



International  
Academy of  
Family Lawyers

# 2024/25 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

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.





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# FOREWORD

For nearly forty years we have been bringing the best family lawyers in the world together: connecting colleagues, cultivating knowledge, and making a positive difference to the practice of law and the administration of justice in divorce and family law throughout the world. We are practitioners, academics, leaders of civil society organisations and current and former members of the judiciary from 124 different jurisdictions- 84 nations- around the world.

Our reach has expanded significantly in the last decade, which has allowed us to protect the sustainability of the Academy and do important work to benefit our Fellows, our communities, and individuals, families and children around the world. This Report will cover some of that work and our achievements during 2024-2025.

Thank you to the Fellows, sponsors, and other lawyers and sister organisations who have partnered with us.

## Membership Growth (as of 5<sup>th</sup> August 2025)

Current total fellowship is 1077 Fellows comprising



**972**  
full  
Fellows



**42**  
Judicial  
Fellows



**27**  
Associate  
Fellows



**36**  
Non Practicing  
Fellows

From 124 jurisdictions, 84 nations (41 US states as one nation)



**414**  
US in 41  
states



**346**  
Europe in  
36 Nations



**65**  
Canada in  
6 Provinces



**171**  
Asia Pacific in  
14 jurisdictions



**81**  
Non-Chapter  
in 30 countries



## ABOUT IAFL

Since we were formed in 1986 our mission has remained unchanged- “to improve the practice of law and the administration of justice in the area of divorce and family law throughout the world”. During that time we have steadily expanded our global reach, and from a handful of jurisdictions and only 3 nations then, we now have Fellows in 84 nations, and 124 different jurisdictions:

- 41 states in the US
- 26 nations in Europe
- 14 nations in the Asia Pacific region
- 6 Canadian provinces
- 27 countries from across Africa, the Middle East, the Caribbean and South and Central America

We now have 4 Chapters, in the US, Canada, Europe and Asia Pacific and hope to welcome Chapters in other regions very soon.

When we started we were exclusively family law practitioners, but now have a more diverse fellowship, including family law academics, leadership from civil society organisations which make a major contribution to international family law, and current and former members of the judiciary.



The breadth of expertise, knowledge and experience of our Fellows is unmatched worldwide, and we continue to grow and extend our geographic reach: **in 2024-2025 we have added Fellows in 12 new jurisdictions**, which allows our Fellows to access the best possible advice for our internationally mobile clients, and means that we are able to provide relevant and local education across the world







## PRESIDENTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

When I took over in 2023 I said that I wanted our focus to be on three things during my term: putting diversity, equity and inclusion at the heart of everything we do; finding the best people in parts of the world where we were under or unrepresented, and developing and strengthening relationships with other organisations who shared our values and objectives.

I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved, and the steps that we have taken in the last two years to ensure that the IAFL is welcoming to all, and ready to continue to grow and thrive in the years to come. We have updated our governance to make sure that there is transparency and accountability around our decision making; we have created new, informal and regular communication channels between the leadership of the Chapters and the Executive and Management Committees; I appointed a Respect and

Representation Advisory Group, to make recommendations on steps that should be taken to make Fellows feel that they are welcome and belong, and we have, for the first time, started to collect and analyse data about our Fellows to allow us to direct resources to safeguarding the future of the Academy in the years to come.

Beyond those internal steps, we have reached out too: we have made huge strides in attracting fellows in under and unrepresented jurisdictions and in 2024-2025 we have added 12 new countries to our Fellowship, and we have partnered with (an incredible) 16 other organisations to hold meetings or events with them. All of these steps, along with initiatives like the Early Career Award, the Institute for Further Learning, and the Law Student Symposium in Nairobi will future proof the Academy.

By the time I step down I will have made

30 IAFL trips during my term: from Santiago, to Brisbane, to the Dominican Republic, and the Hague. Mexico City to Thessaloniki, Malta to Kenya. And lots more in between. Meeting Fellows, and people who have become Fellows, and representing the Academy. I have been able to talk with pride about who we are, the work we have done, are doing and stand ready to do.

To close, a few pictures that remind me of some lovely moments in the last few years: planning Nairobi in Zenobia's living room with the #dreamteam; a real life bin chicken in beautiful Brisbane; the Masai blanket I was presented with by the Kenya Judiciary Academy, after an amazing couple of days with Magistrates and Judges from across Kenya; Mert's office by night- I said it before, I shall say it again, THE BEST IAFL PARTY EVER, and my trusty suitcase with my favourite sign. And finally, for those of you who haven't yet found it, get to know the beautiful Kusama sculpture at Liverpool Street - though maybe don't spend quite as much time on the Elizabeth line to LHR as I have in the last 2 years.

