

CURRICULUM VITAE

PERSONAL DETAILS

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D.O.B. 18.09.1977
Nationality: Spanish
Languages: Spanish (native), English (Fluent) and Italian (conversational).

QUALIFICATIONS

- 2003 Graduated from the University of Murcia, Spain with an advanced degree in Law. Complemented by an Erasmus Scholarship at Università degli Studi Magna Græcia, Italy in 2001-2002.
- 2004 Qualified as an Abogado registered at Ilustre Colegio de Abogados, Murcia, Spain.
- 2005 Admitted as a Registered European Lawyer at The Law Society of England and Wales.
- 2005 Completed the Qualified Lawyer Transfer Test at The College of Law, London to become a Solicitor.
- 2006 Admitted to the role of Solicitors by The Law Society of England and Wales.
- 2014 Trained as a Collaborative Solicitor by Resolution, England.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2003-present Dawson Cornwell Solicitors, 15 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4QT

I joined the firm in May 2003 having won a European Commission scholarship under the "Leonardo Da Vinci" programme after being selected by the *Fundación Universidad Empresa* in Murcia, Spain. I was employed when my internship concluded and consequently cross qualified as a Solicitor (having previously qualified as a Spanish *abogada*). I was offered partnership in 2009.

I am currently one of three partners in the Children Department. I specialise in child abduction with The Hague and Non Hague signatory countries, cross borders family issues within Europe, applications for leave to remove, Public Law proceedings and surrogacy.

I have represented private parties in relevant reported cases from the High Court, Court of Appeal, and Supreme Court of United Kingdom. My practice also includes experience with the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights in the cases of C-436/13 and Ferrari v Romania (2015).

On a pro bono basis I have represented the charity REUNITE as intervener party in the case X v Latvia before The European Court of Human Rights and as interveners in the case of Lozano v Alvarez before the Supreme Court of the United States.

PUBLICATIONS

- April 2016 The Maria de Penha Law: Legislating against domestic violence in Brazil. An article published by International Family Law Journal.
http://www.dawsoncornwell.com/en/documents/CMP_IFL_2016.pdf
- Sept. 2015 Interview by LexisNexis on International Considerations in Public Law Cases following the decision in Re CB.
http://www.dawsoncornwell.com/en/documents/International_considerations.pdf
- March 2015 A book '*Secuestro Internacional de Menores y el Proceso de Restitución del menor*' published in Spain by legal publishers 'Ley57'. It is prefaced by the International Liaison Judge for the Kingdom of Spain, Francisco Javier Forcada Miranda.
- June 2014 'Surrogacy in Spain: Reality v Legality'. An article published by International Family Law Journal.
http://www.dawsoncornwell.com/en/documents/Surrogacy_Spain.pdf
- March 2014 'Collaborative Law; An English perspective.' A presentation published by Dickinson Publishing in a book containing all the presentations of the annual congress of *Asociación Española de Abogados de Familia*, ("AEAFA") Spain.
- Jan. 2014 'I am leaving Spain. Can I take Pedro?' Jordan publishing, Family Law ICLIP.
<http://www.familylawiclip.co.uk/articles/i-am-leaving-spain-can-i-take-pedro>
- Dec. 2013 '*Pensión de Alimentos: Tendencia Europea a las Tablas*' An article published by Spanish Association of Family Lawyers ("AEAFA") and digital magazine *lexfamily.es*;
http://www.dawsoncornwell.com/en/documents/Pension_de_alimentos.pdf
- January 2013 'Practical Considerations when dealing with cross-border family law matters: case study on divorce-jurisdiction-habitual residence, children- jurisdiction and wrongful removal/detention'. An educational video published by the European Family Justice Observatory.
<http://www.efjo.eu/#/videos/4559253040>

