

PROVISIONAL DRAFT PROGRAMME
(SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT)
28TH ANNUAL GLOBAL MDT/UWC FAMILY LAW CONFERENCE 2026
11 to 13 MARCH 2026 at THE PRESIDENT HOTEL, 4 Alexander Road, Sea Point
and THE PENINSULA HOTEL, 313 Beach Road, Sea Point

CONFERENCE LINK: <http://www.mdtcinc.co.za/conference/> . QR code contains program and information regarding the conference, and will be updated from time to time.



WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2026

06h30-16h00	Registration open
	PLEASE BE SEATED BY 08H55
09h00-09h10	Opening and Welcome- Prof Julia Sloth-Nielsen (UWC) and Zenobia du Toit (Miller du Toit Cloete Inc)
09h10	Honourable Lady Justice Baratang Constance Mocumie (Supreme Court of Appeal, Hague Convention Liaison Judge, SA)
09h30	Philippe Lortie (First Secretary, HCCH, Netherlands)- HCCH Children Conventions
10h00	Lord Justice Andrew Moylan (Head of International Family Justice and Hague Network, Judge for England and Wales) – Reasons to Join the 1996 Hague Child Protection Convention
10h20-10h40	QUESTIONS
10h40-11h00	TEA

PARALLEL SESSIONS COMMENCE

ROOMS:

1. PRESIDENT ROOM 1
2. PRESIDENT ROOM 2
3. FOREST ROOM PRESIDENT HOTEL
4. PENINSULA ROOM - PENINSULA ALL SUITE HOTEL, 313 BEACH ROAD, SEA POINT. It is situated a short walk from the President Hotel. Refreshments will be served at tea times at the Peninsula, but lunches will be at The President Hotel. Escorted walks are available, please see Ina at the registration desk for transport enquiries.

WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH

A. CLOSED PARALLEL HAGUE SESSION – Wednesday 11 March

11h00 A closed session by invitation only, led by the **The Honourable Lady Justice Baratang Constance Mocumie** (Supreme Court of Appeal, Hague Convention Liaison Judge, SA)

The programme is available to attendees only.

13h00-14h00 LUNCH at the President Hotel

18h30 IAFL Complimentary opening cocktail function at the Hugo Social Club, Latitude, 9th Floor, 2 Kings Road, Sea Point. Pat Moodley will also be launching her book "Sunshine Lost".

Meet outside the President Hotel Reception at 18h15 for an escorted short walk to the function.

The entrance is through the Latitude ApartHotel Lobby- take the lift to the 9th floor, where the hostess will direct you to the function and a South African welcome.

A cash bar will operate from later in the evening onwards for those delegates, who wish to remain and catch up with old and new friends.

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WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH

HAGUE CONVENTIONS – OPEN PARALLEL SESSIONS

B. INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION AND RELOCATION –Wednesday 11 March

CHAIR: Barbara Connolly KC (7BR Barrister’s Chambers, England and Wales)

- 11h00- 11h20** **Avocat Véronique Chauveau** (Chauveau Mulon & Associates Avocat, Paris) - Child Abduction and Article 13(b) Defences.
- 11h20-11h40** **Prof Julia Sloth-Nielsen** (UWC, SA)- International child Abduction and Criminal Law
- 11h40-11h55** **Alexander Gubin** (AGA Partners – Kyiv, Ukraine) - Children at War, the Hague Convention on the International Abduction of Children

Comparative approaches to the Hague Abduction Convention internationally

- 11h55-12h25** **Sally Nicholes** (Founder & Managing Partner, Nicholes Family Lawyers, Australia and Deputy Chair of the World Congress on Family Law & Children’s Rights) **& Catherine Giles** (Partner, Nicholes Family Lawyers, Australia)- A strategic overview of the 1996 Hague Convention, including: “Soft landing” provisions, including matters following returns under the 1980 Hague Convention; Mirror orders compared with protective measures recognized under the 1996 Convention ; Use of 1996 Convention measures in cases involving a grave risk of harm ; Practical tips, common traps and challenges in applying the 1996 Convention from an Australian perspective
- 12h25-12h55** **Liuda A Yablokova** (SKY Lawyers, St Petersburg, Russia) **& Yvonne Kong** (Partner - Family Law Department at OLN, Hong Kong) - International Child Abduction: instruments for its enforcement in Hong Kong and Russia
- 12h55** **QUESTIONS**
- 13h00-14h00** **LUNCH**
- CHAIR: Adv Nthabiseng Thokoane** (Chief Family Advocate, SA)
- 14h00-14h30** **Karolina-Zoi Andriakopoulou** **& Maria Louiza Andriakopoulou** (Andriakopoulou Law Firm, Athens, Greece) - Close Encounters of a Legal Kind: Personal and Subjective Factors Affecting the Outcome of Child Abduction cases in Greece
- 14h30-14h55** **Adv Patricia Mundia** (Partner Ngigi Mundia Advocates LLP, Member NCAJ Standing Committee on the Administration of and Access to Justice for Children in Kenya, IAFL. Kenya) **& Adv Pauline Ngigi** (Advocate of the High Court of Kenya,

