



IAFL Introduction to European Family Law Conference, Thessaloniki, Greece

Thursday 18 April

**Session 1: update on ECHR case
law on adoption, separation and
placement**



**IAFL INTRODUCTION TO EUROPEAN FAMILY LAW CONFERENCE IN COLLABORATION WITH
THE LAW SCHOOL OF ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY, THESSALONIKI
EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Wednesday 17 April

15:15-16:45 Presentation of Greece's new legislation on same-sex marriage and recognition of decisions establishing a parent-child relationship in same-sex couples

Speakers:

1. [Konstantinos Rokas](#), Greece
2. Professor Lina Papadopoulou
3. Hugues Gaston, France
4. [Alberto Perez Cedillo](#), Spain and England
5. [Agnieszka Swaczyna](#), Poland

Konstantinos Rokas, IAFL Fellow, Greece

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A short CV

A headshot image:

CV:

Konstantinos Rokas after his undergraduate studies in law at the University of Athens, he went on to obtain two LLM degrees from the University of Athens (in private international law and EU law) and the University of Paris II-Panthéon Assas (in international commercial law and private international law), finishing second in his class. He has defended his PhD on "Medically assisted reproduction in comparative private international law" in the University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne under the supervision of Professor Étienne Pataut. He has received scholarships for his research from the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research, the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law and the Max-Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law. His Doctorate in Private International Law (Paris I – Panthéon-Sorbonne), along with numerous publications both in Greek and international law reviews, evidence a deep knowledge in matters of international family law and especially law of Artificial Reproductive Techniques (ART). He is admitted to the Athens Bar Association since 2004 and admitted to the Supreme Court of the Country. Konstantinos handles a wide range of international family law issues, focusing on international successions, matrimonial property, parentage in ART, international abduction to the benefit of international clients. He has advised and represented before Greek courts several individuals and couples that had access to a cross-border surrogacy. He has been a Lecturer in Private International Law at the University of Nicosia in Cyprus (2018-2023). As of September 2023, he assumed his duties as Assistant Professor of Private International Law and International Transactions Law at the Faculty of Law of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He is fluent in English, French. He has a good level of German and he is learning Chinese.

Triantafyllia Lina Papadopoulou



Short CV

Triantafyllia Lina Papadopoulou is a Professor of Constitutional Law at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), Greece, holder of a Jean Monnet Chair for "European Constitutional Law and Culture", and previously Academic Co-ordinator of the AUTH Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on "European Constitutionalism and Religion(s)" (2018-22). Her main teaching at the Law School includes Greek and European Constitutional Law, Greek and European Human Rights Law, as well as Law in its interrelationship with Religion, Bioethics and Gender. She also teaches at the Master programmes "Bioethics and Medical Law", and "Religion, Geopolitics and International Security".

Lina studied Law at AUTH (Bachelor 1993), Trier (LLM 1994) and Hannover (PhD 1998) as well as Political Theory at the London School of Economics (LSE, MSc 1999). She was a Post-doc 'Marie Curie' Fellow in the field of European Constitutional Law at the LSE (2000 and 2001) and AUTH (2001/02) and co-ordinator in multiple projects of funded research at AUTH. Her primary areas of expertise include national, comparative and European constitutional issues and human rights, focusing on democracy and political parties, economy and the constitution, equality and non-discrimination, religion and the state, and bioethical issues. Her publications include monographs, handbooks as well as approx. 100 articles in Greek, English and German.

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ALBERTO PÉREZ CEDILLO

As a dually qualified Spanish Abogado and English solicitor, Alberto has over 20 years of experience in English, Spanish and international family law. He has expertise in multi-jurisdiction litigation, including forum disputes, international treaties, international enforcement and analysis of Spanish law, financial remedy applications and international children cases including Hague Convention cases. International consultancy and agency work for UK solicitors and international law firms around the world representing the interests of their clients before the Spanish courts is a significant part of his practice.



He has often appeared as an expert in European and Spanish Law before the High Court of England and Wales and regularly lectures at the various professional associations of which he is a member.

Alberto practices in London, where he opened his own practice in Lincoln's Inn in 2005, and in Spain, having opened offices both in Madrid and Marbella.

He is a member of the Spanish Association of Family Lawyers (AEFA), Reunite and Resolution. Alberto is Immediate Past President of the European Chapter of the International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL).

Listed cases:

Re JB (child abduction) (rights of custody: Spain) [2003] EWHC 2130 (Fam), [2004] 1 FLR 796, FD BFLS 5A[2136]; CHM 2[51.1]

Re JB (child abduction) (rights of custody: Spain) [2003] EWHC 2130 (Fam), [2004] 1 FLR 796, FD concerned a small but important point on the determination of custody rights under Spanish law for the purposes of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction 1980. The father, who was not married to the mother, sought an order for the return of his son to Spain. The mother contended that the removal from Spain was not in breach of any rights of custody attributed to the father. The child had been born in Spain, but both parents had been born in England and all three were British nationals. The expert evidence showed that under Spanish law the character and content of affiliation, including parent-child relations, were determined by the personal law of the child concerned. That personal law depended on nationality and as the child was a British national, his father had no rights in respect of him

because British law did not grant them to unmarried fathers. Consequently, there had been no breach of the father's rights of custody when the child was removed from Spain and the father's application under the Hague Convention failed.

Moore v Moore [2007] EWCA Civ 361

Appeal by husband, in big money case, against an order allowing the wife to apply for orders for financial relief pursuant to Part III of the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984. Appeal dismissed. The key issue was whether the claims should go ahead in the English or Spanish courts, even though it was agreed that English law would be applied irrespective of the forum. Thorpe LJ also comments that the "lamentable and grotesque waste of family resources" may have been caused by the husband's hope that the Spanish courts are more likely to misapply English law in his favour.

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Hugues GASTON



Hugues is a French attorney registered at the Paris bar. He is partner at “Alexandre Boiché & Associés”. Hugues has been working with Alexandre Boiché since January 2019: he joined the firm first as a trainee lawyer, and then worked as an associate for 4 years.

Hugues works daily in all aspects of international family law (*children, separation, settlement of the financial consequences of divorce, inheritance*) as well as international family litigation (*conflicts of jurisdictions or conflicts of laws, recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments*). He has also developed a particular expertise in international child abduction and LGBTQ+ rights (*filiation, marriage, partnership, separation*).

Hugues taught family law (*personal and property aspects*) at the Sorbonne law school for 5 years. He also gives lectures at the Paris Bar in domestic and international family law and writes articles in French and International Family law for law reviews in France.

He is member of AIJA, the International Association of Young Lawyers (*International private clients and Family law commission*).



ALEXANDRE BOICHÉ
& ASSOCIÉS

Agnieszka Swaczyna



Agnieszka has a degree in Law from the Jagiellonian University in Cracow Poland). She has been an attorney since 2003 and a member of the District Bar Council in Cracow. Agnieszka specializes in family law, including parental child abduction cases (Hague Convention of 1980). Agnieszka has lead workshops for trainee attorneys at the District Bar Council in Cracow since 2014. Agnieszka is also a family mediator and has volunteered at the Adoption Centre of the association “Pro Familia” for three years. In the interests of making the law more accessible to the public, Agnieszka has authored two law blogs: www.blogrozwod.pl (about divorce and separation) and www.childabductionblog.pl By educating the public about common legal issues and legal processes, Agnieszka hopes to assist members of the public to make informed decisions and prevent instances of parental child abduction in future. She is a partner in the firm Swaczyna Labuz-Weiss KancelariaAdwokacka in Cracow - the firm named in the Poland’s Best Law Firmes 2023 (Forbes rating)