



Second Forum on Domestic Violence and the 1980 Child Abduction Convention

With a focus on the Operation of Article 13(1)(b)

Fortaleza, Brazil, 27-30 October 2025

SPEAKERS

(Bios as submitted by speakers)

WELCOME ADDRESSES

MARA GABRILLI



Senator for the State of São Paulo (2019–2026), representing the Social Democratic Party (PSD).

Member of several Standing Committees at the Federal Senate of Brazil and rapporteur to the Joint Permanent Committee on International Migration and Refugees (*Comissão Mista Permanente sobre Migrações Internacionais e Refugiados – CMMIR*)

Formerly, was a Member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2019–2022), being the first Brazilian elected to the position.

Founder of the Mara Gabrielli Institute, a non-profit organization that promotes scientific research on paralysis treatment and social inclusion for persons with disabilities. Recognized for her legislative work on the Brazilian Law on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities and her long-standing advocacy for human rights and accessibility.

ELMANO DE FREITAS



Governor of the State of Ceará, Brazil, since January 2023.

Holds a Law degree from the Federal University of Ceará (UFC). Before taking office, served as State Deputy and as Secretary of Education and Coordinator of the Participatory Budget of Fortaleza.

Has dedicated his career to promoting social development, education, and public participation, with a long-standing commitment to defending the rights of workers and vulnerable communities.

**ENRIQUE RICARDO
LEWANDOWSKI**



Minister of Justice and Public Security of Brazil.

Former Justice and President of the Federal Supreme Court (STF), of the Superior Electoral Court (TSE), and of the National Council of Justice (CNJ).

Holds a PhD in Public Law from the University of São Paulo (USP), a master's degree in law from the same institution, and a Master of Arts in International Relations from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (Tufts University/Harvard University).

Professor of General Theory of the State at the Faculty of Law of USP, where he has taught since 1978. He chaired the Department of Public Law and coordinated the Master's program in Human Rights.

Recognized for his scholarship in constitutional law, human rights, and federalism.

**JORGE RODRIGO ARAÚJO
MESSIAS**



Minister of the Attorney-General's Office of Brazil since January 2023.

Graduated in Law from the Faculdade de Direito do Recife (UFPE, 2003), Master in Development, Society and International Cooperation (UNB, 2018), and PhD in Law (UNB, 2024).

National Treasury Attorney since 2007 and member of the Attorney-General's Office, with prior roles as Deputy Chief for Legal Affairs at the Presidency of the Republic, Secretary of Regulation and Supervision of Higher Education at the Ministry of Education, and Legal Advisor to the Ministries of Education and Science, Technology and Innovation.

ESTELIZABEL BEZERRA



Human rights advocate and currently serving as National Secretary for Combating Violence Against Women (SENEV) at the Ministry of Women, Brazil. Graduated in Journalism from the Federal University of Paraíba (UFPB).

Formerly, was Secretary of Planning, Secretary of Transparency, and Coordinator of the Democratic Budget for the city of João Pessoa. Also, was State Secretary of Institutional Communication and Chief of Staff of the Government of Paraíba. Also served for 15 years in the feminist collective Cunnã.

Elected twice as State Deputy (2014–2018), authoring legislation on social protection and citizenship. Also presided over several standing committees of the Chamber of Deputies, including the Committee on Defense of Women's Rights, and leading parliamentary fronts on Political Reform, Environment, LGBT Rights, and Diversity and Democracy.

MARIA DA PENHA



Founder and President of the Maria da Penha Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to combating domestic and gender-based violence and promoting women's rights in Brazil. Pharmacist and biochemist, with a Master's degree in Parasitology and Clinical Analysis from the University of São Paulo (USP).

Her fight for justice after surviving an attempted femicide in 1983 led to the landmark case Maria da Penha v. Brazil, before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, resulting in the enactment of the Maria da Penha Law (Law No. 11.340/2006), which strengthened protections for women against domestic and family violence in the country. Internationally recognized for her advocacy in promoting gender equality, human rights, and accessibility for people with disabilities. Recipient of the International Women of Courage Award (United States, 2010), the Grand Cross of the Order of Isabella the Catholic (Spain), and the Brazilian Government's Human Rights Award (2013).

REEM ELSALEM



Ms. Reem Alsalem (Jordan) is the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, since August 2021. She holds a Masters in International Relations from the American University in Cairo, Egypt (2001) and a Masters in Human Rights Law from the University of Oxford, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2003). She is an independent consultant on gender issues, the rights of refugees and migrants, transitional justice and humanitarian response.

CHRISTOPHE BERNASCONI



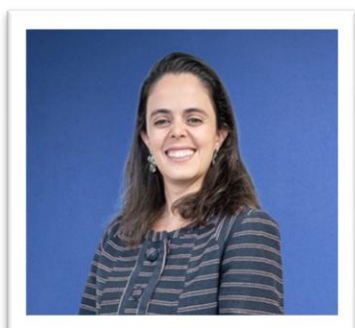
Dr Christophe Bernasconi took the office of Secretary General of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) on 1 July 2013. In 2018, he was reappointed for a further term of five years; and in 2023, he was appointed for another five-year term (effective 1 July). Dr Bernasconi had joined the Permanent Bureau (the Secretariat of the HCCH) in September 1997 as Secretary, became First Secretary in May 2000, and Deputy Secretary General in July 2011.

He holds a law degree from Fribourg University in Switzerland (*magna cum laude*; bilingual German and French), an LL.M. degree in comparative law from McGill University in Montreal (Canada) (concentration on International Commercial Law, with a Master's Thesis on oligopolies in unfair competition law), and a doctoral degree (*Dr. iur. utr.*) in Private International Law from Fribourg University (*summa cum laude*). He has been actively involved in numerous normative projects and non-normative activities of the HCCH, covering the full range of its mandate, from transnational litigation and Apostille (incl. the e-APP), to international family and child protection law, as well as commercial, digital and finance law. As Secretary General, he is focusing on the good governance and strategic development of the HCCH, spearheading efforts towards its universality and inclusiveness.

Before joining the Permanent Bureau, Dr Bernasconi lectured Private International Law at the University of Fribourg, worked as Legal Expert at the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law in Lausanne, and as Scientific Collaborator at the Federal Office of Justice in Switzerland. He also advised practitioners on various Private International Law matters.

OPENING SESSION

CLARICE CALIXTO



Attorney for Brazil and currently serving as Solicitor General for Brazil (*Procuradora-Geral da União*).

PhD and Master of Laws at the University of Brasília (UnB), and Bachelor of Laws at the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG). Professor at the National School of Public Administration (ENAP) and at the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo (PUC-SP). Formerly, served as legal consultant at the President's Chief of Staff (Casa Civil) and the Ministry of Justice, coordinated the Consultancy of the Ministry of Culture, and was Head of Cabinet of the Solicitor Regional's Office in São Paulo and coordinated the Planning and Monitoring area of the Solicitor General's Office.

JEAN KEIJI UEMA



Lawyer and currently serving as National Secretary for Justice at the Ministry of Justice and Public Security (MJSP) of Brazil.

Specialist in Constitutional Law, holds a Master's degree in State Law from the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo (PUC-SP) and a Bachelor's degree in Law from the Federal University of Mato Grosso (UFMT).

Formerly a career civil servant at the Federal Supreme Court (STF) and a consultant to the Ministry of Health, also served the President's Secretariat for Parliamentary Affairs and Secretariat for Institutional Affairs.