- Managing Partner at Ngigi Mundia Advocates LLP. Kenya) - Challenges in Kenya with ratifying Hague Conventions
- 14h55-15h15** **Adv Narghis Bundhun SC** (Advocate, Mauritius) - The Mauritius approach to hearing children in custody, relocation and abduction cases
- 15h15-15h35** **Barbara Connolly KC** (7BR Barrister's Chambers, England and Wales) & **Elisabeth H. Loukas, Esq.** (Law Office of Elisabeth H. Loukas, USA) – The Cross-Section of Parents Rights, the Best Interests of the Child and the Child's Wishes
- 15h35-15h45** **QUESTIONS**
- 15h45-16h00** **TEA**
- CHAIR: TBA**
- 16h00- 16h20** **Yordanka Bekirska** (President of Family Law Commission of the European Bar Federation (FBE), Bekirska Family Law Group, Bulgaria)- Hague Convention, International Child Abduction
- 16h20-16h35** **Prof Katja Karjalainen** (University of Lapland, Finland)- Finland supporting Namibia's Accession to the Hague Child Conventions
- 16h35-16h50** **The Hon Judge Dr Joanna Guttzeit** (Pankow Family Court Judge, Network Judge EJM and International Hague Network of Judges, Berlin Germany) - The Application of Hague Conventions in Germany (**online**)
- 16h50** **Questions**
- 18h30** IAFL Complimentary opening cocktail function at the Hugo Social Club, Latitude, 9th Floor, 2 Kings Road, Sea Point. Pat Moodley will also be launching her book "Sunshine Lost".

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WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH

HAGUE CONVENTIONS – OPEN PARALLEL SESSIONS

C. INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION AND RELOCATION– Wednesday 11 March

CHAIR: Hilka Hollmann (Dawson Cornwell LLP, UK)

- 11h00-11h20** **Dr Joseph Yav** (Professor of Law Faculty of Law, University of Lubumbashi, DRC Former executive director of CERDH, Managing Partner and Founder of YAV & ASSOCIATES Law Firm. Congo) - Adoption in the DRC
- 11h20-11h40** **Adelaide Benneh Prempeh** (Dual Barrister and Solicitor of Ghana, and England & Wales . B & P Associates, Labone, Accra Ghana) - International Adoptions
- 11h40-12h00** **Hon Judge Maedot Tesfaye** (Judge at the Federal High Court of Ethiopia)- Navigating the Legal Divide Between Professional Relocation and Inter-country Adoption restrictions under the AfCFTA: A Comparative Analysis of Ethiopian Jurisprudence and International Instrument
- 12h00-12h20** **Margaret O Akpoyoware** (Principal Partner, Nero's Practice. Barrister & Solicitor; Notary Public; Certified Mediator, Nigeria) – Child Adoption Procedures: A Nigerian Overview
- 12h20-12h40** **Professor Marilyn Freeman** (Director International Centre for Family Law, Policy and Practice, Principal Research Fellow, University of Westminster) – Children’s Right to Identity, Selfhood, and International Family Law
- 12h40-13h00** **QUESTIONS**
- 13h00-14h00** **LUNCH**
- RELOCATION OF CHILDREN**
- CHAIR: Ruth Kirby KC** (Barrister, Arbitrator, Mediator, 4PB, London UK)
- 14h00-14h20** **Avocat Véronique Chauveau** (Chauveau Mulon & Associes Avocat, Paris) - The Adoption Convention, KAFALA and FAA'MU Adoption
- 14h20-14h40** **Zoe Fleetwood** (Solicitor, Mills & Reeve LLP, UK) - Beyond Borders: How English Courts Approach Child Relocation
- 14h40-15h00** **Dr Jorge Guerra González** (Doctor of law, psychologist, court expert, certified international mediator. Germany and Belgium – When a System Built for Justice is Asked to Deliver Welfare: The Structural Mismatch in Family Law

15h00-15h20	Michael Wells-Greco (Charles Russell Speechlys, Switzerland)- Topic TBC
15h20-15h40	QUESTIONS
15h40-16h00	TEA CHAIR: Michael Wells-Greco (Charles Russell Speechlys, Switzerland)
16h00-16h20	Ruth Kirby KC (Barrister, Arbitrator, Mediator, 4PB, London UK) – Inherent Jurisdictions
16h20- 16h40	Adv Sandra Makoasha (SAHRC- South African Human Rights Commission, SA)- The Right to Be Heard: Children’s Participation in Medical Procedures Under a Human Rights Framework
16h40	Janet Broadly (Solicitor, Goodman Ray, London. Reunite)- The Hague Abduction Convention and Mediation (Online)
16h50	QUESTIONS
18h30	IAFL Complimentary opening cocktail function at the Hugo Social Club, Latitude, 9 th Floor, 2 Kings Road, Sea Point. Pat Moodley will also be launching her book “Sunshine Lost”.

