Notice and General Description of

ISFL CARIBBEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE, NASSAU, THE BAHAMAS

March 17-19, 2011

Hosts: THE COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

EUGENE DUPUCH LAW SCHOOL, NASSAU, THE BAHAMAS

Theme: The Legal and Social Consequences of the Disintegration and Reconstitution of Families.


Room prices have been negotiated at an exceptional rate of $198.32 per night, inclusive of all taxes and fees.

Target audience: Academics, judges, practitioners, family therapists and students from the fields of law and social work/social policy and psychology from the Caribbean and the international community.

Format of the conference:

There will be a formal opening of the conference on the evening of Thursday, March 17, 2011 with a keynote address followed by a cocktail reception. A pre-conference students’ forum to facilitate close interaction between the students and some presenters is being planned for Thursday morning. Also under consideration is a judges’ meeting where judges can meet and exchange views on matters of common concern.
On **Friday, March 18, 2011**, there will be a plenary session with keynote speakers followed by panel discussions on various family law topics. The ultimate format would depend on the response to the Call for papers. There will also be a luncheon presentation by a distinguished jurist or academic. Friday’s evening proceedings will end with a formal banquet at which another distinguished speaker will address the participants and guests.

**Saturday, March 19, 2011** marks the end of the conference. There will be a keynote address followed by panel discussions. The conference will formally close no later than at noon, leaving the afternoon free for optional tours of the city of Nassau, historic sites and other tourist attractions, including the famous Paradise Island. Optional tours during the period of the conference are also being planned for accompanying persons. Those who are staying on after the conference will have additional opportunities to take advantage of tours, the beaches and shopping in several duty-free shops in the city of Nassau and on Paradise Island.

**Organization of the Conference**

The Conference is being planned by the Eugene Dupuch Law School, Nassau, The Bahamas. The Eugene Dupuch Law School is one of the Law Schools in the Caribbean operated by the Council of Legal Education. At the Law School There are currently seventy-four (74) law students and seven (7) full-time faculty members, who are ably supported by some twenty (20) Associate/Adjunct Tutors, who are sitting and retired judges and practitioners, an administrative staff, a librarian and library staff. Under the leadership of the Principal, Mrs. Tonya Bastian Galanis, we form an enthusiastic and energetic team that strives for excellence and is committed to continuing legal education, such as this conference affords. The Principal and staff fully support this conference and are actively engaged in the work of the various conference committees.

**Conference Convenor:** The Convenor of the conference is Hazel Thompson-Ahye, LLB Hons. (UWI), LLM (Lon.)(Family Law specialization). She is the Senior Tutor at the Eugene Dupuch Law School, with responsibility for the administration of the academic programme, and teaches Family Law and Probate Practice and Procedure. She is a member of the Executive Council of the International Society
of Family Law (ISFL). Her passion for family law is well-known locally, regionally and internationally through her publications, her many conference presentations and regional consultancies with UNICEF.

**Associate:** Closely associated with the planning for the conference is Professor Lynn Wardle, the Bruce C. Hafen Professor of Law at the J. Reuben Clark Law School of Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. Professor Wardle is a former President of ISFL and is a well-known and a highly-respected academic and prolific writer and researcher in family law. He has been providing consultation services and invaluable advice, as well as financial support from the Marriage & Family Law Research Project at the Brigham Young University Law School.

**Sponsorship:** We are actively seeking sponsorship from other sources.

**Why a Caribbean Regional Family Law Conference?**

Few Caribbean judges, lawyers, academics, social workers, mediators, therapists and law reform personnel engaged in family law practice, teaching or reform are able to attend international or regional family law conferences outside the region. The learning to be gleaned from attendance at these conferences is invaluable.

This conference is especially timely, as a number of States in the Caribbean region are at present engaged in family law reform. Many of the family law, family life and family relations problems that we are grappling with, or at least, discussing in the region – divorce and separation, custody, access, paternity, adoption and foster care, assisted reproduction, step-families and blended families, immigration and citizenship laws, parental alienation, cohabitation, registered partnerships and same sex marriages, are matters also occupying centre stage in the international family law arena. An ISFL regional family law conference in the Caribbean is an idea whose time has come. This conference will bring together international family law experts with their Caribbean counterparts to facilitate the exchange of ideas and the sharing of experiences of best practices.

**Publication of conference papers**
The West Indian Law Journal and the Ave Maria Law Review have expressed interest in publishing a selection of the conference papers.

**Call for Papers**

Proposals to present papers are being solicited. 250 word abstracts of proposed papers should be sent to be sent by December 3, 2010 to the Scientific Committee, through the Convenor at: HThompsonAhye@edls.edu.bs

**Registration fee**

The registration fee, inclusive of lunch, coffee breaks and materials is $350.00 for general registration up to January 31, 2011. A late fee of $400.00 becomes payable from February 1, 2011. The fee for presenters is $300.00. (Discount for ISFL members.)

**Additional Information**

For further details, contact: Hazel Thompson- Ahye at HThompsonAhye@edls.edu.bs, or Janet Adderley at JAdderley@edls.edu.bs

Telephone: 242-326-8507/8; Fax: 242-326 - 8504.

The Registration form will be available shortly. You will also be informed soon of the rates and other information concerning other hotels in the vicinity of the conference hotel and about an available discount from American Airlines.

We look forward to welcoming you and your families/companions to beautiful Nassau, to our ISFL Regional Caribbean Regional Conference where you will enjoy a menu of thought-provoking intellectual presentations, gastronomic delights, exciting scenic tours, exotic flora and fauna, beckoning beaches and sunny skies.

Hazel Thompson- Ahye
Senior Tutor
Eugene Dupuch Law School
Nassau, New Providence
The Bahamas.