

ACADEMY OF ADOPTION AND ASSISTED REPRODUCTION ATTORNEYS NOMINATION AND APPLICATION FOR HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Thank you for your interest in becoming an Honorary Fellow in the Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys (collectively referred to as “AAAA”). Honorary membership is available by invitation to law school graduates who have practiced law for at least five (5) years and have made a distinguished contribution to adoption and/or reproductive technology (“ART”) law, are of special competence and qualification in the field of adoption and/or ART law and/or by reason of distinguished public service or eminence, have contributed greatly to the advancement of the field of adoption and/or ART law. In order to qualify for, and/or to maintain honorary membership, any such applicant and/or member, if engaged in the practice of law, shall not represent parties in adoption or ART matters other than to provide pro bono representation.

Benefits of Honorary Membership include the following:

- Ability to cross- refer cases throughout the United States and abroad to qualified adoption and/or assisted reproductive technology (“ART”) practitioners;
- Network via referrals and interactions with other practitioners in the field;
- Ability to attend and present at “state of the art” CLE conferences and webinars;
- Access to on-line Membership Directory to locate other adoption and/or ART practitioners;
- Availability to the public and to adoption agencies who look on-line for adoption and/or ART experts;
- Enhanced website presence via AAAA Directory which links to the Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys website;
- Ability to cross-link your own website to the on-line AAAA Directory;
- Confidence that the practitioners listed are sufficiently qualified in other states and countries to handle adoption matters;
- Coordination of legislative and public education efforts;
- Coordination of legal research;
- Notification via the listserv of recent developments and case decisions;
- Ability to call upon the amicus committee for the Academy to take a position in cases on appeal;
- Support and re-enforcement of ethical practices;
- Built in body of adoption and/or ART “advisors” via the listserv and at comprehensive and substantive conferences; and
- Enhanced exposure of your work through AAAA outreach, marketing, and public relations.

The Academy Bylaws, Article IV, Section 7, set forth the requirements for Honorary Membership in either the Adoption practice section or ART practice section of AAAA:

Honorary Adoption and ART Membership requirements include the following:

1. Must have graduated from law school.
2. Must have practiced law for at least five (5) years, and
 - a. have made a distinguished contribution to adoption law or reproductive technology law over the course of their professional careers; or
 - b. during their professional careers have obtained special competence and qualification in the field of adoption or assisted reproductive technology law; or,
 - c. by reason of distinguished public service or eminence have contributed greatly to the advancement of the field of adoption or assisted reproductive technology law.
3. An Honorary Member or applicant shall not represent parties in Adoption or ART matters other than to provide pro bono representation.
4. Honorary membership shall be continuous unless terminated by vote of the Board of Trustees.
5. Honorary members shall not be required to pay dues to AAAA.

Invitation to membership in AAAA shall be within the sole discretion of the Board of Trustees.

The AAAA President and the Board of Trustees have authorized this application process for membership in AAAA. 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 AAAA. You must be in compliance with the Code and agree to remain in compliance.

Please complete and submit the following application form (**remember to sign it**) and mail the original with your signed releases, named references, and any accompanying materials along with your **Non-Refundable** application fee of \$200.00 payable to “American Academy of Adoption Attorneys” to Jennie Sullivan, AAAA Executive Administrator, 859 Riverside Drive, #11, Greenwood, IN 46142.

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

[AAAA Executive Administrator](#)

Jennie Sullivan

admin@adoptionart.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

Greg Franklin

gfranklin@afylaw.com

585-442-0540

ART Membership Chair

Emily McArthur

emily@mcarthurreproductivelaw.com

303-674-1891

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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 and contact information (including address, phone, and e-mail) of person being nominated to honorary membership:

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

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

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

3. Name of institution for the person being nominated (include address, phone, e-mail if different than in Number 1 above):

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

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

_____ Adoption

_____ ART

_____ Both Adoption and ART

5. If the nominating party is not the applicant, please state why 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 include or complete 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)

6. Colleges and Universities attended:

Degrees/Dates:

7. Honors:

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

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9. Publications (if any):

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10. Professional/Civic Organizations:

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11. Hobbies/Interests/Volunteer Experience:

12. State(s) and Date(s) of Bar Admission(s): _____

13. State Bar Number(s): _____

14. Total years as a practicing attorney before becoming a non-practicing attorney:

15. Total years non-practicing: _____

16. Previous experience prior to becoming a non-practicing attorney. Include significant employment, including private practice, government service, and/or teaching experience:

17. For each such experience or employment listed, please describe the nature of said experience or employment:

18. Experience prior to becoming non-practicing specifically in assisted reproductive technologies, adoption and termination of parental rights issues or related matters:

19. Nature of the current non-practicing Honorary practice:

20. Specific percentage of current work and experience in assisted reproductive technologies, adoption and termination of parental rights issues, parentage issues or related matters: _____

21. Have you ever previously applied for membership in AAAA? _____

If yes, year and outcome of application: _____

22. Please provide names of all AAAA Fellows who may be familiar with your work and/or experience in adoption, termination of parental rights issues, assisted reproductive technologies or related matters:

23. 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.

24. Have you ever been professionally disciplined, or do you now have pending any matter of professional discipline? _____ If yes, please provide a detailed explanation of each matter, by attachment.

25. Have you ever been sued for malpractice or professional negligence, 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.

26. Have you ever had a grievance or complaint filed against you with any grievance body? _____ If yes, please provide a detailed explanation of each case, by attachment.

27. Please give us a short statement as to why you want to become an Honorary Fellow of AAAA and/or would accept such membership. Set forth what you have done to make a distinguished contribution to adoption and/or ART law and what may give you special competence and qualifications in either or both fields:

REFERENCES

Please provide the names, addresses, telephone numbers and **e-mail addresses** of at least five individuals who are familiar with your work in adoption, termination of parental rights, parentage or assisted reproduction technology matters. Please include at least one current AAAA Fellow whose practice encompasses adoption and/or ART, as appropriate, and who has personal knowledge of your practice and qualifications. While not mandatory, you may also provide additional persons, whether AAAA Fellows or not, who can provide information that may be helpful in permitting the Board to evaluate your application for membership. **Once your completed application is received, you will be sent an Application Questionnaire. Please ask each of your references to complete the Application Questionnaire and ask that they be returned directly to the appropriate Membership Chair.** At least four Questionnaires must be returned for your application to be complete.

(1) _____ (AAAA 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, or law enforcement agency to disclose matters pertaining to me to the Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys (“AAAA”) in connection with its investigation of my application for membership.

I hereby release, discharge and exonerate AAAA, 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 which may arise with respect to such information or its disclosure. I hereby indemnify and hold harmless AAAA, its officers, directors, members, fellows, agents and representatives 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 AAAA, including this application.

I understand and agree that membership in AAAA 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

**ACADEMY OF ADOPTION AND ASSISTED REPRODUCTION 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 Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys (hereinafter "AAAA"):

I, _____ (PRINT NAME), the undersigned, am making application for membership to AAAA, and in doing so, authorize and request the release of information and records to AAAA, and the attorney members of AAAA 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 AAAA pertaining to my background, and suitability for membership.

Date

Signature of Applicant

Address: _____

Date of birth: _____