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Related Documents	N/A

The Secretariat

By e-mail: secretariat@HCCH.net

12 May 2022

Dear Sir or Madam

1st Special Commission 2007 Convention: Info Doc IAFL (International Academy of Family Lawyers)

I note below some general information about the IAFL and our activities in relation to the subject matter of the Special Commission. Do let me know if I can assist further.

Kind Regards



Rachael Kelsey
President Elect, IAFL

UNDERNOTE:

ABOUT IAFL:

The IAFL is honoured to have been invited to participate as an observer at the Special Commission and our fellows will be ready to participate, as required, to provide input on the practical operation of the Convention.

The International Academy of Family Lawyers is a worldwide association of practising lawyers, academics and members of the judiciary who are recognised by their peers as the most experienced and skilled family law specialists in their respective countries.

The IAFL was formed nearly 40 years ago with a mission statement to improve the practice of law and administration of justice in the area of divorce and family law throughout the world. The IAFL now has over 930 fellows representing 67 jurisdictions. Admission to the Academy is by invitation only and successful applicants undergo a rigorous admissions process requiring the applicant to demonstrate that a significant part of their work is advising on family law and that they have a substantial international component to their practice.

For admission to the Academy, Fellows require to demonstrate that they are recognised by their peers as one of the most experienced and skilled family law practitioners in the jurisdiction in which they practice.

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In addition to the work that we do to provide a network for practising Fellows to obtain legal assistance of the highest calibre in other jurisdictions, a significant part of our focus is on education and law reform. We provide highly specialised education for our Fellows, and for other, non-specialist, practitioners across the world. By way of example, we hosted a webinar in February 2021 on “Hot topics in family law in Africa.” This virtual meeting had nearly 700 attendees with speakers from 16 different jurisdictions in Africa.

We have increasingly been asked to be involved in family law policy work, and law reform, for example in relation to the area of forced marriage in the US and in the UK post-Brexit, in relation to jurisdictional provision in family law cases. In addition to providing support to lawmakers across the globe in relation to various areas of law reform we have been a longstanding supporter of the incredibly valuable work done by the Hague Conference. We have had Observer Status on a number of PB projects on Family law matters for many years, and many of the individual states’ delegates are also IAFL Fellows.

CONVENTION OF 23 NOVEMBER 2007 ON THE INTERNATIONAL RECOVERY OF CHILD SUPPORT AND OTHER FORMS OF FAMILY MAINTENANCE:

The IAFL have fellows in 27 of the 44 of the contracting parties to the 2007 Convention. The vast majority of our fellows are practising lawyers who are dealing on a daily basis with transnational families where there are child support and other family maintenance issues that arise in multiple jurisdictions. Sometimes the issues relate to which jurisdiction has the ability to make orders for support and in other matters the issues relate to the recognition and enforcement of orders made in one state, in another.

We are fortunate to also have a number of fellows who are leading academics in their own jurisdictions, a number of whom also have a particular interest in the international aspects of child/family support. We have increasingly found that our educational programmes which are focused on bringing together individuals who approach matters from different perspectives – whether as a practitioner, academic, member of the judiciary, lawmaker or as a representative of an NGO or charity- have provided an ideal forum for detailed and careful consideration of domestic law, and how best to manage the legal principles and practicalities that arise for children and families where there are cross-border elements.