Thank you all for your enthusiasm, support and commitment: it's been an honour to serve as your President.





## INTRODUCTION TO THE INCOMING PRESIDENT

Hello, I'm Heather Quinn Hostetter, President-elect of the International Association of Family Law Attorneys. I have been an attorney for 30 years – my first five years, I practiced criminal law as an attorney for indigent defendants in the State of Maryland, and I have been a family law attorney for the last twenty-five years. I am a partner at a boutique family law firm, Hostetter Strent LLC (nine attorneys), located in Bethesda, Maryland. I am also licensed to practice in Washington, D.C., which is where I live with my husband, two children (ages 18 and 11), and two dogs.

I hope to continue to grow the IAFL next year by deploying my kindness, organizational skills, tenacity, willingness to do hard work, and knack for cultivating connections between people. I want to continue

to maintain the organization's reputation for excellence in family law and the closeness our fellows feel for each other. Thanks to our outgoing President, Rachael Kelsey, and outgoing Vice President, Carolina Marin Pedreño, we have new and increased opportunities to be part of the international dialogue regarding families and the rule of law, by working with each other as well as with other international organizations that complement our mission.

My IAFL work this last year on revamping our admissions process and providing written guidance and feedback on meeting planning will serve me well going into 2026. I hope to shepherd in a year of more fellows, more new jurisdictions, more fellow participation, and more organization unity. Join me!



**Embedding myself in the wonders of India**



**Exploring Iceland with my family**



**Petting echidnas with my children in Melbourne, Australia**



**Discovering the joy of clams in miso soup in Japan**

# INTRODUCTION TO THE INCOMING IAFL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**Heather Hostetter**  
President  
*Bethesda, Maryland, USA*



**Suzanne Todd**  
President-Elect  
*England and Wales*



**Jorge Cestero**  
President-Elect-Designate  
*Florida, USA*



**Jason Naimi**  
Treasurer  
*Nevada, USA*



**David Allison**  
Secretary  
*England and Wales*



**Rachael Kelsey**  
Immediate Past President  
*Scotland*



**Corinne Remedios**  
First Vice President  
*Hong Kong, China*



**Zenobia du Toit**  
Vice President  
*South Africa*



**John Spender**  
Asia Pacific Chapter President  
*Australia*



**Caroline Harnois**  
Canadian Chapter President  
*Quebec, Canada*



**Emma Hatley**  
European Chapter President  
*England and Wales*



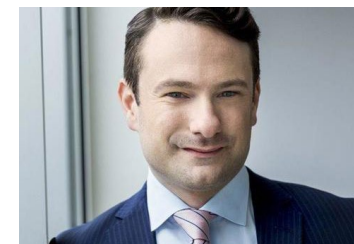
**Katherine Maddox**  
US Chapter President  
*Virginia, USA*



**Mudita Chawla**  
Assistant Treasurer  
*New York, USA*



**Edwin Freedman**  
Counsel  
*Israel*



**Richard Diamond**  
Parliamentarian  
*Ontario, Canada*

## OUR FELLOWSHIP

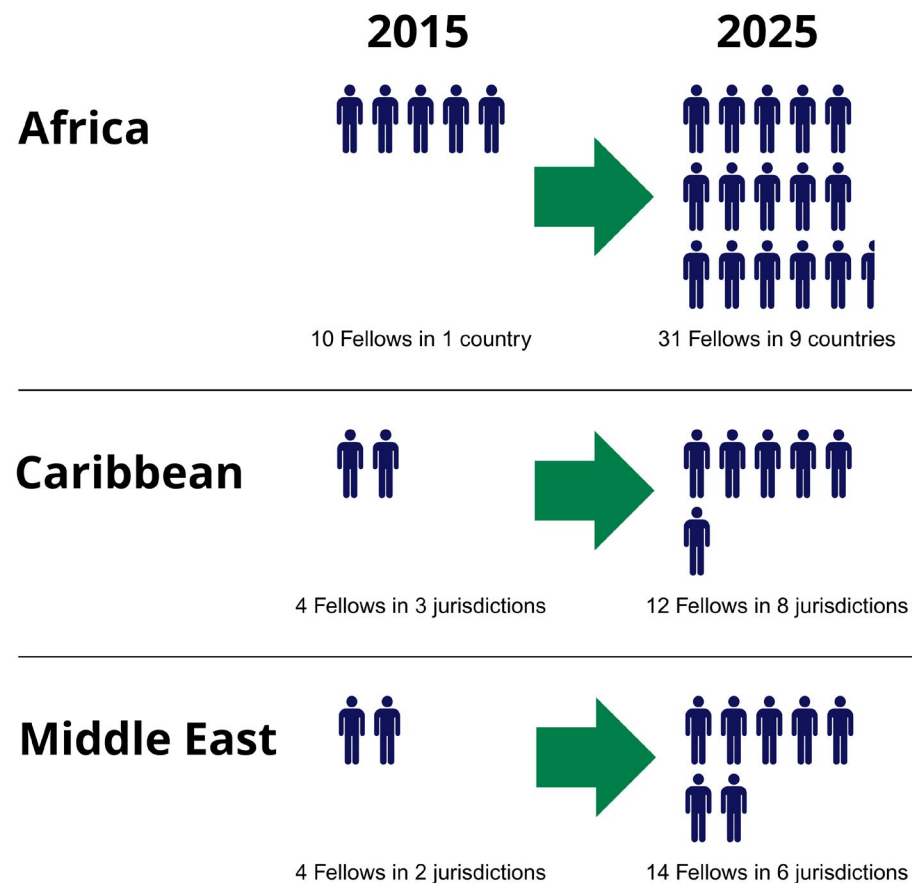
We have 4 thriving Chapters: US, Canada, Europe and the Asia Pacific. These Chapters, which are committees of the IAFL, deliver geographically relevant education for our Fellows and increase community within the IAFL.

