



**INTER-AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
FEDERACIÓN INTERAMERICANA DE ABOGADOS
FEDERAÇÃO INTERAMERICANA DE ADVOGADOS
FEDERATION INTER-AMERICAINE DES AVOCATS**

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IABA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RESOLVED:

The Executive Committee of the Inter-American Bar Association (IABA) has been made aware of an ongoing custody dispute involving a Brazilian attorney, João Paulo Lins e Silva, a member of the IABA, and a U.S. citizen, David Goldman, said to be the biological father of the minor in question, SEAN GOLDMAN.

At its meeting in San José, Costa Rica, on April 4, 2009, and after due deliberation, the Executive Committee resolved as follows:

1. Respect for the Rule of Law and the sovereignty of States has been a fundamental principle of the IABA since its founding in 1940.
2. The custody of SEAN GOLDMAN is presently at issue before duly constituted courts in Brazil. The decision to be made by the Brazilian judiciary - which has the constitutional authority, competence and jurisdiction necessary to render such a decision - will be the proper solution to the dispute.
3. The IABA trusts and respects the judicial decisions and the sovereignty of the Brazilian state and those of its courts, as it does with every democratic nation.
4. The IABA opposes attempts to influence judicial rulings and legal decisions through pressures and calls for intervention by sources other than those provided by law.
5. The Brazilian judiciary is independent. Brazil is a sovereign state. The IABA rejects any attempt to impugn the integrity and independence of the Brazilian judiciary, especially in a proceeding still pending of final judgment.
6. The Executive Committee of the IABA will call upon its Council and General Assembly to deliberate the matter in the next Annual Meeting of the IABA, to take place at Nassau, Bahamas, from June 30 to July 4, 2009.