



SHOWCASING AFRICAN FAMILY LAW

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For the first time in the history of the International Academy of Family Lawyers, a global organisation with members from most jurisdictions around the world, its AGM was held in Africa.

Nairobi, Kenya played host from 3 to 6 September 2025 to this international family law conference. It was an opportunity to showcase African family law.

Hosting the conference in Africa and focusing on the dynamic character of African family law was the brainchild of outgoing president Rachael Kelsey, a solicitor based in Edinburgh, who took the bold initiative to start the process of giving Africa recognition within the organisation by working towards the establishment of an African Chapter.

Heather Hostetter, an attorney based in Washington DC, who is now the current president, has committed herself to continue with this process.

South Africa was well represented at the conference in Nairobi. There were a number of attorneys and advocates who attended the conference. The judiciary was also well represented. Justice Constance Mocumie of the SCA and Justice Steven Majiedt of the Constitutional Court were delegates at the conference and both also presented at the conference.

Justice Mocumie took part in a panel session with other judges from around the world titled “Changing Family Law in our Changing World”. Her presentation was very thought-provoking and inspirational.

Justice Majiedt’s contribution to the conference, which was one of the highlights, and ended with a standing ovation, was a session called “In conversation with a Constitutional Court Justice from South Africa”.

Another highlight was a presentation by retired Kenyan High Court Judge Joyce Aluoch, who is also the inaugural head of the Family Division of the High Court of Kenya. Her commitment to family law, not only in Kenya, but in other African countries was inspiring.

Members are encouraged to apply to the IAFL to become a fellow if your practice is largely family law based. Members are also encouraged to visit the IAFL website, www.iafl.com, particularly if it is necessary to source an experienced family legal practitioner in another jurisdiction. **A**

