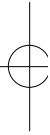

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Family Law in the World Community

Cases, Materials, and Problems in Comparative and International Family Law

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CAROLINA ACADEMIC PRESS
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This book is dedicated to Henry, Eli, and Tom.

Merle

This book is also dedicated

to Sean, whose creativity, courage, and humor
inspire me,

to Sarah, whose affectionate nature, perception, and determination
bring me joy,

to Meagan, whose smile I will always treasure, and

to Chris, who has stood by me through the laughter
and tears, and without whom I would never have
fully known the fulfillment family can bring.

With all my love,

Marianne



Contents

Table of Cases	xv
Preface for Instructors	xxix
Acknowledgments	xxxii

Part One Family Formation, Regulation, and Dissolution

Chapter 1 Introduction to the Study of Family Law in the World Community	3
A. An Introduction to Comparative Law	3
1. Why Study Comparative Law?	4
2. What Is Comparative Family Law?	11
B. An Introduction to International Law	28
1. Overview of International Law	30
a. Sources of International Law	30
b. Explicit Agreements	31
i. Designations and Purposes	31
ii. Treaty-Making	33
iii. Effect and Interpretation of Treaties	38
iv. Invalidating, Terminating, and Suspending Treaties	39
v. International Agreements under Domestic Law	41
c. Customary International Law	45
d. General Principles of International Law	46
e. A Closer Look at U.S. Policy Regarding Ratification of Human Rights Agreements	50
f. Enforcing Claims under International Common Law as Private Rights of Action in U.S. Courts	59
2. International Institutions	63
a. United Nations	64
b. Hague Conference on Private International Law	67
c. Council of Europe	68
d. European Convention on Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights	69
e. The European Union, the European Community, and the Charter of Fundamental Rights	84
f. Organization of American States	89
g. African Union	92

C. Researching International and Comparative Family Law	98
Chapter 2 Regulation of Marriage	121
A. The Importance of Marriage	121
B. The Power to Regulate Marriage	124
1. Customary Law	125
2. Religious Law	153
3. Constitutional Law	169
a. Constitutional Allocation of Power between the Legislative Branches	170
b. Constitutional Allocation of Power between the Judiciaries	182
c. Reconsidering the Allocation of Power in the United States	186
4. International Law	191
C. Procedural Requirements for Entry into Marriage	197
1. France: Age, Consent, Banns, and Compulsory Civil Ceremony	197
2. The Importance of Formalities	210
D. Capacity to Marry	218
E. Mail-Order Marriages	219
1. The Factual Background	219
2. Legal Responses of Countries of Destination	223
3. Legal Responses of Countries of Origin	224
4. International Legal Responses	232
a. Discrimination against Women	232
b. Trafficking	233
c. Slavery	237
Chapter 3 Dissolution of Marriage: A Continuing Conundrum	241
A. Historical Origins of Western Law of Dissolution: From Customary to Religious to State Control	242
B. Contemporary Divorce Reform	252
1. Modern Divorce Reform in the United States	252
2. Divorce Reform in England	261
3. Divorce Reform in the Republic of Ireland	268
4. A Glimpse of Divorce Reform around Europe—and around the World	278
a. Western Europe	278
b. East Asia	282
c. Africa	286
5. The Debate Continues	287
C. The Intersection of Religion and the State in Contemporary Regulation of Divorce	289
1. Nations Delegating Exclusive Control of Civil Marital Status to the State	290
2. Nations Regulating Termination of Marriage through Religious Norms or Institutions	298
Chapter 4 Emerging Rights and Duties of Nontraditional Partners	309
A. Marriage and Alternative Institutions	310
1. Opening Entry to Marriage	310
2. Creating an Alternative Status	315

B. The Impact of Domestic Constitutions and International Law on the Rights of Same-Gender Partners	324
1. Constitutional Rights of Same-Gender Couples	324
2. International Law	353
a. Council of Europe and European Convention on Human Rights	353
b. European Union	355
c. Organization of American States	357
d. United Nations Human Rights System	357
C. Rights of Cohabitants	359
Chapter 5 Recognition of Foreign Marriages and Divorces	371
A. Recognition of Marriages and Alternative Partnerships	371
1. U.S. Tribunals	371
2. Marriage Recognition under Foreign and International Law	386
B. Recognition of Foreign Marriage Dissolutions and Related Orders	390
1. U.S. Tribunals	390
a. Status Termination	390
b. Property Division and Alimony	401
2. Divorce Recognition under Foreign and International Law	409
Chapter 6 Violence between Family Members	415
A. Violence and Context	415
B. Female Genital Mutilation	422
1. The Practice	423
2. National Legal Responses	426
3. The United States' Approach	434
a. Criminal Law	435
b. Child Protection Laws	436
c. Immigration Law	441
4. International Law	449
a. The Universality of Human Rights	451
b. The Importance of Group Rights	458
C. Domestic Violence	460
1. Immigration Law	463
2. International Law	491
a. Traditional Human Rights Approaches	491
b. Convention Against Torture	501
i. Immigration Law	502
ii. State Responsibility	508
c. New International Law Approaches to Domestic Violence	513
d. Regional Approaches	517
i. Convention of Belém do Pará	517
ii. European Convention on Human Rights	534

Part Two
Rights and Responsibilities of Parents,
Children, and the State

Chapter 7 Custody: A Comparative Prologue	551
A. Decision-Makers and Participants	552
B. Determining “Best Interests”—Permissible Factors and Considerations	553
1. Gender	553
2. Religion	557
3. Race	563
4. Sexual Conduct of Parents	575
Chapter 8 Child Abduction, Jurisdiction, and Enforcement in International Custody Disputes	579
A. The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction	580
1. Wrongful Removal and Retention	581
a. Habitual Residence	581
b. Rights of Custody	592
c. Actual Exercise	608
2. The Defenses	611
a. Grave Risk of Harm	611
b. Children’s Objection to Return	630
c. Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms	636
d. Consent or Acquiescence to the Removal	639
e. One Year Elapsed from the Date of Wrongful Removal	641
B. Jurisdiction in International Custody Disputes and Enforcement of Foreign Orders	651
1. U.S. Domestic Law	653
a. Jurisdictional Bases, Forum Non Conveniens, and Simultaneous Proceedings	654
b. Modification Proceedings	667
c. Enforcement	674
2. Foreign Law and International Conventions	694
a. Disparate Domestic Law Standards	695
b. Hague Conventions	696
i. 1961 Convention on the Protection of Minors	696
ii. 1996 Convention for the Protection of Children	696
c. Regional Conventions, Regulations, and Proposals	700
i. Inter-American Convention on the International Return of Children	700
ii. European Union Regulations	700
iii. Council of Europe Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Decisions Concerning Custody of Children and on Restoration of Custody of Children	706
iv. European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms	708
C. Other Remedies to Prevent or Respond to Abduction	709
1. Preventative Measures and Immediate Deterrence	710

