HCCH 1980 Child Abduction Convention:

The life of a Convention case

14 January 2027

Royal Overseas League, 6 Park Place, London, SW1A 1LR

AGENDA

Thursday 14 January 2027	
Time	Item
9:00 – 9:30	**Registration and refreshments (tea, coffee and breakfast pastries)** *Royal Overseas League, 6 Park Place, London, SW1A 1LR*
9:30 – 9:45	**Opening** Chairs: **Carolina Marín Pedreño**, Partner and Head of Children Department at Dawson Cornwell, London and **Rob George KC**, Barrister at Harcourt Chambers, London - Opening remarks by **Lord Justice Stephen Cobb**, President of the Family Division of the High Court of Justice, England and Wales
9:45 – 10:15	**Introductory Presentation** The origins of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention and how it is complemented by the 1996 Child Protection Convention - **Philippe Lortie**, First Secretary, HCCH
10:15 – 10:45	**Substantive Presentation I** Key Definitions of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention - Rights of custody and habitual residence - **Mehvish Chaudhry**, Barrister at Harcourt Chambers, London Introduced by **Forum Shah**, Partner and Family Law Solicitor, Dawson Cornwell, London

10:45 – 11:15	**Substantive Presentation II** Key Definitions of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention - Wrongful removal and retention - **Edward Bennett,** Barrister at Harcourt Chambers, London Introduced by **Sacha Lee**, Senior Associate, Dawson Cornwell, London
11:15 – 11:45	**Coffee / tea break**
11:45 – 12:30	**Panel Discussion** Perspectives of Organisations Involved in Child Abduction Cases Chair: **Forum Shah**, Partner and Family Law Solicitor, Dawson Cornwell, London - **Richard Cheesley**, Tipstaff - **Laura Reid -Garman**, Team Leader, ICACU - **Alison Shalaby**, Reunite (Mediation) *Each practitioner to speak for approximately 10 minutes*
12:30 – 13:30	**Practitioners' Roundtable – UK based** How to prepare the return application, evidence, any Part 25 applications, and when practitioners may consider the need for direct judicial communications Chair: **Carolina Marín Pedreño**, Partner and Head of Children Department, Dawson Cornwell, London - **Kandice Phillips**, Solicitor, Dawson Cornwell, London - **Floriane Laruelle**, Senior Associate, Dawson Cornwell, London - **Sacha Lee**, Senior Associate, Dawson Cornwell, London - **Natasha Miller,** Barrister, Harcourt Chambers, London - **Paige Campbell,** Barrister, Harcourt Chambers, London - **Ben Woolstencroft,** Barrister, Harcourt Chambers, London *Each practitioner to speak for approximately 10 minutes*
13:30 – 14:15	**Lunch break**

14:15 – 14:45	**Practitioners' Roundtable - International** Comparative perspectives on return applications, protective measures, direct judicial communications and practical issues arising in Hague cases Chair: **Carolina Marín Pedreño**, Partner and Head of Children Department, Dawson Cornwell, London - **Alexandre Boiché**, Alexandre Boiché & Associés, France - **Mert Yalçın**, Attorney and mediator, Yalçın & Toygar Law Office, Türkiye - **Marzia Ghigliazza**, Senior Partner, Studio Legale Internazionale Ghigliazza-Rugani, Italy *Each practitioner to speak for approximately 10 minutes*
14:45 – 15:45	**Substantive Presentation III** Exceptions to return under the 1980 Convention: Arts 12, 13 and 20 - **Jason Green**, Barrister at Harcourt Chambers, London Introduced by **Floriane Laruelle**, Senior Associate, Dawson Cornwell, London
15:45 – 16:15	**Substantive Presentation IV** The 1996 Child Protection Convention, protective measures, direct judicial communications and the Factsheet - **Mr Justice Alistair MacDonald**, Judge, Family Division of the High Court of England and Wales Introduced by **Hilka Hollmann**, Partner, Dawson Cornwell, London
16:15 – 16:30	**Q&A Session and closing remarks** - **Lord Justice Andrew Moylan**, Judge and Head of International Family Justice for England and Wales, IHNJ Member
16:30 – [19:00]	**Reception** *Royal Overseas League, 6 Park Place, London, SW1A 1LR*

To register for the event, please email: events@harcourtchambers.co.uk