

EVAN B. DONALDSON

adoptioninstitute

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www.adoptioninstitute.org

ADOPTION ETHICS & ACCOUNTABILITY

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION COURSE
www.adoptioninstitute.org/education/cle.php

Welcome

In October 2007, the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute along with Ethica co-sponsored a timely and important conference, Adoption Ethics & Accountability held in Washington, D.C. This conference brought together over 80 adoption professionals from the US and abroad to examine and address ethical issues in domestic infant adoption, international adoption, and the adoption of children from the US foster care system.

This course presents 8 out of the 23 recorded sessions. Handouts or presentations used during each session, if any, are included as part of this course.

EVAN B. DONALDSON

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The Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, founded in 1996, is a national not-for-profit organization devoted to improving adoption policy and practice. The Adoption Institute's mission is to provide leadership that improves adoption laws, policies and practices - through sound research, education and advocacy - in order to better the lives of everyone touched by adoption. Find us on the web at www.adoptioninstitute.org.



Ethica, Inc. is a tax-exempt non-profit organization that is an independent voice for ethical adoption. Ethica advocates for national and international improvement of adoption practices, offering support, education and advocacy to all persons affected by adoption. Ethica can be found online at www.ethicanet.org.

EARN UP TO 12 HOURS ETHICS CLE OR 12 HOURS GENERAL CLE

The Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute along with Ethica, Inc. are pleased to offer 3 CLE courses to meet the needs of adoption professionals. Approved by the Florida State Bar. Course #71520

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

Course 1 - Adoption & Birthparents – 3.0 hours Ethics or General

Session 1: Before Adoption: Protecting the Rights of Vulnerable Families of Origin

Presenters:

Lynn Franklin | Annette R. Appell, Professor of Law | Dr. Teresa Kohlenberg | Sania Metzger

Session 2: Ensuring Ethical Relinquishment Practices

Presenters:

Melissa Griebel | Frederick F. Greenman, Jr., Esq. | Jini L. Roby, JD, MSW, MS | Susan Livingston Smith

Course 2 - Adoption & Children & Adopted Adults – 4.5 Hours Ethics or General

Session 1: Information-sharing Prior to Adoptive Placement – What is Required and What is Ethical?

Presenters:

Bruce A. Boyer, Professor of Law | Dana E. Johnson, MD PhD | Johanna Oreskovic, Professor of Law | Nora O'Farrell

Session 2: Protection Against Exploitation – Bribery, Fraud, Unqualified Practitioners and Truth in Advertising

Presenters:

Madelyn Freundlich, Esq. | Patricia Irwin Johnston, MS | David Smolin, Professor of Law | Vicki Peterson, LICSW

Session 3: Ethical Adoption Policy and Practice for Children in Foster Care

Presenters:

Jane Morgan | Joe Kroll | Dr. Ruth McRoy | Judge William Thorne

Course 3 - Adoption & Prospective & Current Adoptive Parents – 4.5 Hours Ethics or General

Session 1: Accountability to Prospective and Current Adoptive Families Overview

Presenters:

Adam Pertman | Jared N. Rolsky, MSW | Colleen Marea Quinn, Esq. | Cynthia Mabry, Professor of Law

Session 2: Discrimination in Adoption – Law, Policy and Practice That Restrict Adoptive Parenthood

Presenters:

Melissa Griebel | Joan H. Hollinger, Professor of Law | Michael Colberg, JD, LCSW, MFT | Elisa Poncz, Esq.

Session 3: Professional Challenges in Ethical Intercountry Adoption Practice

Presenters:

Richard Klarberg, Esq. | Gary Gamer | Elena Langrill, Esq. | Barbara J. McArtney, Esq.

COURSE FEES:

Discount: All 3 courses for \$375 (\$100 discount) or individually as follows:

Course 1 - Adoption & Birthparents – 3.0 Hours Ethics / General	– \$125
Course 2 - Adoption & Children & Adopted Adults – 4.5 Hours Ethics / General	– \$175
Course 3 – Adoption & Prospective & Current Adoptive Parents – 4.5 Hours Ethics / General	– \$175

TO PURCHASE:

- Visit www.adoptioninstitute.org/education/cle.php
- Click on List of CLE Courses
- Click on Registration/Payment Form.
- Complete Registration/Payment Form and fax to: 775.796.6592 or email to: cle@adoptioninstitute.org
- Once payment is processed, Course CD will be shipped (included in the course fee) via overnight mail.
- Complete course and return Evaluation Form to receive Certificate of Attendance.

