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In Case You Missed It: 2024-2025 Nominating Committee

The 2024-2025 Nominating Committee, chaired by Laura C. Belleau (AZ), President-Elect, is pleased to present its report of the slate of nominees for national office. The nominees will be presented to the Board of Governors for election at the Annual Meeting in November.

[View the report.](#)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



J. Benjamin Stevens
AAML President

As we approach the Fourth of July holiday, I'm reminded of the principles of justice, liberty, and equality that form the bedrock of our nation and guide our work as family law practitioners. This

Our CLE Committee has curated an exceptional lineup of speakers and sessions that will undoubtedly enhance our collective knowledge and skills. I strongly encourage everyone to register early and secure your spot at this year's meeting.

As summer continues to unfold, I wish you all a season filled with happiness, safety and well-deserved rest. Our work often involves navigating complex and emotionally charged situations, making it crucial to take time for self-care and

momentum, pushing the boundaries of our expertise and service with the highest level of professionalism and care.

I wish each of you and your families a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing many of you at an upcoming Chapter visit this Fall and at our Annual Meeting in November.

Warm regards,

Ben Stevens

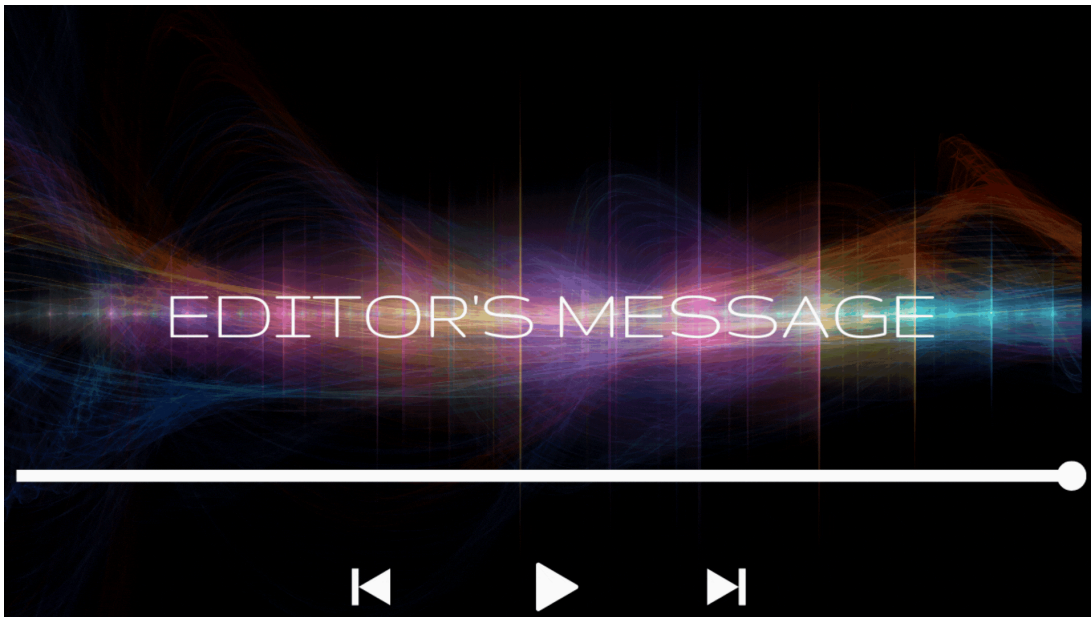
AAML President

holiday offers us a moment to reflect on the freedoms we cherish and the responsibility we bear in upholding these ideals within the realm of family law. Let us recommit ourselves to ensuring fair and equitable outcomes for the families we serve, embodying the spirit of independence in our pursuit of justice.

Registration for the [2024 Annual Meeting](#) is now open. This event promises to be an invaluable opportunity for professional growth, networking, and collaboration.

rejuvenation. Whether you're planning a vacation, spending quality time with loved ones or simply enjoying the longer days, I hope you find moments of peace and relaxation.

Your dedication to excellence and unwavering commitment to our profession continue to elevate the standards of the practice of family law across the nation. As we enter the second half of the year, let's carry forward this



[CLICK HERE](#) or above to play a message from Newsletter Editor [Rod Firoozye](#)



THE EDITOR'S NOTE – July 2024

By [Rod Firoozye](#), AAML Newsletter Editor

With the Fourth of July only a few days away, we in the United States celebrate our independence and the birth of our nation.

During a divorce, many of our clients wish to regain their independence by relocating to another state or country with their children. This month's edition is all about child relocation (or move-away) cases.

