

Melissa A. Kucinski, Esquire

Biographical Sketch

Melissa Kucinski is a lawyer and mediator based in Washington, DC and New York. Her practice focuses exclusively on international family law, a large portion of which is international family abduction. She chaired working groups on international family mediation for International Social Service in Geneva, Switzerland and the American Bar Association. Ms. Kucinski has trained judges on the Hague Abduction Convention in Maryland, California, Florida, and is designing a year-long monthly training curriculum for the New York State Judicial Institute on international family law. She designed the international family law course at the George Washington University School of Law and has taught it since 2010. She designed and taught the international cross-border family mediation training for the University of California Law San Francisco.

Ms. Kucinski participated on U.S. delegations to the Hague Conference's Sixth Special Commission meeting on the practical operation of the Hague Abduction Convention and to meetings in Tokyo, Japan in 2014 to advise on the implementation of the Abduction Convention after Japan's ratification. While in Tokyo, she trained the first round of mediators with the Tokyo Bar Association to mediate these complex cases. Ms. Kucinski also served on delegations to the Seventh and Eighth Special Commission meetings. In 2013, Ms. Kucinski served as a consultant to the Hague Conference on Private International Law related to its work on the Hague Abduction and Hague Child Protection Conventions.

Ms. Kucinski authored the handbook on representing children in private family law matters, including international relocation and abduction cases, and co-authored the casebook on international family law. She is the author of numerous scholarly articles, and has co-authored, for over a decade, the annual publication titled "International Family Law - International Legal Developments Year in Review," summarizing all the salient international family law legal updates for the past year.

Ms. Kucinski is an appointed fellow or member of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, the International Academy of Family Lawyers, the American Bar Foundation, and the U.S. Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law. She serves as a member of the Uniform Law Commission's Joint Editorial Board on Uniform Family Law and has served as an advisor or observer on drafting committees for various acts, including the amendments to the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for implementation of the Hague Child Protection Convention at the state level. She is the current Reporter of the Uniform Judicial Interviews of Children Act. She has previously, or is currently, chairing international family law committees in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, the New York State Bar Association, and the American Bar Association.

She is admitted to practice before the state and U.S. District Courts in Maryland, the District of Columbia, Virginia, and New York.