



IAFL Asia Pacific Chapter and Malaysian Bar Council Symposium

Burning Issues and Trends in International Family Law Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Tuesday 19 May 2026

What is HOT in Parenting Matters in Cross-Border Disputes?

11:45-1:30 pm



CONTENTS

■ Speaker profiles

Page 3-9

- Evan Marks (USA)
- Rajashree Suppiah, Co-Chairperson of the Family Law Committee, Malaysian Bar
- Liuda Yablokova (Russian Federation)
- Sally Nicholes (Australia)
- Hassan Elhais (United Arab Emirates)
- Ayako Ikeda (Japan)
- Yet Ngo Foo (Malaysia)

EVAN R MARKS

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Evan R. Marks is the founding partner of Marks & West, P.A. in Miami, Florida. An AV-rated attorney with 45 years of courtroom experience, Mr. Marks is Board Certified in Family Law by the Florida Bar, a Florida Supreme Court Certified Family Mediator, an Accredited Collaborative Law Professional, and a Fellow and the President-Elect Designate of the U.S.A. Chapter of the International Academy of Family Lawyers.

He has served as President of the Florida Bar Family Law Section, President of the Collaborative Family Law Institute of South Florida, President of the North Dade Bar Association, and President of the First Family Law American Inn of Court—Miami Chapter. Mr. Marks also taught for many years at the Florida Bar Family Law Section's Certification Review Course and has been recognized as a distinguished faculty member at the Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies.

In 2021, he received the Florida Academy of Collaborative Professionals' Visionary Award. Mr. Marks is a frequent writer and speaker on family law topics.

RAJASHREE SUPPIAH

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Rajashree is an Advocate and Solicitor of the High Court of Malaya and runs her own legal practice in Kuala Lumpur. A University of London LLB graduate, she has practised law since 1997, specialising in litigation, collaborative practice, and mediation. Her experience covers matrimonial disputes, cross-border custody, employment, corporate and commercial matters, medical negligence, and probate cases.

A leader in advancing alternative dispute resolution, Rajashree commenced her term as the President of International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP) in April 2026. Within the Malaysian Bar, she is Co-Chairperson of the Family Law Committee (2025/2026) and leads the Collaborative Practice committee, playing an active role in promoting non-adversarial approaches to family dispute resolution. She also co-leads the Malaysian Collaborative Practice Group.

Passionate about peaceful conflict resolution, Rajashree continues advanced training in mediation, collaborative practice, and therapeutic justice. Beyond her legal work, she is a passionate animal lover and advocate for animal welfare.

LIUDA YABLOKOVA

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Liuda is the managing partner of SKY LAWYERS, a specialist family law firm in Saint Petersburg practicing in all areas of family law with a focus on complex cross-border disputes.

Graduated from Saint Petersburg University in Law and admitted to the Bar in 2012, Liuda was ranked among the Best Russian Family Lawyers by Pravo300 in 2024 and 2025.

Liuda advises on all aspects of family disputes, with particular expertise in international child abduction under the 1980 Hague Convention, enforcement of foreign court orders under the 1996 Hague Convention, and jurisdictional conflicts in financial and child arrangements.

She represents foreign and domestic clients in all eight courts of the concentrated jurisdiction where international child abduction cases are considered in Russia and has contributed to key cases shaping Hague Convention practice.

Liuda also speaks at international conferences and publishes on family law.

SALLY NICHOLES

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Sally is the Founder and Managing Partner of Nicholes Family Lawyers and has practised exclusively in family law since 1995. She is recognised in Australia and internationally as a leading family lawyer. Sally is an accredited Independent Children’s Lawyer, qualified collaborative lawyer, and Nationally Accredited Mediator.

She is Deputy Chair of the World Congress on Family Law & Children’s Rights, a Fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers, an AFLAM member, and a board member of Children’s Rights International and Voice of Change.

Sally has particular expertise in international disputes, complex property matters, and international child abduction cases, and received a Certificate of Appreciation from US and Australian authorities for her role in locating an abducted child.

She is also recognised for her work in matters involving gender dysphoria, legislative reform, and pro bono work in Australia and internationally.

DR. HASSAN ELHAIS

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For more than 19 years, Dr. Hassan Elhais has worked as a legal consultant in the United Arab Emirates. He specializes in UAE family law, like divorce, custody, alimony, inheritance, and how to write settlements that follow Sharia law. He typically helps expats with cross-border issues, such as enforcing international financial awards and moving children from one country to another. Dr. Elhais has written extensively about local laws and continues to make it easier for people to comprehend local legislation. He has been reported in major local and international publications such as Bloomberg, the Associated Press, and U.S. News. He has written more than 300 publications on themes like parental abduction and financial rights. He has also won many honours and is the first expat to join the IAFL in the UAE. Moreover, he is also an elected co-chair of the IAFL's Relocation of Children Committee.

AYAKO IKEDA

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Ayako Ikeda obtained her LL.B. from the University of Tokyo in 1982, followed by an LL.M. from the University of London in 1985, and another LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center in 1991. She was admitted to the Bar Association in Japan in 1984. She later served as a Professor at the Legal Training and Research Institute of Japan from 2002 to 2005.

Ayako has experience across a broad range of family law matters, including arbitration, divorce, and succession law. Her practice encompasses child-related issues such as custody, residence, visitation and contact arrangements, as well as child support. She also advises on complex cross-border matters, including cases under the Hague Convention on child abduction, and handles the enforcement of property division. In addition, she provides guidance on pre-nuptial and post-nuptial agreements.

FOO YET NGO

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Foo Yet Ngo is one of Malaysia's foremost family law practitioners, with over four decades of experience devoted almost exclusively to matrimonial and family law. She is widely respected for her advocacy in complex and contentious litigation, including multi-jurisdictional disputes involving children, international child abduction, relocation, high-value matrimonial assets, and cross-border enforcement.

Foo was the first Malaysian invited to become a Fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers, following her representation of the Australian Government in the highly publicised 1992 parental child abduction case of *Jacqueline Gillespie v Raja Bahrin*, involving a Malaysian prince.

She is the founder of Messrs Y. N. Foo & Partners, one of Malaysia's earliest specialist family law firms, and is frequently instructed in landmark and precedent-setting cases. Foo remains a leading authority in Malaysian family law, combining advocacy with scholarship and law reform engagement.