VISION 2020
THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD

8th Family Law & Children's Rights Conference 2020
19-22 July 2020 | Singapore
The areas of family law and children’s rights remain exciting, challenging and fast-moving areas of legal scholarship and practice and the Congress has established itself as the leading international forum for discussion and deliberation on these issues. We look forward to holding our first World Congress and LAWASIA Conference in South East Asia.

The conference is a platform for the convergence of lawyers, judges, academics, government and non-government associations, psychologists, medical professionals and social scientists with a common interest in the active protection of children and in sharing best practices to promote the rights of children and family law issues.

The conference has taken as its theme “Vision 2020: through the eyes of a child” and is expected to welcome over 500 delegates and speakers from around the world to challenge existing protocols and to formulate resolutions, not only in their own jurisdiction but to provide support for those endeavouring to change laws relating to the denial of human rights for children globally.

A successful conference needs a dynamic local organising committee and we are proud to be working with the Family Justice Courts and local practitioners who are represented on the Organising Committee.

In order to make this a reality, organisers are calling for a limited number of select sponsors. This opportunity offers organisations an ability to align their businesses with one of the world’s leading conferences in the field of protecting children’s rights. Organisations are able to leverage their association with the World Congress, which is endorsed by the United Nations and LAWASIA, to demonstrate their commitment to increasingly prominent issues.

Delegates and sponsors can be proud that their participation will result in real change. Resolutions resolved at the end of the conference provide impetus for action to achieve systemic change and profits are devoted to projects that support the resolutions between each World Congress.

We hope you will join us in supporting what promises to be an important, challenging and collaborative event.

The Honourable Diana Bryant AO
Chair on behalf of the Board of the World Congress on Family Law and Children’s Rights

Yap Teong Liang
Chair of Family Law & Family Rights Section, LAWASIA

Invitation to Participate

Welcome to the 8th Family Law & Children’s Rights Conference, jointly organised by the World Congress on Family Law and Children’s Rights and LAWASIA
About the Organisers

The World Congress on Family Law and Children’s Rights

The World Congress exists to enhance, protect and enforce the human rights of children and young people. We bring together individuals and organisations from across the world who have influence on the legal and justice system, including participants from both the developing and the developed world.

The World Congress has been recognised and supported by the United Nations and its agencies. We seek outcomes which promote and protect the rights of children. We achieve positive change by:

• Developing outcomes that directly benefit those who are especially vulnerable and disadvantaged, particularly children and young people.
• Holding our World Congresses, developing Congress resolutions, building partnerships and funding projects.
• Using our high profile, and the publicity it attracts, to be a catalyst for change in our condemnation and, where appropriate, commendation of actions and policies of States which uphold the rights of children.

Our approaches are informed by interdisciplinary dialogue between lawyers, judges, health care professionals, politicians, social workers, community and government representatives, human rights advocates and representatives from the private sector who share a common concern about the rights of children.

About LAWASIA, Family Law and Family Rights Section

The LAWASIA Family Law & Family Rights Section was formed for the following reasons:

• To establish a vehicle for the free interchange of information between the lawyers of LAWASIA about developments in the area of family law and laws protecting human rights of families and children;
• To advocate for the human rights of families and children, and
• To provide lawyers of the Asia Pacific region with greater access to, and input in, the formation of international treaties and laws relating to families and children.

The section arranges a biennial Family Law and Children’s Rights Conference which has become a must-attend event for both lawyers and their industry partners in the child justice sector.
Objectives of the 8th Family Law and Children's Rights Conference

Vision 2020: Through the eyes of a child

The conference will examine a range of topics including: new approaches to family justice and child issues; the exploitation of children; protecting especially vulnerable children; changing family formations; international families; social media and children; adoption, surrogacy, parentage; a diagnosis and possible interventions for troubled families; financial rights, including property, offshore assets, cryptocurrencies, as well as international, social and cultural considerations.

In addition, in a world of highly mobile families, the conference will give attention to the ways in which family law meets the various needs of families in whatever form, in order to provide a structure which can effectively and justly provide for its members who are the subject of relationship breakdown.

The primary aim of the conference is to develop outcomes that directly benefit those who are especially vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Our Vision

Our hope is that the 8th Family Law & Children’s Rights Conference, in July 2020, will be able to set examples by promoting international co-operation on the movement of children, best practices to address family violence and observations of our international treaties and to revisit cyber safety and human trafficking.