This month's guest interview is with [Rahima Nato Kalfane](#), a partner in the firm of [BWG](#) in Paris. Ms. Nato Kalfane who is a Fellow in the International Academy of Family Lawyers ([IAFL](#)) specializes in international relocation and abduction cases.

This month, we also feature several articles from our Fellows regarding complex relocation cases and determining appropriate holiday and visitation schedules.

Again, please send us pictures of yourselves on any summer family trips. In the September edition, we will select a winner for the most memorable picture (otherwise I will just have to pick one of my own pictures!).

As always, thank you to all the Fellows who contributed articles and your continued support of the AAML Newsletter.

Note that next month we will be discussing [complex business valuations](#). If you would like to present an article, please contact me.

This Month's Videos & Webinars:

- My interview with [Rahima Nato Kalfane](#)
- Please view our [previous webinars](#)

This Month's Articles:

- Melissa A. Kucinski & Vanessa Hammer Article: [International Relocation: Recognition, Enforcement, & Shifting Jurisdiction](#)
- Alex Grager and Steven Mindel's Article: [Move Away Cases and Parenting Plans in California](#)
- Kyleigh A. Weinfurtner, Rebecca F. Sukel & Andrew Zashin Article: [Restrictive Gatekeeping in Child Custody Disputes](#)
- David McGrath's Article: [Dealing with Domestic Move Away Cases in Connecticut](#)
- AAML Foundation Update: [Grantee Profiles](#)
- Local Chapter Update – Southern California Chapter
- AAML Law Practice Management & Technology Update – AI-based Recall



UPCOMING NATIONAL EVENTS/MEETINGS

[Drinks and Diversity - July 2024](#)

Wednesday, July 10 | 7 p.m. CT

[2024 AAML Annual Meeting](#)

November 6-9 | Chicago

[Click to View More](#)



Drinks and Diversity - July 2024

Join us for the upcoming AAML Drinks and Diversity session on Wednesday, July 10, at 7 p.m. CT!

Our summer gatherings often revolve around seasonal readings, podcasts, or movies. This month, we're excited to discuss the film "Origin," directed by Ava DuVernay. Please watch the movie before the meeting to enrich our conversation. We look forward to a lively and engaging discussion with you!

When you register for this event, we'll send you a special summer cocktail or mocktail recipe to enjoy a refreshing beverage with your colleagues.

[REGISTER](#)



Registration Now Open: 2024 AAML Annual Meeting

Get ready to join fellow family lawyers from across the country at the [2024 AAML Annual Meeting](#), happening November 6-9 in Chicago. A tradition that dates back to AAML's conception in the 1960s, the AAML Annual Meeting is a place where family lawyers across the nation congregate to enjoy scholarly CLE and the best of Chicago food, sights and social activities.

REGISTER TODAY



GUEST INTERVIEW: INTERNATIONAL RELOCATION AND ABDUCTION

Rod Firoozye interview with Rahima Nato Kalfane



International Relocation: Recognition, Enforcement, & Shifting Jurisdiction

By [Melissa A. Kucinski](#) & [Vanessa Hammer](#)

This document, named the Washington Declaration on International Family Relocation after the meeting's location in Washington, D.C., highlights about a dozen factors that the Court should consider in determining whether to grant or refuse a parent's

parent when a family is split between different countries is that their existing legal obligations, as outlined in a formal agreement or court order, will not be respected across international borders. Therefore, aside from whether one country, community, culture, and

An international child relocation case, or, in some jurisdictions, a “move-away” case, is when one parent seeks to legally move the permanent residence of their child from one country to another. They are some of the most complicated cases to litigate, and often involve evidence that paints an elaborate picture for a judge as to the life the child will lead in a foreign country post-relocation. As opposed to an international parental abduction, a relocation is done with permission, whether from the non-relocating parent or a court with jurisdiction. There is relatively little guidance as to how to resolve these cases, except for a 3-page document from joint meetings of the Hague Conference on Private International Law and the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children in 2010.

request to move their child to an entirely different country. For courts in jurisdictions that tend to weight a child’s stability and connections to their current jurisdiction more than other factors, securing permission to relocate a child to another country may prove difficult, especially for older children who have formed friendships and established ties to their community through school and extracurricular activities. At the Hague Conference on Private International Law’s 8th Special Commission Meeting in October 2023, concern was expressed that parents who are unsuccessful in their request to relocate their child to another country may take unilateral action and otherwise abduct their child.