Questions? Contact cle@adoptioninstitute.org or call Mari Cochran at 828.989.4511.

SESSION 1 BEFORE ADOPTION: PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF VULNERABLE FAMILIES OF ORIGIN

- Do current practices, even when handled carefully, create for some expecting women/couples a sense of obligation to go forward with the adoption?
- What are the most appropriate ways to cover expectant mothers' expenses so that risks of coercion or exploitation are minimized or eliminated?
- What is the role of open adoption arrangements in planning for adoption? Should contact agreements be explored in all situations? Should they be enforceable?
- Is it ethical to search out children to place for adoption and what role should professionals play in this endeavor?

PANELIST PROFILES

Law Professor Annette Ruth

Appell is Associate Dean for the Clinical Studies Program and a William S. Boyd Professor of Law at the William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She has published over two dozen articles, essays and book chapters regarding adoption, mothers, and children's rights and advocacy. She serves on the editorial board of the *Juvenile and Family Court Journal* and of *Adoption Quarterly*, where she was the founding editor of the *Legal Intersections* section. Appell has extensive experience representing children and parents involved with the child welfare system, including providing legal representation in termination of parental rights cases and adoption proceedings. Prior to her current appointment, she taught at the University of South Carolina Law Center and the Northwestern University Law School's Children and Family Justice Center.

Lynn Franklin is a member of the Board of Directors of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute. Her interest and expertise in adoption derive from her experience as a birthmother who was reunited, after 27 years, with the son she placed for adoption. Since her reunion, she has participated in the Spence-Chapin Birth Mothers Advisory Committee. Franklin served on the Spence-Chapin Board of Directors for 11 years until 2006, when she was elected a lifelong Honorary

Director. She speaks at adoption-related meetings and conferences and is the author of *May the Circle be Unbroken: An Intimate Journey into the Heart of Adoption* (originally published hardcover Harmony Books, 1998, current paperback edition, iUniverse 2005). Franklin is the founder of two corporations, Lynn C. Franklin Associates, Ltd., devoted to author representation and agenting, and Franklin & Siegal Associates, Inc., dedicated to literary and film scouting for international publishers and film producers. Her clients include Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the best-selling author Edvard Radzinsky.

Teresa (Tesi) Kohlenberg is the mother of a son by birth and of a daughter by international adoption. After a decade of practice as a developmental pediatrician working with teenage mothers and families in urban poverty, Dr. Kohlenberg followed her long-standing interest in attachment and trauma, re-trained as a child psychiatrist, and helped to found a parent-infant mental health program at Boston Children's Hospital. Her growing concerns about the ethics of international adoption led her to work with a group of adoptive parents to found the Guatemala Adoptive Families Network, which promotes ethical practices in Guatemalan adoption. Dr. Kohlenberg contributed to the EMK Press volume, *Adoption*

Parenting: Creating A Toolbox, Building Connections, and has spoken widely on issues in Guatemalan adoption and on "7 Things Parents Who Adopted Internationally Wish Their Agencies Had Told Them."

Sania A. Metzger is director of policy for Casey Family Services, the direct service agency of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Metzger serves as a member of the Casey Foundation's Policy and Communications Strategy Group, the Child Welfare Strategy Group, and the Casey-Center for the Study of Social Policy's Alliance for Racial Equity. She works to influence and track policies at the local, state and federal levels, often working with Casey's direct service divisions. Metzger continues to provide pro bono legal services and has served as a small claims court arbitrator. She worked for the New York State Legislature for 11 years as legislative counsel to Assemblyman Roger Green, then chair of the Standing Committee on Children and Families. Metzger is on the Board of Directors for Prevent Child Abuse America and the Center for Family Representation.

