

NEWS FROM THE IASJF

⇒ The Academy has developed its webpage. Membership applications and dues payments may be made on-line, and information regarding academic events related to Family Law are posted on there. The address is www.iasjf.org.

NEXT IASJF SYMPOSIUM

⇒ The plans for the Academy's next major event: its symposium on "Family and Religion: Juridical Dimensions" (La Coruña, Spain, 9-10 June) – are well advanced. Keynote speakers include Professors Jane Mair (Glasgow), Stefano Troiano (Verona), Marie-Claire Foblets (Max Planck Institute) and Hughes Fulchiron (Lyon). Attached is the leaflet announcing the event.

PUBLICATIONS

⇒ Seventeen articles and a book review have been accepted for publication in Volume Four of the International Journal of the Jurisprudence of the Family. Five of the articles and the book review have been published on line, where they may be accessed by those who subscribe to the William S. Hein & Co., Inc., service for this journal (see below). Hard copies will be available by the time of the 2014 Symposium.

Article submissions may be sent to the Editor in Chief, Scott FitzGibbon (Boston College Law School, 885 Centre Street, Newton Center, Massachusetts 02459, United States; fitzgisc@yahoo.com).

Members are encouraged to invite their home institutions to subscribe to the IJFF. Subscriptions may be purchased at <https://www.wshein.com/catalog/131770>.

⇒ Ruth Farrugia of the University of Malta published a chapter on "Why Should States Have an Interest in Making Families Stronger," chapter 25 in Contemporary Issues in Family Studies (Wiley Blackwell publisher, Angela Abela and Janet Walker, eds. 2014). Her chapter explains the importance of definitions of family, reviews interpretations of the term "family" by the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights, describes the importance of favoring strong families, identifies the role of the state in protecting and strengthening families under various international provisions, and advances several policy recommendations.

⇒ Professor Scott FitzGibbon spoke briefly by electronic means at the Twenty Sixth Conference of Jurists of the Kopaonik School of Natural Law, which was held in Serbia on December 13, under the auspices of Professor Dr. Olga Cvejić Jančić. FitzGibbon's paper was entitled "Assisted Reproductive Techniques and the Promotion of the Kinship System." He is preparing a paper for publication on that topic and would welcome suggestions, which can be directed to him at fitzgisc@yahoo.com.

FEATURED MEMBER

⇒ We begin a new section in this issue. Every newsletter will contain a short presentation from a Member of the Academy. The aim of this section is help us all to know one another better and to provide information on our work in the field of Family Law.

We begin with one of the Members of the Board of Directors

URSULA BASSET, PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE BUENOS AIRES (ARGENTINA)

Dear friends,

I have been assigned a hard task: I was asked to launch a section of short presentations of members and fellows of our IASJF. Although many of you already know me!

My name is Ursula Basset. I hold a chair in Family Law and Law of Successions at the Pontificia Universidad Católica in Buenos Aires, Argentina. There, I am also a researcher and teach at doctorate and postgraduate courses. As researchers, we are usually assigned young scholars, to provide guidance to their first steps in the academic world, a task we really enjoy.



Our last research projects revolved around autonomy, privacy and family relations. Lately, a promising group of students and young graduates has gathered around. We are regularly involved in rendering expert testimony or providing advice to legislators in our field of expertise. In my case, I took active part in the drafting and modifications introduced to the Family Law section in the Argentine Civil Code draft, as I was appointed as a member of the drafting commission (matrimonial property regimes). I also direct the Family Law Review of our university. In our country, professors usually teach in several universities. That is naturally my case. Outside my university, I direct postgraduate studies in family law in the beautiful town of Salta, about 1300 km (800 miles) from Buenos Aires. I also teach regularly doctorate courses for Brazilian or Uruguayan students at the UCES (another university here). My last course was about the effects of death in private law. I know it sounds gloomy, all the same it turned out to be a beautiful reflection on how the law smoothens the sharp edges of death, keeping alive the shadow of our beloved ones to certain ends.

We cherish what we do, always having families and mostly the silent voice of children before our eyes. Family law is a most humanitarian enterprise!

I hope you enjoyed this little window into our daily life!