



NEWSLETTER

International Association of Youth and Family
Judges and Magistrates

2024

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New AIMJF Treasurer



Mr. Michele Termine

Treasurer AIMJF, Judge from Italy

Due to the resignation of our previously elected treasurer during the first year of this mandate, the former treasurer, Anne-Catherine Hatt, has temporarily assumed these duties pending the election of a new treasurer.

In May 2024, Judge Michele Termine of Italy has been duly elected as Treasurer for the remainder of the current mandate, until the end of this mandate at the next General Assembly to be held in the fall of 2026 in conjunction with the next Congress. Pursuant to Article 21 of our Statutes, the Council and Executive Committee invoked the authority to elect an officer mid mandate and properly notified all electors. As directed by Article 21, the electors were given at least 3 weeks to vote and respond to this notice. The three week deadline has passed. The responses thereto contained zero dissenting responses.

Therefore, we welcome and congratulate Treasurer *Michele Termine* to the position of treasurer.

At the same time we wish to thank Anne-Catherine Hatt for her long and exemplary service as our prior treasurer and interim treasurer.

Study Tour in Mexico

With the support of the Mexico City Tribunal and the leadership of Judge Sara Patricia Oreo, AIMJF has organized the first study tour of this year.

During three days, members from the Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Guatemala and United States have experienced a very welcoming and instructive experience in Mexico.

On the first day, all members were received to visit the facilities of the Council of the Judiciary of Mexico City and an introductory lecture about the Mexican legal system by professor Javier Carrasco. After that, the participants have had the opportunity to watch a hearing at a criminal court and to understand the supervisory agency for cautionary measures in the city.

On the second day, the participants have watched a hearing in a Youth Court, dialoging with local judges. It was also possible to see a file, both in paper and the electronic version. On the same day, all participants have visited a detention center for juveniles, interacting with coordination, professionals and the youth themselves.

On the third day, the participants have visited a family court. Following the interaction with local judges, a visit was offered to the specialized intervention unit, where psychologists have explained the adopted methodology for dealing both with severe family conflicts before trial and with the cases of supervised contact with children. The President of Mexico City Tribunal, Rafael Guerra Álvarez, has also invited all members to take part in a ceremony of the Council of Justice, where he has publicly acknowledged the importance of AIMJF's visit and interaction with local Judges.

The study tour ended in a charming reception offered by Judge Sara Patricia Orea Ochoa, who is also coordinator of the National Network of Integral System of Youth Courts in Mexico. AIMJF thanks the Mexico City's Judiciary and Judges Rafael Guerra Álvarez and Sara Patricia Orea Ochoa for such a stimulating experience.



Upcoming Study Tour & European Section Meeting in Lithuania

Every October, AIMJF's European section organizes a meeting, which coincides with an AIMJF's European study tour.

In 2024, with the support of Professor Jolanta Apolewicz and the Dean of Mykolas Romeris University in Vilnius, we are glad to announce that Lithuania will host both activities from October the 23rd until the 25th.

Program and inscriptions procedures will be announced in July. Please save the date!



AiMjF Research

Since 2021, AIMJF began to conduct research on international problems facing the operation of the courts and various laws relating to youth and family and training programs. aiming to promote transnational judicial dialogue.

Child participation was selected as the main issue to be researched and, since then, every year we are analysing this topic in each one legal branch.

The first one, on participation in family and protection matters, involved 35 countries. The last one, on child participation in juvenile justice, has involved 55 countries in all continents: <https://chronicle.aimjf.info/>

The aims of the new and current research are to identify similarities and discrepancies among countries and to develop a cartography of children's participation in the Justice System as victims and witnesses.

AIMJF members, but also judges, magistrates, legal professionals and scholars from many countries are involved in this new project, hoping to achieve a larger representation of countries. As much important than gathering information, AIMJF wishes to connect judges and magistrates from different parts of the world in a continuous dialogical movement to identify good practices and to improve the justice system, in order to provide better conditions of access to justice by children

Each national contribution will be published as an article in our Journal, the Chronicle. Based on these contributions, a global comparative analysis will be prepared and, as much as possible, the same will be done at a regional level, according to similarities in cultural, linguistic and legal backgrounds.

If you are interested in participating in this research, please contact the Chronicle's Editor in Chief, Eduardo Rezende Melo (aimjfchronicle@gmail.com).

05. WEBINARS

Based on the outcomes of the research, AIMJF is organizing webinars every two months. In 2024, the first webinar, in Spanish, focused “Interdisciplinary in youth hearing in Juvenile Justice. Possibilities and prospects for institutional improvement”, with the participation of Argentina, Bolivia and Mexico.

