

Dr. Kerstin Niethammer-Jürgens



Kerstin is a German national, a practicing lawyer and partner in the Law office Jürgens Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH, Potsdam. She studied law and political science in Göttingen, München and Würzburg including a three-month study visit at Yale Law School. After finishing her legal clerkship in Berlin Kerstin was admitted to the bar in 1991 and got her doctorate from the University of Frankfurt am Main in the same year.

Since the start of her career as a lawyer, Kerstin has specialised in Family Law. After handling one of the first child abduction cases after Germany's ratification of the Hague Child Abduction Convention in 1990, her interests and experience focused on International Family Law disputes.

In 2001 she became a certified Family Law Lawyer ("Fachanwältin für Familienrecht") and laid the foundation to become a certified Succession Law Lawyer ("Fachanwältin für Erbrecht") by completing the required theoretical education in 2007.

Since 2007, Kerstin has been a lecturer on International Family Law and national German Children's Law for lawyers seeking certification as a Certified Family Law Lawyer or engaged in continuing education. Kerstin also lectures on International Family Law at the University of Potsdam and the Humboldt University, Berlin.

As a member of the Family Law Commission and European Law Commission, Kerstin was appointed by the German Federal Bar (BRAK) to provide comment on the drafts of various EU regulations which have come into force in recent years. Kerstin also has the opportunity to involve herself in German national Family Law developments in her capacity as a Member of the German Women Lawyers Association (djB) and a Board Member of the International Social Service (ISD, Germany). Kerstin is an Elected Member to the Management Committee of the International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL, European Chapter). Around 70% of Kerstin's cases have an international component.

Kerstin publishes regular commentaries on court decisions concerning International Family Law and is the author of several publications, the latest in 2013: "Internationales Familienrecht in der anwaltlichen Practice" ("International Family Law in Legal Praxis"), Metzner-Verlag, September 2013.

Commencing in December 2010, Kerstin was a Team Leader for an EU financed project in the Russian Federation which lasted three years despite being planned to last for only one. She and her team of Russian and European jurists advised the Russian Federation on the accession to the Hague Child Abduction Convention 1980, the Hague Convention on International Child Protection 1996 and the Hague Maintenance Convention 2007. During this project, Kerstin travelled back and forth between Berlin and Moscow to manage her law office and further advise and represent clients at the same time. From July 2014 to June 2016, Kerstin was a Key Expert for an EU financed project in Kosovo. In this position, Kerstin led a team working on Family Law, Inheritance Law and Law of Persons to develop a draft Civil Code for Kosovo.