto Martin De Sanctis* *Right to a Fair Trial: When Large Part of the System is Overwhelmed by Corruption,* Fausto Martin De Sanctis Center for Art Law: Interview with Fausto Martin De Sanctis
Wednesday 10:00 – 12:00	Internal mechanisms	Dr. Prosper S Maguchu	The Law Society of England (2025) Anti-money laundering guidance for the legal sector
Thursday 10:00 – 12:00 13:00 – 15:00	Seminar: Reporting obligations Group Presentations: Assignment 2	Prof. Abraham Hamman All	Hamman, Abraham & Koen, Raymond, “Cave Pecuniam:Lawyers as Launderers” (2012) 15 Potchefstroomse Electronic Law Journal 68-100.
Friday 08:00 – 15:00	Excursion ICC & ICJ	All	Information on CANVAS ICC File

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