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## **Attorney Williams joins US State Department's Attorney Network for Parents Involved in International Child Abduction Cases**

27 October 2009 — Wilmington, NC — Rice Law, PLLC Child Custody Attorney Mark Spencer Williams has joined the U.S. State Department's Attorney Network.

When a child is the victim of an international child abduction, the safe return and recovery of that child can be accomplished through the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

In 2007, the United States provided assistance in 355 Convention applications involving 518 children who were abducted from member countries and brought to the United States. The highest incidence of reported abductions to the U.S. were from Mexico, United Kingdom, Germany, Canada and Australia. That same year, there were 575 cases of international parental child abductions from the United States involving 821 children.

Christopher Savoie, a Tennessee man, made international headlines this year when his children were abducted and taken to a non-Hague Convention country and he spent time in a Japanese jail after he was arrested trying to return the children to the United States. Had Japan been a member of the Hague Convention, attorneys could have helped Savoie resolve the matter civilly. The fear of international child abduction is significant for parents who are involved in a child custody dispute and have ties to a foreign country. See <http://ricefamilylaw.com/articles/Passport-for-child-involved-in-custody-dispute.htm> regarding the issuance of passports for children involved in such disputes.

Rice Law, PLLC is pleased that Williams will be able to help families seek the lawful return of their child to the legal custodian through its membership in the United States State Department's Attorney Network.

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### **About Rice Law, PLLC**

Rice Law, PLLC provides legal counsel in the areas of family and education law. Our attorneys provide full-service representation of clients in Brunswick, New Hanover, and Pender counties. The firm now provides online legal services throughout the State of North Carolina. For more information, visit [www.ricefamilylaw.com](http://www.ricefamilylaw.com).