



Pathways to Employment in International Law

Marit Rasmussen

Currently based in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, Marit Rasmussen is the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ROLI) Country Director for both Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. As such, she manages all programs and activities in the ABA ROLI's three offices in these countries.

Before moving overseas, Ms. Rasmussen practiced law for 10 years in the Chicago area. As an Assistant Public Guardian, she specialized in representation of vulnerable clients including children and adults with disabilities in the juvenile and probate courts. Later, as Special Counsel to the Guardian for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Ms. Rasmussen took on systemic problems of child welfare policy, managed a state-wide case load of high profile and strategic cases, and trained social workers to investigate and prepare youth cases for transfer to adult guardianship.

In 2003, Ms. Rasmussen became a Rule of Law Liaison for the ABA ROLI (then CEELI) program in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The position involved providing advocacy skills training and implementing the Jessup moot court competition for law students throughout the country, developing continuing legal education courses for practicing lawyers, and organizing a judicial conference on ethics and anti-corruption for over 200 of Kazakhstan's trial court judges. After completing her assignment with ABA ROLI, Ms. Rasmussen moved to Hungary where she worked for the Open Society Institute Europe Foundation as Research and Development Director of a regional human rights organization, the Mental Disability Advocacy Center. In this capacity, she managed a research project on guardianship law in several countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Before rejoining the ABA ROLI program in late 2007, Ms. Rasmussen was the Deputy Director of the International Senior Lawyers Project (ISLP) in New York where she was involved in fundraising, developing new projects and recruiting and placing volunteer lawyers into positions around the globe.

Ms. Rasmussen holds a BA in Economics and Management from Albion College and a JD from Chicago-Kent College of Law. She has authored articles and edited a number of publications on mental disability, guardianship and the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.