Our membership has increased by more than 50% in the last decade and we have spread our reach well beyond the jurisdictions where we started 40 years ago. In 2015 we were represented in 20 jurisdictions beyond the US, Canada and Europe, and that has now grown to 41.

Our Asia Pacific Chapter has been our fastest growing Chapter since inception in 2017, now with 160 Fellows. That contrasts with the position in 2015 when we had only 74 Fellows in the region.

We look forward to welcoming new Chapters in the coming years, which will give a greater opportunity for geographically diverse voices to participate and take a lead in IAFL management and leadership.

**Our membership has increased by more than 50% in the last decade.**



# IAFL GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT AND REACH

Our perspective has always been international, and  
our mission unchanged - to improve the practice  
of family law and the administration of justice  
throughout the world



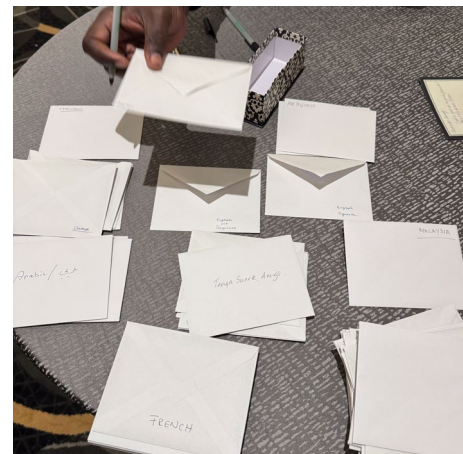


# SUPPORTING THE CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM

From the inception of the IAFL we have had an unchanged mission: “to improve the practice of law and the administration of justice in the area of divorce and family law throughout the world”. For us that does not just mean educating ourselves about the ethical and efficient practice of law in individual cases, but also encompasses a commitment to engage with actors in the civil justice system: the courts and judiciary, civil society organisations and charities and government and NGOs.

As a consequence of the generosity of our Fellows, giving their time and resources to protect the most vulnerable in our communities, we have been busy in recent years with this work, with some highlights being:

- Continuing to partner closely with the HCCH to support their intergovernmental work, which you can see more about on the “Spotlight on the HCCH” page of the Report
- The ongoing work of our Amicus Committee, who have been given permission in recent years to intervene in cases before the highest courts in the US, the UK, France, Portugal and the Slovak Republic
- Delivering training for the judiciary, most recently in Kenya for



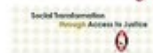
the Kenya Judiciary Academy and for the High Court in Lusaka, following the domestication of international child law conventions in Zambia

- Support and assistance with the UNICEF Technical Briefing publication on “Child-Friendly Courts and Proceedings”
- Participation in the European Judicial Network, having been granted Observer status, and support of the work undertaken by the EJM in the family law field
- Support for the Council of Europe in their feasibility studies on potential legal instruments on the protection of the best interests of the child in situations of parental separation and in domestic law proceedings by public authorities to limit parental responsibilities or place a child in care
- Supporting local charities at our meetings, including the Lady Musgrove Trust in Queensland who provide safe housing to young women, the Boston Volunteer Lawyers Project, who serve people from lower-income households and the Barreau des Rues, who support the homeless and detainees in Paris
- The creation of a pro-bono Committee to support best practice and development of the pro bono work that our fellows do around the globe



