



Joint Family Law Conference and Networking Exchange

Barcelona Spain and Georgia USA

Not Just Continuing Legal Education... It's a Continuing Legal Experience!



Schedule

Joint Family Law Conference and Networking Exchange Georgia USA and Barcelona Spain

OCTOBER 16 - 20, 2022

10 HOURS CLE CREDIT (including 2.5 trial practice hours)

IL·LUSTRE COL·LEGI de l'ADVOACACIA de BARCELONA (ICAB)
Carrer de Mallorca 283, Barcelona Spain

Sunday, October 16, 2022

Let's all gather together for a meet and greet in a late afternoon
Welcome Wine and Tapas Welcome Get-Together.

Monday, October 17, 2022

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Registration and Breakfast

9:00 – 9:10 a.m.

Opening remarks

9:10 – 10:00 a.m.

Part I: Hague Convention Overview

General overview of the Hague Conference on Private International Law Conventions applicable to international family law and child custody disputes, with a more in depth discussion on the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Abduction, and relevant case law.

10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

Part II: *Castell v. Castell* - Analysis of Hague Convention Issues

Practical application of the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Abduction, including procedure for instituting and defending a claim for the return of wrongfully removed children, provisional and emergency remedies, discovery and evidentiary considerations for trial.

10:45 – 11:15 a.m.

Break

11:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Part II: *Castell v. Castell*: Analysis of Hague Convention Issues, continued.

Substantive arguments in favor of and against relief under the Hague Convention, including an analysis of habitual residence and wrongful removal.



1:00 – 1:30 p.m.

ICAB Library tour – Group 1

The tour includes a review of the history of ICAB and the practice of law in Barcelona; an explanation of the *Usatges de Barcelona*, the foundation for the rules and regulations that make up today's Catalan laws; and a view of the restoration of historical and legal treatises, news other library books, some of which are hundreds of years old.

Everybody is invited for lunch at a nearby restaurant. Travel companions are also invited at an additional cost. More details to come.

Afternoon Group Tours:

The Gothic Quarter
Gaudi and Modernist Barcelona

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Registration and Breakfast

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Part I: *Castell v. Castell* - Jurisdiction and Venue in International Divorce and Custody Cases

Review and practical application of rules of conflict considerations regarding jurisdiction and venue in international divorce and custody cases. Interplay and application of the UCCJEA in international custody cases.

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Part II: *Castell v. Castell* – International Family Law and a Comparative View of Divorce, Property Division, Support and Enforcement Issues

A comparative law approach to divorce, property division and support. Review of marital and separate property regimes and the effect of title, pre-marital interest, and contributions by gift, inheritance or labor. Overview of various forms of alimony and child support, and methods of calculating support. Review of legal and practical challenges faced by judges and family law practitioners in cross-border recognition and enforcement of support and property division orders.

11:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Break

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Part III: *Castell v. Castell* – Cross-Border Implications and Considerations in Custody and International Relocation Cases

Review of legal and practical considerations in international custody and relocation disputes. Analysis and application of the best interests of the child and other factors to consider in the international context, including the use of *Guardians ad Litem* and custodial evaluations.

1:00 – 1:30 p.m.

ICAB Library tour – Group 2

Afternoon Group Tours

The Gothic Quarter
Sagrada Familia and Parc Güell

8:00 p.m.

Appreciation Dinner for Judges and Presenters



Wednesday, October 19, 2022

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Courthouse Visit to Ciutat de la Justícia de Barcelona i l'Hospitalet de Llobregat

10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

Break // Return to ICAB

10:45 – 11:45 a.m.

Meet the Judges

Kyla S. Lines, Moderator

Christopher Brasher, Chief Judge, Superior Court of Fulton County

Stacey Hydrick, Judge, Superior Court of DeKalb County

Cynthia Wright, Senior Judge, Superior Court of Fulton County

J. Stephen Schuster, Senior Judge, Superior Court of Fulton County

Family Court Judges from Ciutat de la Justícia de Barcelona i l'Hospitalet de Llobregat

Judge panel discussion regarding significant courtroom and procedural Family Law issues in international divorce, support, property division and child custody.

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Wrap Up / Lessons Learned to Protect Clients in International Family Law Disputes

Tips on how to advise and protect clients who plan to or have already entered into marriages or parenting relationships with international partners, or who plan to relocate outside of the country. The role of mediation and arbitration in international cases, both as a preventative measure, and as a means to resolve disputes.

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Closing Reception

Afternoon Group Tours

Gaudi and Modernist Barcelona

Sagrada Família and Parc Güell

Thursday, October 20, 2022

Wine and Dine in the Penedès Wine Country. Visit **Can Bas** and **Pere Ventura Family Estates** to learn about wine and cava making, enjoy tastings, and feast on a Mediterranean lunch in the countryside.