SESSION 2 ENSURING ETHICAL RELINQUISHMENT PRACTICES

- What elements should be included in true options counseling?
- What should the rights of relinquishing mothers and fathers be?
- What is an appropriate time period during which relinquishing parents should be able to reverse their decisions to place their children for adoption?
- How can informed consent to adoption be assured?
- What services can be put into place to protect the rights of relinquishing parents?

PANELIST PROFILES

Fred Greenman is the legal advisor and a former Director to the American Adoption Congress. He is also the former Treasurer and a current Director of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute. A prominent adoption reform activist, he was the senior counsel to amici curiae in the historic case *Doe v. Sundquist*, which upheld the 1995 Tennessee Adoption Act. He also assisted counsel in the Oregon litigation, *Does v. Oregon*, that upheld the ballot initiative and statute in that state which granted adoptees access to their original birth certificates. Greenman has participated in various state and federal lobbying efforts, most recently concerning ratification and implementation of the Hague Convention on International Adoption. His interest in the subject stems from having surrendered a daughter for adoption at her birth and with whom he reunited 15 years ago. Greenman, a Harvard graduate, currently is a sole practitioner specializing in copyright related litigation, in addition to issues relating to adoption reform.

Melissa Griebel is the President of Ethica, Inc., and the mother of two boys, both adopted through domestic, transracial adoptions. She enjoys open adoptions with both sons' birth families. Griebel has a strong interest in the ethics of domestic adoption, and a special interest in the issues that

affect transracial adoptees and their families. She has served on the Foster Care Review Board for Pima County, AR, and moderates two adoption forums that address domestic adoption issues. Griebel has also worked professionally in the insurance industry for much of the past 20 years. She lives in Tucson, AR, with her partner and children.

Jini L. Roby, an attorney and social worker, is an associate professor of social work at Brigham Young University, where she researches and teaches global issues of children at risk, including those who are adopted. She has researched a wide range of topics related to adoption, including factors impacting birthparents to make the adoption decision, openness in international adoptions, feasibility of intra-family and in-country adoptions. She is currently working on a paper on adoption ethics and the internet, and another on applying a children's rights approach to best practice. She is a former adoption social worker, president of the Utah Adoption Council, founder and director of an agency to prevent and treat child abuse, and a guardian ad litem attorney for children in the public child welfare system. She has assisted several governments of sending countries to establish laws, regulations, and services to birth families contemplating adoption.

Susan Livingston Smith, the Program and Project Director of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, is a leading scholar in the field of post-adoption services. A licensed clinical social worker and Emerita Professor of Social Work at Illinois State University, she has published books and numerous articles in scholarly journals on adoption-related subjects. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recognized her pioneering work, along with that of Dr. Jeanne Howard, with its 2002 Excellence Award for applied scholarship and research. Smith also is a recipient of the Angels in Adoption Award (2006).

SESSION 1 INFORMATION-SHARING PRIOR TO ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT – WHAT IS REQUIRED AND WHAT IS ETHICAL?

- What do prospective adoptive parents have a right to know?
- What medical, social and background information should professionals be required to find, share with, and interpret for prospective adoptive parents?
- How can ethical practice in sharing information with prospective parents best be promoted?

PANELIST PROFILES

Bruce A. Boyer is a Clinical Professor and Director of the Civitas ChildLaw Clinic of the Loyola University Chicago School of Law. He has taught and practiced in the area of children's law for almost 20 years, specializing in issues related to child welfare, child custody and adoption. He also has taught courses in juvenile law, trial advocacy, ethics and administrative law. Professor Boyer is the author of numerous articles on issues relating to children and the law, including ethical issues on representing parents in child protection hearings and the right to counsel in termination of parental rights cases. He is currently a member of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute's Board of Directors and a member of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism. He has served as Chair of the American Bar Association's Steering Committee on the Unmet Legal Needs of Children. Prior to his position at Loyola, Professor Boyer taught for 12 years at the Northwestern University School of Law in Chicago, where he served as Supervising Attorney of Northwestern's Children and Family Justice Center.

