1) Wrap up of December 7, 2007 Meeting: Information from those who participated

Not 100% unanimity on whether it is a good thing; what are the issues and portions of the convention are controversial and giving pause?

- jurisdiction shifts when habitual residence shifts; therefore U.S. will no longer continue to assert continuing and exclusive jurisdiction (see UCCJEA) with treaty partners
- no Hague convention defines habitual residence; in Europe, they are used to giving it slightly different meanings; will have to get used to this in the U.S.

2) Advocacy Letter: should our committee draft an advocacy letter advocating our affirmation of the ABA’s pro-1996 convention stance? If so, do I have any volunteers (I can provide samples from our section)?

Melissa will send out Gloria Dehart’s email from several months ago; Melissa will email the entire committee asking for input; assuming no dissension, Melissa will draft an Advocacy letter, work with section leadership on its revision and then circulate to the Steering Group for input

3) Meeting in Berlin post-Brussels ABA meeting? What are your thoughts?

What are the goals of a meeting with the German attorneys? Will we have a joint program? Would judges be involved?

Put on presentations to German Bar; interested in learning about processes and procedures and want to advise German Bar about our processes and procedures

Propose for an exchange of materials laying out each system; meeting for each side to ask the other side questions about it; useful and informative and put us on equal footing

Jeremy is going to speak to a colleague in Germany and then we will draft language proposing what we would like to see in a meeting in Germany to send to an appropriate person at the German Bar.
4) Website: Please review our committee website at www.abanet.org/intlaw, specifically reviewing the Committee Library; Melissa needs assistance in gathering the remaining links and adding anything else to the website.

Members have reviewed the website and provided positive feedback. Members are encouraged to submit articles or other notices to post to the website for all members.

5) Next Conference Call Date & Time: January 15, 2008 at 12 noon eastern time; email the Steering Group with your agenda items!