a. Restricting Visitation	710
b. Restricting or Intercepting Travel	713
2. Sanctions and Tort Liability	726
a. International Parental Kidnaping Crime Act and Other Federal Sanctions	726
b. Additional Remedies under State Law	736
c. Self Help and Other Options	744
Chapter 9 Financial Support of Children	749
A. Who Must Support Children?	750
B. Parent-State Relationship for the Support of Children	766
1. Income Transfers/Family Allowances	768
2. Child Support Assurance	781
3. Adjustments over Time	789
a. United States	790
b. England	792
4. Parents' Ability to Opt-Out of the Child Support Guidelines	797
a. Absence of a Child Support Order	798
b. Private Agreements and Child Support Guidelines	802
i. Standards for Reviewing Private Agreements	802
ii. Contrasting Orientations	806
iii. Modification of Private Agreements Incorporated into Court Orders	810
c. Failure to Seek Enforcement upon Default	820
Chapter 10 Establishing and Enforcing Child Support Orders Transnationally	823
A. U.S. Participation in Bilateral Agreements	824
1. Foreign Reciprocating Countries	824
2. Reciprocity Arrangements Negotiated by Individual States	826
B. Establishing, Enforcing, and Modifying Child Support Orders in U.S. Tribunals on Behalf of Residents of Foreign Nations	827
1. Establishing an Initial Support Order	828
2. Simultaneous Proceedings	830
3. Enforcing a Foreign Order in a U.S. Court	830
4. Modification Restrictions	844
C. Enforcing U.S. Support Orders Abroad	852
D. Multilateral Child Support Conventions	856
1. New York Convention on Recovery Abroad of Maintenance	857
2. The Hague Conventions	858
3. Regional Conventions	860
a. Inter-American Convention on Support Obligations	860
b. European Union Instruments	861
Chapter 11 Adoption: A Comparative Exploration	863
A. A Glimpse at Adoption across Time and Cultures	863
B. Termination of Parental Rights	868
1. Giving and Revoking Voluntary Consent	868
2. Rights of Putative Fathers	876
C. Maintaining Links with the Family of Origin	885

1. Constitutional Rights	889
2. Influence of International Law	901
Chapter 12 International Adoption	909
A. Transnational Adoption: Benevolent Option or Last Resort?	910
B. Regulation of International Adoption by International Conventions	927
1. U.N. and Regional Conventions	927
2. The Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	928
a. Scope	928
b. Objectives	929
c. Central Authorities	929
d. Accredited Bodies and Approved Persons or Bodies	930
e. Convention Requirements for Intercountry Adoptions	932
f. Recognition of Convention Adoptions and U.S. Certification Procedures	935
C. Adopting a Child from Abroad—The Process	938
1. Role of Adoption Agencies and Lawyers	939
2. U.S. Immigration Requirements	942
a. Qualifying for Immediate Relative Status as an Orphan	943
i. Eligibility	943
ii. Process of Obtaining an Orphan Visa	949
b. Qualifying for Immediate Relative Status as an Adopted Child	955
c. Hague Convention Adoptions	962
3. Citizenship	964
4. Adoption, Readoption, and Recognition of Foreign Orders in U.S. Courts	965
a. Initial Adoption in U.S. Court	965
b. Readoption in a U.S. Court	965
c. Recognition of Foreign Adoption Decrees by U.S. Courts	966
Chapter 13 Reproductive Freedom, Assisted Conception, and Abortion	969
A. Legislating Reproductive Decision-Making	969
1. Direct Regulation of Reproductive Decision-Making	969
a. Romania	970
b. The People's Republic of China	972
i. The Policy	972
ii. Justifications and Criticisms of the Policy	976
iii. Redressing Policy Excesses	979
iv. International Human Rights	986
(a) Substantive Concerns—A Balance	986
(b) China's Views of International Human Rights	990
v. The United States' Response to China's Policy	994
2. Indirect Regulation of Reproductive Decision-Making	997
a. The United States: Welfare Reform and Reproductive Freedom	998
b. Western Europe: Reproductive Decision-Making in Countries with Low Birth Rates	1012
B. Assisted Reproduction	1013
1. Artificial Insemination	1013
2. In Vitro Fertilization	1022

a. Israel	1023
b. United States	1030
c. Catholicism	1036
3. Surrogacy	1042
a. United Kingdom	1043
b. Israel	1052
c. International Law	1055
4. Cloning	1058
C. Abortion	1060
1. Municipal Approaches	1060
a. Legislative Measures	1060
b. Judicial Measures	1070
2. International Law	1088
3. Regional Approaches	1095
a. Organization of American States	1095
b. Council of Europe	1101
Chapter 14 Balancing the Child's Rights, Family Members' Rights and Duties, and the Community's Responsibilities	1111
A. Constitutional Rights for Children	1111
1. A Description of Children's Rights in the United States	1111
2. A Description of Children's Rights in South Africa	1113
B. Convention on the Rights of the Child	1147
1. A Close Look at the Convention	1147
2. The Convention and the United States	1159
C. Corporal Punishment	1168
1. The European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms	1170
2. South Africa	1203
D. Children's Rights in the Divided Family	1214
Index	1221

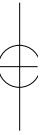


Table of Cases

Principal cases are set in italics, while cases cited in the text and in the authors' notes are set in roman type. Where a principal case is also referenced elsewhere in the text, the principal pages are also italicized.