Panelists

Hon. Christopher S. Brasher

The Honorable Christopher S. Brasher, Chief Judge of the Superior Court of Fulton County, was first elected to the Superior Court in 2006. Prior to his tenure as Chief Judge of the Superior Court, Judge Brasher served on the Family Court bench.

Before his election to the bench, Judge Brasher served in the Georgia Attorney General's Office as the Senior Assistant Attorney General, Public Safety Section, and before that as an Assistant District Attorney for the Alcovy Judicial Circuit. While in practice, Judge Brasher appeared in state and federal courts across Georgia, including the superior courts in over 110 counties. He has also made dozens of appellate arguments in the Georgia Supreme Court, the Georgia Court of Appeals, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court.



Judge Brasher has been a Board Member of the North Fulton Bar Association for many years. He is also a Master in the Lamar Inn of Court, Emory University, and a Member of the Atlanta Bar Association and the Lawyers Club of Atlanta. In addition, Judge Brasher is a former Chairman of the Georgia Crime Victim's Compensation Commission and a former Member of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Counsel of Georgia. Judge Brasher received his Bachelor's degree from Furman University and his Juris Doctor from Georgia State University.

Hon. Stacey K. Hydrick



On June 14, 2019, Judge Stacey Hydrick was appointed to the DeKalb County Superior Court by Governor Brian Kemp. Prior to this appointment, Judge Hydrick served as State Court Judge in DeKalb County for eight years.

Judge Hydrick's legal career began as Assistant District Attorney in the Augusta Judicial Circuit. She later went on to work as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of GA focusing on public corruption cases. From there, she joined the Fulton County District Attorney's Office and started its first Public Integrity Unit. Judge Hydrick left criminal law in 2002 for civil practice with Gray, Hedrick & Edenfield where she remained until she was appointed to the bench.

While serving as a Judge, Judge Hydrick remains active in numerous bar-related and community organizations. She is a graduate of the Leadership DeKalb Class of 2012, has served as the Secretary of the DeKalb Bar Association since 2013, and is a Board member of the Judicial Section of the Atlanta Bar Association. Judge Hydrick also serves on the Board of Governors for the State Bar of Georgia Board, and in 2017, she was appointed by the Georgia Supreme Court to the Investigative Panel of the re-constituted Judicial Qualifications Commission. She was reappointed to the JQC in 2021 and currently serves as Vice Chair of the Commission.

Judge Hydrick received her bachelor's degree in English from Emory University in 1989 and earned her law degree from Georgia State University in 1992. She has been married to her husband, Karl Hydrick, for almost twenty-eight years. They live in Dunwoody and are active members of the Marcus Jewish Community Center. They are the proud parents of two sons, Danny (25), a rising 3L at Georgia State University College of Law, and Adam (22), who is working toward a degree in firearms science. Judge Hydrick and her husband are also loving parents to their rescue dogs, Molly and Riley.

Hon. J. Stephen Schuster

The Honorable J. Stephen Schuster is a senior judge with the Superior Courts Georgia. He served as a Superior Court Judge in the Cobb County Judicial Circuit from 2004 to 2020.

Judge Schuster has been a member of the State Bar of Georgia since 1976. He received his Juris Doctor from the University of Georgia School of Law.

Prior to his tenure on the Cobb County Bench, Judge Schuster worked as a private attorney and as an Assistant District Attorney for the Cobb Judicial Circuit.



Hon. Cynthia D. Wright



Hon. Cynthia D. Wright, Senior Judge, was on the bench for 20 years in Fulton County, first in the State Court, and then in the Superior Court where she served two terms as Chief Judge. After taking Senior Judge status, Judge Wright joined JAMS as a mediator and arbitrator.

Judge Wright sat for many years as one of the first judges in the Fulton Superior Court Family Division. She has also presided over thousands of civil cases involving employment issues, contracts, personal injury, professional malpractice, real estate, education and business and governmental entities. In addition, Judge Wright chaired the Business Court Division, which was established to handle complex business cases. One of her milestone accomplishments as Chief Judge was the modernization of personnel practices for the judicial branch and the implementation of electronic filing of court documents.

Prior to serving in the judiciary, Judge Wright had a diverse legal career spanning both the public and private sectors. As chief counsel and assistant counsel to two Georgia governors, she provided advice on complex legal issues, drafted legislation and acted as a liaison to many state agencies. She also served as a hearing officer for the Georgia Office of Fair Employment Practices (now the Georgia Commission on Equal Opportunity) and was counsel to the Georgia Housing and Finance Authority, a public corporation that sold securities to finance multi-family and single-family housing.