The second one, on the right to information as a condition to an effective child’s participation in juvenile justice, offered a dialogue between Japan and New Zealand. Soon a new webinar will be organized in French.

All webinars can be seen both in our channel on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@aimjf9683/featured>) or in our website (<https://aimjf.info/webinars/>).

All webinars are provided with subtitles in several languages.



Webinar
June 10, 2024
11:00 pm UTC

The right to information as a condition to an effective child’s participation in juvenile justice. The experience of New Zealand and Japan

Eduardo Rezende Meilo
Moderator
Judge in Brazil, PhD in Human Rights (UNB), AIMJF Chairman, Chief

Kohsei Takata
Judge Attorney, Tokyo Bureau, General Secretariat, Supreme Court of Japan

Ida Malosi
PHD, COURT JUDGE, NEW ZEALAND



Webinar
February 27, 2024
2:00 pm UTC

Lo Interdisciplinario en la audiencia de los adolescentes en la justicia juvenil. Posibilidades y perspectivas de perfeccionamiento institucional
Interdisciplinarity in child’s hearing in juvenile justice. Possibilities and prospects for institutional development
L’interdisciplinarité dans l’audition des adolescents dans la justice juvénile. Possibilités et perspectives de développement institutionnel

Eduardo Rezende Meilo
Moderator
Judge in Brazil, Doctor in Derecho (UNB), Editor in Chief of the Cronica (AIMJF)

Claudia Maria Canaza Borges
Jueza del Juzgado Público en Materia de Niñez y Adolescencia, No. 1 de Cochabamba-Bolivia

Sara Patricia Orea
Magistrada Especializada en Justicia para Adolescentes e Integrante de la Sala Constitucional del Poder Judicial de la Ciudad de México, Maestría en Política Criminal (UNAM)

Mary Beloff
Catedrática de Derecho Penal y Procesal penal de la Facultad de Derecho (DIA), Miembro del Comité de Derechos de los Niños (OND)

06. AIMJF'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

AIMJF will celebrate its centennial in 2028. AIMJF represents, however, a transnational movement of judges from different countries who have united efforts after the creation of their local laws and specialized courts.

The 1920's were marked by a rapid movement of specialization and in 1924, one hundred years ago, the League of Nations adopted the first international document on children's rights, the Geneva Declaration.

Therefore, AIMJF believes that this period between 1924 and 1928 is especially important in our history, marking two poles of international movements in favor of legal standards and judicial integration, and has begun a new project on youth judge's associative movement and its impact on children's rights.

Two webinars have been organized with former and current AIMJF's presidents, which can also be watched both on our YouTube channel or in our website.

From now on, AIMJF will begin a series of webinar with national associations. all of them AIMJF members, to understand the historical movement of specialization, of creation of national associations and its impact on children's rights. At national level and its interaction with our Association.

In September we will begin this new series.



07. GENERAL COMMENT ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The Committee on the Rights of the Child is discussing the terms of a new General Comment, GC 27, on Access to Justice and Effective Remedies. The concept note is available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/crc/gcomments/gc27/2023-01-31-gc27-concept-note.pdf>

The committee has prepared some guiding questions for written contributions <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/crc/calls/submissions/gc27/GC27-call-for-submissions.pdf>

AIMJF intends to submit a formal contribution to the Committee based on the inputs from its members. Therefore AIMJF invites all members interested in participating in this process to send your contributions based on the aforementioned guiding questions to the Chronicle's Editor in Chief until July the 31st to the following email: aimjfchronicle@gmail.com. It is not mandatory to answer all questions, but please take into consideration that all contributions must be concise. All contributions will be summarized in an official document to be discussed within the Executive Board.

As soon as the first draft document is launched by the Committee, AIMJF will organize regional consultation with judges and magistrates worldwide to discuss them.

Besides that, if you wish to submit your individual contribution directly to the Committee, here are the guidelines:

- Written in one of the official working languages of the Committee, namely English, French or Spanish;
- One concise document and not exceeding 2,500 words;
- Submitted in WORD format to ohchr-crc@un.org.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the research team, AIMJF staff, and our IT partners for their unwavering dedication and expertise in the creation of this newsletter. Your collective efforts have been instrumental in delivering insightful content and innovative technical solutions, reflecting the highest standards of excellence and collaboration.

Our sincere thanks also go to the executive management of our associated partners, whose strategic guidance and support have been pivotal in realizing our shared vision. This newsletter stands as a testament to the power of teamwork and shared commitment, and we are deeply appreciative of everyone's contributions.

CONTACT

Write Your Query: aimjinfo@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AIMJF-117342133359569>

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjm16W9K_FczispcjvsGstA