- Dec. 2012 'Should I stay or should I go?' An article published by The Sun Magazine;
http://www.dawsoncornwell.com/en/documents/El_Sun.pdf
- Oct. 2012 '*Vivir en pecado. El efecto de la cohabitación en la pensión compensatoria (Visión desde Inglaterra y Gales)*' An article published by AEAFA;
<http://www.dawsoncornwell.com/en/documents/AEAFA.pdf>
- Sept. 2012 'Shared residence orders might not be an exception in Spain for much longer' An article published by International Bar Association;
http://www.dawsoncornwell.com/en/documents/Family_Law_Sept12.pdf
- Jan. 2012 '*La última decisión sobre división del patrimonio de parejas no casadas del The Supreme Court del Reino Unido*' An article published by AEAFA.
http://www.dawsoncornwell.com/en/documents/SC_JonesvKernott.pdf
- April 2011 'The Brussels II bis Regulation - Five Years On and Proposals for Reform' An essay awarded The First European Chapter Annual Award for Young Family Lawyers by The International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers ("IAML").
http://www.iaml.org/cms_media/files/brussels_ii.pdf
- Sept. 2010 'Reform Terms of Endearment' An article published by Family Law Journal;
- March 2010 '*Principios Generales del Derecho de Familia en Inglaterra y Gales. Donde puedo y debo divorciarme*' An article published in *Abogacía*, no 4. Edited by *Tirant Lo Blanch*.

I have also written some editions of the international blog for Spain for the International Children Law Information Portal (ICLIP), published by Jordans.

CONFERENCES

- 28.06.2016 Child Abduction: habitual residence review. Bar Association Alicante, Spain.**
Invited by the Bar Association of Alicante to speak about the concept of Habitual Residence in a seminar together with Judge from the Court of Appeal in Madrid, Pilar González.
- 26.05.2016 Child Abduction, practical views. Seville Bar Association, Spain**
Invited to speak about child abduction from a practical point of view and to present the Spanish Association ASIME in Seville at the Bar Association.
- 21.04.2016 III Jornadas Derecho Familia, AEAFA. Murcia, Spain**
Invited to speak about collaborative law in the third annual Congress on Family law organised by AEAFA and the Bar Association of Murcia.

- Oct. 2015** **II Conference of the Academia Euroamericana de Derecho de Familia, Buenos Aires, Argentina**
I was invited to speak about Child Abduction cases and the impact of relocation on child abduction.
- Oct.2015** **Union International des Advocates (“UIA”) annual conference, Valencia, Spain.**
Invited by the Human Rights Commission to speak about Child Trafficking, and by the Young Lawyer Commission to speak about the challenges of foreign lawyers practicing in a different jurisdiction.
- Sept. 2015** **The Legal Framework in the United Kingdom**
Seminar organised by the Latin American Consular Offices and hosted by the Mexican Embassy at the Park Plaza Sherlock Holmes Hotel in London. Speaking about family law system in general terms.
- 29.05.2015** **Seminar on Child Abduction on The Hague and Non Hague countries, University of Rome III, Rome**
Co-Director of an eight days seminar organised for students on international relationships regarding the subject of international removal of children. I participate as a professor of the Seminar on inter relation of The Hague Convention 1980 and the EC Regulation 2201/2003
- May 2015** **IBDFAM Family Law Conference (Instituto Brasileiro de Direito de Familia), Sao Jose dos Campos, Brazil, speaking on ADR available in this jurisdiction, May 2015**
- March 2015** **The Law Society Roundtable.** Selected to participate in the roundtable meeting for discussion of obstacles facing family law clients, March 2015. The conclusions were feature in The Law Society Gazette.
- 9.12.2014** **Cross Border Family Issues between Spain and England/Wales, London, England**
I was appointed by AEAFA (Spanish Association of Family lawyers) to be the director of a Seminar that the Spanish Association organised in London at Europe House. The International Liaison Judge for Spain in the UK and the International Liaison Judge of the Family Division were within the list of speakers.
- Oct. 2014** **Union International des Advocates (“UIA”) annual conference, Florence, Italy**
Invited by UIA to speak at their annual Congress in Florence from 29th October to 1st November, during their family commission session about ADR in family law, in particular in relation to child abduction cases. The panel was formed by practitioners from Israel, USA, Italy and England.

