

PROFILE: The International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates

The International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates (IAYFJM) is an NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation) with consultative status at the United Nations. It was founded in 1928 and registered in Brussels, Belgium. It represents world-wide efforts to deal with the protection of youth and family and with the criminal behaviour and maladjustment of youth. Its membership is comprised of national associations and committed individuals from all parts of the globe, who exercise functions as youth and family court judges or functions within professional services directly linked to youth and family justice or welfare.

For many years the IAYFJM has been active in the "Council of International Organisations Directly Interested in Children and Youth." Members have been appointed by both the United Nations and the Council of Europe as 'leading experts' and have contributed to the drafting of international conventions, for example, the preliminary draft for the "European Convention for the Protection of the Rights of the Child" and the draft for the "Minimum Standard Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice" (More commonly called the "Beijing Rules").

Activities Of The IAYFJM

International Congresses

International congresses constitute the focal point of the Association's work. The congresses assemble personnel from all over the world active in the protection of youth or the family to consider issues which fall within the realm of Family Courts or Youth Courts. The congresses are held every four years with every effort being made to distribute them around the world. The most recent Congresses have been held in Oxford (England, 1974), Montreal (Canada, 1978), Amsterdam (Holland, 1982), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil, 1986), Turin (Italy, 1990), Bremen (Germany, 1994) and, most recently, Buenos Aires (Argentina, 1998). The next international congress is scheduled for Melbourne, Australia, in 2002.

The Chronicle : The Voice Of The Association.

The Chronicle is published bi-annually in English, French and Spanish to provide a forum

amongst those concerned with child and family issues, in the area of civil law concerning children and families, throughout the world.

The IDE : International Institute For The Rights Of The Child

The IDE was founded in 1995 to inform and train those concerned in the CRC.

The IDE aims to:

- spread knowledge of the relevant international instruments;
- assist those responsible for their implementation to understand their practical meaning;
- raise awareness of the question of children's rights among those who deal with problems concerning the protection of minors;
- inspire national legislators for the purpose of all laws affecting youth;
- create a "culture" or state of mind oriented towards the rights of the child.

This institute is based in The University Institute Kurt Bösch (IKB) in Sion, Switzerland, and holds a major international conference there each October.

The Veillard-Cybulski Fund Association

The Veillard-Cybulski Fund Association aims to reward deserving works, particularly those which make a new contribution towards perfecting methods of treatment for children and adolescents in difficulties and their families. The award is made every four years, the next award being made at the Congress in 2002 in Melbourne. The prize-winner receives an award of 10,000 (ten thousand) Swiss Francs

Research

The Association is keen to develop the research aspect of its work and would welcome suggestions for research projects from individual members and/or National Associations. The Association has amongst its membership experts in all aspects of law, both national and international, concerning children and families. Experts can be brought together on an ad hoc basis according to the needs of any particular project.

Dr Willie McCarney, Vice-President

Email: Willie@wmccarney.freemove.co.uk

More information about the IAYFJM can be found on the DCI-Australia Website - *Editor*