

Title	International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL) – Observer Note
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Author	IAFL
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Objective	To provide general information on the IAFL
Action to be Taken	For Decision <input type="checkbox"/> For Approval <input type="checkbox"/> For Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> For Action / Completion <input type="checkbox"/> For Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Annexes	N/A
Related Documents	N/A

International Academy of Family Lawyers

Connecting colleagues | Cultivating knowledge | Creating solutions

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.

IAFL was formed in 1986 to improve the practice of law and the administration of justice in the area of divorce and family law throughout the world. 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 the Malta Process.

A Worldwide Network

Since 1986, IAFL has steadily expanded its global reach, the number of countries represented is now 70 and IAFL has over 1,010 Fellows (i.e. members) including 28 judicial fellows and 18 associate (i.e. academic) fellows. IAFL currently has 4 regional Chapters: a USA Chapter with 393 fellows from 40 states; a European Chapter with 334 fellows from 33 jurisdictions; an Asia Pacific Chapter with 147 fellows from 13 jurisdictions and a Canadian Chapter with 57 fellows from 6 provinces and territories. It is hoped that the not too distant future will see expansion with the creation of Chapters in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. 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.

Amicus Curiae Interventions

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.

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.

Law Reform and Education

IAFL has supported legislators and law makers across the world in the area of law reform. 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 children, service and the taking of evidence abroad, and in relation to the harmonisation of jurisdictional rules in family law. IAFL provides informed commentary to the media in its capacity 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.

Meetings

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.

You can find out more about the IAFL on our website: www.iafl.com or by contacting our Executive Director, Annie Dunster annie.dunster@iafl.com