- A. v. R.*, [1999] N.Z.F.L.R. 249, 762
A. v. United Kingdom, 27 Eur. H.R. Rep. 611 (1998), 507, 1170–78, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182
Abu-Dalbouth v. Abu-Dalbouth, 547 N.W.2d 700 (Minn. Ct. App. 1996), 686
Adoption of Luis A.L.W., 620 N.Y.S.2d 219 (N.Y. Surr. Ct. 1994), 966
Adoption of Peggy, 767 N.E.2d 29 (Mass. 2002), 436–40
Adoteye v. Adoteye, 527 S.E.2d 452 (Va. Ct. App. 2000), 401
A.D.T. v. United Kingdom, 2000-IX Eur. Ct. H.R. 295, 354
Aflalo v. Aflalo, 658 A.2d 523 (N.J. Super. Ct. Ch. Div. 1996), 297
Agostini v. Felton, 521 U.S. 203 (1997), 558
Aguirre-Cervantes v. INS, 242 F.3d 1169 (9th Cir. 2001), 483
Aker Verdal A/S v. Lampson, 828 P.2d 610 (Wash. Ct. App. 1992), 842
Al-Fassi v. Al-Fassi, 433 So. 2d 664 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. 1983), 684
Ali v. Ali, 652 A.2d 253 (N.J. Super. Ct. Ch. Div. 1994), 665, 667
Ali v. Reno, 237 F.3d 591 (6th Cir. 2001), 502–05
Al-Silham v. Al-Silham, No. 93-A-1770, 1994 WL 102480 (Ohio Ct. App. Mar. 25, 1994), 710–712, 721
Al-Silham v. Al-Silham, No. 94-A-0048, 1995 WL 803808 (Ohio Ct. App. Nov. 24, 1995), 712–13
Alton v. Alton, 207 F.2d 667 (3d Cir. 1953), *vacated as moot*, 347 U.S. 610 (1954), 398
American Airlines v. Mejia, 766 So. 2d 305 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. 2000), 368, 382–85
Amin v. Bakhaty, 798 So. 2d 75 (La. 2001), 659, 667, 686
Ammini Ej v. UOI, 82 AIR Ker 252 (Kerala H.C. 1995) (India), 275
Angu v. Attah, Gold Coast Privy Council Judgments 1874–1928 (1916), 148
Ankenbrandt v. Richards, 504 U.S. 689 (1992), 184
Ansellem v. Ansellem, 730 N.Y.S.2d 212 (N.Y. Sup. Ct. 2001), 380
Anyanwu v. Anyanwu, 771 A.2d 672 (N.J. Super. Ct. App. Div. 2001), *cert. de - nied*, 788 A.2d 773 (N.J. 2001), 736–42, 743
Appel v. Appel (In re C.A.M.A.), 103 Wash. App. 1032 (2000), 652
Apthorp v. Shearing, [1998] 42 R.F.L.4th 287 (Ont. Div. Ct.), 760
Arredondo v. Brockette, 648 F.2d 425 (5th Cir. 1981), 591
Arrowsmith v. U.K., 3 Eur. H.R. Rep. 218 (1981), 1197
Arteaga v. Tex. Dept. of Prot. & Reg. Serv., 924 S.W.2d 756 (Tex. App. 1996), 665–66

- Atassi v. Atassi, 451 S.E.2d 371 (N.C. Ct. App. 1995), 396
- Atkins v. Virginia, 536 U.S. 304 (2002), 51
- Attorney General v. X, [1992] 2 C.M.L.R. 277 (Ir. S.C.), 1109
- Att’y Gen. of Ontario v. Att’y Gen. for the Dominion, [1896] A.C. 348 (P.C.), 178
- Att’y Gen. (Vict.) v. The Commonwealth, [1962] 107 C.L.R. 529 (Austral.), 172
- Att’y Gen. v. Yehya & Ora Avraham, C.A.220/67, 22(1) P.D. 29 (Isr.), 298
- Avitzur v. Avitzur, 459 N.Y.S.2d 572 (N.Y. 1983), 291–94
- Ayo v. Ayo, 190 Cal. App. 3d 442 (1987), 811
- Azim v. Saidazimova, 720 N.Y.S.2d 561 (N.Y. App. Div. 2001), 397
- B. v. France, 16 Eur. H.R. Rep 1 (1992), 136
- B v. K (Child Abduction), 1 Fam. Ct. Rep. 382 (Eng. Fam. 1993), 627
- Baehr v. Lewin, 852 P.2d 44 (Haw. 1993), 346–48, 381
- Baehr v. Miike, No. 91-1394, 1996 WL 694235 (Haw. Cir. Ct. Dec. 3, 1996), *rev’d* 994 P.2d 566 (Haw. 1999), 347
- Baker v. Nelson, 191 N.W.3d 185 (Minn. 1971), 347
- Baker v. Owen, 395 F. Supp. 294 (M.D.N.C. 1975), 1196
- Baker v. State, 744 A.2d 864 (Vt. 1999), 22, 342–46, 347
- Baldwin v. Iowa State Traveling Men’s Ass’n, 283 U.S. 522 (1931), 836
- Bascomb v. Smith Barney, Inc., No. 96 Civ. 8747 (LAP), 1999 WL 20853 (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 15, 1999), *overruled on other grounds*, Lature v. Int’l Bus. Machines Corp., 216 F.3d 258 (2d Cir. 2000), 229
- Batista v. Fuentes-Agostini, 87 F. Supp. 2d 72 (D.P.R. 2000), 507
- Belilos v. Switzerland, 132 Eur. Ct. H.R. (ser. A) (1988), 36, 37
- Bellotti v. Baird (Bellotti II), 443 U.S. 622 (1979), 1213
- Berge v. Berge, 536 P.2d 1135 (Colo. 1975), 806
- Bethell v. Hildyard, 4 T.L.R. 319 (Eng. Ch. 1888), 147
- Blair v. Blair, 643 N.E.2d 933 (Ind. Ct. App. 1995), 398–99
- Bless v. Bless, 723 A.2d 67 (N.J. Super. Ct. App. Div. 1998), 667–70
- Blondin v. Dubois, 189 F.3d 240 (2d Cir. 1999), 611–14
- Blondin v. Dubois, 78 F. Supp. 2d 283 (S.D.N.Y. 2000), 614–19
- Blondin v. Dubois, 238 F.3d 153 (2d Cir. 2001), 619–22, 624
- Bowman v. United Kingdom, 26 Eur. H.R. Rep. 1 (1998), 1108
- Brannan v. Smith, 107 Wash. App. 1054 (2001), 2001 WL 950216, 840
- Brause v. Bureau of Vital Statistics, No. 3AN-95-6562 C.I., 1998 WL 88743 (Alaska Super. Ct. Feb. 27, 1998), 347–48
- Brause v. Bureau of Vital Statistics, 21 P.3d 357 (Alaska 2001), 347
- Briody v. St. Helen’s & Knowsley Area Health Auth., E.W.C.A. Civ. 1010 (Eng. C.A. 2001), 1043–46
- Bromley v. Bromley, 30 F. Supp. 2d 857 (E.D. Pa. 1998), 600
- Bruggemann and Scheuten v. Federal Republic of Germany, 3 Eur. H.R. Rep. 244 (1981), 1107, 1108
- BVerfGE 39 (1975), 1 (F.R.G.), 1071–79
- BVerfGE, 88 (1993), 203 (F.R.G.), 1082
- BVerfGE, 1 BvR 2306/96 (1998), 1086
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- C v. S, S.L.T. 1387 (Scot. Sess. 1996), 1046–51
- Caban v. Mohammed, 441 U.S. 380 (1979), 876
- Campbell & Cosans v. United Kingdom, 4 Eur. H.R. Rep. 293 (1982), 1184–91, 1195, 1196, 1198, 1199
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- Carr v. Carr*, 724 So. 2d 937 (Miss. Ct. App. 1998), 396, 398
- Carroll County Dep't Soc. Serv. v. Edelmann*, 577 A.2d 14 (Md. 1990), 765
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- Carter v. Carter*, 479 S.E.2d 681 (W. Va. 1996), 764
- Case No. C-85/99, *Offermanns*, 2001 E.C.R. I-2261, 786, 787
- Case No. C-255/99, *Anna Humer*, 2002 E.C.R., 787
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- Chen v. INS*, 95 F.3d 801 (9th Cir. 1996), 979
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- Chief Adjudication Officer v. Kirpal Kaur Bath*, 1 Fam. 8 (Eng. C.A. 2000), 211–14
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- Cho v. Jeong*, No. 03A01-9608-CV-00257, 1997 WL 306017 (Tenn. Ct. App. June 6, 1997), 401
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- Cook v. Cook*, 342 U.S. 126 (1951), 398
- Cossey v. United Kingdom*, 184 Eur. Ct. H.R. (ser. A) 17 (1990), 354
- Costello-Roberts v. United Kingdom*, 19 Eur. H.R. Rep. 112 (1993), 1172, 1181
- Country of Luxembourg, on behalf of Ana Ribeiro v. Canderas*, 768 A.2d 283 (N.J. Super. Ct. Ch. Div. 2000), 407, 831–834, 836–39
- Cox v. Cox*, 776 P.2d 1045 (Alaska 1989), 802
- C.R. v. An Bord Uchtala*, [1993] 3 I.R. 535 (Ir. H. Ct.), 900
- Croll v. Croll*, 229 F.3d 133 (2d Cir. 2000), 593–600
- Crouch v. Crouch*, 566 F.2d 486 (5th Cir. 1978), 185
- Cucuzzella v. Keliikoa*, 638 F.2d 105 (9th Cir. 1981), 735
- Currier v. Currier*, 845 F. Supp. 916 (D.N.H. 1994), 640
- D. v. Council of Ministers*, 2001 E.C.R. I-4319, 355
- Danaipour v. McLarey*, 286 F.3d 1 (1st Cir. 2002), 622, 627
- Dart v. Dart*, 579 N.W.2d 82 (Mich. 1999), 401–07, 408
- David S. v. Zamira S.*, 574 N.Y.S.2d 429 (N.Y. Fam. Ct. 1991), 592
- Davis v. Davis*, 739 P.2d 1029 (Okla. Ct. App. 1987), 690
- Davis v. Murphy*, 288 P.2d 229 (Okla. 1947), 690
- Dean v. District of Columbia*, 653 A.2d 307 (D.C. 1995), 347–48