Dana E. Johnson, M.D., Ph.D. is a Professor of Pediatrics, a member of Division of Neonatology and Director of Research and Education for the International Adoption Clinic at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Johnson's research focuses on the short- and long-term effects of early childhood institutionalization on child health and development. Dr. Johnson serves on the Editorial Boards of *Adoption Quarterly* and *Adoptive Families Magazine* and is a Senior Research Fellow of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute. He has authored over 200 journal articles, book chapters and abstracts.

Nora O'Farrell is the Director of Adoptive Families Together (AFT), a parent-run program of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. As Director of AFT, O'Farrell oversees the provision of education, advocacy, training and support to families, professionals and communities about the unique circumstances inherent in adoption. Her experience includes collaboration with child welfare agencies, working with children and youth with behavioral health issues, and providing post-adoption support for families.

Johanna Oreskovic is the Director of Post-Professional Educational Programs and International Students Services at the University at Buffalo Law School, where she also teaches courses in adoption law. Her primary interest is the regulatory framework within which international adoptions are conducted. Professor Oreskovic has lectured widely on the use of the Immigration and Nationality Act's visa fraud prosecutions and child trafficking for purposes of international adoption. She is a member of the Board of Directors of Ethica.

SESSION 2

PROTECTION AGAINST EXPLOITATION – BRIBERY, FRAUD, UNQUALIFIED PRACTITIONERS AND TRUTH IN ADVERTISING

- How can adoptive parents identify ethical adoption professionals?
- How has the internet influenced the way that adoption is practiced, and what are the consequences from both family and agency perspectives?
- What lessons can be applied to adoption from consumer protection laws and policies?
- What are the most important protections for prospective adoptive parents in international adoption?
- What is the most appropriate, effective legal response to trafficking in children for purposes of adoption?

PANELIST PROFILES

Madelyn Freundlich is a child welfare professional with more than 15 years of experience in child welfare practice, program development and implementation, training, policy and research. She has written extensively on child welfare issues. Freundlich formerly served as General Counsel and Director of Child Welfare Services for the Child Welfare League of America, Associate Director of Planning for the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Executive Director for the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, and Policy Director for Children's Rights, Inc. In these capacities, she worked with public and private child welfare agencies and child welfare organizations across the country, providing consultation and training and developing practice, program, policy and research initiatives that have gained national recognition. Freundlich holds master's degrees in social work (MSW, Louisiana State University) and public health (MPH, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) and two law degrees (JD, University of Houston and LL.M., Georgetown University).

Patricia (Pat) Irwin Johnston, MS, has spent the last 25 years as an infertility and adoption educator and advocate. The mother of three (now young adults who joined the already broadly adoption-expanded Johnston family through their adoptions), Johnston has been a highly visible and outspoken consumer advocate, serving on several national boards of directors and committees and receiving awards from NACAC, JCICS, RESOLVE, APC and a Butler University Alumni Achievement award. She is the author of several books, including the new *Adopting: Sound Choices, Strong Families*. Johnston is also the publisher at Perspectives Press, Inc: The Infertility and Adoption Publisher.

Vicki Peterson, LICSW, is the Executive Director of External Affairs at Wide Horizons for Children, an agency based in Massachusetts. Peterson has worked in the field of adoption for 28 years and has traveled to orphanages around the world, helping to develop both humanitarian aid and adoption programs in 20 countries. In her role at Wide Horizons for Children, she focuses on advancing the agency's mission, its visibility in the adoption community, and advocacy for children in need of care.

David M. Smolin is a Professor of Law at Cumberland Law School, Samford University, and Director of the Center for Biotechnology, Law and Ethics. He works together with his wife, Desiree Smolin, on adoption reform issues. The Smolins are the parents of eight children, including two adopted as older children from India.

SESSION 3

ETHICAL ADOPTION POLICY AND PRACTICE FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

- How can federal and state policy best support the needs of children in foster care who are waiting for adoptive families?
- What practices need to be implemented, promoted or strengthened to ensure that all waiting children in foster care have a real chance to be adopted?
- Are new policies and practices needed to shorten the time that children in foster care wait for adoptive families?

