

IAFL ANNUAL MEETING, NAIROBI, KENYA

3-7 September 2025

Program as at 22 August 2025

Monday 1 September	
0830 - 1400	Student Symposium on the Future of Family Law (for Law Students)
Tuesday 2 September 2025	
1000 - 1830	Symposium at Trademark Hotel, Nairobi (for practitioners, members of the judiciary and civil society organisations)
Wednesday 3 September 2025	
1830 - 1930	AGM Welcome Drinks Reception at Trademark Hotel <i>Presentation of the IAFL Early Career Awards</i>
1930 – 2200	AGM Dinner at Trademark Hotel
Thursday 4 September 2025	
0830 - 0845	Welcome and introduction to the Education Program Brief opening remarks: Rachael Kelsey , IAFL President (Scotland) Welcome to Nairobi and tribute to the Late Judy Thongori SC: Faith Odhiambo (President, Law Society of Kenya)
0845 – 0915	PLENARY SESSION 1
	FAMILY LAW IN KENYA: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE Chair: Zenobia du Toit (South Africa)

	Panel: 1. Hon. Lady Justice Joyce Aluoch EBS,CBS (Rtd) Judge of the High Court of Kenya and inaugural head of the Family Division of the High Court of Kenya 2. The Hon. Lady Justice Teresia Mumbua Matheka, Chair of the Standing Committee of the National Council on the Administration of Justice (NCAJ) of Kenya 3. Ruth Juliet Nyambura Gachanja, Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and Lecturer, Kabarak University, School of Law (Kenya)
0915 – 1030	PLENARY SESSION 2
	CHANGING FAMILY LAW IN OUR CHANGING WORLD Part I: Influencing and affecting legislative change Chair: Patricia Mundia, (Kenya) 1. Hon. Anne Musiwa, Rapporteur to African Union Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (Zimbabwe) 2. Hon. Millie Grace Akoth Odhiambo Mabona, Member of Parliament (Kenya) 3. Cheryl Hepfer, (Maryland, USA) 4. Barbara Mills KC, Chair of the Bar Council of England and Wales (England)
1030 – 1100	Coffee Break & Networking

1100 - 1200	AUDREY DUCROUX MEMORIAL LECTURE
	Chair: Rachael Kelsey (Scotland) Speaker: Her Ladyship Martha K. Koome, Chief Justice and the President of the Supreme Court of Kenya
1200 - 1315	PLENARY SESSION 3
	CHANGING FAMILY LAW IN OUR CHANGING WORLD Part II: Judge-led change and strategic litigation in family law matters Chair: Pat Moodley (South Africa) Panel: 1. The Hon. Judge Constance Baratang Mocumie, Judge of the Supreme Court of Appeal (South Africa) 2. Judge Valentina Pavlicic, President of the Supreme Court of Montenegro (Montenegro) 3. Judge Dr Natasa Plavsic, Constitutional Court of the Republic of Serbia (Serbia) 4. Karabo Ozah, Director Centre for Child Law (South Africa) 5. The Hon. Associate Chief Justice Gwen Hatch of the Court of King's Bench (Family Division) (Manitoba, Canada)
1315 - 1415	Lunch

1415 - 1530	PLENARY SESSION 4 – concurrent sessions	
	PRE-NUPS <i>This panel will be a discursive conversation about the challenges of dealing with pre-nups where there are international dimensions: When do your must have/like to have clauses or processes cause problems for me, and what do we do about it? One deed or two? Severability clause or not? and other challenges in multi-jurisdictional matters</i> Chair: Shu-Mei Hoon (Singapore) Panel: 1. Beverly Clark (South Africa) 2. Larry Ginsberg (California, US) 3. Rose Mbanya (Kenya) 4. Elizabeth Carson (England and Wales) 5. Julie Losson (France) 6. Andy Hayher KC (Canada) 7. Monica Bardaji Pudejas (Spain)	DOMESTIC ABUSE, CONDUCT AND FINANCIAL CLAIMS <i>This panel will contain a presentation on the latest research on domestic abuse and conduct in family law matters, and the impact it has on the outcome of financial claims, and then an interactive discussion on approaches internationally in relation to the impact (or not) that conduct has in financial outcomes.</i> Chair: Gretchen Rubel (California, USA) Panel: 1. Olivia Piercy, Co-Chair Resolution Economic Abuse Working Party (England and Wales) 2. Judge Ruth Lumbongo Mbambi, Registrar, Family and Children's Division of the High Court (Zambia) 3. Caroline Harnois (Canada) 4. Karolina Zoi Andriakopoulou (Greece) 5. William Sloan (Australia)
1530 – 1600	Tea break	
1600 - 1715	PLENARY SESSION 5 – concurrent sessions	

