

Nicholas Palos, Family Court Support Magistrate; 2. Diane Potts, Deputy Attorney General  
Kings County Family Court (Brooklyn, NY); 2. Illinois Attorney General's Office (Chicago, IL)

### **Personal Jurisdiction and UIFSA: Make Your Order Enforceable in the United States**

Tribunals in most countries order child support/maintenance based upon the habitual residence of the custodial parent and child, without considering whether the other parent has any connection to that country. In the United States, however, the Constitution demands personal jurisdiction before a court will establish or enforce a child support order. This paper and presentation first will provide an overview of the constitutional principle of personal jurisdiction, and explain how "long-arm jurisdiction" works in creating a basis for a court to order and enforce child support. The paper and presentation then will explore how the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) provides for challenges to the registration of a foreign order based on lack of personal jurisdiction. It will look at the method for confirming a foreign order, when based on the habitual residence of the custodial parent and child, through the procedures outlined in the 2008 version of UIFSA. Finally, the paper and presentation will discuss ways to avoid jurisdictional problems in the United States altogether.