- Dep't of Human Serv. v. Shelnut, 777 So. 2d 1041 (Miss. 2000), 829, 837, 839
- DeShaney v. Winnebago County Dep't of Soc. Serv., 489 U.S. 189 (1989), 1113, 1160
- Diamond v. Diamond, 461 A.2d 1227 (Pa. 1983), 400
- Dick v. Dick, 18 Cal. Rptr. 2d 743 (Cal. Ct. App. 1993), 401
- Diehl v. U.S., 438 F.2d 705 (5th Cir. 1971), 400
- Dincer v. Dincer, 701 A.2d 210 (Pa. 1998), 653
- Diorinou v. Mezitis, 237 F.3d 133 (2d Cir. 2001), 664–65
- Director General v. M.S., No. SY8917 of 1997, slip op. (Austl. Fam. Ct. 1998), 591
- Distler v. Distler, 26 F. Supp. 2d 723 (D.N.J. 1998), 649
- Doe v. Islamic Salvation Front, 993 F. Supp. 3 (D.D.C. 1998), 511
- Doe v. Sundquist, 2 S.W.3d 919 (Tenn. 1999), 900
- Draper v. Roberts (In re C.A.D.), 839 P.2d 165 (Okla. 1992), 660
- Dudgeon v. United Kingdom, 45 Eur. Ct. H.R. (ser. A) 5 (1981), 354
- DuToit v. Minister of Welfare, 2002 (10) BCLR 1006 (CC) (S. Afr.), 352
- Dutrisac v. Ulm, [2002] 6 R.F.L.5th 132 (B.C.C.A.), 760
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- E.H. v. Dep't of Health & Soc. Serv., 23 P.3d 1186 (Alaska 2001), 665
- El Universal, Compania Periodistica Nacional, S.A. de C.V. v. Phoenician Imports, Inc., 802 S.W.2d 799 (Tex. App. 1991), 842
- Elsholz v. Germany, 2000-VIII Eur. Ct. H. R. 345, 575
- Employment Div., Dep't of Human Res. of Oregon v. Smith, 494 U.S. 872 (1990), 558, 1207
- England v. England*, 234 F.3d 268 (5th Cir. 2000), 630–33, 635
- E.R. v. Marion County Office of Fam. & Child., 729 N.E.2d 1052 (Ind. Ct. App. 2000), 666
- Erie R.R. Co. v. Tompkins, 304 U.S. 64 (1938), 185
- Erznoznik v. City of Jacksonville, 422 U.S. 205 (1975), 1142
- Ex parte Jones, 592 So. 2d 608 (Ala. 1991), 763
- Fantony v. Fantony, 122 A.2d 593 (N.J. 1956), 664
- Farah v. Farah*, 429 S.E.2d 626 (Va. Ct. App. 1993), 376–77, 386
- Feder v. Evans-Feder, 63 F.3d 217 (3d Cir. 1995), 589
- Federal Court of March 3, 1993, BGE 119 II 266 (Switz.), 389
- Filartiga v. Peña-Irala, 630 F.2d 876 (2d Cir. 1980), 47, 59–60, 511
- Finizio v. Scoppio-Finizio, [1999] 124 O.A.C. 308 (Can.), 622, 624
- First National City Bank v. Banco Nacional de Cuba, 406 U.S. 59 (1972), 62
- Ford v. United States, 273 U.S. 593 (1927), 44
- Foreman v. Foreman, 550 S.E.2d 792 (N.C. Ct. App. 2001), 838
- Freier v. Freier*, 969 F. Supp. 436 (E.D. Mich. 1996), 629, 637–38
- Freier v. Freier*, 985 F. Supp. 710 (E.D. Mich. 1997), 649
- Friedman v. Friedman, 20 Cal. App. 4th 876 (1993), 369
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- Gerber v. Hickman, 291 F.3d 617 (9th Cir. 2002), 1011
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- Glaser v. United Kingdom*, 33 Eur. H.R. Rep. 1 (2001), 575
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- Goldstein v. Goldstein*, 494 S.E.2d 745 (Ga. Ct. App. 1998), 659
- Gomez v. INS*, 947 F.2d 660 (2d Cir. 1991), 481
- Gonzalez v. Reno*, 86 F. Supp. 2d 1167 (S.D. Fla. 2000), *aff'd*, 212 F.3d 1338 (11th Cir. 2000), 746–47
- Goode v. Goode*, 997 P.2d 244 (Or. Ct. App. 2000), 397
- Goodridge v. Dept. of Public Health*, 14 Mass. L. Rptr. 591, 2002 WL 1299135 (Mass. Super. Ct. 2002), 347
- Gotlib v. Ratsutsky*, 613 N.Y.S.2d 120 (N.Y. 1994), 399
- Gov't of the Republic of South Africa v. Grootboom*, 2001 (1) SA 46 (CC), 1123–38, 1144, 1145
- Grant v. South-West Trains Ltd.*, 1998 E.C.R. I-621, [1998] 1 C.M.L.R. 993 (1998), 355
- Grave v. Shubert*, 2000 WL 1221343 (Minn. Ct. App. Aug. 23, 2000), 844–46, 849
- Greenspan v. Slate*, 97 A.2d 390 (N.J. 1953), 5
- Grubbs v. Ross*, 630 P.2d 353 (Or. 1981), 685
- G.S. v. Ewing*, 786 P.2d 65 (Okla. 1990), 670
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- Gumbrell v. Jones*, [2001] N.Z.F.L.R. 593 (N.Z. Fam. Ct.), 600
- Haker-Volkening v. Haker*, 547 S.E.2d 127 (N.C. Ct. App. 2001), 834–36, 838–39
- Halpern v. Canada (Att'y Gen)*, [2002] 60 O.R.3d 321 (Ont. Div. Ct.), 179, 324–36, 337–38, 348
- Hanano v. Alassar*, No. 169004, 2001 WL 8763000 (Va. Cir. Ct. Jan. 23, 2001), 401
- Henches v. Vogel*, 103 Wash. App. 1019 (2000), 653
- H.I. v. M.G.*, [1999] 2 I.L.R.M. 1 (Ir. S.C.), 608
- Hobbs v. Hobbs*, 275 S.W.3d 900 (Tenn. 2000), 806
- Hodgson v. Minnesota*, 110 S. Ct. 2926 (1990), 1160
- Hoffmann v. Austria*, 225 Eur. Ct. H.R. (ser. A) 45 (1993), 558–62, 563
- Hokkanon v. Finland*, 299 Eur. Ct. H.R. (ser. A) (1994), 574–75
- Horiba v. Horiba*, 950 P.2d 340 (Or. Ct. App. 1997), 659
- Hosain v. Malik*, 671 A.2d 988 (Md. Ct. Spec. App. 1996), 674–83, 685–89, 695–96
- Huaman-Cornelio v. Bd. of Immigration Appeals*, 979 F.2d 995 (4th Cir. 1992), 995
- Husein v. Husein*, 2001 WL 842023 (Ohio Ct. App. July 23, 2001), 398
- I. v. United Kingdom*, HUDOC Ref. 3735 (2002), 354
- Ignaccolo-Zenide v. Romania*, 2000-I Eur. Ct. H.R. 241, 592, 708–09
- Iliev v. INS*, 127 F.3d 638 (7th Cir. 1997), 481
- Ingraham v. Wright*, 430 U.S. 651 (1977), 1169, 1181, 1183
- In re Adoption of Baby S.*, 705 A.2d 822 (N.J. Super. Ct. Ch. Div. 1997), 906
- In re Adoption of W.J.*, 942 P.2d 37 (Kan. 1997), 965–66
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- In re Auth. of the Parliament of Canada to Enact A Proposed Measure Amending “The Marriage Act,”* [1912] A.C. 880 (Can. P.C.), 178