**Training of Magistrates and Child Justice Actors on the Children Act 2022**

**from 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 at Lake Naivasha Resort, Naivasha.**

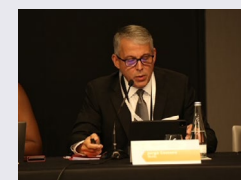
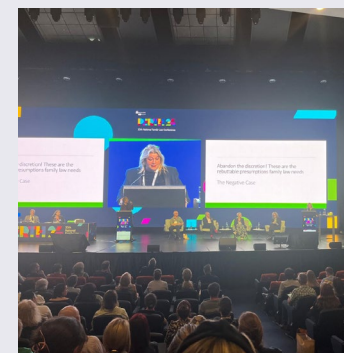




## MEETINGS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

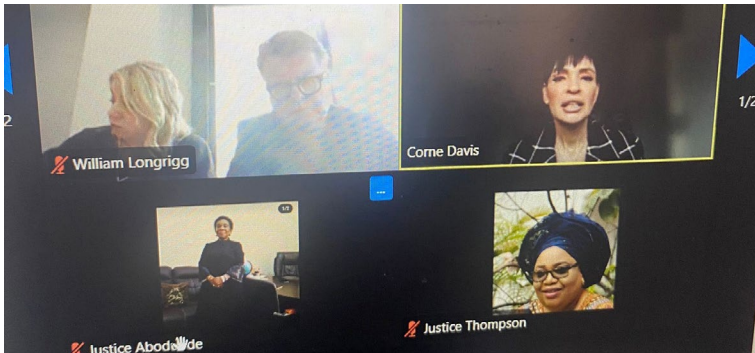
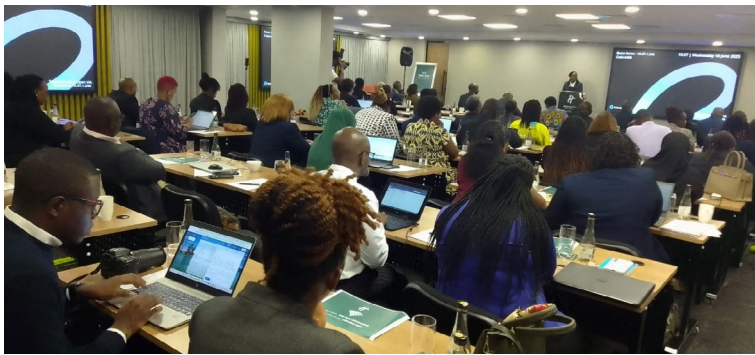
The IAFL has a wealth of expertise and experience within our ranks, and we have partnered with organisations from across the globe in 2024-2025 to raise the profile of the Academy and showcase the work that we, and our Fellows, are doing; to identify potential Fellows and to support the vital work that other groups and organisations are doing in human rights, child rights and access to justice. Some more of our highlights from more than 30 meetings that we have arranged with other organisations, or participated in on behalf of the IAFL!

- Mexican Senate conference organised by Senator Cora Cecilia Pinedo Alonso on surrogacy regulation in Mexico
- Kuwait Lawyers Association Child Protection Conference which focused on the penal, civil and psychological aspects of child protection and best practice for safeguarding children from violence and abuse
- Meeting with colleagues from the Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou Bar Associations
- Law Council of Australia, Family Law Section meeting in Perth, Australia, IAFL panel on International Family Law
- European Law Institute, Family and Succession Law SIG, “Extra-Judicial Administration of Justice in Cross-Border Family and Succession matters” project at meetings in Dublin and Vienna
- Co-hosting a two day meeting on Surrogacy, with the ABA and NorFam (the Nordic Centre for Comparative and International Family Law) in South Africa
- Hosting a multi-disciplinary workshop on Birth Registration and Human Rights at the World Congress on Family Law and Children’s Rights in London



## MEETINGS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS





## WEBINARS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Webinars have been a really important way for us in 2024-2025 to raise the profile of the Academy and showcase the work that we, and our Fellows, are doing and to support our Fellows, who live and practice across the globe. Some of our highlights from the webinars that we have arranged with other organisations or participated in on behalf of the IAFL!