Member of the Board of Directors of the Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES) and professor of Constitutional Law at the University Center of Brasília (CEUB).

CHRISTOPHE BERNASCONI

See above

SESSION 1

MARTINA ERB-KLÜNEMANN



Martina Erb-Klünemann is a German family court judge. She worked as a judge in civil law and criminal law cases at various courts before her appointment as a family judge in 1996. In this capacity she is responsible for international family conflicts pending at Hamm District Court as the centralized court for the District of Hamm Court of Appeals. Over the years, she has dealt with more than three hundred cases on return under the 1980 Hague Convention as a judge.

Since 2009 Martina Erb-Klünemann is a network judge in the International Hague Network of Judges and in the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters.

She publishes and runs worldwide training courses on cross-border family law and mediation in cross-border family conflicts.

Her main focus is on return proceedings under the 1980 Hague Convention and on strengthening children's rights in cross-border proceedings.

For many years, she has chaired the annual meetings of German judges who handle return proceedings. She has trained judges and employees of Central Authorities in various European and non-European countries in the application of the 1980 Hague Convention and advised ministries on the development of effective implementing legislation.

**GUILHERME CALMON
NOGUEIRA DA GAMA**



Guilherme Calmon Nogueira da Gama is Judge and President of the Federal Regional Court of the 2nd Region located in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Liaison Judge for the 1980 Hague Convention

National Coordinator of the Brazilian Network of Liaison Judges

Professor of Civil Law at the State University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Master's and Doctorate in Civil Law from the State University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Counsellor of the Federal Justice Council in Brazil

Former Counsellor of the National Council of Justice in Brazil

ADRIENNE BARNETT



Dr Adrienne Barnett is a Reader in Law at Brunel University of London. Dr Barnett practised as a barrister for over 30 years, for 25 of which she specialised in Family Law, before moving into full time academia in January 2014. Her specialist area of research for the past 28 years has been domestic abuse and family court proceedings, including Hague Convention abduction proceedings, and, more recently, parental alienation and domestic abuse. She is a member of the Advisory Group of Rights of Women, the UK lead on the International Strategy Group of Hague Mothers and a Co-Director of Right to Equality. Her wide range of publications include a literature review for the Ministry of Justice to support the 'Harm Panel' inquiry, published in June 2020. She is currently undertaking a study of domestic abuse and parental alienation in family court proceedings funded by the BA/Leverhulme Small Projects Scheme, and an analytical study of recent England and Wales Hague Convention judgments funded by Brunel's Institute of Communities and Society.

YUKO NISHITANI



Yuko NISHITANI is Professor of International Private and Business Law at Kyoto University in Japan and Vice-President of the Hague Academy of International Law. She specializes in Private International Law (Conflict of Laws), Cross-Border Dispute Resolution, International Business Law, Comparative Law, and Family Law.

After graduating from Kyoto University in Japan, she did a Ph.D. in Heidelberg and researched abroad for ten years. She held visiting professorships at NYU and Duke in the U.S., as well as in Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Israel, and Taiwan. She has served on several Legislative Committees in Japan and been a delegate of Japan at the HCCH. She was awarded the Philipp Franz von Siebold Prize by the Federal President of Germany (2020). Nishitani is fluent and publishes in Japanese, English, German, and French. Her areas of interest encompass global legal pluralism, colonialism, cultural identity, SDGs, business and human rights, climate change, and transnational dispute resolution. Her monographs include: (1) Mancini und die Parteiautonomie im Internationalen Privatrecht (2000), 536 pages; (2) Identité culturelle en droit international privé de la famille, in: Recueil des cours, Vol. 401 (2019), pp. 127-450; (3) Japanese Private International Law (with Kazuaki Nishioka) (2021), 320 pages.

MERLE WEINER



Merle Weiner is the Philip H. Knight Professor of Law at the University of Oregon School of Law. She is a graduate of Dartmouth College (B.A.), Harvard Law School (J.D.), and Cambridge University (LL.M.).

Professor Weiner's teaching and scholarship have addressed domestic and sexual violence for approximately twenty-five years. She is the founder of the University of Oregon's Domestic Violence Clinic, a program that provides legal services to low-income survivors of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and stalking.

Professor Weiner has written extensively about the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and how it affects domestic violence victims who are fleeing transnationally for safety. Thirteen of her articles can be downloaded for free here: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/cf_dev/AbsByAuth.cfm?per_id=23944. Her work has been cited by the United States Court of Appeals for the First, Second, Sixth, Seventh, and Eleventh Circuits. She has trained judges, lawyers and law professors on the topic, including through the auspices of the National Criminal Justice Training Center, the National Association of Women Judges, the ABA Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Practicing Law Institute, and the Association of American Law Schools. In addition, she has advised domestic violence organizations filing amicus briefs in Hague Abduction Convention cases (including four out of five cases before the U.S. Supreme Court).

Professor Weiner is an elected member of the American Law Institute. She also is a member of the International Society of Family Law. She currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Family Law Section of the American Association of Law Schools. She is also President of the Order of the Coif, a national honorary society that recognizes excellent student and faculty achievement.

**BARATANG CONSTANCE
MOCUMIE**



Justice Baratang Constance Mocumie is a Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeal, since 2016. She acquired her legal qualifications between 1987 and 2005: Baccalaureus Juris/Bachelor of Jurisprudence (B. Juris), Legume Baccalaureus /Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and Legum Magister/Master of Laws (LLM) Specialising in Family Law from various universities: University of Zululand, University of the North West and University of South Africa respectively. She is registered for her LLD in Private International Law with the University of South Africa, 2023.

She was appointed a Magistrate in 1994. A Judge of the High Court in 2005. An Acting President of the Free High Court in 2015. She acted in the Labour Appeal Court, Competition Appeal Court and the Supreme Court of Appeal until her permanent appointment to the Supreme Court of Appeal in July 2016. Currently, she is the Acting Deputy President of the Supreme Court of Appeal.

In 2015, Justice Mocumie was nominated by the Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa (the Republic) as Primary Liaison Judge on the Hague Conference to represent the judiciary of South Africa on International Network of Judges on the Hague Conference on Private International Law to make submissions on behalf of the judiciary. She is a member of the expert group on Cross Border Family Law Agreements.

Her role as a Network Judge is to facilitate direct judicial communication by serving as a link between her colleagues at domestic level and other members of the Network at international level. She also serves as a resource for her judicial colleagues domestically. She reports to the Chief Justice on the activities of the National Network of Judges on their work in their respective Divisions of the high courts on the number of applications they have received and finalised annually under the Hague Convention on Child Abduction.

Her commitment to family law has seen her regularly attend international conferences of Hague Convention Network Judges presented by the Hague Convention, such as the Personal Responsibility under the 1996 Child Protection Convention, the 25th Anniversary of the HCCH 1996 Child Protection Convention and the Convention on International Child Abduction. She has presented on the International Child Abduction to the International Bar Association (IBA), Miami.

She has presented courses to Aspirant Judges, Newly Appointed Judges and Permanent Judges of the Superior Courts of South Africa, the Pan African Bar Association of South Africa (PABASA), and the International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL) since 2019 to date on the Hague Convention on Child Abduction and its practical application.

She has written numerous cases on the Hague Convention on Child Abduction both in the High Court and in the Supreme Court of Appeal of South Africa where she has shared her expertise on the Hague Convention, on Child Abduction, 1980. One of her outstanding contribution is in *LD v Central Authority (RSA) and Another (803/2020) [2022] ZASCA 6; [2022] 1 All SA 658 (SCA) ;2022 (3) SA 96 (SCA) (18 January 2022)*.