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Thursday 12 March 2026

06h30-16h00

Registration open

PLEASE ALL BE SEATED BY 08H45 IN ORDER TO WELCOME THE HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE – THE DOORS WILL CLOSE

Welcome and Opening

08h55-09h05

Welcome and opening - **Professor Jacques de Ville** -The Dean of the UWC Law Faculty

09h05-09h45

The Chief Justice of South Africa, The Honourable Chief Justice Mandisa M Maya, introduced by The President of the Supreme Court of Appeal of South Africa, Madam Justice Mahube Betty Molemela

09h45-10h15

The Honourable Deputy Minister Steve Letsike (Deputy Minister of the Department of Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities)

10h15

PLEASE ALL ASSEMBLE FOR A QUICK GROUP PHOTO ON THE STAIRS OUTSIDE THE VENUE

10h15-10h40

TEA

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THURSDAY 12 MARCH

PARALLEL SESSIONS -Thursday 12 March

A. JUDGES' OVERVIEW OF FAMILY LAW DEVELOPMENTS - Thursday 12 March

CHAIR: TBA

- 10h40-11h10** **Judge Dr Nataša Plavšić, Serbia** (Constitutional Court of Serbia) - The Quality of Constitutional Protection in Cases of Procedural Delays Affecting Children's and Parents' Rights in Serbia
- 11h10-11h40** **President of the Supreme Court and Honourable Justice Valentina Pavličić, Montenegro** (President of the Supreme Court, Montenegro)
- Interesting developments in family law in Montenegro
- 11h40-12h00** **Hon Deputy Chief Justice Michael Musonda, Zambia** (Deputy Chief Justice of Zambia) - Family Law developments in Zambia
- 12h00-12h20** **The Honorable Justice Hilary Chemitei, Kenya** (Kenya Judiciary - served as Presiding Judge at Kisumu, Kitale, Nakuru and Milimani (Family Division) High Court Judge, Kenya) - Developing Family Law in Kenya: The Evolution and Contemporary Landscape of Family Jurisprudence in Kenya: A Constitutional and Statutory Transformation.
- 12h20-13h10** **JUDGES PANEL- HOT TOPICS IN EACH JURISDICTION**
- CHAIR/SPEAKER: Lord Justice Andrew Moylan** (Head of International Family Justice and Hague Network, Judge for England and Wales)
- The Honourable Lady Justice Baratang Constance Mocumie** (Supreme Court of Appeal, Hague Convention Liaison Judge, SA)
- The Hon. Lady Justice Fiona Mwale** (Judge in charge, Family and Probate Division, High Court Judiciary Malawi)
- The Honourable Lady Justice Mumbua Teresia Matheka** (Judge, High Court of Kenya Presiding Judge ,High Court of Kenya at Makueni,Chairperson NCAJ Standing Committee on the Administration of, and Access to Justice ,for Children, Kenya)
- Hon Judge Maedot Tesfaye** (Judge at the Federal High Court of Ethiopia)
- 13h10-14h00** **LUNCH**
- CHAIR: Rachael Kelsey** (SKO Family Law, Scotland & Immediate Past President IAFL)

- 14h00-14h30** **The Honourable Lady Justice Baratang Constance Mocumie** (Supreme Court of Appeal, Hague Convention Liaison Judge, SA) & **Judge Judy Cloete** (Western Cape High Court) – Habitual Residence
- 14h30-15h40** **SOUTH AMERICAN PANEL, Q & A**
- Daniela Horvitz** (Horvitz & Cia Abogados , Chile) - Main innovations and specific characteristics of Chilean family law. Some critical lessons
- Dilia Jorge Mera** (DLJM Oficina de Abogados , Dominican Republic) - Family Law Reform in the Dominican Republic: Advances and Challenges in the Protection of Children and Adolescents
- Patricia Kuyumdjian de Williams** (President AIJUDEFA, Estudio Kuyumdjian & Williams, Argentina) - New paradigms in family law in Argentina after the 2015 Argentine Civil and Commercial Code and case law
- Cassio Namur** (Tortoro, Madureira & Ragazzi Advogados, Brazil) - Access of children to justice in Brazil. And two hot topics of family law in Brazil: Dating Agreement and Stable Union
- QUESTIONS**
- 15h40- 16h00** **TEA**
- CHAIR: Adv Patricia Mundia** (Partner Ngigi Mundia Advocates LLP, Member NCAJ Standing Committee on the Administration of and Access to Justice for Children in Kenya, IAFL. Kenya)
- 16h00- 16h15** **Anthony Asimwe** (Vice President Uganda Law Society, Uganda) - Family Law developments in Uganda
- 16h15-16h35** **Alice Meier Bourdeau** (Avocat aux Conseils, Society MBL&A, Paris France, President Elect of the European chapter of the IAFL) - Recent Family Law Developments in France- i.a. parenthood and filiation
- 16h35-16h50** **Me. Emeline Nyembo** (Managing Partner Shebah Law Firm, Rwanda) – Family Law developments in Rwanda
- 16h50** **QUESTIONS**
- 19h00** DINNER IS AT THE BELTHAZAR RESTAURANT, SHOP 153, 19 BREAKWATER BOULEVARD, V & A WATERFRONT AT 19H00. CASH BAR. LIMITED COMPLIMENTARY BOTTLES OF WINE AND WATER ON THE TABLES. *Dress code: represent your country or alternatively bring an item representing your country.*