- Our Child and Early Forced Marriage Committee held an in person and online meeting in Maryland with Unchained at Last, on, “Secret Shame- Child Marriage in the USA”
- Two webinars with our Asia Pacific Chapter, the Commonwealth Lawyers Association and the Delhi Family Lawyers Association on Contemporary Family Law in India
- A webinar with our Asia Pacific Chapter and the Japan Federation

of Bar Associations on the Impact of Japan’s reform of shared parenting authority following divorce

- The Law Society of Kenya held an in person and online meeting in June 2025 on “Elevating Practice in Family Law”
- Two webinars with the Commonwealth Lawyers Association on Intimate Partner Violence, Cybercrime and Domestic Abuse
- Our Asia Pacific Chapter, the Malaysian Bar Association and the Commonwealth Lawyers Association on AI and Family Law
- Our Amicus Committee on the 1980 Hague Convention on Child Abduction



## SPOTLIGHT ON LAWASIA

In June 2025 we entered into a formal Statement of Cooperation with LAWASIA, which was signed at the 9th LAWASIA Family Law and Children's Rights Conference in Penang, Malaysia.

This is the first formal partnership that IAFL has entered into with a sister organisation, reflecting our long and close relationship with LAWASIA, which was established in 1966, with a primary mission to protect human rights, preserve the independence of the judiciary and promote the rule of law.

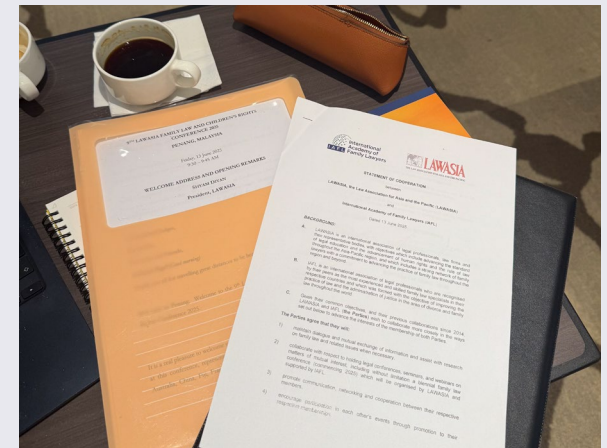
LAWASIA's work in family law has a rich legacy, including the development of the LAWASIA Declaration on Children's Rights and the Siem Reap Principles, which have been endorsed by organisations around the world, and which are part of the fight to recognise and act against child abuse in any form or circumstance.



IAFL was invited to host a half-day seminar on International Family Law before the LAWASIA conference, as we have done before, at previous LAWASIA meetings in Sapporo, Hong Kong and Laos. The conference took place over three days and gave us the opportunity to present to 135 delegates from 16 different jurisdictions.

The symposium focused on issues arising internationally from the 1985 Hague Child Abduction Convention. We had Fellows from nine different jurisdictions presenting on recent caselaw and practical processes and tools to effect the return of abducted children.

We have many fellows who are active in both IAFL and LAWASIA and, as our Asia Pacific Chapter continues to grow, we look forward to further strengthening and deepening the relationship between our two organisations for the benefit of our respective members and fellows, and the communities and individuals we serve.





## SPOTLIGHT ON CLA

April 2025 saw us co-host a half-day symposium in Malta, with the Commonwealth Lawyers Association and the Family Law Bar Association focused on international family law matters where there are cross-border financial issues- “Show me the money- Family Law, Trusts, Recognition and Enforcement and Sanctions”.

The CLA exists to maintain and promote the rule of law throughout the Commonwealth by ensuring that an independent and efficient legal profession serves the people of the Commonwealth. There are 56 states in the Commonwealth, in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Pacific, with more than 2.7 billion people living in Commonwealth countries, more than 60% of whom are under 29. Almost all of those 56 states are jurisdictions in which we are under or unrepresented. The symposium took place immediately

before the CLA AGM, which happens every 2 years. It brought together IAFL Fellows, FLBA barristers and civil litigators and contentious trust lawyers from 11 different jurisdictions across the Commonwealth to share knowledge and know how.

We have enjoyed the development of a close relationship with the CLA in recent years, and welcome the opportunity to partner with them and their thriving Family Law Committee.

Through the CLA we have been able to find new Fellows in parts of the world where we are under or unrepresented and been able to extend our reach and profile.

The CLA very much share our commitment to education, and you can read more about some of the other things we have done with the CLA in 2024-2025 in the meetings and webinars with other organisations sections of this Report.









## SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICAN FAMILY LAW CONFERENCE

The Annual African Family Law Conference took place in Cape Town in March 2025. This meeting, which has now become truly global, is organised by our Fellows, Zenobia du Toit and Professor Julia Sloth-Nielsen and was in its 27th year. We were again given the opportunity to support the programme and raise our profile amongst the delegates, who are practitioners, employees of civil society organisations and government, and members of the judiciary.