AAGJE IEVEN



Aagje Ieven is Secretary General at Missing Children Europe, where she is responsible for the strategic development and day-to-day management of the organization. Aagje has a background in Health (Bachelor, KU Leuven (BE) 1998), Political Philosophy (Master, KU Leuven (BE) and Radboud University of Nijmegen (NL), 2002) and Law (Doctoral Programme Certificate, KU Leuven (BE) and Columbia University New York (US), 2014). She has close to twenty years of experience in research and policy analysis on children's rights in Europe and has worked for a number of EU civil society organisations advocating for the rights and wellbeing of children and their families. She coordinated a campaign for the rights of children in alternative care and managed a European membership network supporting families affected by mental health issues. At Missing Children Europe she promotes research based advocacy, stakeholder engagement, prevention and quality service delivery. She developed the organisation's programmes on children who run away and on grooming and set up several research projects to improve the data available on missing children. Aagje is Missing Children Europe's focal point on parental abductions, a trained and certified family mediator and a guest lecturer in international family mediation at Thomas More University of Applied Sciences in Belgium.

STEPHEN COBB



Lord Justice Stephen Cobb is a Court of Appeal Judge (England & Wales).

He was appointed to the High Court Bench in January 2013, and was assigned to the Family Division. He also sat as a Judge of the Court of Protection and in the Administrative Court.

In June 2024 he was appointed as a Lord Justice of Appeal and he took up his place in the Court of Appeal in July 2025.

He has delivered judgments across the spectrum of family law issues and the Court of Protection.

He was the Family Division Liaison Judge for the North-Eastern Circuit from 2015-2021. He spent two years (2021-2023) as the Lead Reform Judge, supporting the judiciary at all levels in the Courts (in all jurisdictions) and Tribunals through HMCTS' digitisation programme.

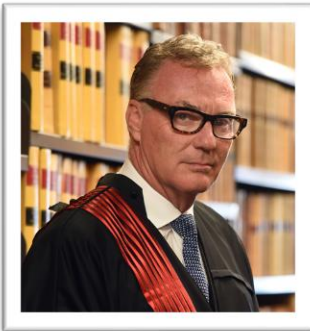
During his judicial career, he has also chaired the President's Private Law Working Group (2014-2021); he has been a member of the Ministry of Justice 'Voice of the Child' Working Group, and in 2019-2020 was the judicial member of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) 'Harm Panel'. He is currently the Chair of the Cross-Jurisdictional Judicial Advisory Panel on Access to Justice within the MoJ's Overarching Reform Evaluation (2020-date). He is a 'Nominated Judge' of the Judicial Conduct Investigations Office.

He is a Consultant Editor of the Family Law Reports, and Family Law Journal, and has written and lectured on family law and Court of Protection issues in the UK and abroad, most recently in South Africa [June 2024], Washington DC [April 2025].

Before his appointment to the Bench, he was Chair of the Family Law Bar Association (2010-2011), Head of Chambers (1 Garden Court) (2007-2013), and one of the founder members of the Family Justice Council (2004-2010).

He is a graduate of the University of Liverpool (LLB Hons) (1984) and has received an Honorary Doctorate (LLD h.c.) from the University (2019).

WILLIAM ALSTERGREN



Chief Justice William Alstergren AO

The Honourable Chief Justice William Alstergren AO is the Chief Justice of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1) and the Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2).

His Honour was appointed as Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia and a Justice of the Family Court of Australia on 13 October 2017. On 15 December 2017, his Honour was appointed Deputy Chief Justice and on 10 December 2018 his Honour was appointed Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia.

On 1 September 2021 the Courts were renamed the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1) and (Division 2) respectively. His Honour was also previously the administrative head of the Appeal Division of the Court.

After graduating from Melbourne University in Law (and completing an LLM), Chief Justice Alstergren undertook articles with Kenna Croxford & Co. From 1991 he practised as a barrister in Melbourne and took silk in 2012. His Honour was regularly briefed in large and complex commercial, family, industrial, administrative law and tax trials and appeals in the Federal Court, Family Court and state superior courts.

His Honour is a former Chairman of the Victorian Bar. Immediately prior to coming to the Bench, His Honour was the President of the Australian Bar Association.

He was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2022 in recognition of his eminent service to the law, judiciary and sport.

His Honour is the Head of Jurisdiction for two national courts which include 126 judges, 150 registrars and 700 staff in 17 permanent locations and over 30 regional locations across Australia.

SESSION 2

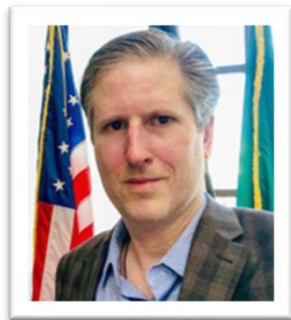
LAURA MARTINEZ-MORA



Laura Martínez-Mora is First Secretary (Lawyer) at the Permanent Bureau of the HCCH and co-head of Family & Child Protection Law Division. In particular she is responsible for the post-Convention services in relation to the 1993 Adoption Convention as well as the Parentage / Surrogacy legislative project. She is also involved in the work related to the 1980 Child Abduction Convention and the 1996 Child Protection Convention. Such work includes post-Convention services (e.g. meetings of Special Commissions to review the practical operation of the above Conventions, Experts' Groups and Working Groups, seminars and workshops; drafting good practice guides, questionnaires, fact sheets and other documents) and legal advice, capacity building and training of professionals in different countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe (in particular through the Intercountry Adoption Technical Assistance Programme).

Prior to joining the HCCH, Laura worked for the International Social Service in Switzerland, UNICEF in Chile, the European Commission and the Council of Europe. She received her law degree from the University of Valencia (Spain), a Master of Laws (LL.M) in International Law with a specialisation in child's rights and comparative family law from the University of London (UK), and a Diploma in Child Protection and Juvenile Justice from the University Diego Portales in Santiago (Chile).

JEFFERY MOREHOUSE



Jeffery Morehouse is the Executive Director and a co-founder of [Bring Abducted Children Home](#) and a founding partner of [The Coalition To End International Parental Child Abduction](#).

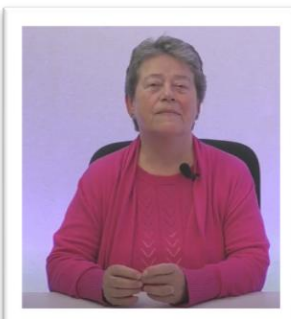
His experience of seeking the return of his son "Mochi" Atomu Imoto Morehouse, who was kidnapped to Japan by his ex-wife in 2010, inspired him to become an advocate for other families facing similar challenges.

Over the past 15 years he has testified multiple times before the U.S. Congress, state legislatures and the United Nations on the crisis of international parental child abduction (IPCA). In multiple U.S. courts, he has been recognized as an expert witness in prevention cases. Working closely with government officials and organizations, he continues to raise awareness and push for stronger laws and policies to prevent future abductions and reunite families with existing ones.

His efforts have been featured in numerous media outlets, including *The Asahi Shimbun*, *Asia Times*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Toronto Star*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Washington Times*.

Mr. Morehouse is a co-author and co-editor of two U.S. Department of Justice publications, "*When Your Child is Missing: A Family Survival Guide, Fifth Edition*" and the forthcoming "*A Family Resource Guide on International Parental Kidnapping, Third Edition*."