Judge Wright spent time in the private sector at Troutman Sanders Lockerman and Ashmore and later founded her own firm. Prior to coming to JAMS, Judge Wright became a partner at a law firm and built a mediation and arbitration practice. Judge Wright received her Bachelor's degree from Wesleyan College and her Juris Doctor from the University of Georgia.

Kyla S. Lines, Esq.

Kyla Lines is a Managing Member of Bloom Lines Alexander LLC in Atlanta. She has practiced exclusively in the area of family law for the entirety of her legal career. Prior to her employment with BLA, Ms. Lines spent nine years as the Staff Attorney to the Honorable Cynthia D. Wright in the Family Division of the Superior Court of Fulton County. Ms. Lines handles all aspects of complex divorce cases, including child custody disputes, modification of child support, and modification of custody in Atlanta. She is a mediator and an arbitrator and serves as a court-appointed Guardian ad Litem in contested custody cases. Ms. Lines is also certified to practice collaborative law in Georgia.



Ms. Lines is a Past Chair of the Family Law Sections of the State Bar of Georgia and the DeKalb Bar Association. She is also a member of the Atlanta Bar Association Family Law Section, and she currently serves on the Board of the DeKalb Volunteer Lawyers Foundation. Ms. Lines has been recognized by her peers as a Georgia SuperLawyer since 2015, and she has been selected as one of Georgia's Top 50 Women Lawyers since 2019. Georgia Trend Magazine recognized Ms. Lines as "Legal Elite" in the area of Family Law, and she has been selected for inclusion as a "Super Lawyer" and a "Rising Star" in Family Law by Law & Politics and Atlanta Magazine for the last four consecutive years. Ms. Lines is often invited to speak to peers, other professionals and law students regarding various family law issues.

Ms. Lines is a native of Marietta, Ohio. She graduated from Rutgers College New Brunswick, New Jersey with Bachelor's degrees in Political Science and Philosophy, and went on to obtain her law degree from the Georgia State University College of Law. in

Dawn Elizabeth de Klerk



Born in Louisville, Kentucky, Dawn Elizabeth de Klerk, Esq. has made Georgia her home since 1992. Ms. de Klerk obtained her Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Florida State University and her Juris Doctorate from Mississippi College School of Law. Ms. de Klerk is a member of the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia, DeKalb Bar Association, Douglas County Bar Association, and a registered civil and domestic relations mediator with Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution.

Ms. de Klerk began practicing in the area of family law in 1993, and since that time, has continued to work exclusively in the interest of families as a mediator, a Guardian ad Litem, and as an attorney representing clients, children and families. Ms. de Klerk, as a member of the State Bar of Georgia, has been admitted to practice before all Georgia courts including the Georgia Supreme Court and the Georgia Court of Appeals. She has litigated in 30 Georgia counties. Ms. de Klerk also has completed Collaborative Law Training. In addition, she has lectured on family law and custody issues at continuing legal education programs on many occasions.

Additionally, Ms. de Klerk has contributed to several volunteer organizations including Fulton County Truancy Intervention Project, Habitat for Humanity, DeKalb County Woman's Resource Center, DeKalb Family Law Information Center (FLIC), Georgia Child Support Hotline, Fulton County Judicial Citizen Panel Review, and Good Samaritan Center. She is a member of Douglasville First United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, Atlanta Seminole Club, Atlanta Track Club and Phi Mu Sorority.

Ms. de Klerk has assisted clients in all phases of contested and uncontested matters involving divorce, alimony, equitable division, child custody and parenting time, child support, contempt, restraining orders, guardian ad litem investigations, legitimation, pre and post nuptial agreements, modification issues, paternity, and mediation services.

M. Debra “Debbie” Gold

M. Debra Gold (Debbie) started her legal career under the tutelage of Jack P. Turner, one of the great pioneers of Family Law in Georgia. Family law has always been her calling. Since 2004, Ms. Gold’s practice has focused primarily on serving as a court-appointed Guardian ad Litem. In 2018, she opened the doors to mdg Custody Litigation Consulting. Now, in addition to her work as a Guardian ad Litem, Ms. Gold puts her years of experience to work consulting with and doing contract work for other attorneys involved in high conflict custody cases.



Ms. Gold has been involved in the family law Bar in several capacities. She was a founding Board member of the DeKalb Bar Association Family Law Section and served on the Board for six years. As Chair, she spearheaded the annual Not Your Everyday Custody Case continuing legal education series, and she participated as an organizer and/or presenter for the five years of the series. Ms. Gold also established the Section’s charitable partnership with Nia’s Place, Supervised Visitation and Exchange Center. In addition, she represented the Family Law Section as a Board Member of the DeKalb Bar Association from 2013 – 2015.