Our legacy for the Singapore conference will be to identify those resolutions that challenge and import systemic change and ensure that we provide funding to those causes to secure that change. Funds provided by sponsors will be utilised to support the ongoing work inspired by the presenters and arising out of the themes.
Topics and Themes

“It takes a Village”: New approaches to family justice and child issues – experiences from around the world
- Eco-system, multidisciplinary approach for families in need – Upstream and downstream support for families, children and vulnerable parties caught in conflict
- Management of court cases – a multi-disciplinary approach, a future focussed outcome aimed at reduction of acrimony and child centric decisions
- Dealing with intractable & complex cases: What are we doing and what else can we do?
- Mediation – can mediation / ADR co-exist with adjudication? Can and should Judicial Officers and Child Custody Evaluators also mediate?
- Effective use of consensual dispute resolution (e.g. counselling, family conferencing, mediation and arbitration & hybrid models) throughout the family justice ecosystem
- Self-care for family law professionals: The impact of the work on us, the impact of our stress on our cases and how to manage expectations, ourselves and our work
- Managing the multiple costs to litigants and children of family breakdown – financial, psychological and time
- Safeguarding children’s well-being in a divorce
- A role for mediation in Sharia law and other aspects of family law?
- The Malta conference and Sharia law countries
- Mediation and its future – open or privileged?

The eye on the child
- Exploitation of children: trafficking, abuse, neglect, organ harvesting
- Vulnerable children in detention, immigration, statelessness unaccompanied minors, legal identity
- Child centric interventions – what works, what needs work
- Hearing the child – best practices worldwide
- Considerations for children with special needs
- Anxious children
- Estrangement & alienation / the resist & refuse dynamic
- Childhood anxieties and mental health
- The impact of social media on children and young people
- Safety and the internet: Cyber bullying, sexual exploitation, etc.
- Child sexual abuse – protecting especially vulnerable children – intergenerational effects & institutional responses
- Management of child abuse cases within court processes and multidisciplinary approaches outside the court environment
- Parental child abduction – mitigating effects, restoring normalcy
- Children and LGBTIQ+ families
- Bioethics & science – adoption, surrogacy, parentage
- Is gender still an issue in 2020?
Topics and Themes

Paradise in Peril – a diagnosis and possible interventions for troubled families
- New iterations of ‘family’ (grandparents, step families, blended families, sperm donors) and what it means when families fall apart
- Surrogacy and its ethical challenges
- Effective strategies to keeping families together in a healthy co-parenting relationship
- Family violence across cultures and best practices to avert/mitigate impact
- Cultural and religious conflicts within the family and within different legal systems (e.g. choice of forum, conflicts on parenting styles and values, involvement of extended family/tribe)
- The impact of de facto law on the institution of marriage?
- Parental responsibility – a call for effective co-parenting
- Provision of, or withholding of medical treatment for children against the advice of treating doctors

“A Candle in the Darkness”: Helping the Vulnerable
- Elder abuse – challenges and strategies for prevention and management
- Mental incapacity, illness and impairment – protection and relief
- Challenges for litigants with mental illness – effective strategies from around the world
- The Hague Convention on the International Protection of Adults
- The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Sharing the harvest
- Trends in property – innovative approaches to asset division – is a formula the right answer?
- Sharing pensions internationally – time for a global fund?
- Maintenance of families and children – challenges in quantification and enforcement of spousal maintenance as well as child support
- International relationship agreements – the classic dilemma between autonomy, duress and disclosure
- Conflicts of law
- Religious marriages not civilly registered
- Jurisdictional issues and forum shopping
- Enforcing de facto financial rights internationally
- International res judicata – should there be a ‘second bite’?
- Domicile v nationality – time for a change?
- Finding, dividing and enforcing
- Offshore assets – tracing & unveiling companies and trusts
- Brexit and international treaties
- The reach of the EU and its plans for the global family
- Cryptocurrencies as matrimonial assets
- Artificial Intelligence, technology and the role of the lawyer
- On-line access to justice – new approaches
- Finances, assets and key trends in Asia
- The role of the 1996 Convention
- The role of the Child Support Convention and enforcement methods generally
Board and Committee Members

**WORLD CONGRESS BOARD MEMBERS**

The Honourable Diana Bryant AO  
Chair of the Board of World Congress on Family Law & Children's Rights  
Former Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia

Sally Nicholes  
Deputy Chair of the Board of World Congress on Family Law & Children's Rights  
Managing Partner of Nicholes Family Lawyers