The keynote speech was given by the Chief Justice of South Africa, the Hon. Mandisa ML Maya, who was introduced by the Hon. Madam Judge President of the Western Cape, NP Mabindia-Bogwana. Justice Steven Majiedt of the Constitutional Court of South Africa and the Hon. Lady Justice Baratung Constance Mocumie

also both spoke at the meeting and will join us at our AGM in Nairobi in 2025.

We also had many Fellows from around the world participate in the conference and join the vibrant discussions about family law-developments, challenges and opportunities across countries in Africa and further afield.

The unstinting support that Zenobia and Julia have given the IAFL over many years has been transformative for the IAFL, and allowed us to raise the profile of the Academy in Africa and been instrumental in moving us from a position a decade ago where we had no Fellows on the continent outside South Africa, to the position in 2025, where we have 31 Fellows in Africa, from 8 countries.







## SPOTLIGHT ON HAGUE CONFERENCE ON PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW

The Hague Conference, or HCCH as it is more commonly known, is a global inter-governmental organisation. A melting pot of different legal traditions, it develops and services multilateral legal instruments, which respond to global needs. Much of the work done by HCCH relates to family and child law.

These instruments, or treaties, are not designed to harmonise our very different legal systems, but rather to deliver agreed legal solutions when there are cross-border dimensions, for example if a child is abducted from one state to another, going to be adopted internationally, or in need of child protection measures.

IAFL has supported the work of the HCCH for many years, and we have a unique role, providing practitioner input on the practical consequences that arise in cross border family and child law matters. We have been given Observer status on many of the family law projects, including the Experts' Group, and



now Working, Group on a potential international convention on parentage and international surrogacy arrangements- IAFL is one of only three civil society organisations invited to participate in this important work.

In 2024-2025 we have been delighted to support the work of the HCCH on a number of projects, including:

- Co-hosting with HCCH and the Embassy of Canada in the USA a conference, “15 years of the HCCH Washington Declaration: Progress and Perspectives on International Family Relocation”
- Continuing to participate on the PISA (Parentage and International Surrogacy Arrangements) Working Group, along with UNICEF and ISS
- Supporting the Fifth (Malta V) Conference on the, “HCCH Children’s Conventions as Bridges between Civil, Common and Islamic Law’
- Supporting the Forum on Domestic Violence and the Operation of Article 13(1)(b) of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention



# WHAT THE IAFL MEANS TO ME

Our Fellowship's strength comes from our Fellows -  
the best family lawyers from around the world





**Ed Freedman - Israel**

*Fellow since 1989*

“The IAFL constitutes a confluence of very knowledgeable family law professionals and a community of friends who share their personal as well as professional experiences. I value the friendships which I have developed in the Academy no less than the professional relations.

As the IAFL expands its scope, I can see us becoming an essential player in the development of international family law.”



**Veronique Chauveau - France**

*Fellow since 1998*

“For me IAFL is the opportunity to keep windows and doors open to the world, discover new way of conceiving the law and meeting wonderful people from different origins- in short a refreshing opportunity.”



**Hachem El Housseini - Lebanon**

*Fellow since 2023*

“To me, IAFL is essentially about connections with exceptional international family lawyers who offer friendship and reliable advice. These bonds enhance practices, as clients can rely on cross-border legal guidance when their circumstances change: this is truly invaluable!”





**Amanda Trigg - New Jersey, USA**  
*Fellow since 2015*

“IAFL Fellowship is indispensable and Fellows’ depth of knowledge is unmatched. For any international family law question, I turn first to IAFL seasoned professionals who are leaders in their jurisdictions and generous with their expertise. Returning the favor when asked is a highlight in my practice.”



**Adelaide Benneh Prempeh - Ghana / Fellow since 2018**

“I deeply value IAFL’s inclusive, impactful community of professionals. The fellowship has enhanced my expertise in international family law, and I look forward to future opportunities to contribute, collaborate, and make a meaningful difference in the lives of families worldwide through IAFL.”



**Shu Mei Hoon - Singapore**  
*Fellow since 2022*

“I absolutely adore the IAFL. I know that when I reach out to a colleague across the world, they will go that extra mile for me. I look forward to meetings every year. I know that it will be a time of learning and a great time. I now call many of our colleagues my friends, and am grateful to the fellowship.”



# IAFL COMMUNITY FOR OUR FELLOWS

Our fellows are central to our strength and we have invested in providing exclusive opportunities for them, providing education, networking and resources



## CONNECTING COLLEAGUES

The IAFL is a family of family lawyers! Our Fellows tell us consistently that there is no other professional organisation that is as collegiate as IAFL.