PANELIST PROFILES

Joe Kroll is the Executive Director of the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC). An adoptive and birth father, Kroll became involved with NACAC in 1975 and has served as its leader since 1985. He has taken NACAC from a small grassroots organization to an acclaimed nonprofit that serves thousands of adoptive parents each year and strives to improve the child welfare system for foster children and the families who care for them. Kroll's work includes talking with individual families about how to obtain post-adoption support, training parent group leaders and other foster and adoptive parents, testifying before Congress, and speaking at the White House to achieve needed system reforms to better serve vulnerable children and families. He is committed to achieving system reform by building a network of adoptive families at the grassroots level. By bringing together parents, professionals, and policy makers for more than two decades at NACAC, Kroll has significantly improved the lives of adoptive families throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Ruth McRoy is a Research Professor and the Ruby Lee Piester Centennial Professor Emerita at the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work. She is a Board Member and Senior Research Fellow of the Evan B.

Donaldson Adoption Institute and serves on the board of the North American Council on Adoptable Children. Dr. McRoy has authored or co-authored eight books and numerous articles and book chapters on adoption and child welfare issues. Her latest co-edited book (with Rowena Fong and Carmen Ortiz-Hendricks), *Intersecting Child Welfare, Substance Abuse and Family Violence: Culturally Competent Approaches*, was published in 2006.

Jane Morgan is the Director of the Capacity Building Division of the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services. This Division coordinates child welfare training and technical assistance provided to States and Tribes to assist them in providing quality child welfare services. Under her leadership, the Children's Bureau's Training and Technical Assistance Network has enhanced coordination and collaboration across the federally funded National Resource Centers and other child welfare grantees. Morgan was recognized in 2005 with the Administration for Children and Families' Assistant Secretary's Award for Exemplary Leadership for her work in promoting the Department's national adoption initiatives, including the Collaboration to AdoptUsKids. Morgan joined the Children's Bureau in 1999 as the National Adoption Specialist after a 23-year

career in child welfare with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. She is a member of the Child and Family Service National Review Team.

William Thorne is a Pomo/Coast Miwok Indian who has served as a part-time tribal court judge in 11 states for over 25 years. After serving as a full-time state trial judge for 14 years, he was appointed in May 2000 to the Utah Court of Appeals. Judge Thorne served as president of the National Indian Justice Center for 20 years and is currently its vice president. Among his many positions with state and national organizations, he is past-chair of Utah's Racial & Ethnic Fairness Commission and is co-chair of the Policy Committees of the North American Council on Adoptable Children and the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute. He also served on the Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care; the Board of Directors for National CASA; and the ABA's Steering Committee on the Unmet Legal Needs of Children. Judge Thorne has coached soccer at the little league, university men's and adult women's level for 25 years, after playing the sport himself in high school and college.

Adoption & Prospective/Current Adoptive Parent Course 3

4.5 HOURS ETHICS / GENERAL

SESSION 1 ACCOUNTABILITY TO PROSPECTIVE AND CURRENT ADOPTIVE FAMILIES OVERVIEW

PANELIST PROFILES

Cynthia Mabry teaches Adoption Law, Family Law, Civil Procedure and Pretrial Litigation at Howard University School of Law. Professor Mabry has taught at New York University School of Law, Washington and Lee University School of Law, the University of Florida College of Law, Syracuse University College of Law, West Virginia University College of Law and the University of the Western Cape in Capetown, South Africa. She has made presentations on family law issues throughout the United States. As a member of the International Family Law Society, she has spoken in other countries including China and Amsterdam. She co-authored the legal textbook, *Adoption Law: Theory, Policy and Practice* and has written several law review articles focusing on a variety of issues, with an emphasis on children's rights. Among her many community service contributions, Professor Mabry serves as a member of the Citizens Review Board for Children for Prince Georges County in the State of Maryland. She holds a JD from Howard University School of Law and a LLM from New York University School of Law.

