



## **International Law Committee to present Child Abduction program –plus Hague case training!**

The Section of Family Law's International Law Committee has taken advantage of our Spring CLE's Washington location by inviting representatives from the State Department and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to explain the services and assistance they provide in international child abduction and other cases. Rather than just another primer on treaties and statutes, you will hear from the people who actually field child abduction situations and other international family law matters every day — Kathleen Ruckman, who is Deputy Director of the State Department's Office of Children's Issues (which also oversees the implementation of the soon-to-be ratified Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption), and Julia Alanen, who is Director of the International Division of NCMEC, which operates for the State Department as the U.S. Central Authority for the Hague Child Abduction Convention. In addition to explaining the resources available to parents and lawyers, they will offer insights on helping locate children and abduction prevention, as well as on how attorneys can become more involved in providing assistance in Hague cases. The May 6 session will be moderated by David Jackson, who works in Washington as Managing Editor of the *Family Law Reporter*.

The International Law Committee is also proud to inform the ABA Section of Family Law of a wonderful opportunity for members who will be in Washington, D.C. prior to the conference. On Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2 pm until 4:30 pm, there will be training for attorneys who want to learn how to handle an international child abduction case. The State Department, NCMEC, and the Hague have collaborated to host this training for attorneys who have little or no experience in handling international child abduction "Hague" cases. If you have always wanted to work on international family law issues, but have felt reluctant to do so because of a lack of experience or knowledge, this training is perfect for you. The training will provide the basic information and resources necessary to handle a Hague case and an opportunity to participate in the International Child Abduction Attorney Network (ICAAN). ICAAN provides relief to applicants whose child was wrongfully removed or retained in the U.S. to cost-effective, experienced, and knowledgeable legal advice and representation. ICAAN members have access to a network of lawyers, law firms, and law school clinics with expertise in litigating and mediating international child abduction cases, and are given access to mentors, attorneys with previous experience in their jurisdiction, as well as to information materials on the "Hague" Child Abduction Convention.

To RSVP for this free training opportunity, or if you have a question, contact Melissa Kucinski at [mkucinski@dberlin.org](mailto:mkucinski@dberlin.org) or (240) 277-0134 by April 19th. The training will be held at the State Department's Office of Children's Issues at 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. in downtown Washington. Space is limited, so please RSVP early and directions will be provided when you RSVP. For more information about NCMEC's ICAAN network, you may contact NCMEC's International Division at 1-800-843-5678 or [icaan@ncmec.org](mailto:icaan@ncmec.org).