**3rd International Surrogacy Forum 2025**

Organised by the **Nordic Centre for International and Comparative Family Law** (NorFam) and co-organised by **Miller du Toit Cloete Inc**., the Law Faculty of the **University of the Western Cape** (UWC), the **International Academic of Family Lawyers** (IAFL) and the **American Bar Association** (ABA), Section of Family Law.

**The President Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa**

**24 and 25 March 2025**

**Programme**

**DAY 1: DEVELOPMENTS IN SURROGACY AROUND THE GLOBE**

Registration from 8.45

9.00: Organisers’ welcome – Jens M. Scherpe (NorFam), Rich Vaughn (ABA), Zenobia du Toit (Miller du Toit Cloete Inc.), Julia Sloth-Nielsen (UWC) and Rachael Kelsey (IAFL)

**SESSION 1: Africa – Part 1**

Chair: Julia Sloth–Nielsen, UWC, South Africa

09.30 **South Africa: View from the Bench**- The Honourable Judge Andre Le Grange,
High Court, Cape Town

9.50 **South Africa: Litigating Surrogacy** – Donrich Thaldar, University of Kwazulu-Natal

10.10 **Botswana** – Bonolo Dinokopila, University of the Free State, and

Tebogo Jobeta, University of Botswana

10.30 **Namibia** – Carli Schickerling, Schickeringling Attorneys, Windhoek, Namibia

10.50 Discussion

11.10 Coffee break

**SESSION 2: AFRICA – PART 2**

Chair: Zaina Mahmoud, University of Liverpool, England

11.30 **Nigeria** – Undiga Emuekpere, Ôka'mara Law & Consulting, Abuja, Nigeria

11.50 **Ghana** – Bobby Banson, Robert Smith Law Group, Accra, Ghana

12.10 **Kenya** – Millie Grace Akoth Odhiambo Mabona, MP

12.30 **Advising European clients on surrogacies in Africa** – Mavis Amonoo-Acquah,

Harcourt Chambers, London, England

12.50 Discussion

13.10 Lunch

**SESSION 3: EUROPE – PART 1**

Chair: Rose-Marie Drury, Mills & Reeve LLP, Manchester, England

14.10 **Ireland** – Claire O’Connell, LGBT Ireland

14.30 **Italy** – Marco Poli, University of Turin, Italy

14.50 **United Kingdom – What is happening to the reform proposals?** – Nicholas Hopkins, Law Commission of England and Wales

15.10 Discussion

15.30 Coffee break

**SESSION 4: EUROPE – PART 2**

Chair: Claire Fenton-Glynn, Monash University, Australia

15.50 **Denmark** – Lene Wacher Lentz, Aalborg University, Denmark

16.10 **Greece/Cyprus** – Dafni Lima, Durham University, England

16.30 Discussion

**SESSION 5: rest of the World**

Chair: Rachael Kelsey, SKO Family Law Specialists, Edinburgh, Scotland

16.50 **New** **Zealand** – Margaret Casey KC, Mills Lane Chambers, Auckland, New Zealand

17.10 **Iran** – Nadjma Yassari, Swiss Institute of Comparative Law, Lausanne,

Switzerland

17.30 **Islamic Law and Surrogacy** – Muneer Abduroaf, UWC, South Africa

18.00 Discussion

18.20 End of Day 1

**Evening event:**

**Two Oceans Aquarium, Cape Town, South AFrica**

**19.15 Drinks Reception**

**19.45 Anne-Marie Hutchinson Memorial Lecture**

Speaker: Barbara Conolly KC, 7 Bedford Row, London, England

followed by

**20.00 Gala Dinner**Dress Code: smart casual.

## DAY 2: GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS AND EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE

**SESSION 6: THE HAGUE WORKING GROUP;** **Advising clients on surrogacies in Africa Surrogacy; financial compensation**

Chair: Ronli Sifris, Monash University, Australia

9.00 **Update from The Hague Working Group** – Jemma Dally, Goodman Ray Solicitors, London, England

9.20 **Surrogacy and financial compensation** – Sarah Jefford, Coburg, Victoria, Australia

9.40 **Surrogacy in America after revocation of birthright?** Nidhi Desai, Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys (AAAA), and Bruce Hale, Boston, USA

10.00 Discussion

10.20 Coffee break

**SESSION 7: Post-birth contact; need for a genetic link;Personal Connections**

Chair: Stephanie M. Brinkley, Brinkley Law Firm LLC, Charleston, USA

10.40 **Post-birth contact between the surrogate and the child** – Fatima Ebrahim, UWC

11.00 **Surrogacy contracts and the need for a genetic link** – Brigitte Clark, University of Kwazulu-Natal, and Belinda van Heerden, Retired Judge of the Supreme Court of Appeal of South Africa

11.20 **Going full circle in ART– when the attorney becomes the client** – Samantha Lewis, Miller du Toit Cloete Inc., Cape Town

11.40 Discussion

**SESSION 8: THE RIGHTS OF THE surrogate-born child**

Chair: Hilka Hollman, Dawson Cornwell, London

12.00 **A right to procreate?** Meryl Rosenberg, ARTparenting, Maryland, USA

12.20 **Psychological perspectives on children born through surrogacy**, Daksha Hargovan, Clinical Psychologist, Cape Town

12.40 Discussion

13.00 Lunch

## Afternoon: Visit to the University of the Western Cape

14.00 **Bus transfer** to UWC

15.00 **Tour of University**; learn about the [history of the University](https://www.uwc.ac.za/about/uwc-at-a-glance/history) and its role in the struggle against apartheid

16.00 **Global Surrogacy Forum Round Table**

17.45 Finger buffet

18.30 **Bus transfer** to The President Hotel