RELATIONSHIP STATUS & PROPRIETARY/FINANCIAL CLAIMS

An exploration of the status afforded to adult human relationships and the legal consequences that flow from status (or lack thereof). This panel will include consideration of the status of Cohabitation, Traditional Practices, Irregular Marriage, Plural Marriage and Polygamy

Chair: Maria Mbeneka, Treasurer, Commonwealth Lawyers Association (Kenya)

Panel:

1. **Professor Jens Scherpe** (Denmark)
2. **Gary Yan** (Melbourne, Australia)
3. **Pamela Sloan** (New York, USA)
4. **Laura Hayes** (Texas, USA)
5. **Ochiel Dudley** (Kenya)

CHILD PROTECTION

This session will provide an in-depth discussion of the developments and hot topics in child protection law internationally, including the operation of the 1996 Hague Child Protection Convention.

Chair: Patricia Apy (New Jersey, USA)

Panel:

1. **Hon. Anne Musiwa**, Rapporteur to African Union Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (Zimbabwe)
2. **Hon. Lady Justice Mwamba Chanda**, Judge-in-Charge, Lusaka High Court Family Division (Zambia)
3. **Joëlle Schickel-Küng** (Switzerland)
4. **Philippe Lortie**, First Secretary, Permanent Bureau, Hague Conference on Private International Law (Netherlands)
5. **Diahann Gordon Harrison**, Children's Advocate of Jamaica (Jamaica)

Friday 5 September 2025

1530 – 1600	Asia-Pacific Chapter AGM
1600 - 1630	USA Chapter AGM
1630 – 1700	Canada Chapter AGM
1700 – 1730	European Chapter AGM

Saturday 6 September 2025

0830 - 0930	PLENARY SESSION 6
	Novel and Hot Topics in Child Law <i>This panel will consider a number of developing areas of law, including: the significance of the child's right to identity and the impact in child law matters; recent research and emerging practice in relation to violence against parents by children; frontiers of children's capacity- recent cases from England and Wales, and adoption and kinship care.</i> Chair: Sam Lewis (South Africa) Mia Dambach, Executive Director, Child Identity Protection (CHIP) (Switzerland) Gaelle Droz-Sauthier, Associate Professor of Family Law, Institute of the Family, University of Friborg; Cantonal Judge (Switzerland) Charles Hale KC (England and Wales) Leah Kiguatha (Kenya)

0930 - 1030	PLENARY SESSION 7
	Wellbeing in Family Law – How to get the best from yourself and others in 2025 and beyond <i>We will give you the opportunity to submit questions in advance to this panel of experts drawn from the fields of coaching psychology and law firm management. A large part of the session will be an opportunity for the experts to take your questions.</i> Chair: Sarah Anticoni (England and Wales) 1. Meighan Harmon, (Illinois, USA) 2. Dr Catherine Sykes, Consultant Psychologist, (England) 3. Rita Ku (Hong Kong, China)
1030 – 1040	Presentation of the IAFL International Guide on the Legal Issues related to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity David Allison, Chair of the SOGI Committee (England and Wales)
1040 – 1100	Coffee & Networking
1100 – 11.45	PLENARY SESSION 8
	IN CONVERSATION WITH ... <i>Barrister, Rachel Cooper, is the driving force behind the first, and most successful, family law podcast in the UK- the Family Law Week Podcast. She started it in 2019 and has interviewed a wide range of people with an interest in family law including judges, practitioners and others involved in the civil justice system. She will be interviewing Justice Steven Arnold Majiedt, a current Justice of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of South Africa. Justice Majiedt's practicing career was characterised by significant political work, and his ethos is primarily centered on advocating for the voiceless. He completed his legal training</i>

	<i>before the transition to a democratic government in South Africa, and will be giving us his thoughts on the evolution of family law during his career.</i> Justice Steven Arnold Majiedt, Justice of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of South Africa Chair: Rachel Cooper (England and Wales)
1145 – 1230	IAFL Annual General Meeting for All Fellows
1230 – 1245	Board of Governors' Meeting