Justin Dowd  
Treasurer of World Congress on Family Law & Children's Rights  
Vice-President of LAWASIA  
Director of Watts McCray

The Honourable Justice MacMillan  
Judge of the Family Court of Australia

Leisha Lister  
International Development Consultant at Law & Development Partners

**ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

The Honourable Diana Bryant AO  
Chair of the Board of World Congress on Family Law & Children's Rights  
Former Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia

Sally Nicholes  
Deputy Chair of the Board of World Congress on Family Law & Children's Rights  
Managing Partner of Nicholes Family Lawyers

Justin Dowd  
Treasurer of World Congress on Family Law & Children's Rights  
Vice-President of LAWASIA  
Director of Watts McCray

The Honourable Justice MacMillan  
Judge of the Family Court of Australia

Leisha Lister  
International Development Consultant at Law & Development Partners

District Judge  
Mr Wong Sheng Kwai  
District Judge and Assistant Registrar of the Family Justice Courts Singapore

Yap Teong Liang  
Chair of Family Law & Family Rights Section, LAWASIA  
Managing Director of TL Yap & Associates Singapore

Michael Tidball  
Secretary-General of LAWASIA  
Chief Executive Officer of The Law Society of New South Wales

Malathi Das  
Director of Joyce A Tan & Partners LLC  
Former President of LAWASIA

Helen Chia-Thomas  
Senior Lecturer, Singapore University of Social Sciences School of Law
World Congress Patrons

Confirmation of the Patron for the 8th Family Law & Children’s Rights Conference is in its final stages. We would like to acknowledge our previous patrons and honorary chairs over the years:

- **Michael D Higgins**, President of Ireland, was Patron for the 7th World Congress on Family Law & Children’s Rights in Dublin in 2017
- **Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mary of Denmark** was Patron for the 6th World Congress on Family Law & Children’s Rights in Sydney in 2013
- **Chief Justice McLachlan of Canada** was Patron for the 5th World Congress on Family Law & Children’s Rights in Halifax in 2009
- **Mrs Graça Machel Mandela**, wife of President Mandela of South Africa, was Patron for the 4th World Congress on Family Law & Children’s Rights in Cape Town in 2005
- **Mrs Mary Robinson** was Patron for the 3rd World Congress on Family Law & Children’s Rights in Bath, England in 2001
- **Mrs Hillary Clinton**, then First Lady of the United States of America was Patron for the 2nd World Congress on Family Law & Children’s Rights in San Francisco in 1997
About Singapore

Singapore, an island city-state off southern Malaysia, is a global financial centre with a tropical climate and multicultural population.

Due to its geographical location and maritime exposure, Singapore’s climate is characterised by uniform temperature and pressure, high humidity and abundant rainfall.

Singapore has a multi-ethnic society and the Singapore government recognises four official languages: English, Malay, Tamil and Mandarin. Although Malay is Singapore’s official national language, English is the main language of instruction and business. Almost all Singaporeans are bilingual in English and one of the other three official languages.

The Venue

Raffles City Convention Centre, Fairmont Singapore is located in the heart of the lion city. Ideally situated at the crossroads of Singapore’s central business districts, world-class shopping and entertainment, the award-winning hotel is conveniently located above the City Hall Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) train station and a short 20-minute drive to Singapore Changi Airport.

A limited number of rooms have been reserved for conference delegates at Swissôtel The Stamford, located in the Raffles City Complex, adjacent to the Convention Centre.

Key Dates

- Abstract submission open: 5 April 2019
- Abstract submission deadline: 31 July 2019
- Notification of abstract acceptance: 30 September 2019
- Speaker registration opens: 30 September 2019
- Deadline for accepted presenters to register: 30 November 2019
- Deadline for submission of accepted full papers: 30 May 2020
- Conference dates: 19 – 22 July 2020
Sponsorship

Sponsorship of the 8th Family Law & Children’s Rights Conference will be a key step for your organisation in fostering partnerships with the World Congress on Family Law & Children’s Rights community.

Benefits
The opportunity allows your company, product or brand to be uniquely and actively showcased at this high-calibre, innovation-driven international law forum. It will allow your organisation to meet new business partners, generate new ideas, gather new knowledge and foster collaborations. Our comprehensive themes provide the context for the vast array of industry participation and there is the opportunity to align your core values with those themes identified by the local organising committee.

Your relationship with the conference and its international audience will provide a highly efficient and effective business and marketing platform for your organisation to connect and engage with our global delegates. It allows your company to show these business and legal markets how your organisation makes a real difference to the Family Law and Children’s Rights community.