To be admitted to the IAFL you need to be able to demonstrate that you are recognised by your peers as one of the most skilled and experienced family lawyers in your jurisdiction, and that means that there are high levels of professional trust between us. Fellows are able to pick up the phone and informally access the best lawyers in the world when there is a potential issue in another jurisdiction, simply and exclusively because of the generosity that exists between Fellows. That allows us to get the best possible strategic and legal advice for our clients.

We also have a Referrals Database

for Fellows to help identify the best, trusted advisers in smaller or more out of the way jurisdictions where we are without Fellows, which is an invaluable and unique resource.

We produce information and Guides for the use of Fellows in areas of law which intersect with international family law, like our Guide on Pensions/Superannuation and that on Family law issues for LGBTQ individuals and their families, which has contributions from 56 different jurisdictions.

Beyond the professional connections between Fellows, we have also found that similar levels of personal trust are swiftly developed between Fellows and many of us have made life-long friends in the Academy, and see each other and our families outside of formal IAFL meetings. We support





one another professionally and personally. The friendships between lawyers who may not understand the intricacies of the law in each other's jurisdictions, but nonetheless have a shared understanding of the demands that are encountered when working with people who are in the midst of family crises is immeasurably valuable to our Fellows.

We care passionately about making the IAFL and warm and welcoming Fellowship to all and have a dedicated buddying programme to ensure that new Fellows are made to feel at home from the outset. We have also recently introduced other initiatives through our Communication with Fellows Committee to offer all new Fellows an intimate orientation lunch before their first in person attendance at one of our meetings, and we now hold webinars throughout the year on, "Getting the most from your IAFL membership" to allow new Fellows to get information about the opportunities for participation and to meet others before they come to their first meeting.

**"Meeting colleagues from other jurisdictions and having a network of wonderful colleagues is unbeatable!"**

IAFL Fellow



## CULTIVATING KNOWLEDGE

The lynchpin to the IAFL are our meetings, where we come together and share camaraderie and knowledge. 2024 was the first year that we have had 4 meetings - reflecting the growth of the organisation and a recognition that providing regional meetings for Fellows, potential Fellows and their guests would provide more opportunities for participation. In 2024 we went to 3 continents and had:

**106**  
Speakers



**1,066**  
Participants



**69**  
Fellows  
attend  
their first  
IAFL meeting



**125**  
Lawyer guests  
welcomed



**29**  
Sessions



**62**  
Sponsors



In addition to the webinars that we have run with other organisations we provide Fellows with free learning opportunities through webinars that our Asia Pacific and European Chapters run. In 2024- 2025 the AP Chapter have run 11 internal webinars for Fellows – the infamous “AP Happy Hour” covering topics as wide ranging as Economic Abuse in Financial Cases and Cultural Considerations ; Legal Recognition of Alternative, Traditional, Extended Family and Cultural or Religious Groups in Raising Children, and Cross- Jurisdictional Comparison on the Preservation, Use or Destruction of Embryos.

The European Chapter have also had 10 internal webinars for Fellows, which give new Fellows the opportunity to present on their domestic law and the international family law issues that arise from it.

The US, European and Asia Pacific Chapters all provide newsletters, with Fellows having the opportunity to update colleagues on recent caselaw, legislative changes and meetings.

In addition to the Chapter focused work, we have 12 Committees which work across the Academy, and which cover substantive areas of law and practice, including very active Committees on Alternative/Non-Court Dispute Resolution and Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. The former have a regular newsletter and have offered webinars, including one on Dispute Resolution in Africa in November 2024. At our AGM in Nairobi the latter Committee will be launching the Second Edition of their IAFL Guide on some of the most common family law issues that arise for LGBTQ individuals and their families, which covers 56 different jurisdictions.

**“I have met wonderful people, learned about the law in other countries, learned about life in other countries, have had the opportunity to support and be supported by other fellows.”**

IAFL Fellow

**“IAFL provides unconditional support for the complexities of international family law practice. The generosity of the Fellows cannot be replaced with any other service or group.”**

IAFL Fellow



## NEXT GENERATION OF INTERNATIONAL FAMILY LAWYERS

We have launched 2 important new initiatives in 2024-2025 to complement the work we already do across the Academy to support the development of the next generation of international family lawyers: the Early Career Award and the IAFL Institute.