Adam Pertman, Executive Director of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, is also the Associate Editor of *Adoption Quarterly* and is the author of *Adoption Nation*, which has been reviewed as "the most important book ever written on the subject." He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for his writing about adoption in *The Boston Globe*, where he was a senior reporter and editor for 22 years before turning his career toward adoption. Pertman's has received numerous honors for his work on behalf of children and families, including the Angel in Adoption Award and recognition from the

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists; the American Adoption Congress, Holt International Children's Services and the Dave Thomas Center for Adoption Law, which gave him its first award for "the nation's greatest contributor to public understanding about adoption and permanency placement issues." Pertman's commentaries have run in major print and broadcast media nationwide, and articles about him and his book have appeared in numerous newspapers and magazines nationwide, including *People*. He has been a guest on many radio and television programs, including *Oprah* and the *Today Show*. As a leading expert on adoption and family issues, Pertman has delivered scores of keynote speeches, trainings and other presentations in this country and internationally.

Colleen Marea Quinn, who was recognized in 2005 by *Virginia Business* magazine as one of the state's "Legal Elite" and as a "Super Lawyer" in 2006 and 2007 by *Richmond* magazine, has provided representation to hundreds of adopting parents, birth parents, adoptees, intended parents, surrogates, gestational carriers and egg donors since 1989. After graduating from the College of William and Mary and the University of Virginia Law School in 1988, she served as a clerk with the Chief Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court. A director and equity owner in the law firm of Cantor Arkema, P.C., Quinn is a Fellow and on the Board of Trustees of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys (AAAA). She frequently presents and writes on adoption issues on behalf of AAAA. Quinn has served as an expert witness in adoption law in the Virginia court system and is a court-approved, certified Guardian

ad Litem. She is a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America and a Board member and Chairperson of the Judicial Candidate Endorsement Committee of the Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association.

Jared N. Rolsky, MSW, is the Executive Director of Golden Cradle, a multi-state licensed adoption agency based in New Jersey that offers domestic and international adoption services. Prior to joining Golden Cradle, Rolsky had a private practice with a focus on children and families and divorce mediation; served first as Director of Services for Children and Families and then as Executive Director of Jewish Family Services of New Haven; and was the Chief Social Worker for Children's Outpatient Services at the Crozier Chester Community Mental Health Center. He is a Board member and Treasurer of the Joint Council on International Children's Services and has been the organization's Special Liaison to COA/Hague Approval since 2006. He is the Membership Chair for the Delaware Valley Adoption Council and is a board member of the Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies and the Connecticut Association of Family Service Agencies. Rolsky has been a Team Leader for COA since 1986 and Peer Reviewer since 1984.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS & PANELIST PROFILES

SESSION 2

DISCRIMINATION IN ADOPTION – LAW, POLICY AND PRACTICE THAT RESTRICT ADOPTIVE PARENTHOOD

- When, and on what bases, should adoption professionals be permitted to decide that prospective parents are not “suitable” to adopt (gay/lesbian parents, single parents, religion, disability, age, weight and other restrictions)?
- How can, or should, adoption professionals respond to a country’s practices that restrict who may adopt its children?
- What is the role, if any, of preferential policies that favor prospective adoptive parents based on such factors as ethnicity, religion, or marital status?

PANELIST PROFILES

Michael Colberg, JD, LCSW, MFT

maintains a private psychotherapy practice in New York City focusing on family systems and adoption. He has served on the Los Angeles Commission for Children’s Services and the New York City Task Force on Open Adoption. Mr. Colberg is a founding member of All Children-All Families whose mission is to create opportunities for children in foster care to find permanent families with members of the LGBT community who very much want to parent. Mr. Colberg also was a founding co-director of The Center For Family Connections - New York. He has studied, written about, taught and spoken out on behalf of families touched by adoption in many venues, including the Yale and Columbia Law Schools, the International Conference on the Rights of the Child, and New York City’s Village Community School. Mr. Colberg is a parent, through adoption, of a college-age daughter whose adoption has been open since birth.

Melissa Griebel is the Vice President of Ethica, Inc. and mother of two boys, both adopted through domestic, transracial adoptions. She enjoys open adoptions with both sons’ birth families. Melissa has a strong interest in the ethics of domestic adoption, and a special interest in the issues that affect transracial adoptees and their

families. Melissa has served on the Foster Care Review Board for Pima County, Arizona and moderates two adoption forums that address domestic adoption issues. Melissa has also worked professionally in the insurance industry for much of the past 20 years. She lives in Tucson, Arizona with her partner and children.