• Global exposure to our dedicated Family Law and Children’s Rights community
• Alignment with innovative next-generation thinkers
• Profiling your organisation to a global talent pool
• Increase credibility, expand loyalty and build opportunities with new and existing clients
• Reinforce and strengthen your brand position within family law and human rights
• Network with likeminded industry members and academic delegates
• Connect directly to hard-to-reach opinion leaders
• Promote your product and services to our international audience
• Develop a personal and direct relationship with your professional colleagues
• Generate new ideas
• Gather new knowledge
• Foster collaborations and build new business relationships

This opportunity offers organisations an ability to align their business with one of the world’s leading conferences in the field of family law and protecting children’s rights.

Package Opportunities
In addition to the menu list associated with each option following, opportunities are also available to sponsors to become associated with specific themes or sessions during the conference in order to maximise appropriate activation opportunities.

EARLY BIRD OFFER
Conference organisers are offering six free conference coffee sponsorships, worth AUD$5500 each, on a strictly first come, first served, basis. The opportunity will allow you to brand your designated coffee break, announcing your organisation as the main coffee sponsor for the session. You will also be allowed to distribute a branded gift item or piece of collateral to all attendees at that event.
Sponsorship Opportunities

GOLD SPONSOR AUD$25,000 (including exclusive branding at a plenary address)

A range of rights and benefits will be agreed to optimise the potential as Gold Sponsor to meet your organisation’s business and marketing objectives. We have identified an extensive list of components in this Gold Sponsor package which are outlined below. There is a high degree of flexibility within this package, to ensure that your organisation’s specific sponsorship requirements are achieved, and we are more than happy to discuss your requirements with you.

**Official Designation as Gold Sponsor**
- Coverage for your organisation on all conference promotional materials in the run up to the conference
- Branding on the “Our Sponsors and Supporters” page of the website to include your organisation’s logo and link to your website
- Use of the conference image in your organisation’s promotional activities tied to the 8th Family Law and Children’s Rights Conference, once agreed with the conference organisers

**At the conference**
- Premium exhibition space, base, trestle table, power and two chairs*
- 4 complimentary conference registrations
- Exclusive branding of one of the conferences plenary discussions, highlighting that you are the exclusive sponsor and the opportunity to provide a gift to all delegates attending the plenary
- Exclusive branding on all holding slides for the duration of the plenary
- Recognition by the Chair prior to the introduction of the identified plenary address
- Branding of two of the conference themes, highlighting that you are a sponsor and the opportunity to provide a gift to all delegates attending your theme session
- A full page colour advert in the conference handbook**
- Recognition in all communications
- Logo branding included on “Thank you to our Gold Sponsors” slide projected throughout the conference venue
- Insert into the delegate pack

---

*This element of sponsorship is subject to space availability at time of booking
**Material supplied for advertisements must conform to the organiser’s publishing requirements and will be subject to production / printing timelines.
Sponsorship Opportunities

SILVER SPONSOR AUD$12,000

A range of rights and benefits will be agreed to optimise the potential as Silver Sponsor to meet your organisation’s business and marketing objectives. We have identified an extensive list of components in this Package which are outlined below. There is a high degree of flexibility within this package to ensure that your organisation’s specific sponsorship requirements are achieved.

Official Designation as Silver Sponsor

- Coverage for your organisation on all conference promotional materials in the run up to the conference
- Branding on the “Our Sponsors and Supporters” page of the website to include your organisation’s logo, biography and link to your website
- Use of the conference image in your organisation’s promotional activities tied to the 8th Family Law and Children’s Rights conference, once agreed with the conference organisers

At the conference

- Exhibition space; trestle table, base, power and two chairs*
- 2 complimentary conference registrations
- Branding of one of conference themes, highlighting that you are a sponsor and the opportunity to provide a gift to all delegates attending your theme session
- Branding on all holding slides for the identified themes
- Recognised in the conference handbook as Silver Sponsor
- Logo on event promotional emails to be sent to prospective attendees
- A half page colour advert in the conference handbook**
- Logo branding included on “Thank you to our Sponsors” slide projected throughout the conference venue
- Insert into the delegate pack

*This element of sponsorship is subject to space availability at time of booking

**Material supplied for advertisements must conform to the organiser’s publishing requirements and will be subject to production/printing timelines.
Sponsorship Opportunities