- In re Certification of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (4) SA 744 (CC), 133
- In re Christine, 397 A.2d 511 (R.I. 1979), 906
- In re Dalip Singh Bir's Estate, 188 P.2d 499 (Cal. Ct. App. 1948), 378
- In re Dixon, 323 N.W.2d 549 (Mich. Ct. App. 1982), 888
- In re Doe, 860 F.2d 40 (2d Cir. 1988), 513
- In re Estate of Ian A. Pringle*, 2000 WL 1349231 (Terr. Ct. Virgin Is. July 25, 2000), 392–96, 399–400
- In re Estate of Marcos Litigation, 978 F.2d 493 (9th Cir. 1992), 512
- In re Estate of Robert Huyot, 645 N.Y.S.2d 979 (N.Y. Surr. Ct. 1996), *aff'd* 666 N.Y.S.2d 697 (N.Y. App. Div. 1997), 385
- In re Extradition of Cheung, 968 F. Supp. 791 (D. Conn. 1997), 44
- In re Fauziya Kasinga*, 21 I. & N. Dec. 357 (B.I.A. 1996) (en banc), 443–46
- In re Gault, 387 U.S. 1 (1967), 1142
- In re Gonzalez, 2000 WL 492102 (Fla. Cir. Ct. Apr. 13, 2000), 746
- In re Gonzalez, 993 S.W.2d 147 (Tex. Ct. App. 1999), 806, 821
- In re Grand Jury Proceedings, 817 F.2d 1108 (4th Cir. 1987), 513
- In re L.A.M. & R.K.M., 996 P.2d 839 (Kan. 2000), 666
- In re Marriage of Condon, 62 Cal. App. 4th 533 (1998), 650
- In re Marriage of Handeland*, 564 N.W.2d 445 (Iowa Ct. App. 1997), 803–04
- In re Marriage of Kimura, 471 N.W.2d 869 (Iowa 1991), 400
- In re Marriage of Kukes, 852 P.2d 655 (Mont. 1993), 819
- In re Marriage of O'Moore, 42 P.3d 767 (Mont. 2002), 811
- In re Marriage of Pascavage, No. 923-86, 1994 WL 838136 (Del. Fam. Ct. Aug. 15, 1994), 396
- In re Marriage of Shaban, 105 Cal. Rptr. 2d 863 (Cal. Ct. App. 2001), 156, 164
- In re Marriage of Vryonis*, 248 Cal. Rptr. 807 (Cal. Ct. App. 1988), 157, 385
- In re May, [1959] I.R. 74 (Ir. H. Ct.), 562
- In re Ponath*, 829 F. Supp. 363 (D. Utah 1993), 591, 639–640
- In re R (Child Abduction: Acquiescence), 1 Fam. 716 (Eng. C.A. 1995), 635
- In re R-A*, 22 I. & N. Dec. 906 (B.I.A. 1999) (en banc), 464–73
- In re Robinson, 983 F. Supp. 1339 (D. Colo. 1997), 634, 648
- In re S-A, 22 I. & N. Dec. 1328 (B.I.A. 2000), 482
- In re S., A.C. 750 (Eng. H.L. 1998), 602
- In re S. (Minors) Fam. 70 (Eng. Fam. 1994), 588
- In re S. (Minors) (Abduction: Acquiescence), 1 Fam. 819 (Eng. Fam. 1994), 633
- In re Settle, 556 P.2d 962 (Or. 1976), 685
- In re Stephanie M., 867 P.2d 706 (Cal. 1994), 665–66
- In re Schweidenback, 3 F. Supp. 2d 118 (D. Mass. 1998), 735
- In re T. (Children), 2 Fam. Ct. Rep. 159 (Eng. Fam. 2000), 602, 628, 634
- In re Validation of Marriage of Francisco, 16 Indian L. Rep. 6113 (Navajo 1989), 149
- INS v. Aguirre-Aguirres, 119 S. Ct. 1439 (1999), 483
- INS v. Cardoza-Fonseca, 480 U.S. 421 (1987), 483
- Inze v. Austria, 10 Eur. H.R. Rep. 394 (1988), 25
- I.O'T v. B.*, [1998] 2 I.R. 321 (Ir. S.C.), 889–93, 900–01
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- Irwin v. Irwin, [1997] O.J. 3892 (Ont. Div. Ct.), 760
- Isacc v. Rice, No. Civ. A. 1:97CV353, 1998 WL 527107 (N.D. Miss. July 30, 1998), 633
- Islam v. Sec'y of State for the Home Dep't; Regina v. Immigration Appeal Tribunal ex parte Shah* (conjoined appeals) 38 I.L.M. 827 (Eng. H.L. 1999), 473–80
- Ivaldi v. Ivaldi*, 685 A.2d 1319 (N.J. 1996), 579, 654–59, 662–64, 667, 686