ANNELIES HENDRIKS



Dr. Annelies Hendriks, is a developmental psychologist/MfN-registered mediator, working also as a cross-border mediator affiliated with the International Child Abduction Center and as a guardian ad litem in child abduction cases, appointed by the courts and tribunals of appeal. As a mediator, she handles many complex contact/access and childcare arrangements and assists parents in drafting a parenting plan, naturally listening to the children. As a cross-border mediator, Annelies collaborates with a team of mediators specializing in child abduction cases. These mediators are coordinated by the Mediation Bureau, affiliated with the International Child Abduction Center (www.kinderontvoering.org/mediation). Annelies can also be appointed by the court as a guardian ad litem in IKO cases to bring forth the voice of the child in the procedures. She teaches various courses for organizations and is a lecturer, providing training to judges on parent-child issues, among other things. She also gives an annual guest lecture at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam on international child abduction. She also provides peer supervision for VFAS lawyer mediators and guardians ad litem.

NOELLE HUNTER



Dr. Noelle Hunter is a clinical assistant professor of political science at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) and director of the International Child Abduction Prevention and Research Office (ICAPRO). She is an associate with the National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC) at Fox Valley Technical College, where she contributes to national efforts on child protection and family justice. Dr. Hunter is the principal investigator for *Mapping the Journey*, a longitudinal study examining the lived experiences of youth survivors of international parental child abduction.

She has testified before the U.S. Congress multiple times on enforcement of the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act and presented her survivor-focused research internationally. She served as president and co-founder of iStand Parent Network Inc. from 2014 - 2023, and is a founding partner of the Coalition to End International Parental Child Abduction. Her recent article, *Between Protection and Parental Rights: The Hague Abduction Convention, Domestic Violence Allegations, and Article 13(1)(b)*, appears in the Athens Journal of Law (Vol. 11, Issue 4, 2025).

MAAYIMUNA N'DIAYE



Maayimuna N'Diaye is a young adult survivor of International Parental Child Abduction (IPCA), and a graduating senior at Bob Jones High School in Madison, Alabama. She will attend the University of Alabama in Huntsville, where she plans to continue her advocacy and research on child abduction and youth resilience.

Maayimuna serves as a co-investigator on *Mapping the Journey: A Study of Perceptions and Lived Experiences Among Youth Affected by International Parental Child Abduction*, a research project exploring the voices and reunification journeys of abducted youth. A Girl Scouts USA ambassador and youth ambassador for iSTAND Survivor Network, Maayimuna is also a certified peer listener through the Born This Way Foundation, an initiative that builds mental health literacy and equips young advocates with tools to support peers in crisis. She is passionate about promoting awareness, healing, and empowerment for youth who have experienced trauma.

JESSICA RAFFAL



Jessica Raffal is the Managing Lawyer at International Social Service Australia (ISS Australia), where she leads the legal team specialising in international family law and the 1980 Hague Convention. Jessica joined ISS Australia in 2021 after extensive experience within the community legal sector, including with Women's Legal Service NSW where she specialised in domestic violence and family law.

Prior to practising law in Australia, Jessica worked in human rights monitoring in south-east and central Asia, focussing on women's and children's rights. This background ignited her passion for advocating for vulnerable populations and ensuring that individuals navigating complex legal systems receive the support and advocacy they need. It also cemented her view that domestic violence is an urgent global public health and human rights threat. Jessica has a deep commitment to justice, empowerment and legal excellence and strives to ensure that the work of ISS Australia reflects those values.

SESSION 3

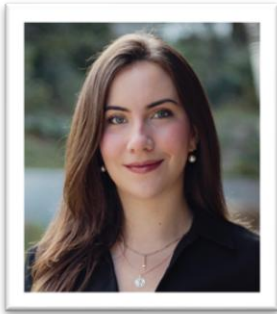
GUSTAVO TEIXEIRA CHADID



Gustavo Teixeira Chadid is a career diplomat who has been working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil since 2001, with professional experience in administrative and consular matters. He holds a law degree from the University of São Paulo (1999) and a degree in International Relations from the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo (2001), and a master's degree in Public Administration from the Brazilian Institute of Education, Development and Research in Brasília (2017). Professionally, he served as Second Secretary at the Brazilian Embassy in Lima (2006-2008), as Deputy Consul at the Brazilian Consulates General in New York (2008-2011) and in Madrid (2011-2014), and as Deputy Consul General at the Brazilian Consulate General in Santa Cruz de la Sierra (2017-2021). He was also consul of Brazil at the Brazilian Consulate in Pedro Juan

Caballero (between 2021 and 2023). He is currently the head of the International Legal Cooperation Division.

JANAÍNA ALBUQUERQUE



Janaína Albuquerque is a dual-qualified international family lawyer admitted to practice in Brazil and Portugal. She holds a Law degree from the University of Brasília and a Master's in International Law from the University of Lisbon. Janaína completed a research exchange programme at the University of Ghent and is currently a Research Associate at the NOVA Centre for the Study of Gender, Family and the Law. She also works as a cross-border family mediator, having been trained by MiKK e.V.. Janaína is the Legal Coordinator of Revibra Europe, a non-profit organisation that provides support to Brazilian victims of domestic and gender-based violence abroad. In this role, she leads advocacy initiatives and strategic litigation aimed at advancing legislative and policy reforms for the protection of migrant women. Janaína's previous professional experience includes work with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Secretariat for Human Rights of the Presidency of the Republic in Brazil, as well as with the Hague Conference on Private International Law. She also manages her own legal practice, specialising in complex cross-border family matters with a focus on child abduction, relocation, and parental disputes.

CHISATO KITANAKA



Chisato KITANAKA (Sociologist), co-chair of All Japan Women's Shelter Network, Associate Professor at Hiroshima University, Japan

MAKIKO ISHII



Makiko Ishii (Attorney-at-law)

A family law attorney based in Tokyo with 17 years of experience. Specializes in handling complex international cases, including cross-border custody disputes and the Hague Convention matters.

SESSION 4

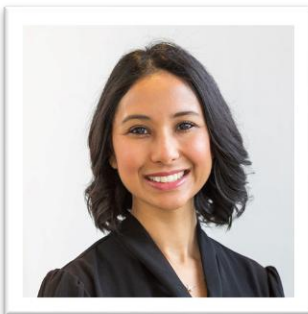
NADIA RUSINOVA



Nadia Rusinova is a Dutch-Bulgarian lawyer and practicing attorney, admitted to the Sofia Bar Association (Bulgaria) since 2003. She specialises in cross-border family law, private international law, and judicial cooperation in civil matters, with a particular focus on the litigation of complex international family disputes. She is the Lead Lecturer in European Family Law and Private International Law at The Hague University (The Netherlands). Her expertise centres on international child abduction under the Brussels IIb Regulation and the 1980 Hague Convention, as well as on the coordination of EU and HCCH instruments in proceedings concerning return, parental responsibility, and recognition and enforcement. Her work also examines the intersection between child abduction and domestic violence, with an emphasis on procedural safeguards and the protection of the child.

She serves as a consultant and judicial trainer for the Council of Europe, ERA, EJTN, UNICEF, and EIPA, designing advanced training programmes for judges and practitioners on family law, international child abduction, and the cross-border protection of children's rights. Nadia served as a member of the European Commission Expert Group on the Recognition of Parenthood between Member States and frequently acts as an expert witness in private international law before the UK courts. She is the author of [THE PRACTICAL HANDBOOK ON EU FAMILY LAW – PART 1: KEY CONCEPTS, LEGAL TERMINOLOGY, AND CJEU CASE LAW IN CROSS-BORDER JUDICIAL COOPERATION](#), as well as several Council of Europe handbooks and guidelines on family procedures and the best interests of the child.

