MEETING MINUTES
American Bar Association
International Law Section
Family Law Committee
May 3, 2007 Meeting

1) Introductions

In attendance:

Anna Mary Coburn
Gloria F. Dehart (Steering Group)
Melissa Kucinski (Steering Group)
Bradley Lechman-Su (Steering Group)
Jeremy Morley (Steering Group)
Phil Schwartz (Steering Group)
Mikiko Stebbing
Jonathan Todres

2) Steering Group

- Anna Mary Coburn and Jonathan Todres agreed to join the Steering Group
- Melissa Kucinski will send around an email to set a time for our next Steering Group Conference call. Once a date is set, the date and the phone number will be circulated well in advance of the actual call.

3) Research on Substantive Legal and Policy Issues

a) Uniform Parental Child Abduction Act
   Jeremy Morley has volunteered to circulate the text of this act and solicit feedback on whether our committee would like to propose that the Section adopt a resolution as to its passage

b) Maintenance and Child Support Convention
   We need a volunteer committee member to circulate the text of this act and solicit feedback on whether our committee would like to propose that the Section adopt a resolution as to its passage

c) 1996 Treaty
   We need a volunteer committee member to circulate the text of this act and solicit feedback on whether our committee would like to propose that the Section adopt a resolution as to its passage

d) Melissa Kucinski and Brad Lechman-Su volunteer to approach Kathy Root, Chair of the Family Law Section’s International Law Committee to solicit that committee’s help and support
4) Programming

The Committee members in attendance propose that we conduct a CLE program at the Spring 2008 meeting in New York City. Anna Mary, former chair of this committee, noted that past CLE’s (the most recent being three years ago) were well received.

Jeremy Morley suggested a roundtable.

We need ideas on what topic to propose, and a committee member to contact the appropriate person within the section to ascertain the proposal process and then draft a proposal on behalf of the committee.

5) State Department Update: Miki Stebbing

Miki Stebbing from the State Department’s Office of Children’s Issues spoke about the Adoption Convention.

There are currently 300 applications pending for accreditation within the U.S. The State Department expects them to be reviewed by the end of this year. Thus far, there have been three site visits with two already passing.

Please visit the State Department’s website at: travel.state.gov

If you have questions about the Adoption Convention, email: adoptionusca@state.gov, and the expected response time is 2 days.

There are currently 77 members of the Adoption Convention. China is currently a member. The State Department is particularly focused on measuring or counting the number of children adopted into the U.S. and out of the U.S. and coordinating with Family court judges.

*The Meeting was cut short by a Section speaker.*