



Connecting colleagues
Cultivating knowledge
Creating solutions

iafl.com



International
Academy of
Family Lawyers



Connecting Colleagues

IAFL enables Fellows practising international family law to obtain legal assistance of the highest calibre in another country. Fellows, non-IAFL lawyers and members of the public alike are able to search the IAFL website for the most highly regarded international family practitioners in the countries represented.

IAFL contains a wealth of experience of international practice, and Fellows frequently seek assistance from Fellows in other jurisdictions on a wide range of issues. We share information with our Fellows through the members area of our website. IAFL provides Fellows with an invaluable network of contacts throughout the world.

Our annual and Chapter meetings, and smaller regional meetings provide a great opportunity for Fellows to establish or renew contact with fellow international lawyers and network together.

Cultivating Knowledge

IAFL has been at the forefront of bringing people together to learn, talk about and explore family law and law reform.

We have hosted meetings where lawyers, members of the judiciary, government representatives, charities and NGOs can come together to talk about domestic and international family law issues, like surrogacy, child abduction and international adoption.

IAFL holds an annual meeting each year and there are three Chapter meetings. Each meeting includes a substantial educational programme on family law, in which Fellows and guest speakers of the highest quality present on international aspects of family law.

We have regional, 'Introduction to International Family Law' and topical conferences for nonfellows where our Fellows share their expertise and experience. Recent meetings have taken place in, amongst other places, Accra, Dubai, Tokyo, Kuala Lumpur, Milan, Warsaw, New York, San Francisco and Mexico City.

We work with other organisations, supporting their work and events. We have Observer status at the Hague Conference on Private International Law and have participated in projects on the Child Abduction Convention and the proposed Convention on Parentage and Surrogacy. We have also been given permission by the Supreme Courts of the USA and UK and the Cour de Cassation in France to intervene as Amicus Curiae in cases before them.

As well as our other education work we have annual studentships for students at the Universities of the Western Cape in South Africa, Delhi in India and Cambridge in the UK and at a number of universities in the US.





Creating Solutions

IAFL Fellows are experienced and adept at finding solutions to complex family law problems which have an international dimension. We now have Fellows in every continent and our membership is expanding year on year.

Since 1986, IAFL has grown steadily, both in terms of the countries represented and overall membership. Our clients are increasingly global and our Fellows need to be able to find the best possible lawyers to work with.

We have over 930 Fellows in 67 different countries. We have 4 regional Chapters: a USA Chapter with over 380 Fellows from 39 states; a European Chapter with more than 310 Fellows from 30 different jurisdictions; an Asia Pacific Chapter with over 120 Fellows from 13 different jurisdictions and a Canadian Chapter with over 50 Fellows. More than 50 IAFL Fellows practice in countries spread throughout the rest of the world.

Becoming a Fellow

Membership of IAFL is by invitation only. We have three categories of Fellow: Fellow; Judicial Fellow and Associate Fellow.

Our Fellows are practising lawyers who have a significant part of their work advising on family law and who have a substantial international component to their practice. They must be at least 10 years qualified.

A Judicial Fellow is one who at the time of admission is a member of the judiciary and an Associate Fellow is one who is not in active legal practice but who has made, or is making, a major contribution to international family law (for example academics or individuals employed by NGOs or charities).

All categories of membership require a minimum of two satisfactory references. It is a requirement that all Fellows include English among their languages.

Individuals interested in joining IAFL are asked to submit information to satisfy established criteria for membership in order to obtain the approval of the Board of Admissions. The process is a rigorous one, designed to ensure that the high level of expertise within IAFL is maintained.

You can find out more about the detailed admission criteria on our website at **www.iafl.com**

Individuals who wish to apply to join IAFL should contact our Executive Director, Annie Dunster:
e-mail: **annie.dunster@iafl.com**
or visit: **www.iafl.com/about/join**

Individual requests for a reduction in Fellowship dues will be considered and dealt with confidentially at the point of accepting an invitation to join IAFL.



IAFL is a worldwide association of practising lawyers who are recognised by their peers as the most experienced and skilled family law specialists in their respective countries.

IAFL was formed in 1986 to improve the practice of law and administration of justice in the area of divorce and family law throughout the world.

Contact IAFL

**Please direct any queries to
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