- Jackson v. Jackson, 278 A.2d 114 (D.C. 1971), 761
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- Jane Does v. State, 993 P.2d 822 (Or. Ct. App. 1999), 900
- Janzik v. Schand, No. 99-C-6515, 2000 WL 1745203 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 27, 2000), 600
- J.B. v. M.B.*, 783 A.2d 707 (N.J. 2001), 1030–35
- Jeffers v. Makropoulos, 992 P.2d 686 (Colo. Ct. App. 1999), 653
- Jewell v. Jewell, 751 A.2d 735 (R.I. 2000), 396, 398
- Jiminez v. Aristeguieta, 311 F.2d 547 (5th Cir. 1962), 513
- Johnson v. Johnson, 493 S.E.2d 668 (Va. Ct. App. 1997), 652–53, 672–74, 689, 695
- Johnston v. Ireland, 112 Eur. Ct. H.R. (ser. A) (1987), 25, 26, 276
- Joined Cases Nos. C-245/94 & 312/94, Hoever and Zachow v. Land Nordrhein-Westfalen, 1996 E.C.R. I-4895, 788
- Jones v. Alfred H. Mayer, Co., 382 U.S. 409 (1968), 229
- Jones v. Halloran, 501 S.W.2d 588 (Ky. 1973), 347
- José Alberto Pérez Meza, Report No. 96/01 (Inter-Am. Comm. H.R. 2001), 357, 368
- Joslin v. New Zealand, Communication No. 902/1999, U.N. HRC, 75th Sess., U.N. Doc. CCPR/C/75/D/902/1999 (2002), 358
- Journe v. Journe, 911 F. Supp. 43 (D.P.R. 1995), 641
- J.R.M. v. The Netherlands, 74 Eur. Comm'n H.R. Dec. & Rep. 120 (1993), 1015
- Judgment of Oct. 11, 1974, VfSlg 221 (Aus. VfGH), 1108
- Juristenvereiniging Pro Vita v. De Staat der Nederlanden (Ministerie van Welzijn, Volksgezondheid en Cultuur), 8 Feb. 1990, NJ 2986 (Neth. Hof), 1108
- K. & T. v. Finland, 31 Eur. H.R. Rep. 484 (2000), 82–83
- Kaddoura v. Hammound, [1998] 168 D.L.R.4th 503 (Ont. Div. Ct.), 164
- Kadic v. Karadzic, 70 F.3d 232 (2d Cir. 1995), 63, 511, 513
- Kallman v. Kallman, 623 So. 2d 1213 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. 1993), 684
- Kaho v. Ilchert*, 765 F.2d 877 (9th Cir. 1985), 148, 956–59, 960–61
- Kalyton v. Kalyton*, 74 P. 491 (Or. 1903), 143–46
- Kansas, Sec'y of Soc. & Rehab. Servs. v. Clear, 804 P.2d 961 (Kan. 1991), 764
- Kanth v. Kanth, 232 F.3d 901 (10th Cir. 2000), 588
- Katjtazi v. Kajtazi, 288 F. Supp. 15 (E.D. N.Y. 1978), 743
- Keegan v. Ireland*, 290 Eur. Ct. H.R. (ser. A) (1994), 29, 880–83, 884–85
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- Koestar v. Montgomery, 886 S.W.2d 432 (Tex. App. 1994), 684
- Kolvart v. Oregon, 366 U.S. 187 (1961), 44
- Kokkinakis v. Greece, 17 Eur. H.R. Rep. 397 (1994), 1197
- Koons v. Koons, 615 N.Y.S.2d 852 (N.Y. Sup. Ct. 1994), 659
- Kovacs v. Kovacs, 633 A.2d 425 (Md. Ct. Spec. App. 1993), 163
- Krishna v. Krishna, No. C-97-00215C, 1997 WL 195439 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 11, 1997), 641
- Kulko v. Super. Ct. of Cal., 436 U.S. 84 (1976), 407, 838
- Kumar v. Super. Ct., 652 P.2d 1003 (Cal. 1982), 670
- L. v. Finland*, 31 Eur. H.R. Rep. 737 (2000), 72–79, 80–83
- L. v. S.*, 691 M.L.J.U. 1 (Malay. High Ct., 2001), 554
- Lalli v. Lalli, 439 U.S. 259 (1978), 22, 26
- Latham v. Latham, 547 P.2d 144 (Or. 1976), 369
- Lauture v. Int'l Bus. Mach. Corp., 216 F.3d 258 (2d Cir. 2000), 229

