



IAFL is a worldwide association of practicing lawyers who are recognized 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.

## A Worldwide Network

Since 1986 IAFL has steadily expanded its global reach, the number of jurisdictions represented is now 127 and IAFL has over 1,075 Fellows (i.e. members) including 42 judicial fellows and 27 associate fellows. IAFL currently has 4 regional Chapters: USA, Europe, Asia Pacific and Canada, and hopes to expand to create Chapters in the not too distant future. Being part of the IAFL community enables Fellows practising international family law to obtain legal advice and assistance of the highest calibre in another country.

## Upcoming Meetings

**Asia Pacific Chapter meeting**  
3-7 December 2025  
Hong Kong, China

**European Chapter meeting**  
4-8 February 2026  
Barcelona, Spain

**Asia Pacific Chapter meeting**  
20-24 May 2026  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**IAFL Annual meeting**  
2-6 September 2026  
Dublin, Ireland

**USA & Canadian Chapter meeting**  
2-6 December 2026  
Fort Lauderdale, USA

IAFL holds an annual meeting at a different venue each year. The Chapters also meet annually in different locations. Each meeting includes a substantial educational program on family law, in which Fellows and guest speakers of the highest quality present papers and run workshops on international aspects of family law. These meetings provide a great opportunity for Fellows to update themselves on legal developments throughout the world and to establish or renew contact with fellow international family lawyers.



**Connecting  
colleagues  
Cultivating knowledge  
Creating solutions**

[www.iafl.com](http://www.iafl.com)





## Law Reform and Education

IAFL has supported legislators and law makers across the world in the area of law reform. We have been honoured to have Observer status for many years on a number of the Hague Conference on Private international Law Projects, including the Experts' Group on Parentage/Surrogacy; Special Commissions on the 1993, 2007, 1996 and 1980 Conventions and Malta Process.

In addition, IAFL has made presentations and provided education in multiple jurisdictions, for example at the European Parliament and providing evidence to Select Committees from both Houses Of Parliament in the UK. IAFL sends representatives to relevant international conferences, promoting the effective operation of international treaties relating to the children, service and the taking of evidence abroad, as an organisation of family law specialists and highlights when the treatment of individuals and families does not meet minimum international standards respecting human rights.

## Amicus Curiae Intervention

The IAFL has received permission to intervene in matters before the Supreme Court of the United States and that of the United Kingdom; the Cour de cassation in France; the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic and the Court of Appeal in England and Wales and the Tribunal da Relação de Lisboa.



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## Judicial Training

The IAFL is regularly asked to provide training to members of the judiciary, most recently from the Judges of the Family Division of the High Court at Lusaka in Zambia and the Kenya Judiciary Academy.

## How to Join

Fellowship of the IAFL is by invitation only. The criteria to become a Fellow of the IAFL are rigorous, but achievable for those with significant expertise in their own jurisdiction and experience of international family law.

IAFL has three classes of fellowship:

A **Fellow** is a practicing lawyer who at the time of admission is in active legal practice, has a significant part of their work advising on family law and who has a substantial international component to their practice

A **Judicial Fellow** is one who at the time of admission is a member of the judiciary

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).

To become a Fellow you must meet the six IAFL Admission Criteria which can be found on our website:

**[www.iafl.com/about/join/criteria](http://www.iafl.com/about/join/criteria)**

Any questions? Contact the IAFL Executive Director, Annie Dunster:

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