

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ADOPTION ATTORNEYS AND/OR AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY ATTORNEYS NOMINATION AND APPLICATION FOR JUDICIAL MEMBERSHIP

Thank you for your interest in nominating a member of the judiciary or nominating yourself to be a Judicial Fellow in the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys and/or the American Academy of Assisted Reproductive Technology Attorneys (collectively referred to as the “Academy”). An invitation to Judicial Membership may be extended to trial or appellate judges or justices, who, in the course of performing the duties of their office, routinely consider adoption issues and adoption related matters or reproductive technology issues or related matters, or both.

Benefits of Judicial Membership include the following:

- Excellent educational opportunities in adoption law and/or assisted reproductive technology (“ART”) law through attendance at highly specialized conferences and webinars;
- Ability to interact with honorary, judicial and active practice attorneys qualified in adoption and/or ART law throughout the United States and abroad;
- Network via the Academy Listserv and attendance at conferences;
- Access to the On-line Membership Directory to locate honorary, judicial and active practice attorneys qualified in adoption and/or ART law;
- Notification of legislation and public education efforts in adoption and/or ART;
- Coordination of legislative and public education efforts;
- Coordination of legal research;
- Notification of Academy amicus briefs and access to brief archives;
- Support and enforcement of ethical legal practices;
- Built-in body of adoption and/or ART “advisors” via the listserv and at comprehensive and substantive conferences;
- Ability to present at “state of the art” CLE programming;
- No membership dues are required for Judicial Fellows; and
- The application fee is waived for Judicial Fellows.

The Academy Bylaws, Article IV, Section 10, set forth the requirements for Judicial Membership:

Section 10. Judicial Membership.

An invitation to Judicial Membership may be extended by the Board of Trustees, to trial or appellate judges or justices, who, in the course of performing the duties of their office, routinely consider adoption issues and adoption related matters or reproductive technology issues or related matters. Individuals seeking membership either in AAAA

or in AAARTA, under this section shall provide an endorsement from at least one regular AAAA member for AAAA membership or one regular AAARTA member for AAARTA membership; provided, however, that a regular member who wishes to become a judicial member and who otherwise satisfies the requirements for judicial membership under this section, may request that the Board of Trustees extend an invitation to judicial membership without the necessity of providing an endorsement from another member of the Academy. Judicial membership shall continue during such member's judicial tenure unless sooner terminated by vote of the Board of Trustees. Judicial members shall not be required to pay dues to the Academy.

The Academy President, and the Board of Trustees have authorized this application process for membership in the Academy. Please complete the application carefully and follow the directions to assure prompt handling of your application. While the application at first glance may appear cumbersome, it is relatively straight-forward and user-friendly.

IMPORTANT: Please read the Academy Code of Ethics provided with this application prior to applying to the Academy. You must be in compliance with the Code and agree to remain in compliance.

Please complete the following application form (**remember to sign it**) and mail the original with your signed releases and named references along with any accompanying materials to Jennie Sullivan, Academy Executive Administrator, 859 Riverside Drive, #11, Greenwood, IN 46142. The \$150 application fee is waived for Judiciary applicants.

If you have any questions about applying or need clarification, please contact:

Academy Executive Administrator

Jennie Sullivan

admin@adoptionattorneys.org

317-407- 8422

If you want to know the status of your application, or have other questions about your application, please contact:

Adoption Membership Chair

John Greene

jrgreenelaw@comcast.net

410-878-7230

ART Membership Chair

Meryl Rosenberg

membership@aaarta.org

301-217-0074

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Part I: (To be completed by the nominator or nominee – self-nomination not only is permitted but encouraged as well!)

1. Name, Title, Name of Court and Contact Information (including address, phone and e-mail) of Person Being Nominated to Judiciary Membership:

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

2. Name and Contact Information of Nominator (if different from the person being nominated; please include phone, address and e-mail address):

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

3. Please indicate for which category below the applicant wants to be considered:

_____ Adoption

_____ Assisted Reproductive Technology Law

_____ Both Adoption and Assisted Reproductive Technology Law

4. If the nominating party is not the applicant, please state why you think the applicant should be a member and what expertise and/or experience in adoption and/or ART law the applicant has (attachments and additional pages may be included):

Part II: (To be completed by the nominee – although the nominator also is welcome to complete and include as much information as he or she may know about the nominee – which might make less work for the nominee as well; resumes and other attachments may be attached and simply referenced instead)

5. Colleges and Universities attended:

Degrees/Dates:

6. Honors received during years of practice or while serving as a Judge:

7. Special honors or distinctions in adoption or assisted reproduction matters or issues:

8. Publications (if any):

9. Professional/Civic Organizations:

10. State(s) and Date(s) of Bar Admissions):

11. State Bar Number(s)

12. Total Years in Practice: _____

13. Total years as a judge (including years as a substitute judge – please indicate the years separately): _____

14. Nature of practice prior to becoming a judge presiding over adoption, termination of parental rights issues, parentage issues or assisted reproductive technology or related matters: (please note if currently in private practice in addition to being a judge then you will not qualify for Judicial Membership so please also verify you no longer are in private practice):