Law Professor Joan Heifetz

Hollinger is a leading scholar on adoption law and policy. She teaches family law, child welfare, adoption and assisted reproduction at the University of California, Berkeley, Law School. She is the principal author of the three-volume treatise *Adoption Law and Practice* (Matthew Bender\Lexis 1988-2006), co-author of *Families By Law: An Adoption Reader* (NYU 2004), and a contributor to *Adoption Quarterly*. She served as Reporter for the Uniform Adoption Act and helped draft the proposed Uniform Parentage Act of 2002, and has been involved since 1993 in efforts to implement the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption. Professor Hollinger has been amicus curiae on behalf of children in ground-breaking adoption and parentage cases, including decisions by the California Supreme Court recognizing that children can have two legal mothers under state’s version of the Uniform Parentage Act as well as under the state’s adoption statutes.

Elisa Ponz graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with an honors degree in Economics in 2004 and from Harvard Law School in 2007. While in law school, she was an active participant in the Child Advocacy Program. Ponz currently serves as a law clerk for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. She is the author of “China’s Proposed International Adoption Law: The Likely Impact on Single U.S. Citizens Seeking to Adopt from China and the Available Alternatives,” published in the *Harvard International Law Journal* in April 2007.

SESSION 3 PROFESSIONAL CHALLENGES IN ETHICAL INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION PRACTICE

- What are the components of ethical adoption practice?
- How can licensing and accrediting bodies promote ethical and competent adoption practice?
- What roles can adoption professionals play in improving practice – in the field of adoption as well as in mental health, education, and other service systems?
- How can adoption professionals best balance the important interests of all parties to an adoption (children, expectant parents, adoptive families and businesses)?

PANELIST PROFILES

Gary N. Gamer became President and CEO of Holt International in 2004, after serving for 10 years at its Vice President of International Programs. Holt International is a pioneer in intercountry adoption and supports programs around the world that ensure children are in permanent, loving families through adoption, family preservation and other family-based, community settings. Gamer's prior work includes directing a multi-service refugee and immigration service organization, Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR), affiliated with the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. He also worked for Church World Service and the National Council of Churches of Christ U.S.A., directing programs related to international peace, justice and humanitarian response. He has lived, worked, volunteered and traveled in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe. He holds a Master's Degree from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, and B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Oregon.

Richard Klarberg has been the President and CEO of the Council on Accreditation (COA) since 2001. COA is a not-for-profit accreditor of more than 1,600 public and private organizations throughout North America that provide a broad array of services, including foster care and intercountry adoption. Prior

to his current position, he was the Senior Vice President for the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System, a not-for-profit provider of health care, and the Executive Vice President/COO of the American Health Foundation, a not-for-profit medical research organization. Prior to these positions, Klarberg served as a practicing attorney with the firm of Javits & Javits in New York City, a public school teacher in Bedford-Stuyvesant, and a Vista Volunteer in the Ozark Mountains. He is a graduate of Brooklyn Law School and Queens College of the City University of New York.

Elena Langrill is a 1980 graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law. After clerking for the Maryland Court of Appeals, she spent five years in private practice, and then the past 20-plus years as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Maryland. Langrill is also an adoptive parent and part of an extended family that includes diverse adoption experiences, including domestic and international adoption; single parent, married parents and same-sex couple adoptions; foster care, agency and independent adoptions; second parent, step-parent, and unrelated adoptions; infant, toddler and older child adoptions; special needs and non-special needs adoptions, open and closed adoptions (and the continuum in between); and family members include all dimensions of the adoption triad.

Barbara J. McArtney is an adoptee and mother of seven, including two internationally adopted children with special needs. She is an attorney and Director of Graham's Gift Children's Foundation, a New York State-authorized adoption agency. McArtney has worked as a custody and visitation mediator and member of the New York State Law Guardian Panel representing children in Family Court, as an advocate in rape and domestic violence cases, and as an Assistant District Attorney. Graham's Gift conducts home studies and specializes in assisting families adopting independently. McArtney has spoken at and submitted materials to the Hague regulatory meetings.