Overall, one of the biggest concerns for any

network are better for a child than another, the primary concern is whether the U.S. custody order that permits a child to relocate to another country, and which usually provides for contact between the non-relocating parent and child, will be recognized and enforced by the courts in the other country, post-relocation. A lawyer may believe that this recognition and enforcement is the key – that if they could somehow mirror the terms of their custody order (or otherwise register it) in a foreign court, their client is protected. However, that is only one step due to the modifiable nature of custody orders.

[Read More.](#)



Move Away Cases and Parenting Plans in California

By [Alex Grager, CFLS*](#) and [Steven Mindel \(AAML\)](#), [FMBK](#)

In the realm of family law, few issues are as complex and emotionally charged as move-away and relocation cases. These situations arise

A. Legal Framework in California

California family law courts adhere to the principle that decisions regarding child custody and visitation must prioritize the best interests of the child. Among other tenets, the legislature’s stated intent is to ensure frequent and continuing contact with the child for both parents. (Fam. Code §3020(b)). When a

arrangements—and the harm that may result from disruption of established patterns of care and emotional bonds with the primary caretaker—weigh heavily in favor of maintaining ongoing custody arrangements. It is not unheard of for the Court to deny a move-away request based on this factor alone.

when one parent wishes to move a significant distance away from the other parent, thereby impacting existing custody and visitation arrangements. Alternatively, a move-away situation arises early in the case, when the parties have yet commenced divorce proceedings and may still be living together. In these complex situations, one of the parents must immediately confront the possibility, and perhaps the likelihood that the children will live far away after the divorce. Care must be taken to craft parenting plans that promote the relationship between the child and both parents to the extent possible. This may require providing the remaining parent with the bulk of vacations and holidays that occur during a typical school year. This article explores the nuances of move-away cases in California, focusing particularly on the creation of parenting plans and holiday schedules.

parent proposes to move a significant distance away, the court evaluates several factors to determine whether the move is in the child's best interests. Pursuant to the seminal case, In re Marriage of LaMusga (2004) 32 Cal.4th 1072, 1101 these factors include:

- Children's interest in stability and continuity in custodial arrangements. This is the cornerstone of the Court's decision-making when it comes to determining whether a move-away request should be granted. In considering this factor, Marriage of Burgess (1996) 13 Cal.4th 25 remains the law in stating that the paramount need for continuity and stability in custody

- Distance of the Move: This will play a role both in connection with creating parenting plan and for determining the logistics such as travel expenses.
- Age of Children: This factor dovetails with the requirement that a child aged 14 and over who wishes to express a custodial preference to the Court must be given that opportunity. (Fam. Code §3042)

[Read More.](#)



Restrictive Gatekeeping in Child Custody Disputes

By: [Kyleigh A. Weinfurter](#), [Rebecca F. Sukel](#) & [Andrew Zashin](#) (AAML)

Introduction

Definition of Restrictive Gatekeeping and Historical Context

Gatekeeping is a term used to describe the behaviors and attitudes of a parent that either facilitates or hinders the other parent's involvement with their child. In theory, there are other ways to frame

approach to custody.

In the early 20th century, custody decisions were often influenced by the "tender years doctrine," which favored mothers as the primary caregivers, especially for young children. This doctrine was based on the belief that mothers were inherently better suited for nurturing

Experienced family law practitioners know that child custody disputes are often emotionally charged and complex, involving both the welfare of the child and the rights of the parents. An evolving issue in these disputes is "restrictive gatekeeping," a term used to describe behaviors by one parent that limits or controls the other parent's access to their child. With evolving family dynamics and increasing recognition of both parents' involvement, restrictive gatekeeping becomes more relevant today as it can either support or hinder these modern family structures. What follows is an introduction to the concept of restrictive gatekeeping, its implications in child custody disputes, the legal and psychological perspectives surrounding it, and how lawyers can effectively utilize its application in practice.

"gatekeeping," and other names which can apply to similar concepts. Nonetheless, one type warrants particular attention: Restrictive Gatekeeping. As the name suggests, this type describes behavior intended to limit or obstruct the other parent's involvement.

Restrictive gatekeeping in the context of child custody disputes refers to the actions taken by one parent to limit or control the other parent's access to their child. Restrictive gatekeeping is particularly alarming because it can have significant negative impacts on the child and the parent-child relationship. Historically, this concept evolved alongside changes in societal views on parenting, gender roles, and the legal system's

young children. As a result, fathers often faced significant barriers in gaining custody or even substantial visitation rights.

