

CENTRE FOR FAMILY LAW AND PRACTICE

Department Of Law, Governance And International Relations
Patron: Baroness Hale



NEWSLETTER
Issue 2 August 2009

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Our first six months

Following establishment of the Centre during the first quarter of 2009, our second quarter has enabled further progress to be made, with extension of our temporary funding up to September 2009, after which it is intended that we will be settled on a permanent footing for the next three years. The inaugural Child Law conference for 30 June to 2 July 2010, now in its eighteenth draft, has a full programme which will be issued in our conference flyer and booking form and on the website in the early autumn. The social programme has now been added, with a welcome reception on the first evening of the conference kindly offered by 29 Bedford Row Chambers (a leading family set where launch of Marilyn's reunite research usually takes place), a further reception on the second evening on the Terrace at the House of Commons arranged by the All Party Parliamentary Group which supports reunite's work, and on the final evening the Conference Dinner at Lincolns Inn. Essential financial sponsorship is now being secured to underpin this important specialist networking event and delegates' bookings will commence in the autumn as soon as the booking form is ready for issue. In view of the long distances over which some conference speakers and delegates will be travelling to London some

optional weekend social events are also being arranged for the Saturday and Sunday immediately after the conference, since it is unlikely that such delegates will depart immediately having come so far, especially as there is coincidentally a further Family Law conference at UCL in London the following week, which is likely to make many delegates' long journeys doubly worthwhile.

Boris Johnson, the Mayor of London, has been invited to welcome those attending our conference to London.

In view of the kind offer of this leading Family Law Chambers to hold the conference's welcome reception at 29 Bedford Row on 30 June 2010 we have consequently had to rearrange the conference's use of the Women's Library, which is immediately adjacent to the Law School, and where we had planned to hold the first evening's reception. It is now intended that there will instead be an opportunity for those delegates who are interested to visit the Library during lunch breaks at the conference, since it holds an important collection of iconic exhibits from the early days of the campaign for women's suffrage, and other artefacts and archive items in connection with the emergence of women in the professions and particularly in the Law.



THE 2010 CONFERENCE

30 June to 2 July 2010, at the Law School

INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION, FORCED MARRIAGE AND RELOCATION

Three Linked Topics and the Global Perspective

Our Call for Papers, advertised in Family Law Journal and International Family Law, on the Society of Legal Scholars' website and those of the Association of Law Teachers and of reunite, and circulated by the Family Law Bar Association, and Resolution (the Solicitors Family Law Association) has finally closed which has enabled the draft programme to be finalized for the booking form. In view of the enthusiastic national and international support for the conference and the Centre, the Programme was already very full before the formal Call for Papers was published. However with some ingenuity it has been possible to fit most accepted offers into the very full schedule, including the most welcome involvement of the Ministry of Justice, which has proposed a Minister to address the conference, and of various departments of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. It is also intended to publish an edited version of the papers and reports from the breakout Discussion Groups in a special edition of the Centre's journal and where we have not been able to include every proposed contribution this will afford a further opportunity to include all the original thought on our three linked topics which will make this specialist conference involving all the leading researchers, academics and practitioners working in these subject areas so special.

WEBSITE

Our website is now live, on which the draft conference programme will shortly be published. Until the first issue of the online Journal is available we will also upload our quarterly Newsletters. The url is www.londmet.ac.uk/flp. Issue 1 (April 2009) will remain on line to start our archive of past issues.

THE CENTRE'S JOURNAL

A meeting was held at the Law School in May with Professor Peter de Cruz of Liverpool John Moores University to discuss setting up the on line journal. A small inaugural editorial board has been established under the leadership of Professor de Cruz, and including the specialist child lawyer Anne-Marie Hutchinson OBE of Dawson Cornwell, Solicitors; leading academic and author of the new edition of Hayes & Williams, Stephen Gilmore of Kings College, London. Lord Justice Ward, an old friend of the Law School in the 1990s when the LPC was first established, has been invited to represent the judicial constituency.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

In this quarter Marilyn has spoken at the International Society of Family Law Regional Conference in Israel where she presented a paper on her recently published research funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on the UK – Pakistan Protocol. In August she also spoke at Lord Justice Thorpe's conference, the International Family Justice Judicial Conference for Common Law and Commonwealth Jurisdictions, at Cumberland Lodge before attending the 5th World Congress on Family Law and Children's

Rights in Nova Scotia. In October both Marilyn and Frances will go to Madrid for the annual conference of the International Bar Association, where they will participate in the session concerning mediation and international child abduction, again drawing on Marilyn's current research for the Ministry of Justice into relocation of children from one jurisdiction to another.

Marilyn has written a report of the conference in Israel for the Newsletter of the Academic and Professional Development Committee of the International Bar Association which will be distributed in advance of, as well as at, the forthcoming annual conference in Madrid in October 2009. Her report again underlines the importance of the academic-practitioner interface which is the rationale of our Centre.