- Layland v. Ontario (Minister of Consumer & Commercial Relations), [1993] 14 O.R. 3d 658 (Ont. Div. Ct.), 337
- Lehr v. Robertson*, 436 U.S. 248 (1983), 607, 876, 877–80, 883
- Leung Kat v. Lee Chin Tooy Yook, [1986] HKLRD 503 (H.K.C.A.), 217
- Levy v. Louisiana, 391 U.S. 68 (1968), 27
- Leszinske v. Poole*, 798 P.2d 1049 (N.M. Ct. App. 1990), 372
- Lily Thomas v. Union of India, 2 L.R.I. 623 (India 2000), 157
- Lonergan v. Lonergan, [1998] B.C.J. No. 150 (B.C. Sup. Ct.), 820
- Long v. Ardestani*, 624 N.W.2d 405 (Wisc. Ct. App. 2001), 713–21, 722
- Lops v. Lops, 140 F.3d 927 (11th Cir. 1998), 641–45
- Louzidou v. Turkey, 310 Eur. Ct. H. R. (ser. A) (1995), 36, 37
- Loving v. Virginia, 388 U.S. 1 (1967), 186
- Lowe v. Broward County, 766 So. 2d 1199 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. 2000), 323
- Lustig-Prean and Beckett v. United Kingdom, 29 Eur. H.R. Rep. 548 (1999), 354
- Lwin v. INS, 144 F.3d 505 (7th Cir. 1998), 480
- M. v. H.*, [1999] 2 S.C.R. 3 (Can.), 337, 338–41, 366
- M (S.T.) v. F (M.D.)*, [2002] 31 R.F.L.5th 82 (Alta. Q.B.), 760
- M.A. v. INS*, 899 F.2d 304 (4th Cir. 1990), 995
- Ma v. Ma (In re Marriage of Yi Ning Ma)*, 483 N.W.2d 732 (Minn. Ct. App. 1992), 380
- Ma v. Reno*, 208 F.3d 815 (9th Cir. 2000), 44
- Magaya v. Magaya*, S.C. No. 210-98 (Zimb. 1999), 140
- Majors v. Majors*, 645 P.2d 1039 (Okla. Ct. App. 1982), 661
- Maklad v. Maklad*, 28 Conn. L. Rptr. 593, No. FA000443796S, 2001 WL 51662 (Conn. Super. Ct. Jan. 3, 2001), 390–92, 396, 399
- Malek v. Malek*, 227 Cal. Rptr. 841 (Cal. Ct. App. 1986), 684
- Malik v. Malik*, 638 A.2d 1184 (Md. Ct. Spec. App. 1994), 674–75, 679, 685–86, 688
- Manoussakis v. Greece*, 23 Eur. H.R. Rep. 387 (1996), 1197
- Manychief v. Poffenroth*, [1995] 3 W.W.R. 210 (Alta. Q.B.), 149
- March v. Levine*, 136 F. Supp. 2d 831 (M.D. Tenn. 2000), *aff'd* 249 F.3d 462 (6th Cir. 2001), 687
- Marckx v. Belgium*, 2 Eur. H.R. Rep. 330 (1979), 5, 20, 23, 24, 25, 276
- Maria v. McElroy*, 68 F. Supp. 2d 206 (E.D.N.Y. 1999), 44
- Maria da Penha Maia Fernandes*, Case No. 12.051, Inter-Am C.H.R. 54-1 (2001), 518–28
- Maria Eugenia Morales De Sierra*, Case No. 11.625, Inter-Am C.H.R. 4-01 (2001), 528
- Markofski v. Holzauer*, 799 So. 2d 162 (Miss. Ct. App. 2001), 811
- Marta Lucia Alvarez Giraldo*, Case 11.656, Inter-Am. C.H.R., 71-99 (1999), 357
- Martinez v. Bynum*, 461 U.S. 321 (1983), 591
- Marvin v. Marvin*, 557 P.2d 106 (Cal. 1976), 218, 369
- Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319 (1976), 26
- Matsumoto v. Matsumoto*, 762 A.2d 224 (N.J. Super. Ct. App. Div. 2000), 743–44
- Matter of A-S*, 21 I. & N. Dec. 1106 (B.I.A. 1998), 487
- Matter of Cabucana*, 16 I. & N. Dec. 217 (B.I.A. 1977), 960
- Matter of Cho*, 16 I. & N. Dec. 188 (B.I.A. 1977), 960, 962
- Matter of Dass*, 20 I. & N. Dec. 120 (B.I.A. 1989), 489
- Matter of K*, [number withheld] (B.I.A. 2002), 508
- Matter of Khatoon*, 19 I. & N. Dec. 153 (B.I.A. 1984), 960
- Matter of Kwok*, 14 I. & N. Dec. 127 (B.I.A. 1972), 960
- Matter of Mogharrabi*, 19 I. & N. Dec. 439 (B.I.A. 1987), 488

- Matter of [name withheld], [number withheld], slip. op. (IJ Oct. 24, 2001) (N.Y., N.Y.) (Chew, IJ), 481
- Matter of Ng, 14 I. & N. Dec.135 (B.I.A. 1972), 959–60
- Matter of Patel, 17 I. & N. Dec. 414 (B.I.A. 1980), 961
- Matter of Reputan, 19 I. & N. Dec. 199 (B.I.A. 1984), 962
- May v. Anderson, 345 U.S. 528 (1953), 667
- Mayer v. Mayer, 311 S.E.2d 659 (N.C. Ct. App. 1984), 400
- Maynard v. Hill, 125 U.S. 190 (1888), 123
- Mazurek v. France, App. No. 34406/97 (Eur. Ct. H.R. Feb. 1, 2000), 25
- McA v. McA, 1 I.R. 457 (Ir. H. Ct. 2000), 271–74
- McArthur v. McArthur, [1998] 235 A.R. 297 (Alta. Q.B.), 841
- McBain v. State of Victoria, (2000) 99 F.C.R. 116 (Austl.), 1019
- McBean v. McBean, 61 P. 418 (Or. 1900), 146
- McBride v. McBride, [2001] N.W.T.S.C. 59 (N.W.T. Sup. Ct.), 760
- McDaniel v. McDaniel, 693 N.Y.S.2d 778 (N.Y. Sup. Ct. App. Div. 1999), 659
- McKay v. Kalyton, 204 U.S. 458 (1907), 147
- McMichael v. United Kingdom, 307 Eur. Ct. H.R. 27 (ser. A) (1995), 885
- McMullen v. INS, 658 F.2d 1312 (9th Cir. 1981), 443
- Mezo v. Elmergawi, 855 F. Supp. 59 (E.D.N.Y. 1994), 580
- Michael H. v. Gerald D., 109 S. Ct. 2333 (1989), 1160
- Mila v. Dist. Dir. of the Denver, Col. Dist. of the INS, 678 F.2d 123 (10th Cir. 1982), 960
- Miller v. Albright, 523 U.S. 420 (1998), 23
- Minister of Health v. Treatment Action Campaign, 2002 (5) SA 703 (CC) (S. Afr.), 1139
- Minot v. Eckardt-Minot, 13 F.3d 590 (2d Cir. 1994), 734
- Minkin v. Minkin, 434 A.2d 665 (N.J. Super. Ct. Ch. Div. 1981), 297
- Miron v. Trudel, [1995] 2 S.C.R. 418 (Can.), 360–65, 366
- Missouri v. Holland, 22 U.S. 416 (1920), 500
- Mohamed v. Canada, [1997] F.C. IMM-4742-96 (Fed. Ct.), 491
- Mohsen v. Mohsen, 715 F. Supp. 1063 (D. Wyo. 1989), 581
- Moore v. City of East Cleveland, 431 U.S. 494 (1977), 134
- Morabu Chacha v. Marwa Wambura (Mwanza High Ct., Matr. Civ. App. Nov. 25, 1976) (Tanzania), 556–57
- Moren v. Moreno, 481 S.E.2d 482 (Va. Ct. App. 1997), 802
- Mozes v. Mozes, 239 F.3d 1067 (9th Cir. 2001), 581–88
- M.R. v. S.R.R., [1998] Carswell B.C. 1192 (B.C. Sup. Ct.), 806
- Mthembu v. Letsela, 2000 (3) SA 867 (A) (S. Afr.), 139, 140, 141, 148
- Murray v. Murray, 425 N.W.2d 315 (Minn. Ct. App. 1988), 811
- Myers v. Young, 427 A.2d 209 (Pa. Super. Ct. 1981), 764
- Nahmani v. Nahmani, CA 5587/93, (1995) 49(i) P.D. 485 (S. Ct. Isr.), 1023
- National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality v. Minister of Home Affairs*, 2000 (2) SA 1 (CC) (S. Afr.), 348–51, 352
- Navas v. INS, 217 F.3d 646 (9th Cir. 2000), 443
- N.B. v. Sybinski, 724 N.E.2d 1103 (Ind. Ct. App. 2000), 1008
- Neilson v. Underwood, [1934] S.C.R. 635 (Can.), 177
- Ng Suey Hi v. Weedon, 21 F.2d 801 (9th Cir. 1927), 5
- Nguyen v. INS, 121 S. Ct. 2053 (2001), 22
- Nippon Emo-Trans Co., Ltd., v. Emo-Trans, Inc., 744 F. Supp. 1215 (E.D. N.Y. 1990), 837
- Noordin v. Abdulla (In re Custody of R), 947 P.2d 745 (Wash. Ct. App. 1997), 685–86, 690
- No-she-po v. Wa-win-ta, 65 P. 15 (Or. 1900), 865
- Octjen v. Central Leather Co., 246 U.S. 297 (1918), 62