[Read More.](#)



Dealing with Domestic Move Away Cases in Connecticut

By [David McGrath](#),
AAML

The U.S. Census Bureau states that 8.2 million people moved from state-to-state in 2022, up from 7.9 million people in 2021. "This continued a decade-long trend of rising state-to-state

Certainly, the capacity to work remotely might diminish the need or justification to relocate where a relocation would work to distance a child from another parent.

Here in the Land of Steady Habits, also known as the "Nutmeg State," our post-judgment relocations are governed by Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46b-56d, which defines a post-judgment relocation as one that "would have a significant impact on an existing

in the eye of the beholder or judge, one does not have to move from one end of the state to the other to add an hour or more of driving between households, even putting aside the atrocious traffic that can be found on our "gold coast" in the New York metropolitan region. A trial court opined in 2023 that a move from Greenwich to Manhattan constituted a relocation within the meaning of our statute. One can only presume that there are

migration even as overall migration has declined.” This increase continued despite the fact that the number of individuals who primarily work from home tripled from 9 million to 27.6 million people between 2019 and 2021. One might think the increased capacity to work remotely would diminish overall relocations, but that appears not to be the case based on the most recent U.S. Census Data (or perhaps individuals are also relocating for fun and lower cost of living).

parenting plan.” Relocation at time of judgment is governed by our ordinary best interest standard in our custody statute, although the trial court is permitted to consider the criteria of our relocation statute.

Even in a small state like Connecticut, there are potential “relocations” from moves within the state, in addition to those individuals moving from state-to-state. While “significant impact” is in

many more relocations within geographically larger states that are not captured in the census data cited above.

[Read More.](#)



AAML Foundation Update: Your Donations at Work

We are excited to provide the following Grantee Profiles to you so that you can see how your donation dollars to the AAML Foundation are helping our grantees. Together we can make a difference.

Casa Board Volunteer Association, Akron, Ohio

The CASA/GAL Program of Summit County was established in Akron, Ohio in June of 1981 and graduated its first class of guardian ad litem volunteers in July of 1981. The CASA program annually supports around

The CASA program funds the recruitment, training, and support of these dedicated volunteers who serve as guardians ad litem, a Latin term meaning guardians for the purposes of court. CASA/GAL is an acronym for Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem.

CASA volunteers become a voice for vulnerable children through this one-of-a-kind nonprofit program that is also a branch of the Juvenile Court. They get to know the child well enough to make fact-based recommendations to the Juvenile Court about custody, placement, visitation, and services. Volunteers make monthly visits with the child, speaking with

The CASA Program received funding in the amount of \$5,000 to fund approximately 62 developmentally appropriate social, scholastic, and enrichment activities for local abused and neglected foster youth and their foster families. These special children deserve the chance to have a “typical” childhood and be involved in as many enriching, educational and fun activities as possible.

[Read More.](#)

200 highly trained Summit County volunteers who together with program staff annually advocate for over 1,000 abused and neglected children involved in local juvenile court proceedings.

professionals, attending meetings, and appearing in court as the child's advocate.



Local Chapter News

AAML SoCal Chapter

The AAML SoCal Chapter is back to "In Person" only Chapter meetings. At our well attended June Chapter Meeting the gavel was successfully transferred from our 2023-2024 Chapter President, Ira Friedman to Robert Benavente our 2024-2025 President. Congratulations to Ira on a great year. Rob presented Ira with an amazing Sandy Koufax tribute from the Chapter to show our appreciation for Ira's service.

We are looking forward to a year of innovation from Rob and the 2024-2025 AAML SoCal Board.

On the Friday evening before the Chapter Meeting a number of Fellows and significant others dined at the Capital Grill and enjoyed a wonderful Christopher Cellars Sangiovese of NorCal Fellow Hal Bartholomew. The SoCal AAML Chapter is working hard for the Southern California Family Law Community.





Tech Update:

**Microsoft To
Delay Release of
Recall AI Feature
on Security
Concerns**

Microsoft will not roll out "Recall", an AI-powered feature that tracks computer usage, with its new computers next week and will instead preview it with a smaller group later, the tech giant

The Recall feature tracks web browsing to voice chats, creating a history stored on the computer that the user can search when they need to remember something they did, even months later.

Recall will now be available only for a preview on its Windows Insider Program (WIP) in the coming weeks instead of being broadly available for Copilot+ PC users on June 18,

Microsoft said in a blog post.

The decision is "rooted in our commitment to providing a trusted, secure and robust experience for all customers and to seek additional feedback prior to making the feature available to all Copilot+ PC users," the Redmond, Washington-based company said.

[Read the full article.](#)

said on Thursday, amid concerns of privacy risks.



Editor:
[Rod Firoozye](#)



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