NISHAT HYDER-RAHMAN



Nishat Hyder-Rahman is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow based at the Department of Private & Economic Law, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium (Impact Fellowship Programme, funded under Marie Skłodowska-Curie Grant Agreement No. 101034352).

Nishat's areas of expertise are family law, medical law and bioethics. Her current research interests fall within broad theme of 'regulating family relations', specifically in the contexts of assisted reproduction, parent-child relationships, and divorce/separation. She largely focuses on international law frameworks and perspectives, and comparative law approaches. Nishat is also a volunteer researcher at GlobalARRK. Alongside her research agenda, Nishat teaches private international family law, health law and ethics, and supervises graduate thesis students researching topics within her fields of expertise.

Nishat read law at the London School of Economics and went on to complete her Ph.D in Bioethics and Medical Jurisprudence at the University of Manchester. She has subsequently undertaken postdoctoral research within the family law research groups at Utrecht University and Tilburg University in the Netherlands, and now VUB in Belgium.

GWEN B. HATCH



Associate Chief Justice Hatch was appointed to the Manitoba Court of King's Bench (Family Division) in June 2013, and was appointed Associate Chief Justice of the Family Division in May 2020. She is Chair of the Child Protection Oversight and Implementation Committee and the Triage Implementation Committee of the Family Division, and is currently Chair of the Statutory Rules Committee of the Court of King's Bench.

Associate Chief Justice Hatch is Chair of the Judicial Committee on Inter-jurisdictional Child Protection of the Canadian Judicial Council and is an International Hague Network Judge of Canada. She also serves on the Judicial Independence Committee of the Canadian Judicial Council.

Prior to her appointment to the Bench, Associate Chief Justice Hatch practised family law and wills and estate litigation.

Associate Chief Justice Hatch has presented papers on child protection for the International Academy of Family Lawyers, the 4th Global Meeting of the International Hague Network of Judges, the HCCH Judicial Roundtable, the HCCH Fifth Malta Conference, the National Judicial Institute, the Canadian Chapter of the International Association of Women Judges, and the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice.

YVETTE CEHTEL



Yvette CehTEL is the CEO of Women's Legal Service Tasmania, having been appointed in 2019.

Yvette is committed to systems reform to improve the rights of those who experience structural barriers to achieving equality and accessing justice.

Yvette has decades of experience as a lawyer and a barrister and has also held roles with Relationships Australia, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre and the Tasmanian Legal Aid Commission.

Yvette is a spokesperson for Women's Legal Services Australia.

JAVIERA VERDUGO TORO



Attorney in the International Legal Cooperation Division of the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chilean National Organ before de HCCH. Ms. Verdugo Toro is a professor of Private Law at Universidad de Chile, specializing in Family Law.

SESSION 5

MARY SHEFFIELD



Judge Mary W. Sheffield was appointed to the Missouri Court of Appeals, Southern District in 2012 and served as Chief Judge. She served as a trial judge from 1983 thru 2012, handling criminal, civil, juvenile and family court cases. She received her JD from the University of Miami Law School, and received her BA from North Carolina State University. She is the former President of the National College of Probate Judges and past President of the Blue Ridge Institute for Juvenile and Family Law Judges. She has received the Chief Justice Award for Public Service.

Judge Sheffield was appointed in 2003 to serve as one of three U.S. International Liaison Network Judges for the Hague Convention on Child Abduction. She has presented papers and conducted trainings on Hague matters in Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, England, Ecuador, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Jamaica, Korea, Malta, Singapore, Switzerland, Slovakia, Tanzania, and Trinidad-Tobago. Judge Sheffield participated in the Washington DC National Convening on Trafficking and Child Welfare held at the White House, and the New York National Summit on Human Trafficking and State Courts. She currently serves on the Supreme Court Combatting Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Commission. She has chaired the Supreme Court Family Court Committee and served on numerous committees and commissions.

STEVEN A MAJIEDT



Justice Steven A Majiedt

Professional history

- Advocate, Cape Bar, Cape Town (1984-1996).
- Chief State Law Adviser, Northern Cape Province in the Office of the Premier, Kimberley (1997 - 1999).
- Advocate, Northern Cape Society of Advocates, Kimberley (2000).
- Judge of the High Court, Northern Cape Division, Kimberley (May 2000 - November 2010).
- Judge of Appeal, Supreme Court of Appeal, Bloemfontein (1 December 2010 - September 2019).
- Justice of the Constitutional Court, Johannesburg (October 2019 to present).

Other activities

- Former Chairperson of the South African Rules Board for Courts of Law.

- Former Council Member, South African Judicial Education Institute (SAJEI).
- Former Council Member, Hugo de Groot Society, University of Pretoria.
- Chancellor, Sol Plaatje University, Kimberley (2015 to present).
- Honorary Professor of Law, University of the Western Cape, Cape Town (2021 to present).

MARTINA ERB-KLÜNEMANN

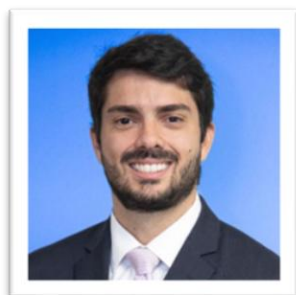
See above

MARCELA TRILLINI



- Lawyer and attorney (University of Buenos Aires)
- Mediator (Libra Foundation)
- Family Judge (since May 23, 2006, currently in charge of Family Court No. 9 in San Carlos de Bariloche, province of Río Negro)
- Vice President of the Río Negro province Magistrates and Judges Association
- Member of the National Network of Judges for the Judiciary of the province of Río Negro for the correct and prompt application of the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention since March 5, 2012
- Appointed member of the International Network of Judges (IHNJ) for the República Argentina on February 1, 2021
- Contact point for IberRed
- Lecturer at various courses, training sessions, seminars, and conferences related to family law and international restitution of children and adolescents.

VITOR VELOSO BARROS e SANTOS



Attorney for Brazil, currently coordinating the Unit of Disputes on International Law in Brazil (NUINT) at the National Solicitor for International Affairs' office.

Master in Private International Law at the University of São Paulo (USP). Postgraduate in International Relations at the University of Brasília (UnB). Alumni of the Hague Academy of International Law (2019).

ANDREW MOYLAN



Sir Andrew Moylan was called to the Bar (Inner Temple) in 1978. He practised as a barrister in all areas of family law and from 1997 to 2000 was Junior Counsel to the Queen's Proctor (counsel to the Government in family law). He was appointed as a Queen's Counsel in 2000, a Recorder (a deputy judge in the civil and criminal courts) in 2002, and a Deputy High Court Judge in 2004.

In 2007 he was appointed a High Court Judge assigned to the Family Division. He was Family Division Liaison Judge for the North Eastern Circuit (with administrative responsibility for family justice) from 2008 to 2015. He became an International Hague Network Judge for England and Wales in 2012.

He was appointed to the Court of Appeal in March 2017 and Head of International Family Justice for England and Wales in October 2017.

