

Report of the AAARTA Director and Deputy Director
March 20, 2017

1. Legislation: our AAARTA Legislation Committee has been extremely active this session. There have been two federal personhood bills introduced, and several on the state level. Additionally, there have been threats in a number of states to surrogacy and other ART matters. The committee, and in the case of the federal legislation with the participation of the Academy president, has responded with position letters-they are drafted after a review and analysis of each bill. We continue to monitor bills and respond as appropriate. To date, I have no record of the passage of any personhood legislation or other bills damaging to ART, but the sessions are still ongoing and this is the time when measures are called for a vote. Fellows should stay alert regarding emerging issues in the states where you practice, and notify Kurt Hughes or me if AAARTA may assist.
2. RESOLVE Advocacy Day: On a related note, RESOLVE is sponsoring its annual Advocacy Day on May 18, with an opening reception on May 17. I will be attending, and I urge any of our Fellows who can do so to please join me! RESOLVE has been a good friend to AAARTA, and their continued work in this field nets measurable results that benefit our clients. Presenting a strong, united front to our legislators is important, and joining RESOLVE on the Hill is the perfect opportunity. You may visit the RESOLVE website for more information.
3. Thanks to the diligent efforts of Deputy Director Nidhi Desai, she and I were invited to attend the Uniform Law Commissioners' drafting session on the Uniform Parentage Act, as observers. In this capacity, we were able to comment and provide drafting suggestions as the Commissioners considered updates and changes to the Act, including major rewrites of the surrogacy section. The group anticipates that the Act will be read to the full Board of Commissioners this summer, but there is not yet a date for release of the revised Act.
4. On behalf of AAARTA, I attended the 20th Anniversary Miller DuToit Cloete Family Law Meeting and addressed trends and developments related to surrogacy in the United States. I was able to distribute our save-the-dates for the Anaheim conference to the lawyers, many of whom are interested in attending, and who requested additional information about joining AAARTA.
Nidhi will be representing AAARTA, and speaking at, the annual SEEDS conference next month. This conference attracts a large number of agencies, mental health professionals and a number of attorneys.
5. Anaheim Mid-Year: our conference co chairs and committee chairs are hard at work organizing what promises to be an interesting and informative meeting, to be held September 17-19, at the Hyatt Regency Orange County, CA. We are planning a concurrent paralegal conference-

more information to come soon! Remember, as this is a mid-year meeting, it is open to all, so please spread the word!

6. Montreal: the conference chairs and committees have organized an exciting meeting, full of diverse topics, expert speakers and relevant, important topics. And, this is the chance to brush off and practice those French language skills, *mes amis!* If you have not yet registered, please don't waste another minute!

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Swain
Nidhi Desai