



# AAAA Mid-Year Conference Agenda

*International Adoption, After The Hague*

Baltimore, MD

October 11 and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007

## Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
8:30-9 am	<b>Welcome - A Message from our President</b>	John Greene	Herb Brail, AAAA President
9 -10:30 am	<b>Department of Homeland Security Presentation and Department of State</b>	Jody Marten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Karen Eckert, <i>Adjudications Officer in the Office of Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations Division, USCIS</i></li> <li>• Michael Sheridan, <i>Associate Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel, U.S.C.I.S.</i></li> <li>• Anna Mary Coburn, <i>Attorney-Advisor, Officer of Children's Issues, U.S.D.O.S.</i></li> <li>• Julie Furuta-Toy, <i>Director of Children's Issues, U.S.D.O.S.</i></li> </ul>
10:30-10:45	<i>Break</i>		
10:45-12 pm	<b>Hague Implementation Panel</b> Answers to Your Questions (DOS, COA, Agency, & AAAA)	Irene Steffas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Debbie Spivack, <i>Attorney</i></li> <li>• Madaline "Maddi" Noleen, <i>Executive Director Bethany Christian Services Colorado &amp; Peer Reviewer</i></li> <li>• Mikiko (Miki) Stebbing, <i>Accrediting Entity Liaison, U.S.D.O.S.</i></li> <li>• Karen Eckert, <i>Adjudications Officer in the Office of Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations Division, USCIS</i></li> </ul>
12 -1:15 pm	<b>Keynote</b>	Bill Rosen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michelle Bernier-Toth, <i>Managing Director of Overseas Citizens Services, U.S.D.O.S.</i></li> </ul>
1:15-1:30 pm	<i>Break</i>		
1:30 -2:30 pm	<b>Panel Presentation on Established Countries</b> India, Vietnam, Guatemala	Heidi Cox	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tom Jackson, (Vietnam) <i>International Director of Carolina Adoption Services</i></li> <li>• Hannah Wallace (Guatemala)</li> <li>• Keith Wallace (India)</li> <li>• Karen Eckert, <i>Adjudications Officer in the Office of Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations Division, USCIS</i></li> <li>• Marc Saint-Victor, <i>Office of Bilateral Adoption Unit, U.S.D.O.S.</i></li> </ul>
2:30-2:45 pm	<i>Break</i>		
2:45-3:45 pm	<b>Panel Presentation on Africa</b> Africa, Ethiopia, Rwanda	Bill Rosen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scott Brown, <i>The Gladney Center (Ethiopia, Rwanda)</i></li> <li>• Karen Eckert, <i>Adjudications Officer in the Office of Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations Division, USCIS</i></li> <li>• Ruth Lincoln, <i>Office of Bilateral Adoption Unit-Office of Children's Issues, U.S.D.O.S.</i></li> </ul>
3:45-4:30 pm	<b>Good Practice-Bad Practice Ethical Issues we should be aware of:</b> -Multiple Home Studies -Mental Health Issues with APs -Medication Issues with APs -Post Placement Reporting -Responsibility of Supervised Providers -Liability Issues -Completing the case-it's not over until the citizenship is complete	Stan Phillips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diane Kunz-<i>Executive Director, Center for Adoption Policy</i></li> <li>• Karen Law, <i>Attorney</i></li> <li>• Mikiko (Miki) Stebbing, <i>Accrediting Entity Liaison, U.S.D.O.S</i></li> </ul>

## Friday, October 12th

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Speaker/Panel</b>
8:30-9:15 am	<b>Meet and Greet our Hosts</b>	John Greene	Vendor presentations
9:15-10:30 am	<b>Variations of a Theme and other Remedies</b> - Immigration and Relative Adoptions - Identified Adoptions from Abroad - Foster Care Issues Special Immigrant Juveniles	Jody Marten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christina Wilkes, <i>Children's Project Director of Ayuda Inc.</i></li> <li>Cheri Ho., <i>U.S.C.I.S General Counsel (SIJ)</i></li> <li>Anna Mary Coburn, <i>Attorney-Advisor, Officer of Children's Issues, U.S.D.O.S.</i></li> <li>Irene Steffas, <i>AAAA</i></li> </ul>
10:30-10:45	<b>Break</b>		
10:45-11:30	<b>The Plight of Children</b> -General Immigration -Citizenship Problems	Carolyn Thaler	Judge John Gossert
11:30-12:30	<b>The World at Large</b> - U.S. as Sender - Issues Coming and going from Canada - Adoption with U.S. Citizens Living Abroad - Hague Compliance in other Receiving Counties	Bill Rosen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anna Mary Coburn, <i>Attorney-Advisor, Officer of Children's Issues, U.S.D.O.S. (Emigration Presentation)</i></li> <li>Luce de Bellefeuille, <i>Secretary of International adoption, Canada</i></li> <li>Mark Eckman, <i>AAAA</i></li> </ul>
12:30-1:45 pm	<b>Working Lunch</b>  <i>Hypothetical discussions at each table</i>	Heidi Cox and John Greene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disruptions and Dissolutions</li> <li>Choosing the "Right" Attorney for the Job <i>(From the Social Workers' perspective)</i></li> <li>Choosing the "Right" Social Worker/Agency for the Job <i>(From the Attorneys' perspective)</i></li> </ul>
1:45-2:00 pm	<b>Break</b>		
2-3:00 pm	<b>Medical Issues in Adoption</b>	Carolyn Thaler	Johns Hopkins Program Dr. Nadia Zerhouni, <i>Pediatric Endocrinologist</i>
3-4:00 pm	<b>New Frontiers</b> - New Countries - Special Updates on Old Countries - Global –Issues - What's ahead in Immigration and Naturalizations	Mark McDermott	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joan Hollinger, <i>AAAA</i></li> <li>Tom Atwood, <i>NCFA</i></li> <li>Tom DeFelipo, <i>JCICS</i></li> </ul>
4-4:15 pm	<b>Door Prizes drawn</b> –Must be present to win	Heidi Cox	