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THURSDAY 12 MARCH

PARALLEL SESSIONS

B: PROPRIETARY CLAIMS,RELATED TOPICS, AND A SINGLE STORY- Thursday 12 March

CHAIR: Adv Stuart Humphrey (Durban Bar, KZN, SA)

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 10h40-11h00 | Hugh Harnett (Doctorate Student, Rhodes University SA)- Career Assets upon Divorce |
| 11h00- 11h30 | Jaqueline Julyan (Counsel, SA, 5SAH Chambers, England & Wales) & William Longrigg (Solicitor, IAFL, Charles Russell Speechlys LLP, London) - Updates/FDR Process and property issues in England, with a comparative perspective from SA |
| 11h30-11h50 | Suzanne Todd (Partner, Withers, London & President Elect of IAFL)- Domestic Abuse in financial proceedings in England & Wales – are the sands shifting |
| 11h50-12h05 | Sarah Anticoni (partner at Charles Russell Speechlys LLP, London England - solicitor and mediator) - Making additional financial claims in England after an overseas divorce (Part III of the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984) |
| 12h05-12h35 | Ian Kennedy AM & Olivia Grobtuch (Kennedy Partners Lawyers, Australia)- Redrafting of the Property Provisions in the Australian Family Law Act to codify several decades of case law and to update the factors requiring consideration to include the effect of family violence on the ability of a party to make contributions in the course the marriage and the financial conduct of parties including waste of assets and incurring debt to the detriment of the other party when the property comes to be divided. Prenuptial Agreements. |
| 12h35-12h55 | Madeleine Mendy (Binsevan Advocates and Legal Consultants, Head of Family Law Department, Dubai, UAE) - How spousal maintenance and division of assets are dealt with in Abu Dhabi Civil Family Court vs Dubai Court - TBC/Online |
| 12h55-13h10 | QUESTIONS |
| 13h10-14h00 | LUNCH |
| | CHAIR: Michael Wells-Greco (Charles Russell Speechlys, Switzerland) |
| 14h00-14h20 | Dr Joseph Yav (Professor of Law Faculty of Law, University of Lubumbashi, DRC Former executive director of CERDH, Managing Partner |

and Founder of YAV & ASSOCIATES Law Firm. Congo) - Matrimonial Property in Congo

14h20-14h40

PD Dr Denise Wiedemann (Senior Research Fellow, Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law, Hamburg) - Discretionary Financial Remedies upon Divorce: Comparative Developments

14h40-14h55

Siyabonga Malaza (Whitesides Lawyers/Rhodes University LLM student, SA)- ANCs in South Africa- and suggestions for reform.

14h55-15h10

Zhang Ying (Hylands Law, China)- Chinese Property Regimes and Asset Tracing

15h10-15h25

Carli Schickerling (Schickerling Attorneys, Namibia)- From Recognition to Resistance: What Namibia Teaches Us About Constitutional Backlash

15h25-15h40

Questions

15h40-16h00

TEA

CHAIR: Adv Pat Moodley (Retired Provincial Head KZN Dept of Justice and Constitutional Development, SA)

16h00 –16h50

Dr Robert Simon (Forensic Psychologist, USA) & **Judge (retired) Dianna Gould-Saltman** (Judge Pro Tem at Signature Resolution, mediator, arbitrator, PC, discovery referee, previously a Los Angeles Superior Court Judge, USA) - The Danger of a Single Story: Paradigms, Power and Stereotypes in Custody Court

16h50

QUESTIONS

19h00

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THURSDAY 12 MARCH

PARALLEL SESSIONS

C. Children and Social Media, Diverse Topics of Interest- Thursday 12 March

Children and social media

CHAIR: Dr Annemarie Strohwal (Department of Private Law, University of Pretoria)

11h00-11h40

The Hon Ms Justice Nuala Jackson (Judge of the High Court of Ireland, Adjunct Professor UCC School of Law, IAFL Judicial Fellow, ACEDR trained mediator, Ireland) - AI and Family Law **(Online)**

11h40-12h00

The Honourable Justice Tom Altobelli AM (Judge of the Federal Circuit & Family Court of Australia (Div 1)) – AI in family law, social media/children initiatives in Australia **(Online)**