BRONZE SPONSOR AUD$8,000

A range of rights and benefits will be agreed to optimise the potential as Bronze Sponsor to meet your business and marketing objectives, including subject to negotiation:

Official Designation as Bronze Sponsor

• Branding on the “Our Sponsors and Supporters” page of the website to include your organisation’s logo and link to your website
• Use of the conference image in your organisation’s promotional activities tied to the 8th Family Law and Children’s Rights Conference, once agreed with the conference organisers

At the conference

• Exhibition space; trestle table, base, power and two chairs*
• 1 complimentary conference registration
• Logo on event promotional emails to be sent to prospective attendees
• A quarter page colour advert in the conference handbook**
• Logo branding included on “Thank you to our Sponsors” slide projected throughout the conference venue

*This element of sponsorship is subject to space availability at time of booking
**Material supplied for advertisements must conform to the organiser’s publishing requirements and will be subject to production/ printing timelines
Sponsorship Opportunities

INDIVIDUAL SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Conference Welcome Reception **AUD$8,000**
- Conference Bag/Folder* **AUD$6,500**
- Conference Tea/Coffee Break **AUD$5,500**
- Conference Lunch (1 available) **AUD$5,500**
- Dinner Function **AUD$5,000**
- Pre-Dinner Function Drinks Reception **AUD$4,000**

- Insert into the Delegate Pack* **AUD$2,500**
- Conference Lanyard* **AUD$2,500**
- Conference Pen* **AUD$1,500**
- Conference Notepad* **AUD$1,500**
- Delegate Gifts* **AUD$1,500**

*Marketing Material:

Sponsors are responsible for arranging promotional materials (including banners, posters, gifts, pens, notepads, lanyards and other visual advertising) with the approval of the organiser and are at sponsor expense. Items must be sent directly to the conference venue and be on site at least 4 days prior to the conference.

Further details of the specific branding on all of the above will be supplied on request.
Advertising Opportunities

• Full page full colour advertisement in the conference handbook* AUD$1,500

• Half page full colour advertisement in the conference handbook* AUD$1,000

• Before you go Email AUD$1,300
  Before the conference, an email reminding all the important practical information will be sent to the preregistered delegates. As sponsor of this email your company logo will be posted on the email. Exclusive to a maximum of two sponsors.

Promotion & Media
The organisers are here to make you feel involved with the conference and to ensure you maximise your investment!
  Ask for the conference logo to use in your email marketing campaigns as well as in print advertisements and promotional material (reserved for Premium Sponsors).
  Inform your contacts database of your participation in the event via email blasts or newsletters.
  Send press releases to trade publications.
  Post the conference banner on your company website

CAN YOU AFFORD NOT TO BE THERE?
Make sure you take advantage of the opportunity to reach an international target audience at this conference.
• Enhance your strategic position in the market with clever branding
• Maximise your return on investment.
• Engage delegates through parallels and workshops.
• Seize this unique opportunity to meet the delegates face to face.

*Material supplied for advertisements must conform to the organisator’s publishing requirements and will be subject to production/ printing timelines.
Booking Contract

Please complete, scan and email this form, along with an EPS version of your company logo and a 75 word company biography to Sally Nicholes sally@nicholeslaw.com.au

Sponsorship

I would like to book

(Please specify what Sponsorships you would like to confirm)

Total Cost of Sponsorship AUD$ _______________

Advertising (tick all that apply)

☐ Full page full colour advertisement in the conference handbook
  AUD$1,500 QTY: ____

☐ Half page full colour advertisements in the conference handbook
  AUD$1,000 QTY: ____

Total Cost of Advertising AUD $ _______________

Contact Information

Name: ________________________________

Organisation: ________________________

Address that will appear on the invoice:

City, State, Zip/Postal Code: __________________________

Phone: ____________________________

Fax: ____________________________

E-mail: ____________________________

Signature: ____________________________

Please email or return this form to the address below, if you require further information please contact:

Sally Nicholes
Deputy Chair
World Congress on Family Law & Children’s Rights Inc
Email: sally@nicholeslaw.com.au
(Please CC kay@nicholeslaw.com.au)
Mobile: +61 419 761 139
Phone: +613 9670 4122

Payment Policy:

100% payment is due on booking. The sponsor’s logo and company biography will not be included on any promotional materials until full payment is received.

Cancellation Policy:

Cancellation within twelve months prior to the conference will incur a cancellation fee of 40%. Cancellation within eight months prior to the conference will incur a cancellation fee of 100%.
LAWASIA

Connecting the legal profession in the Asia Pacific