Early in her career, Ms. Gold also served as the Associate Editor for the State Bar of Georgia Family Law Section newsletter. And, from 2006 – 2012 she authored a column entitled Confessions of a Guardian ad Litem for the State Bar of Georgia “The Family Law Review.” Ms. Gold also volunteers with the DeKalb Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, and formerly with the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation. She has organized and lectured at Guardian ad Litem trainings for both volunteer organizations. She also enjoys helping and mentoring Guardians ad Litem through some of their more difficult cases.

In 2000, Ms. Gold took advantage of an opportunity to live in Barcelona, Spain. She started a thriving tour business giving private, small group tours of Barcelona and surrounding Catalunya. Being born and raised an Atlanta girl, however, she came home in late 2003. Ms. Gold maintains her friendships and professional connections in Barcelona, and in 2019, she began working with the Il·lustre Col·legi de l’Advocacia de Barcelona (ICAB), the Barcelona Bar Association, to create a partnership with Georgia attorneys. Together, Ms. Gold, mdg Custody Litigation Consulting and the attorneys and administration at ICAB are now sponsoring the first Joint Family Law Conference and Networking Exchange in Barcelona.

Cristina Diaz-Malnero



Ms. Diaz has been a family lawyer and mediator for nearly 20 years. She has extensive experience in all procedures relating to family, juvenile, disability and inheritance law. This includes processes related to separation, divorce, civil partnership dissolution, filiation, adoption, surrogate maternity, measure amendments, voluntary jurisdiction, gender-based violence, international child abduction and relocation, among others. She has experience dealing with all these matters in circumstances of both litigious and mutual agreement, encompassing national territory.

Ms. Diaz is the current President of the Family Law Section of the Barcelona Bar Association (ICAB). She is also a Member of the Spanish Association of Family Lawyers (AEAFA), the Association of Professionals Against Child Abduction in Spain (ASIME) and the Council to the

Archbishop of Barcelona. Ms. Diaz also author of several publications and has participated as attendee and speaker at various seminars and conferences in the field of family law, at both the national and international level.

Ms. Diaz received her LLB at Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), and a postgraduate diploma in International Law and LLM in Family Law at the University of Barcelona. She is also trained and experienced as a mediator, and in Canon Law.

Carmen Varela Álvarez

Ms. Varela is the managing partner of Carmen Varela, Family Lawyers, specializing in custody, national and international divorces, dissolution of common-law couples, child abduction, transfer of minors to other countries, filiation, prenuptial agreements, exequatur, sentence modifications, claim for compensatory pensions and economic compensation, disabilities and minors. Ms. Varela is also a trained and experienced mediator, collaborative lawyer, and a Lawyer of the Ecclesiastical Court of Barcelona. She is a graduate of the University of Barcelona Law School.



Ms. Varela is the Vice-President of the Family Law Section of the Barcelona Bar Association (ICAB). She is also a Professor at the University of Barcelona where she teaches Family and Childhood Law. Ms. Varela is also a regular speaker on national and international family law, having lectured in Algeciras, Barcelona, Palma de Mallorca, Mexico, Madrid and Montevideo. She is a founding Member and the Treasurer of the Association of Professionals Against International Child Abduction (ASIME), as well as a founding Member of the International Association of Family Law Jurists (AIJUDEFA). Ms. Varela is also recognized by Reunite International.

Ms. Varela is also recognized as an expert and consultant for the Spanish press, radio and television. She created and administers "Derecho de Familia," ("Family Law"), a LinkedIn group to which over 12,000 attorneys, judges and family law professionals from all over the world currently belong. Ms. Varela also authored the first family law blog in Catalunya. She has been selected as one of the most influential family lawyers on social networks.

Alba Ródenas-Borràs



Ms. Ródenas-Borràs has extensive experience in the field of private international law, and in advising national and multinational companies, as well as German and English-speaking individuals. She specializes in real estate law, contract law, inheritance, and procedural law, always with an element of internationality. Her clients include companies from different economic sectors, such as real estate, logistics and transportation, pharmaceuticals, industry, automotive, etc.

After a fruitful collaboration with international law firms, Ms. Ródenas-Borràs founded her own firm, AR ADVOCATS ASSOCIATS, in 2002, oriented to private international law. In 2018, she joined AUGUSTA ABOGADOS, where she coordinates the international department. She is a graduate of the University of Barcelona Law School, and she obtained her master's degree in International Business Law from the University of Münster, Germany.

Ms. Ródenas-Borràs is the Chairwoman of the International Law Section of the Barcelona Bar Association. She lectures and publishes regularly on the subjects of "Private International Law" and "International Litigation" as well as other topics. In addition to her other many professional associations, Ms. Ródenas-Borràs also serves as the Secretary and legal advisor to the Board of Directors of the Circle of German-Speaking Executives.

Contact Information



Main Conference Venue

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Organizer

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