12h00-12h20

Assoc Prof Desmond Oriakhogba (Department of Private Law, University of the Western Cape, SA) - Artificial Intelligence in Legal Practice **(Online)**

12h20-12h40

Ruth Juliet Nyambura Gachanja (Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and Lecturer, Kabarak University, School of Law, Kenya) & **Youngreen Peter Mudenyi** (Student, Kabarak University, Kenya- Online)- Anticipating the New Frontiers of Child Protection: Proactive Legal and Technological Responses To AI-Driven CSAM in Kenya

12h40-13h00

Adv Morgan Courtenay (Centre for Child Law, Pretoria, SA) - Children and social media in South Africa

13h00-13h10

QUESTIONS

13h10-14h00

LUNCH

Diverse topics of interest

CHAIR: TBA

14h00-14h15

Gemma Lindfield (Family, criminal and public law barrister 5SAH, London) - Vexatious Litigants

14h15-14h35

Dr Astrid Martalas (Psychologist, mediator and PC, South Africa) – Identity: A Psychological Perspective

14h35-14h55

Martin Yodaiken (Clinical Psychologist, Cape Town, SA) - How concordant identification occurs (psychological and neurological) and how this impacts on a legal practitioner's health and fosters a conflictual climate between practitioners

- 14h55-15h15** **Khensani Motileni & Charlene May** o.b.o. Women's Legal Centre (Women's Legal Centre) - Using the courts to transform family law in South Africa, lessons from the Women's Legal Centre's strategic litigation to advancing substantive and gender equality
- 15h15-15h35** **Dr Linda Naidoo** (Gender-based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Specialist, United Nations (UNODC, Regional Office for Southern Africa)) - The wellness and debriefing framework for Judicial Officers, with specific reference to relevant international instruments and research
- 15h35-15h45** **QUESTIONS**
- 15h45-16h05** **TEA**
- CHAIR: TBA**
- 16h05-16h20** **Opiyo Wilfred** (Practicing Advocate, Kenya) – topic TBC
- 16h20-16h30** **Benita Ardenbaum** (Benita Ardenbaum Attorneys - Family Law South Africa) - Leading from within, rehumanising leadership in family law
- 16h30-16h45** **Nkhensani Shibambu** (Social Work Manager, National Department of Social Development, SA) – Whose best Interests? Children, Culture, and the Limits of Religious Freedom: A Social Work perspective
- 16h45 –17h00** **QUESTIONS**
- 19h00** DINNER IS AT THE BELTHAZAR RESTAURANT, SHOP 153, 19 BREAKWATER BOULEVARD, V & A WATERFRONT AT 19H00. CASH BAR. LIMITED COMPLIMENTARY BOTTLES OF WINE AND WATER ON THE TABLES. *Dress code: represent your country or alternatively bring an item representing your country.*
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THURSDAY 12 MARCH

PARALLEL SESSIONS

D. ART, Infant Abandonment, and Representation of Children – Thursday 12 March

CHAIR: Prudence Mutiso (Center for Reproductive Rights)

- 10h40-11h00** **Prudence Mutiso** (Center for Reproductive Rights) - Linkages between family law and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), drawing from a regional African litigation perspective.
- 11h00-11h20** **Stephen Page** (Page Provan - Brisbane, Australia) –ART update from Australia (**Online**)
- 11h20-11h40** **Laura Martinez- Mora** (First Secretary, HCCH, Netherlands) - Surrogacy
- 11h40-12h00** **Karabo Ozah** (Lecturer University of Pretoria, Director of Centre for Child Law, Pretoria, SA) - HCCH surrogacy project
- 12h00-12h15** **Mia Dambach** (Co-Founder and Executive Director for Child Identity Protection, Switzerland) - CHIP's work on surrogacy/donor conception, including in the Council of Europe (**Online**)
- 12h15-12h35** **Jemma Dally** (Solicitor, Goodman Ray, London) - Update on caselaw on parentage in the UK
- 12h35-13h00** **QUESTIONS**
- 13h00-14h00** **LUNCH**
- CHAIR: Karabo Ozah** (Lecturer University of Pretoria, Director of Centre for Child Law, Pretoria, SA)
- 14h00-14h20** **The Hon. Lady Justice Fiona Mwale** (Judge in charge, Family and Probate Division, High Court Judiciary Malawi) - Dangers of not having a law on surrogacy in the Malawi context
- 14h20-14h40** **Judge Maedot Tesfaye** (Judge at the Federal High Court of Ethiopia) - ART in Ethiopia: developments, gaps, and suggested legislative amendments for emerging legal issues in this area.
- 14h40-15h00** **Avocat Bérénice Dufau Richet** (Avocats, Alexandre Boiché and Associates, France) - topic TBC
- 15h00-15h20** **Prof Whitney Rosenberg** (University of Johannesburg, SA) -Toward a Protective Framework: Addressing South Africa's Infant Abandonment Crisis Through Baby Saver/Box Interventions
- 15h20-15h40** **QUESTIONS**

