

Japan's Ratification of the Hague Convention on Child Abduction and Its Implications

Abstract:

When one parent returns back to Japan with his/her child after divorce without consent of the other parent, this conduct could be viewed as child abduction. Until recently, however, there was no way to force the child to return back to his/her original place of residence once the child entered Japan. Now with the ratification of the Hague Convention on Child Abduction, Japan will be required to return the child back to his/her original place of residence. What is the background for this ratification? What has changed? We hope to explore the significance of this recent development and provide essential information to the Japanese community here in Vancouver. We welcome anyone who is interested in child custody issues in British Columbia and Japan.

Program:

6:00 Welcome

6:05 Presentations

Mr. Yuta Yamasaki* (30 min):

"The Ratification and Implementation of the Hague Convention in Japan"

Ms. Ai Kuroda* (15 min):

"Divorce and Child Custody in Japan"

Ms. Yuki Matsuno (15 min):

"Family Law and Child Custody in British Columbia"

Mr. Yuji Matson (15 min):

"Hague Convention Procedure in Canada"

7:20 Discussions

*Via video link from Japan

Participants:

Mr. Yuta Yamasaki

LL.B. Tokyo University, 2006, LL.M. Columbia Law School, 2011. Attorney, Civil Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Justice and Deputy Director, Hague Convention Division, Consular Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ms. Ai Kuroda

LL.B. Kwansei University, 1989, J.D. Oklahoma City University Law School, 2006, admitted to Bar in Japan in 1995 and in New York in 2007. Attorney, Kuboi Law Office. Vice chair of the Hague Convention Working Group of Japan Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA).



Ms. Yuki Matsuno

LL.B. University of British Columbia, 1995. A mediator, facilitator, and lawyer, accredited by the Law Society of British Columbia as a Family Law Mediator and a Family Law Arbitrator. A member of the Civil, Family, and Child Protection Rosters of Mediate BC.

Mr. Yuji Matson

J.D. University of Victoria, 2011, LL.M. Kyushu University, 2012. A lawyer, DLA Piper, Vancouver, and a director of the Japanese Canadian Citizens' Association in Vancouver.



Mr. Shige Matsui

LL.B. Kyoto University, 1980, J.S.D. Stanford Law School 1986, LL.D. Kyoto University 2000. Professor, Peter A. Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia; director for the Centre for Asian Legal Studies (CALS) and co-director for the Centre for Japanese Research (CJR).

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(800 Robson Street, Vancouver BC V6Z 3B7)