- Office of Child Support v. Sholan, 782 A.2d 1199 (Vt. 2001), 842–43
- Open Door Counselling & Dublin Well Woman Centre v. Ireland, 15 Eur. H.R. Rep. 244 (1992), 1108, 1109
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Preface for Instructors

Before we began writing this book in 1999, we surveyed the courses in comparative and/or international family law offered by American law schools, both on campus and in their overseas programs. Our examination confirmed our suspicion that the courses were extremely diverse, both in structure and content. Some of these courses were two credit hours, others were three; some of these courses were seminars, others were not. The instructors' pedagogical goals and coverage fell along a continuum: some focused almost exclusively on training students for the practice of transnational family law; others concentrated mostly on examining discrete family law issues from a comparative perspective; some emphasized international human rights conventions affecting the family. Notwithstanding this variety, several generalizations were evident. The majority of the instructors utilized a combination of public international law, private international law, and comparative law sources. In addition, all taught with materials that they or others had gathered, as no casebook yet existed in this field.

Ours is the first casebook created for American law students in the field of comparative and international family law. As such, we tried to create a book that can be used flexibly in many types of courses. We included more material than can be taught in a course of two- or three-credit hours in order to ensure sufficient content to meet each instructor's interests and goals. We used recurring themes throughout the book to try to provide coherence regardless of the material chosen.

The first chapter presents an overview of the comparative and international law disciplines. We have presumed that students have not had either an international or comparative law course. Therefore, we use family law topics not covered elsewhere in the book to introduce the skills and information necessary to explore effectively the topical chapters that follow. The first chapter also contains a section on researching international and comparative family law, which may prove particularly useful for seminar students.

The remaining chapters are divided into two parts. Chapters Two through Six focus primarily on relationships between adult partners. Chapters Seven through Fourteen concentrate largely upon the relationships between children and their parents and other caregivers.

For those instructors who want to teach a mixture of comparative, international, and transnational law, and consequently will seek material by topic rather than by discipline, Chapters Two through Fourteen offer a range of options. The book is organized topically because we believe that the study of family law is particularly rich and exciting when one explores a particular topic through a combination of comparative law, public international law, and private international law. However, for those instructors who want to organize materials around a specific discipline, we offer the following suggestions. Instructors who want to emphasize transnational family law will find most useful

Chapters One (section B), Two (section E), Five, Eight, Ten, and Twelve. Chapter Six (sections B.3.c. and C.1), addressing the ability of family violence victims to successfully obtain asylum in the United States, might also be a beneficial addition to a transnational course. Instructors who wish to concentrate mostly on comparative family law might want to select Chapters One (section A), Two, Three, Four, Six (sections A and B), Seven, Nine, Eleven, Thirteen, and Fourteen. Chapter Eight might also be usefully included in such a course, as certain portions take a comparative approach to examining the topics of child abduction and custody jurisdiction, and many of the cases provide significant insight into the substantive custody law of the nations involved. Instructors who seek to focus on the intersection of international human rights law and family law will find most relevant Chapters One (section B), Two (sections B.4 and E), Four (section B), Six, Seven, Eleven, Thirteen, and Fourteen.

The book incorporates a broad range of materials, including judgments from international tribunals and domestic courts of many nations, statutes from around the world, and excerpts from professional journals in law and related fields. Each chapter includes problems and exercises that permit instruction through problem-solving and role-playing. Each chapter also contains both specific and open-ended questions to facilitate policy discussions and socratic dialogue.

A separate paperback, entitled *International Family Law: Conventions, Statutes, and Regulatory Materials*, complements this casebook and is also available through Carolina Academic Press. It contains the edited text of global and regional international conventions relevant to the field of family law, selected U.S. federal statutes and regulations, and the text of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (1996) and the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (1997). We placed these materials in a separate supplement because these materials are referred to throughout the book and because they are lengthy. An instructor certainly could make available these treaties and statutory materials through other means; we have only sought to eliminate that inconvenience for those who would prefer not to have it.

This book was not created for the basic domestic Family Law course taught in most U.S. law schools, and this book is not well suited for that purpose. Although the book contains some U.S. cases, legislative materials, and summaries of legal doctrine, this material is provided solely for comparative purposes or to contextualize a discussion of transnational or public international law. Rather, our goals were to create a book that would allow students to explore family law issues from a global or comparative perspective, to understand the influence and limitations of international law in resolving familial conflicts, and to prepare for the practice of transnational family law. To those of you who share these goals, we hope that this book provides you a useful tool for exploring this fascinating and rapidly expanding field of law with students. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please direct comments about Chapters 1.B, 3–5, 7, 8.B, 8.C, and 10–12 to Marianne Blair and comments about Chapters 1.A, 1.C, 2, 6, 8.A, 9, 13, and 14 to Merle Weiner.

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Editorial Note: In many of the cases and materials that we have excerpted, citations and footnotes have been omitted. Footnotes, in particular, were frequently omitted without notes or symbols indicating their omission. When we have retained footnotes from cases or excerpted materials, we have retained the original footnote numbers.