15h40-16h00

TEA

16h00-16h30

CHAIR/SPEAKER: Adv Julia Anderssen (Advocate Cape Bar, SA)- Legal Representation of Children

Judge Brenda Neukircher, South Africa (Judiciary Gauteng High Court, South Africa) - The appointment of the curator ad litem / legal representative in matters involving minor children in the High Court

16h30-16h40

QUESTIONS

16h40 -16h55

Meryl B. Rosenberg, Esq (Potomac, MD, USA) - Surrogacy in the USA (Online)

19h00

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Friday 13 March 2026

07h30-16h00

Registration open

PLEASE ALL BE SEATED BY 08H55- THE DOORS WILL CLOSE

09h00-09h40

The Honourable Justice Steven Majiedt of the South African Constitutional Court

09h40-10h05

Adv Leonard Tsietsi Sebelemetja (Chief Director: Legislative Development and Implementation- Department of Justice and Constitutional Development)

10h05-10h25

Professor Anthony Diala (Director: Centre for Legal Integration in Africa, UWC, SA)- Switch of marriage systems in the context of legal pluralism in South Africa

10h25-10h45

Prof Lea Mwambene (Professor of Law UWC, SA) - Systemic inequality and belonging: Reflections on customary marriages in South Africa

10h45-11h00

TEA

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3. FOREST ROOM PRESIDENT HOTEL
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FRIDAY 13 MARCH

PARALLEL SESSIONSA. RELATIONSHIPS, MARRIAGES AND PROPRIETARY CLAIMS- Friday 13 March

CO-CHAIRS: TBA

- 11h00-11h20 **Khensani Motileni & Charlene May** (Women's Legal Centre, Cape Town, SA)- Recognizing women's agency in customary and religious marriages
- 11h20-11h40 **Prof Elsje Bonthuys** (Professor of Law, University of Witwatersrand, SA)- Brief update on the Law Reform Commission's Matrimonial Property Project; and the treatment of the nikah as an ante nuptial contract.
- 11h40-12h00 **Dr Muneer Abduroaf** (UWC Faculty of Law, SA)- Muslim Law- an update on recent processes to accord Muslim marriages more recognition
- 12h00-12h20 **Adv Barbara Gassner SC** (Advocate, Cape Bar, SA)- Antenuptial Contracts and the Impact of Recent Caselaw
- 12h20-12h40 **Avocate Laetitia Molina** (Nice Bar, STEP member affiliate, France) - Cohabitation in France
- 12h40-13h00 QUESTIONS
- 13h00-14h00 LUNCH
- CHAIR: TBA
- 14h00-14h20 **Dr Tebogo Mabe** (Director, Adoptions and International Social Services, National Department of Social Development, SA) - State interventions in relation to "children on the move" – South African Perspective.
- 14h20-14h50 **Philippe Lortie** (First Secretary, HCCH, Netherlands) – 2007 Child Support Convention
- 14h50-15h10 **Prof Jens Scherpe** (Aalborg University, Denmark)- Pig Will and Pig Won't - A tale of recognition of unmarried couples in the so-called British Isles
- 15h10-15h30 **Deborah Nyokabi** (Equality Now, Kenya) - Overview of Gender Inequality in Family Laws in 20 African Countries
- 15h30-15h40 QUESTIONS
- 15h40-16h00 TEA

CHAIR: TBA

16h00-16h20

Laurie Greyvenstein (Mediator & Director at the Social Justice Foundation, SA) - The New Maintenance Order Management System (MOMS): Listing of maintenance defaulters on credit bureaus

16h20

QUESTIONS

PLEASE RETURN TO THE MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM AT THE PRESIDENT HOTEL FOR CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE

17h10

Closure: Prof Julia Sloth-Nielsen (UWC) and Zenobia du Toit (Miller du Toit Cloete Inc)

THERE IS A COMPLIMENTARY COCKTAIL AT THE PRESIDENT HOTEL IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CONFERENCE. THIS IS SPONSORED BY 5SAH CHAMBERS, ST ANDREWS HILL, LONDON.