SESSION 6

MYRIAM DE HEMPTINNE



Family and Juvenile Judge at the Court of appeal of Brussels, member of the International Hague Network of Judges and of the European Judicial Network

Having started her career in 1988 as a lawyer first and, from 1998, as a judge in Brussels, Ms Myriam de Hemptinne, who joined the Brussels Court of Appeal in 2005, specializes in youth and family litigation. She became an active member of the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters (2008) and the Belgian member within the International Hague Network of Judges (2010) and has since made every effort to provide Belgian and European judges with the tools and knowledge they need to resolve cross-border cases, including judicial cooperation channels.

Since 2019, in the frame of a secondment to the HCCH, she continues her activities of support, networking and training of Belgian and European judges and magistrates in the field of international protection of minors and private international law and also focuses on the international protection of vulnerable adults. She participates in projects that are emerging from European and international developments in these fields and that are constantly integrating new challenges (children of Ukraine, domestic violence, the national network...). She coordinates the roll out in Belgium of the Child Friendly Justice-tool of the Council of Europe. In 2025 she became a member of the Belgian High Council for the Judiciary.

BEN KEITH



Ben Keith is a barrister sole from Wellington, New Zealand, and has conducted numerous significant proceedings, including a significant number of appeals before New Zealand Court of Appeal, the New Zealand Supreme Court and appellate courts in a number of other jurisdictions and before United Nations fora. He has acted for and against the governments of New Zealand and Samoa, as well as for individual, non-governmental and corporate clients and for indigenous groups. His work in respect of the Hague Abduction Convention has included the significant appeal decision in *LRR v COL* [2020] NZCA 209, [2020] NZFLR 98, [2020] 2 NZLR 610 and also *Cresswell v Roberts* [2023] NZFLR 412; [2023] NZSC 62 (leave). He has also served as Deputy Inspector-General of the New Zealand civilian national security and intelligence agencies and as Crown Counsel responsible for constitutional, human rights and public international law.

RODRIGO SANTOS MEIRA



General Coordinator for International Adoption and Abduction of Children and Adolescents (DRCI/SENAJUS/MJSP)

He holds a Law degree from Recife Law School - Federal University of Pernambuco (FDR-UFPE) – Area of Concentration: International Law – Graduation: July 2002), a Master's degree in International relations and another master's degree on international law, both from the University of Brasília (UnB) – Dissertation: The Paradox of the Adapted Child: Critique of the Application of the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction in Brazil (2018). He participated in the EU-South American School on Global Governance Course in 2021 (FGV), studying the Brussels II-Bis Regulation on International Child Abduction. He also completed a Protected Listening Training Course at Childhood Brasil (2024). DOCTORATE – LAW – University of Brasília (UnB), specializing in Internationalization, Labor, and Sustainability, defending the thesis "SPEAKING PLACE AND SUFFICIENT MATURITY: Interpreting the Best Interests of Child Participation in International Child Abduction Proceedings in Brazil," completed in November 2024.

He has served as a Federal Police Officer (2003-2010), an Intelligence Officer at ABIN (2010-2013), and a Real Estate Registrar (TJBA, 2017-8). Since 2013, he has been a Foreign Trade Analyst (MDIC), working from 2015 to 2017 as a Supervisor of International Child Abduction at the Brazilian Central Authority (ACAF), part of the Secretariat for Human Rights (SDH), Presidency of the Republic (later Ministry of Justice). Since January 13, 2025, he has been the General Coordinator for International Adoption and Child Abduction (ACAF/DRCI/SENAJUS/MJSP).

JOANNA GUTTZEIT



Dr. Joanna Guttzeit is a German Network Judge of the International Hague Network of Judges and of the European Judicial Network in Civil and Commercial Matters and a Judge at the Family Court in Berlin-Pankow, Germany.

Since March 2025, she has been working as seconded official at Berlin's Liaison Office to the European Union within the Senate Chancellery of the Governing Mayor of Berlin in Bruxelles, Belgium, where she is responsible as an officer for justice, consumer protection, media and broadcasting, and the digital agenda.

Before joining the Berlin Representation in Bruxelles, she served as a delegated judge at the Court of Appeal (Kammergericht) in Berlin. Earlier, she was a judge at the Family Court of First Instance in Berlin-Pankow and Cologne and was seconded to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, where she worked in the Research Division (2015–2017). Prior to her judicial career, she practised competition law as an associate with the law firms Hengeler Müller and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP.

She holds a doctorate in European law from the Universities of Heidelberg, Mainz and Kraków, an LL.M. in German and Polish law from the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder), and a master's degree in Polish law from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań.

Fluent in German, Polish, English and Russian, she is a frequent speaker at international conferences on EU family law, judicial cooperation and fundamental rights. She also writes regularly for legal commentaries and publishes articles and case notes in German, Polish and international law journals.

MIGUEL VARA



Miguel Vara became a teacher in 2001, and later, in 2008 graduated in Law.

In 2016, Miguel became a Trainer for Court Staff at the training centre of the Ministry of Justice. During that time, he developed e-learning courses on international cooperation, particularly on the Service of Documents, Taking of Evidence and Maintenance and participated in international training activities programmes on EU law, developed by EIPA. Since April 2021, Miguel has been the Head of Unit of the International Judicial Cooperation Division, the designated central authority for the service of documents, taking of evidence and maintenance cases. Since March 2024, he has also been responsible for cross border child protection cases and child abduction cases under the 1980 Hague Convention.

Miguel has organized and participated as a speaker in several conferences and events, organized by the Portuguese Ministry of Justice, the Portuguese Bar Association, and other legal institutions.

He participated in working groups, activities and events organized by the HCCH and the European Judicial Network.

Miguel has also cooperated on training activities for judges and court staff in Portugal, has collaborated with the Training Centre of the Ministry of Justice and with the Portuguese Contact Point designated for the European Judicial Network (EJN) to promote the EJN Network and provide information on the application of international legal instruments.

NTHABISENG THOKOANE



The Chief Family Advocate obtained her BJuris and LLB degrees from the University of Johannesburg, Soweto Campus. She joined the Office of the Family Advocate in August 2000.

She obtained her Master's degree in Child Law from the University of Pretoria in 2003.

In August 2006 she was promoted to being the Principal Family Advocate for Gauteng. In February 2016 she resigned from the Department of Justice & Constitutional Development, and joined the Johannesburg Society of Advocates, where she practiced as¹an Advocate until February 2022 when she resigned to rejoin the Department of Justice as the Chief Family and Central Authority.

She also had an acting stint as a Judge in the Family Court Division of the South Gauteng High Court, in February 2023.

While in practice, she obtained Labour Law qualifications and became a part time Commissioner at the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration. (CCMA)

FORUM SHAH



Forum Shah is a Partner in the children department at Dawson Cornwell. Forum has practised family law exclusively since 2014 and is a Resolution Accredited Specialist in Child Abduction and Domestic Abuse. Forum specialises in private and public children law, with particular expertise in international child abduction and relocation. Her cases are often complex and mostly at High Court Level. Forum's cases involve the 1980 Hague Convention, as well as the inherent jurisdiction of the High Court/wardship and non-Hague Convention countries. Forum has had a significant amount of reported cases in the international arena. Forum has been consistently ranked in the Chambers and Partners and Legal 500 directories. Forum has been shortlisted for International Family Lawyer of the Year at the Lexis Nexis Family Law Awards in 2025 and was included in the Pro Bono Recognition List in 2025. Forum is Vice Chair of the Child Abduction Lawyers Association (CALA) and an Executive Committee Member of the Association of Lawyers for Children (ALC).

