Meeting Minutes  
Steering Group Conference Call  
January 27, 2009  
12:00 p.m. Eastern Time

1. **State Department Visit**  It was agreed that the visit by Committee members to the Office of Children’s’ Issues would be scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2009 at 10am. The purpose of the visit is for Committee members to meet the people that they work with on international child-related matters and to discuss how lawyers and State may work better with each other. **So everyone should diary this for Thursday, April 16, 2009 at 10am.**

2. **Newsletter**  The next newsletter will be published on or about February 22, 2009. The Committee discussed various articles to be written for the newsletter, including an article by Marion Browning Baker on foreign notarization; an article by Marion Browning-Baker on changes to German family law; an article by Brad Lechman-Su on recent developments concerning the Hague Abduction Convention; and an article by Jessica Sandberg on a recent Supreme Court of Sweden case concerning the Hague Convention. **Other articles, hot tips, updates etc. are requested; they should be sent to Jeremy Morley.**

3. **USA Exit Controls**  Jeremy Morley reported on his research into the issue of whether a recommendation should be made as to the institution of exit controls by the U.S. Government in order to deter international child abduction. It seems that there is unlikely to be much of a constituency to support a proposal that the U.S. should institute such controls because of the enormous expense and the imposition of restrictions on freedom of travel. Marion B-B suggested that the airlines should be given the obligation to ensure that a parent taking a child out of the country should be required to produce a document signed and notarized by the other parent consenting to the child’s travel. The airlines already are required to make various checks of travel documents; it would not be a heavy additional burden and it should cut down significantly on international child abduction.  
**What are your opinions on this? Is it fair to impose this responsibility on the airlines? Will it work? Please email your thoughts on the Committee listserv.**

4. **Next Call**  The steering group’s next conference call will be on Tuesday, February 17th at 12 noon EST. **Put the date on your calendars. And email agenda items to Jeremy Morley**