SPEAKERS DINNER 19H00– SHUTTLE: BE AT RECEPTION AT 18h45

FRIDAY 13 MARCH

PARALLEL SESSION

B. Children – Friday 13 March

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 11h00 | CO-CHAIRS: Adv Nthabiseng Thokoane (Chief Family Advocate, SA) & Hilka Hollmann (Dawson Cornwell LLP, UK) |
| 11h00-11h20 | The Honourable Lady Justice Mumbua Teresia Matheka (Judge, High Court of Kenya Presiding Judge ,High Court of Kenya at Makueni,Chairperson NCAJ Standing Committee on the Administration of, and Access to Justice ,for Children, Kenya) - The Child in the Alternative Justice System: calls for Urgent Reforms to Protect Children in Kenya’s Justice System |
| 11h20- 11h40 | The Hon. Lady Justice Fiona Mwale (Judge in charge, Family and Probate Division, High Court Judiciary Malawi) - Child Protection Challenges in Malawi |
| 11h40-12h00 | Leah Kiguatha (Kiguatha & Company Advocates Nairobi, Kenya) - Alternative care in Kenya |
| 12h00- 12h20 | Hon Ruth Mbambi (Judiciary. Family and Children’s Division, High Court, Zambia)- The Role of Traditional Leaders in Child Protection in Zambia |
| 12h20-12h40 | The Honourable Commissioner Anne Musiwa (AU ACERWC Commissioner, and Member of the TWG on Orphanage Trafficking for the Inter Parliamentary Union for Human Trafficking, an expert in child rights)- Alternative care guidelines |
| 12h40-13h00 | QUESTIONS |
| 13h00-14h00 | LUNCH |
| | CO-CHAIRS: Adv Nthabiseng Thokoane (Chief Family Advocate, SA) & Hilka Hollmann (Dawson Cornwell LLP, UK) |
| 14h00-14h20 | Diahann Gordon Harrison (National Rapporteur on Trafficking Persons; Children’s Advocate, Board Member – ISPCAN, Jamaica)- Sports Trafficking and its impact on families |
| 14h20-14h40 | Children and Safeguarding

Adelaide Benneh Prempeh (Dual Barrister and Solicitor of Ghana, and England & Wales . B & P Associates, Labone, Accra Ghana) |

Elisabeth H. Loukas, Esq. (Law Office of Elisabeth H. Loukas, USA)

CHAIR:TBA

- 14h40-14h55** **Fortunate Mongwai** (Centre for Child Law, Pretoria, SA) - Child Justice in South Africa
- 14h55-15h15** **Professor Elvis Fokala** (Programme Manager: Child's Right Unit, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, SA) - A child's right to adequate parental care in the context of shared parental leave in South Africa
- 15h15-15h35** **Prof Maebh Harding** (University College Dublin) - the reKINdle project: Rethinking the legal framing of the parent/child link
- 15h35-15h45** **QUESTIONS**
- 15h45-16h00** **TEA**
- CHAIR: TBA**
- 16h00-16h25** **Ian Kennedy AM & Olivia Grobtuch** (Kennedy Partners Lawyers, Australia)- Greater emphasis on children's welfare and family violence in the decision-making process and less on parental rights and shared responsibility, or commented by enhanced family dispute resolution requirements. Giving effect to the Convention on the Right of the Child with consideration of any history of family violence, abuse or neglect being a primary factor.
- 16h25-16h35** **QUESTIONS**
- 16h35-16h50** **Isabel Magaya** (Programme Manager, Children and the Law African Child Policy Forum (ACPF), Ethiopia)- Latest Developments in Child Policy (**Online**)
- PLEASE RETURN TO THE MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM AT THE PRESIDENT HOTEL FOR CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE**
- 17h10** **Closure: Prof Julia Sloth-Nielsen (UWC) and Zenobia du Toit (Miller du Toit Cloete Inc)**

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FRIDAY 13 MARCH

PARALLEL SESSIONC. BAR COUNCIL SESSION,GBV - Friday 13 March

11h00-12h25

Bar Council session

CO-CHAIRS: Barbara Mills KC (Former Chair of English Bar Council, Barrister 4PB, UK- **Online**) & **CO-CHAIR TBA**

Adv Donald J Jacobs (Senior Counsel Cape Bar, SA)

Adv Janet Mccurdie (Advocate of High Court of SA, Chairperson of the Cape Bar SA)

Ramadhan Abubakar (EALS president , Advocate of the High Court of Kenya ,Kenya)

Anthony Asimwe (Vice President Uganda Law Society, Uganda)

Adv Faith Odhiambo (Lawyer, advocate Ombok & Owuor Advocates LLP, and 51st president of the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) Kenya)

Yordanka Bekirska (President of Family Law Commission of the European Bar Federation(FBE), Bekirska Family Law Group, Bulgaria)

QUESTIONS

CHAIR: TBA

12h25-12h45

Magistrate Jackie Kibosia (Principal Magistrate at Milimani Law Courts, Judiciary Kenya) - The Family Courts in Kenya

12h45-13h00

IAFL

Heather Hostetter (Hostetter Strent LLP, Bethesda, USA. President of the IAFL)

Suzanne Todd (Partner, Withers, London & President Elect of IAFL)

Rachael Kelsey (SKO Family Law, Scotland & Immediate Past President IAFL)

13h00-14h00

LUNCH

CHAIR: Adriana de Ruiter (Tulp Abogados, ASIME, Madrid Spain)