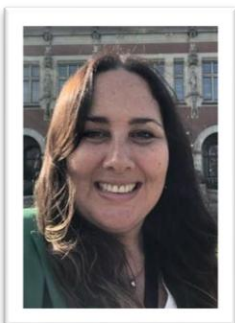
SESSION 7

ANNETTE C. OLLAND



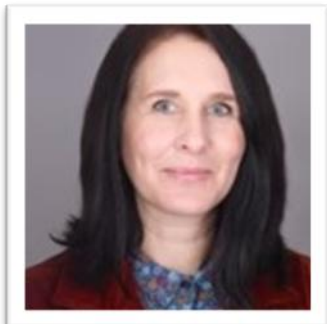
Annette Olland was appointed as a judge in the District Court of the Hague, The Netherlands, in 2002. Since then she has been active in the field of family and juvenile law and commercial law. She was appointed as network Judge in the HCCH International Hague Network of Judges from 2013 to 2019. From 2019 to 2023 she was Head of the Family Court Department of the Court of Appeal of the Hague. From 1st January 2023 she is a Senior Judge in the District Court of The Hague, working as a family judge specialised in private international law and child abduction law and acting as network Judge in the HCCH International Hague Network of Judges.

NIEVE RUBAJA



Nieve Rubaja is Professor of Private International Law and Researcher at the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Her main area of interest is International Family Law. She serves as a Member of the Commission on Private International Law of the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She is a Member of the Working Group on Parentage / Surrogacy of the Hague Conference on Private International Law. In addition, she acts as the Latin American Consultant for INCADAT (www.incadat.com). She is the Director of the Private International Law Section of the Argentine Association of International Law (AADI). She is also a Member of ASADIP and the International Academy of Comparative Law (IACL).

ROZ OSBORNE



Roz Osborne is the Founder and CEO of *GlobalARRK*, a UK-registered charity working internationally supporting parents who are 'stuck' in a foreign country and unable to return home with their children.

Roz founded *GlobalARRK* in 2012 after experiencing this issue firsthand in Portugal. When hundreds of other 'stuck' parents reached out to her for help, she recognised the urgent need for dedicated support. Under her leadership, the charity registered in 2016 and now assists over 300 new families each year. *GlobalARRK* offers a call-back helpline, legal network and clinic, peer support groups, domestic abuse recovery courses, and befriending calls. Roz also works to amplify the voices of affected parents through advocacy, lobbying, media engagement, and public campaigns.

Alongside her role at *GlobalARRK*, Roz is a proud mum to two grown-up children and plays the violin with two orchestras! Previously, she served as the Executive Officer of *VOICES*, a charity providing recovery support and lived-experience consultation for survivors of domestic abuse.

RUTH DINEEN



Ruth Dineen is a FiLiA volunteer and the coordinator of the FiLiA Hague Mothers' project. She is also one of the co-founders of Merched Cymru, a grassroots group of women from across Wales working to protect and promote the rights of women and girls. Ruth co-founded the Co-production Network for Wales, based on Edgar Kahn's principles of collectivism and social justice, and is a co-production trainer and facilitator. She was previously Head of Department of Creative Communications at Cardiff Metropolitan University.

MYRIAM DE HEMPTINNE

See above

STEVEN ARNOLD MAJIEDT

See above

MORAG BARBARA WISE



The Rt Hon Lady Wise (Morag Wise KC) is a graduate of the University of Aberdeen [LLB Hons, LLD (Hon)] and of McGill University, Montreal (LLM) She qualified as a solicitor in 1989 and worked for an Edinburgh firm between 1987 and 1992, dealing in general civil litigation. She called to the bar in 1993 and practised in civil litigation, specialising in family law. In 2005 she became Queen's Counsel and from 2008 sat part time as a Temporary Judge while still in practice. She was appointed as a Senator of the College of Justice in 2013 and sat as a Judge of the Employment Appeal Tribunal for three years until December 2018.

Lady Wise served as one of the two Family Court judges in the Court of Session prior to her appointment to the Inner House (Scottish Court of Appeal) in January 2022. She continues to chair the Family Law Committee of the Scottish Civil Justice Council and has been an International Hague Network Judge since 2017. Lady Wise has been President of the Scottish Tribunals since 1 May 2023.

ALEXANDRE BOICHÉ



Alexandre BOICHÉ has a Phd in private international law, he is avocat at the Paris bar since 2003. He is an accredited specialist in Family and International and European law. He is a specialist in international family litigation and notably conflicts of jurisdictions or conflicts of laws, recognition of foreign judgments. As such, he conducts numerous judicial training programs for colleagues in this domain both in France and abroad. Seeking to promote sustainable solutions, he also specializes in the drafting of international marriage contracts, divorce and parental authority agreements. He is also trained in collaborative law and as a mediator.

He is a fellow of the IAFL, Treasurer of the Comité Français de Droit international privé. Since 2006, he has been an editor for the "Actualité Juridique Famille" law review edited by Dalloz .

He is the founder of Alexander Boiché & Associés law firm.

SESSION 8

NOELLE HUNTER

See above

PHILIPPE LORTIE

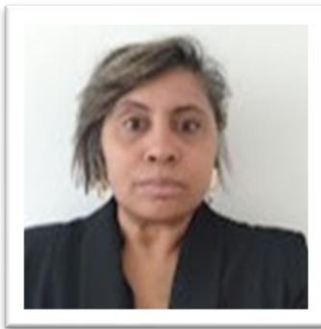
First Secretary, HCCH



Philippe Lortie joined the Permanent Bureau of the HCCH in September 2001 as First Secretary. He is co-responsible for the International Family & Child Protection Law Team which includes the 1980 Child Abduction, 1996 Child Protection, 2000 Protection of Adults and 2007 Child Support Conventions and the 2007 Protocol on the Law Applicable to Maintenance Obligations. He is also responsible for the International Hague Network of Judges, the Judges' Newsletter and e-Justice tools supporting HCCH Conventions such as e-Country Profiles, INCADAT and iSupport.

Before joining the HCCH, from 1991 to 2001 Philippe Lortie was Legal Counsel at the Department of Justice of Canada. In that capacity, he acted as Head of Canadian delegations to the HCCH, Unidroit and UNCITRAL. Philippe Lortie is a member of the Québec Bar since 1991 and holds degrees in Civil Law (LL.L.) and Common Law (LL.B.). He also holds an LL.M. in international law for which he has received several awards.

JULIANA SANTOS WAHLGREN



Juliana Santos Wahlgren is the Founding Director of Revibra Europe. She is a lawyer with expertise in Family Law, Social rights, Gender-based Violence and anti-discrimination at the Brazilian, EU and Member States levels. She has extensively covered court cases related to International Child Abduction. She is also an expert on Strategic Litigation at the European Court of Human Rights. In November 2020, she was appointed to the European Commission's Expert Group on Migration, Integration and Asylum. She has more than 24 years of experience in Advocacy, Policy-Making and International Strategic Cooperation with Civil Society Organisations.

JOHN GOMEZ



John Gomez is from New York City. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in physical sciences from Harvard University and a master's degree from John F Kennedy University in interdisciplinary consciousness studies. He has lived in Japan since January 1995. He has worked on the parental child abduction issue involving children taken within or to Japan since 2008. This includes working on the issue in Washington, DC appealing to the US Department of State and US Congress. In 2013, Kizuna Child-Parent Reunion was established as an NGO registered in Tokyo. He is a founding Director and has served as Chairperson since its inception. The mission of Kizuna Child-Parent Reunion is to protect the human rights of children and their right to access both parents. With several parents and officials, they brought Japan to ratify and implement the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. Two talks were given to the EU Delegation to Japan. He attended the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child review of Japan in Geneva. He has listened to hundreds of parents involved in parental child abduction cases. Kizuna has appeared in the news in at least nine languages.