15. Specific percentage of judicial practice and experience in in assisted reproductive technologies, adoption, termination of parental rights issues, parentage issues or related matters:

16. Hobbies/Interests/Volunteer Experience:

17. Please provide names of all Academy Fellows who may be familiar with your work in adoption, termination of parental rights issues, parentage issues, assisted reproductive technologies or related matters:

18. Have you ever previously applied for membership in the Academy? _____

If yes, year and outcome of application: _____

19. Have you ever been convicted of a crime, or do you now have any criminal charges pending against you? _____ If yes, please provide a detailed explanation of each case, by attachment.

20. Have you ever been professionally disciplined, or do you now have pending any matter of professional discipline, including a grievance filed with your state's judicial grievance body? _____ If yes, please provide a detailed explanation of each matter, by attachment.

21. Have you ever been sued for malpractice or professional negligence as a practicing attorney, including counterclaims? _____ If yes, please provide a detailed explanation of each case including jurisdiction, case number, date, nature of case, outcome or current status, along with any relevant documents by attachment.

22. Have you ever been disciplined by your state's judicial grievance body? _____

If yes, please provide a detailed explanation of each case below or by attachment.

23. Please give us a short statement as to why you want to become a Judicial Fellow of the Academy and/or would accept such membership and/or would feel qualified:

REFERENCES

Provide the names, addresses, telephone numbers and **e-mail addresses** of at least five people who are familiar with your work in adoption and/or ART. These references may not include employees, clients (except for agencies), members of your firm or members of your family. Please include at least one current Academy Fellow whose practice encompasses adoption and/or ART, as appropriate, and who has personal knowledge of your practice and qualification. You also may include a judge or justice or adoption agency representative. Please ask each of your references to complete the Application Questionnaire and ask that they be returned directly to the appropriate Membership Chair listed at the beginning of the application. At least four questionnaires should be returned for your application to be complete.

(1) _____ (Academy Fellow)

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

(5) _____

Please provide either a statement/letter from your state/country/province confirming active bar membership OR contact information for the same, and contact information for investigation of disciplinary actions.

Website, and email, if possible, of Organization Able to Confirm Bar Membership:

Website, and email, if possible, of Organization for Investigation of Disciplinary Actions:

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
RELEASE OF LIABILITY

I declare under penalty of perjury that the statements in this application for membership are true, accurate and complete. I authorize any bar association, court, lawyer disciplinary organization, judicial disciplinary body, or law enforcement agency to disclose matters pertaining to me to the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys and the American Academy of Assisted Reproductive Technology Attorneys (the “Academy”) in connection with its investigation of my application for membership.

I hereby release, discharge and exonerate the Academy, its officers, directors, members, fellows, agents and representatives and any and all persons or agencies furnishing information in connection with this application, from any and all liability of every nature and kind arising out of the furnishing of such information, whether communicated orally or in writing. I further waive any claims that may arise with respect to such information or its disclosure. I hereby indemnify and hold harmless the Academy from any and all liability arising from or in any way related to its investigation, processing and decision making with regard to any membership application I make, have made, or will make in the future to the Academy, including this application.

I understand and agree that membership in the Academy is by invitation only and that applying for membership does not necessarily mean that the Board of Trustees will extend an invitation to me. I understand and agree that invitations for membership are within the sole discretion of the Board of Trustees, and that its decision is final.

Date

Signature of Applicant

I agree that I have read the Academy Code of Ethics that was provided with this application and I represent that, if admitted, I agree to comply with the Code of Ethics.

Date

Signature of Applicant

**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ADOPTION ATTORNEYS AND AMERICAN
ACADEMY OF ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY ATTORNEYS
AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

To all bar associations, lawyer regulatory entities, lawyers, law enforcement agencies, courts, court administrators, clerks of court, judges, Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children compact administrators, licensed adoption agencies, social workers and any other individuals who have knowledge of information pertinent to my application for membership to the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys and/or the American Academy of Assisted Reproductive Technology Attorneys (hereinafter "Academy"):

I, _____ (PRINT NAME), the undersigned, am making application for membership to the Academy, and in doing so, authorize and request the release of information and records to the Academy, and the attorney members of the Academy assigned to conduct the due diligence on my application. This information will be used for the purpose of determining my eligibility and qualification for membership.

This Authorization shall be valid for a period of one year after my execution of same. A copy of this Authorization shall be considered as effective as the original.

Please be aware that I completely waive whatever right I may have to obtain any information you provide to the Academy pertaining to my background, and suitability for membership.

Date

Signature of Applicant

Address: _____

Date of birth: _____