- 14h00-14h20** **Dr Robert Simon** (Forensic Psychologist, USA) - The conduct of parents and the impact on children
- GBV**
- 14h20-14h30** **Adriana de Ruiter** (Tulp Abogados, ASIME, Madrid Spain)
- 14h30-14h50** **Dr Harriet Musoke** (Musoke and Company Advocates, Uganda)- Domestic Violence and Traditional Justice Systems in Uganda
- 14h50-15h05** **Barbara Mills KC** (Former Chair of English Bar Council, Barrister 4PB, UK) - Violence against women and girls in the UK **(Online)**
- 15h05-15h25** **Dr Sandra Hacker AO** (Private practice, Psychotherapy Supervisor, Clarendon Clinic, Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist Alfred Hospital, Australia) - The long-term effects of childhood sexual abuse
- 15h25-15h45** **QUESTIONS**
- 15h45-16h00** **TEA**
- CHAIR: TBA**
- 16h00 – 16h20** **Dr Anthony Townsend** (PhD Clinical Psychologist , SA)- The adolescent brain and adolescent behaviour
- 16h20** **QUESTIONS**
- PLEASE RETURN TO THE MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM AT THE PRESIDENT HOTEL FOR CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE**
- 17h10** **Closure: Prof Julia Sloth-Nielsen (UWC) and Zenobia du Toit (Miller du Toit Cloete Inc)**

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FRIDAY 13 MARCH

PARALLEL SESSION

D. ADR – Friday 13 March

CHAIR - Sarah Anticoni (partner at Charles Russell Speechlys LLP, London England - solicitor and mediator)

CHAIR – Craig Schneider (Attorney and mediator Cape Town SA)

11h00- 11h20

Judge (retired) Dianna Gould-Saltman (Judge Pro Tem at Signature Resolution, mediator, arbitrator, PC, discovery referee, previously a Los Angeles Superior Court Judge, USA)
- Alternative Dispute Resolution in California: Private Judging

11h20 -11h40

Kai Yun Wong (Senior Partner and Co-Head of the Family and Matrimonial Practice of Dentons Rodyk & Davidson LLP, Singapore) - Mediation and the Singapore convention

11h40-12h10

Cateljne Boshouwers (BSS Familierecht, Amsterdam) & **Wendy van der Stroom-Willemsen** (SmeetsGijbels – Rotterdam and Amsterdam) -ADR/cross-border mediation, methods of hearing children in mediation and the transition from ex-partner to co-parent, concentrating on the contents of the mediation technique.

12h10-12h25

Adriana de Ruiter (Tulp Abogados, ASIME, Madrid Spain)- Mediation in the Spanish system- the results of the new obligation in Spain since April 2025 concerning mandatory ADR before filing the proceeding at court

12h25- 12h45

Prof Leentjie de Jong (Family Dynamics Mediators, SALRC, South Africa) - The draft Family Dispute Resolution Bill: From the 2020 to the 2024 draft Bill

12h45-13h00

QUESTIONS

13h00-14h00

LUNCH

14h00-14h20

Natalie Ruiters (La Poppie Mediations, SA) & **Monique Carels** (Lecturer University of Cape Town Law Faculty, SA)- Community Harassment Disputes: A Case For Mediation in SA

- 14h20-14h40** **Suzanne Kingston** (Solicitor, Penningtons, mediator/arbitrator (IFLA), London) - ADR- evolution of mediation and arbitration to where the UK is now
- 14h40-15h00** **Suzanne Todd** (Partner, Withers, London & President Elect of IAFL) - Collaborative law practice in England (or not) and the rise of the one lawyer one couple models
- 15h00-15h30** **Aye Cheng Shone** (A C Shone & Co, Singapore) & **Anuradha Sharma** (Winchester Law LLC, Singapore) - Therapeutic Justice Approach and Mediation and Child Representation within the Singapore context
- 15h30-15h40** **QUESTIONS**
- 15h40-16h00** **TEA**
- 16h00-16h15** **Winnie Chow** (Chow Ruskin Brown, Hong Kong) - a multidisciplinary approach to ADR and collaborative practice
- 16h15-16h35** **Dr Jorge Guerra González** (Doctor of law, psychologist, court expert, certified international mediator. Germany and Belgium) - Mediation as a solution and the protection of children and families.
- 16h35** **QUESTIONS**
- PLEASE RETURN TO THE MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM AT THE PRESIDENT HOTEL FOR CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE**
- 17h10** **Closure: Prof Julia Sloth-Nielsen (UWC) and Zenobia du Toit (Miller du Toit Cloete Inc)**

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UWC

IAFL – Wednesday 11 March Hugo Social Club Cocktail

Shamla Pather Attorneys Inc- Sponsorship for attendance of Hague Adoption Workshop delegates

5SAH CHAMBERS, ST ANDREWS HILL, LONDON – President Hotel Complimentary Cocktail Friday 13 March

Pat Moodley- support for Wednesday 11 March Hugo Social Club Cocktail

JUTA