The **Early Career Award** launched in 2024, is designed to encourage the best lawyers to stay in family law as their careers develop. The Award allows successful candidates to attend our AGM and create and develop important professional networks with the best international family lawyers, and to participate in the highest quality education. The Award is to be presented annually and applicants need to be under 35 and to be able to demonstrate that a significant amount of their work is devoted to family law. In 2024 we had three successful recipients: Pallavi Koduganti from India, Opiyo Ochieng

from Kenya and Bessy Agyeiwaa Crentsil from Ghana. As a result of the very generous support from fellows, including Harris Ginsberg in LA, 4pb in London and Pennington Manches in London, we will be able to make 8 Awards in 2025 (from 31 applicants), and be joined at the AGM in Nairobi by young lawyers from Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda.

In July 2025 we launched the **IAFL Institute for Further Learning**. The bespoke course will feature 10 monthly sessions delivered online by IAFL Fellows and individuals who are expert in their fields. The course is aimed at family lawyers who have been practicing for around 6-7 years and is designed for individuals who are keen to participate and share knowledge; who have a curiosity about other legal systems; who are open to being mentored and



learning and who aspire to be a Fellow of the IAFL in the future. Each cohort will comprise individuals from a number of different jurisdictions, with a maximum number of 10 participants which will ensure that there is plenty of opportunity for discussion. The successful applicants will have the chance to attend our AGM without charge following completion of the course where they will be able to be together and network in person, and with IAFL Fellows.

In November and December 2024 Fellows from the **European Chapter delivered a four-week training programme on International Family Law** for the INPPA (the National Institute for the Training and Improvement of Lawyers) in Romania. The programme was an online training course on Introductory aspects of European Cross Border Family Law for junior lawyers and combined lectures and interactive sessions with IAFL Fellows from across Europe.

The European Chapter continues with its **Annual European Young Lawyers**

**Award**, now in its 13th year. The Essay competition saw 29 submissions from 11 different jurisdictions in 2025, with the winner, Hannah Sheen, having the opportunity to present her paper at the next European Chapter Introduction to International Family Law Conference.

The European Chapter have done incredible work in recent years to encourage and support younger lawyers. They **co-hosted a meeting in Paris in December 2024 with AIJA** (which is an organisation of lawyers under 45, largely based in Europe) on international family law, and will welcome younger lawyers from across Europe to Hamburg in October 2025 for the next **European Chapter Introduction to International Family Law Conference**. These meetings take place every 18 months and are designed for younger lawyers, providing high level education on international family law, and the opportunity for younger associates and assistants to develop their own international professional networks.





Looking further into the future of the next generation of family lawyers, we have supported **training and mentoring for law students** for the first time in 2025. We are partnering with Riara Law School in Nairobi to deliver a full day meeting for more than 200 law students from across the seven law schools in Nairobi. The students were invited to submit abstracts for selection, on the broad theme of “Imagining the Future of Family Law”. The successful candidates will have the opportunity to present to their peers, academics and the judiciary at the meeting which will take place in the week of our AGM in Nairobi. We are grateful to our Fellows in Kenya, Juliet Nyambura and Patricia Mundia for organising the day, and to Fellow, Pam Sloan and her colleagues at AMS LLP who are funding the meeting, and to the dozen Fellows from around the world who will participate in the mentoring parts of the day.





# MEETINGS IN THE NEXT YEAR

We have four in person meetings a year for  
Fellows, as well as meetings for potential fellows to  
experience education and networking opportunities

*(IAFL Chapter and AGM meetings are highlighted in bold.)*

1 September 2025	Student Symposium on the Future of Family Law, Riara University, Nairobi, Kenya
2 September 2025	Symposium on International Family Law with the East African Law Society and the Commonwealth Lawyers Association, Nairobi, Kenya
<b>3-7 September 2025</b>	<b>IAFL AGM for Fellows, Nairobi, Kenya</b>
23-25 October 2025	Introduction to European Family Law, Hamburg, Germany
<b>3-7 December 2025</b>	<b>Asia Pacific Chapter meeting Hong Kong, China</b>
<b>4-8 February 2026</b>	<b>European Chapter meeting Barcelona, Spain</b>
<b>20-24 May 2026</b>	<b>Asia Pacific Chapter meeting, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</b>
<b>2-6 September 2026</b>	<b>IAFL AGM, Dublin, Ireland</b>
<b>2-6 December 2026</b>	<b>US and Canadian Chapter meeting Fort Lauderdale, Florida, US</b>

# JOINING AND SUPPORTING IAFL





## JOIN IAFL

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. You can find more information [here](#) or through our Executive Director, whose details are below.

## CONTACT US

Please direct any enquiries you may have to:

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## SUPPORT OUR WORK

You can find out about the Sponsorship Opportunities to support the work we do and our meetings in our annual Sponsorship Prospectus, which can be found [here](#).



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