Meanwhile Marilyn, together with Henry Setright QC and other members of her former Chambers in Grays Inn, has moved Chambers to the high profile Family Law set 4 Paper Buildings in Inner Temple. This set brings the International Child Abduction group with which she has been associated as a Door Tenant for some years together with a number of leading Family Law barristers. Coincidentally, the Centre for Child and Family Law Reform (a small research group chaired by Professor Hugh Bevan, Emeritus Professor of Child Law in the University of Cambridge) also meets at 4 Paper Buildings, and Frances is a long standing member of this group which also includes representation from the Family Law Bar Association and of the Family Law Judges and District Judges.

Marilyn also attended Resolution's Annual Lecture, this year given by Professor Patrick Parkinson from Sydney, NSW, on The Indissolubility of Parenthood, at which there was a packed audience of leading members of the Family Law community, led by Lord Justice Thorpe, Head of International Family Justice. She also went to the Adoption Seminar given by Birkbeck and Warwick.

Marilyn also found time during the summer term to undertake ADR Chambers' Mediation Training to become an accredited Mediator recognized by the Civil Mediation Council. Later this year it is intended that both Marilyn and Frances, who is already an experienced Mediator, mainly in the field of property, will undertake reunite's specialist training in abduction mediation which has been very successful in resolving some difficult cases in this field.

Frances went to the Family Law Bar Association's annual conference at Cumberland Lodge in May and as a result has been roped in by Mr Justice Singer, a keen supporter of the Centre and the Conference, to join GEMME, a new initiative promoting judicial mediation, which will hold its annual conference in Paris in October which Frances will attend. She will also go to the SLS' annual conference at Keele in September.

Lesley Neenan represented the Law School and the Centre at the Cambridge conference on Marital Agreements and Private Autonomy in June.

As a result of their attendance at a range of events involving the Family Law community of academics and practitioners, relationships are developing with leading Family Law Chambers and firms of solicitors. Hodge, Jones & Allen, who have an excellent Family practice, both private and public funded, invited us to take a team from the Law School's Family Law staff to the firm's charity Quiz Night on 30 April, when Marilyn and Frances were accompanied by John Jupp and Patricia McHale from the LPC team: we did not win but nor did we come last, and where we made many new friends and there are other events of this sort scheduled in the autumn.

LAUNCH OF MARILYN'S LATEST RESEARCH

On 7 July 2009 Marilyn's latest research, on Relocation for the Ministry of Justice, was formally launched at 29 Bedford Row. The rooms were packed with Family Law specialists including Lord Justice Wilson and Mr Justice Singer, who wrote the Foreword for the research report, Professor Patrick Parkinson from Sydney, Australia and Professor Linda Silberman from New York, USA (both of whom will be speaking at the Centre's 2010 conference) together with many leaders of the UK legal profession who will also give papers at that conference, including Henry Setright QC and Anne Marie Hutchinson OBE of Dawson Cornwell, Solicitors, and Liz Walsh of Family Law Journal. Copies of Marilyn's earlier

research on the UK – Pakistan Protocol on International Child Abduction were also available at the reception which underlined Marilyn's steady output of valuable research in the fast developing areas of Child Law. David Chaplin of Family Law Week also attended and has now covered the research in that publication, with a summary to be written for practitioners in a future issue: the research will also be covered in the next issue of International Family Law Journal as well as on various specialist websites, which is very good news for the Centre which is rapidly gaining a profile for creating a new specialist resource in Child Law. The best news is that the research has already been used by practitioners in court proceedings for relocation, demonstrating the way in which the work has been received. Marilyn has also been commissioned to write an article on the research for publication in an academic journal and is working on plans for the next stage of the research on this topic. The full report may be viewed at www.reunite.org.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CENTRE

As a result of the ever broadening circle into which the Centre's work is now spreading, it has been decided to create a membership scheme, to reinforce the links and sense of community which is now developing amongst all those interested in our specialist subject areas. Membership will be free to those contributing to our work as speakers, members of our editorial board, authors of journal articles and is open to all those working in the wider field of Family Law whether as academics, researchers, practitioners, judiciary or inter-disciplinary practitioners whose work impacts on Family Law. There is also a category for students. Details will shortly go up on the website.

CPD

Our first CPD course in International Child Abduction is now under development and will be available in the autumn of 2009 in face to face, blended and distance learning modes.

PUBLICITY

Marilyn is shortly to meet Marina Wheeler again to be interviewed for an article on the Centre's work

Next issue: October 2009

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Please see our flyer overleaf

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Three Linked Topics and the Global Perspective

30 June – 2 July, 2010

For further information on the programme of the Centre, the Conference and offers of papers please contact the co-directors:

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