



HAGUE SYMPOSIUM QUEBEC 9TH JUNE 2015

The International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (“IAML”) has organized a series of symposiums concerning The Hague 1980 since June 2012, with the aim to study and impose a joint approach to the practice of the Convention between local lawyers. These events have been led by the current IAML President Elect Nancy Zalusky Berg.

In June 2012 the first IAML Hague Symposium was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A. immediately before the IAML-USA annual chapter meeting. Nancy Zalusky Berg, working closely with Japanese fellow Mikiko Otani, planned the meeting specifically for a delegation of lawyers from Japan. The event was significant because Japan was formally considering assentation to The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspect of International Child Abduction.

The Second IAML Hague Symposium took place alongside the IAML Annual General Meeting in Singapore in September 2012. LAWASIA and the members of the local bar attended the half day Symposium to discuss practices from around the world. Presenters from New Zealand, Australia, Sweden, England and the United States engaged with the local lawyers to discuss best practices in implementing this important Convention for the best interests of children.

Successful symposiums have since taken place in Arizona in February 2013, Buenos Aires in September 2013 and New York in June 2014, where presenters included The Secretary General for the Hague, US Ambassador Susan Jacobs and Chief Justice Diana Bryant AO.

The IAML USA and Canadian Chapters are holding their annual meeting in Quebec from June 10-13. Canadian fellows and local lawyers have asked for the IAML to organize a Hague Symposium in Quebec on Tuesday, 9 June 2015.

Accordingly, on Tuesday 9 June 2015, The Hague Symposium will take place in the auditorium at the Hotel Auberge Saint-Antoine, 8 Rue Saint-Antoine, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada, G1K 4C9.

Timetable:

- 9:00 – 9:15: Introductory remarks and introduction of all speakers
Katharine Maddox (USA) & Carolina Pedreno (UK), IAML Fellows
- 9:15 – 9:45: Secretary General Bernasconi will appear by video presentation:
Greetings from The Hague – Current initiatives at the Hague Conference in the family law area and the Diplomatic Functions of the Hague.
Christophe Bernasconi, Secretary General of The Hague.
- 9:45 – 10:30: Ms. Patricia Apy will speak on the recently enacted International Child Abduction and Return Act, 22 USC 9101.
Patricia Apy, IAML Fellow – USA
- 10:30 – 10:45: Coffee Break
- 10:45 – 11:30: Ms. Corrin Ferber will discuss the role of the United States Executive Branch in Hague Convention proceedings.
Corrin Ferber of the US State Department.
- 11:30 – 12:15: Mr. Robert Arenstein and Mr. Lawrence Katz will discuss the attorney’s perspective regarding concerns raised by Article 13b (the “grave risk” exception) together with problems associated with collecting legal fees in Hague Cases.
Bob Arenstein & Larry Katz, IAML Fellows – USA
- 12:15 – 1:15: Lunch
- 1:15 – 2:00: The Honourable Justice Jaques Chamberland will discuss a jurist’s perspective regarding the difficulties raised by the application of Article 13 in the context of domestic violence.
The Honourable Justice Jaques Chamberland, Canada
- 2:00 – 2:45: Mr. Max Blitt, Q.C. will discuss the Hague Convention from a Canadian perspective, to include trends in Hague cases. He will also briefly address his views on mediation and negotiation of Hague cases.
Max Blitt, Q.C., IAML Fellow – Canada
- 2:45 – 3:30: Ms. France Remillard will present an overview of the application of the Hague Convention in Canada through its 13 Central Authorities, and particularly by the province of Quebec.
France Remillard, Central Authority of Quebec
- 3:30 – 4:00: Panel Question & Answer session with all speakers