<https://www.kizuna-cpr.org/directors>

ALISON SHALABY



Alison Shalaby OBE is the Chief Executive Officer, reunite International Child Abduction Centre

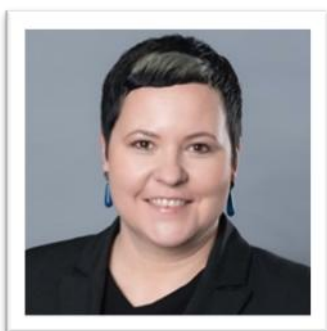
Alison has been instrumental in the development of the charity reunite since 1991, initially as a volunteer member of reunite's Management Committee and now as Chief Executive Officer.

Under Alison's leadership, reunite operates a 24-hour telephone advice line managing in excess of 17,000 calls per annum, and offers cross-border mediation and advocacy to more than 1,500 families every year. Alison has developed longer-term preventative initiatives, including urging changes to UK legislation, raising awareness about child abduction, research into the impact of child abduction, pressing foreign governments to deal more effectively with the problem, and using international fora to promote mediated solutions. Reunite's exemplary global reputation has enhanced the UK's reputation in dealing with this distressing issue. Many parents consider reunite's support has been crucial in helping them cope with the distress of this devastating situation and reuniting them with their children.

Alison's dedication to this cause stems from personal experience; her own daughter was abducted to Egypt as a child and only returned after a difficult struggle.

Alison is also a trained mediator, specialising in cross-border children's cases.

LIINA NAABER-KIVISOO



Liina Naaber-Kivisoo is judge and the President of the Harju County Court in Estonia. She is specialized to cases involving children (custody questions, access rights and child abduction). Before becoming a judge, she used to be an attorney and she worked a short period in the European Commission's legal service.

SESSION 9

IGNACIO GOICOECHEA



Ignacio Goicoechea is the Representative of ROLAC in Buenos Aires, supporting HCCH Conventions in Latin America and the Caribbean. Since joining the HCCH in 2005, he has led training programmes on child protection and international legal cooperation, advised governments on implementing HCCH Conventions, and contributed to key regional protocols and model laws.

He previously worked for Argentina's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in private legal practice. He was case officer in the Central Authority of Argentina on international child abduction for more than ten years.

BONI DE MORAES SOARES



Attorney for Brazil and currently working as National Solicitor for International Affairs, at the Attorney-General's Office of Brazil. Vice-Chair of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities, of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

PhD in International Law at the University of São Paulo (USP). Master of Laws on Law of International Relations (Uniceub). Professor and speaker on Public International Law, Private International Law and International Legal Cooperation.

ANDREW MOYLAN

See above

LESLIE KAUFMAN



Leslie Kaufman is Unit Chief, International Child Abduction in the Department of International Affairs, Ministry of Justice of Israel. In her 30 years of work with the Central Authority for Israel under the 1980 Child Abduction Convention, she has headed the Israeli delegation to numerous Special Commissions on the Practical Operation of the 1980 and 1996 Conventions, and was co-chair of the Seventh Special Commission. She has presented at numerous international judicial conferences on the 1980 Convention. She was a member of the Working Groups on the development of the Guide to Good Practice on Article 13(1)(b) of the 1980 Convention. She has further been a member of the delegation for Israel to meetings of the EuroMed Justice project for Resolution of Cross-Border Family Conflicts.

GRACIELA TAGLE DE FERREYRA



- Representative of the International Hague Network of Judges in the Republic of Argentina.
- Coordinator of the Office of International Judicial Cooperation of the High Court of Justice of the province of Cordoba, Republic of Argentina.
- Former trial judge of the Third Nomination Family Court in the city of Cordoba until February 2009.
- Contact point for the Ibero-American Legal Assistance Network – IberRed – in matters of Family Law in the Republic of Argentina.
- Full member of the Institute of Procedural Law of the National Academy of Law and Social Sciences of the Province of Cordoba.
- Member of the Argentine Association of Private International Law.
- Member of the Argentine Federation of Procedural Studies.
- Member of the International Association of Women Judges.
- Member of the National Association of Women Judges.
- Author of numerous national and international publications in the field of the international return of children and adolescents.
- National and international instructor.

CHRISTIAN HÖHN



Christian Höhn, LL.M., studied law in Bonn, Cologne and Edinburgh. After some years as an attorney in Munich in the field of Intellectual Property, in particular patent & trademark law, he joined the German Central Authority under the 1980 and 1996 Hague Conventions at the Federal Office of justice in Bonn in 2009. After 3 years in the German Central Authority he worked in other departments of the office, including 2 years in the field of international adoption in the German Central Authority under the 1993 Hague Convention. In 2016, he rejoined and became head of the German Central Authority under the 1980, 1996 and 2000 Hague Conventions. As a member of the German Central Authority he participated in many different Working Groups of the HCCH, including, in particular, the Working Group who drafted the Guide to Good Practice on Article 13 of the 1980 Hague Convention.

CAROLINE HARNOIS



Ms. Caroline Harnois is a Partner at Lavery, in Montreal, Canada where works since 2006. She is a member of the Family and Estate law team. Her practice is focused on all aspects of Family and Estate Law, which comprises Private International Family Law, including international child abduction matters.

Prior to joining Lavery, Ms. Harnois worked as a Legal Officer at the Permanent Bureau of The Hague Conference on Private International Law.

She is the President of the Canadian Chapter of the International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL) and an Administrator of Children and Youth Law Section of the Canadian Bar Association, Québec Division.

She has been recognized in The Best Lawyers in Canada in the field of Family Law, since 2017, as well as The Canadian Legal LEXPERT® Directory in the field of Family Law, since 2019.

SESSION 10

ANDREW MOYLAN

See above

JHOSEP Y. LOPEZ



Justice Jhosep Y. Lopez was appointed to the Supreme Court as its 190th Associate Justice on January 25, 2021.

A dedicated academic, Justice Lopez graduated *cum laude* with a degree in Political Science from University of the Philippines (UP) in 1984, followed by his law degree in 1988. He was admitted to the Philippine Bar in 1989.

Justice Lopez has built a distinguished legal and public service career. He began as **Legal Counsel** of the University of the Philippines and later served as **Chief Legal Officer** of the UP Manila–Philippine General Hospital. He went on to become **Chief Legal Counsel of the Senate** under the leadership of then Senate President **Jovito Salonga**. Justice Lopez also represented the City of Manila’s Third District as a City Councilor for four terms.

Notably, Justice Lopez formerly held key national positions: he was the Chief Legal Consultant of then Health Secretary Felipe Estrella, until he was appointed as the Philippines’ first agriculture attaché to Beijing, China. In 2001, he returned to serve as City Councilor for Manila until his appointment as City Prosecutor. His journey in the judiciary began when he was appointed as an Associate Justice in the Court of Appeals in 2012, serving in that capacity for nine years.

An academician at heart, Justice Lopez made significant contributions to the academe as a professor in several universities, such as the UP College of Law, New Era University, and the *Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila*. Apart from his advocacy in education and learning, he champions the cause of Filipino families and children as the co-chairperson of the Supreme Court Committee on Family Courts and Juvenile Concerns (CFCJC)—a role that reflects his enduring commitment to justice and public service.