- Oct. 2014** **International Child Abduction and Human Rights: A Critical Assessment of the Status Quo, Antwerp, Belgium**
I was invited to speak at this one day seminar organised jointly by the British Institute of International Comparative Law and the University of Antwerp to address the diversity arisen from the decision from the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights regarding child abduction. The organisation invited practitioners, professors from Europe and USA, representatives from the European Commission, NGOs and first secretary of the Hague Conference.
- Sept. 2014** **IAML Annual Conference, Budapest, Hungary**
The director of the educational programme asked me to organise the children session for the annual conference. The topic that I selected was Parental Alienation. The panel was formed by Professor Mary Kay Kisthardt, Faculty Scholar and Professor of Law at the University of Missouri, Kansas City School of Law and Arnold Shienvold, Ph.D. managing partner of Riegler, Shienvold and Associates, a comprehensive psychological practice in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. I chaired the session and organized a case study for IAML fellows to discuss, sharing with the audience the legal treatment of Parental Alienation Syndrome in their respective jurisdictions.
- June 2014** **New York Bar Association, IAML Hague symposium**
As part of the organisers of the IAML Hague symposium I presented Secretary General of the Hague Conference and chaired the symposium together with
- June 2014** **IAML Cross Border Law Issues, Budapest, Hungary**
Along with Anne Marie Hutchinson OBE and jointly with the Council of the European Union, I organised a two day seminar for East European Lawyers. Fernando Rui Paulino Pereira, Head of Unit, Judicial cooperation in civil matters, General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union was among the speakers. I addressed the attendees on relocation issues and the impact on child abduction.
- April 2014** **I Family Law Conference at Ilustre Colegio de Abogados de Murcia, Spain.**
I was invited to speak about The Hague Convention 1980 on the civil aspect of child abduction and The Hague 1996 Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Corporation in respect of Parental Responsibility and measures for the protection of children and their interaction in practice.
- March 2014** **XXI Annual Conference of AEAFA, Madrid, Spain.**
Following my talk the previous year, I was invited to form an international table to present a comparative study of collaborative practice in Italy, USA, Argentina, Chile and England. I chaired the session and spoke about Collaborative Practice in England and Wales.
- Feb. 2014** **Ministry of Justice of Japan delegation- London, England.**

I chaired the meeting between a delegation from the Ministry of Justice of Japan and English lawyers to assist the Japanese government in carrying out a fact finding mission in respect of the joint parental responsibility system. The delegation was formed by Ayaka Sati and Ysuaki Imai, lawyers of the Ministry of Justice in Tokyo, Japan and Henry Setright QC and Michael Gration, counsel from 4 Paper Buildings Chambers, London.

Oct. 2013 IE Law School, Madrid, Spain.

I was invited by Professor Casilda Cortes Puya to give a lecture about Child Abduction to his Civil Law: Family, Estate and Trust Law class.

Sept. 2013 IAML Annual Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

I led The Hague 1980 Symposium talking about the principles of The Hague 1980. In a second presentation I talked about application of the Convention in England and Wales. Other speakers were representatives of the Argentinean Central Authority and lawyers from different jurisdictions. The symposium was recorded so it can be used as part of the training program of the IAML.

June 2013 Ministry of Justice and the British Institute of International Comparative Law, London, England.

I was invited to be part of the group of experts who addressed the representatives of the Ministry of Justice about the impact of the European Union on UK law in the field of family judicial cooperation.

March 2013 XX Annual Conference of AEAFA, Madrid, Spain.

I was invited to speak about Alternative Dispute Resolution in England and Wales. In my talk I emphasised the value of international mediation in child abduction cases and the need to introduce collaborative law as an alternative dispute resolution in Spain.

Oct. 2012 I International Congress of Private International Law, Murcia, Spain.

I was invited to talk about Child Abduction providing a comparative view between England and Wales and Spain.

I also participated as a speaker in a round table formed by experts from Italy, Germany, Holland, Poland and Argentina about enforcement of foreign orders in our respective jurisdictions. I particularly addressed the issue of enforcement of contact and maintenance orders.

Sept. 2012 Academy of European Law, ("ERA") Trier, Germany.

I was invited to talk at the annual Conference on European Family Law on Cross-Border Divorce and its Consequences on the subject "Brussels II bis Regulation: Seven years on and proposals for reform". I shared the session with Louise Ellen Teiz, First Secretary of The Hague Conference. The presentation was recorded and is part of the online training portal of the ERA.

Oct. 2011 Family Law Conference organised by Resolution and AEAFA at The Law Society, London, England.

I was the Chair of the session about Children and Cross Border issues.

June 2011 Delegation from the Russian Federation- London, England.

I addressed a delegation from The Russian Federation who visited London to evaluate the possible ratification of The Hague Convention 1980 on the civil aspect of child abduction and The Hague 1996 Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Corporation in respect of Parental Responsibility and measures for the protection of children. The delegation was formed by Mr Sergey Pchelintsey, Deputy Head of the State Legal Directorate of the President of the Russian Federation. My presentation was based about the applicability of the above Conventions in England and Wales and inter relations with other signatory countries.

April 2011 International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, European Chapter Congress, Strasburg, France.

I presented my prize winning essay ‘The Brussels II bis Regulation - Five Years On and Proposals for Reforms’ suggesting amendments to Art. 11.7.

May 2010 I British and Spanish Congress- Málaga, Spain.

I was invited to speak about the applicability of Brussels II bis and The Hague Convention 1980. In my presentation I dealt with applicable law, definition of child abduction, functions of the Central Authorities in England and Wales and Spain, defences available and Spanish cases before the English Courts.

April 2009 English-Spanish Bar Leaders and Lawyers’ Conference, London, England.

I was invited to speak at the international family session about Family Law in England and Wales, in particular about cross borders matters with the jurisdiction of Spain and the use of the International Liaison Judicial Office.

Oct. 2009 V Annual Law Congress, Málaga, Spain.

I was invited by The Law Society of Málaga to speak during the International Session about International Family Law.

Oct. 2009 IBA Annual Congress, Madrid, Spain.

I participated in a role play organised by the Family Commission about the role of the International Liaison Judges together with Lord Justice Thorpe and Francisco Javier Forcada Miranda, the respective international liaison judges from England and Wales and Spain at the time.

Oct. 2008 IBA Annual Congress, Buenos Aires- Argentina.

I participated in the role play organised by the Family Commission about international mediation in Child Abduction cases. I attended the official launch of the Argentine Republic Network of Expert Judges on International Restitution of Children where I met Professor William Duncan, Former Deputy Secretary-General of the Hague Conference on Private International Law and Ignacio Goicoechea, Liaison Officer for Latin America of the Hague Conference on Private International Law who also participated in the IBA Annual Congress.

March 2007 British and Spanish Law Association (“BSLA”) Annual Congress in Granada- Spain.

I was invited to speak about Family Law, Divorce and Children Law in England and Wales from the point of a comparative study with Spain.

NOMINATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

I was nominated by the USA Embassy in London to participate in the Department of State programme, International Visitor Leadership Programme (IVLP) in January 2016. I was specifically appointed to the Multi-Regional Project 'Children in the U.S. Justice System'.

The Law Society nominated me to participate in their exchange programme with the Ordem dos Advogados do Brazil. Sao Paulo and Brasilia, May 2015.

I have served, as a member of Resolution International Committee, since January 2016.

I was admitted as fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers in November 2013.

I was appointed as co-Chair of the European Family Justice Observatory, in November 2013.

I was appointed Commissioner in London by The Bar Association of Murcia, Spain, in September 2013.

OTHER INFORMATION

I was featured as "The Lawyer of the Week" by The Times newspaper on 4th September 2014.

I was interviewed by the BBC in November 2013 having represented a left behind mother in the first case between the Federation of Russia and England and Wales in respect of applicability of The Hague Convention 1996. That case received significant media attention and I have been quoted on different occasions in the press.

I have also been quoted in the media in England and Wales and in Spain in the case of Cambra and Jones, a child abduction case between Spain and England and Wales where the issue of enforceability of a return order is currently before the Supreme Court of United Kingdom.

I was consulted by the Spanish newspapers '*El País*' in January 2010 and November 2009 about child abduction, and by '*El Mundo*' in October 2009 about divorce law in England and Wales.

I was interviewed by Argentine Legal Editorial, IJ Professionals, about child abduction in August 2013 and by the Magazine *Aquí Latinos* in January 2013 about my career in general.

Thomson Reuters included me in their list of SuperLawyers in Super Lawyers Magazine as a rising star in family law in March 2013.

I was awarded a five star rating for my children law practice by the Good Lawyer Guide 2012.

I am listed in Legal 500, UK edition and Chambers and Partners UK edition.