

Walter Benda

Expert Witness and Consultant

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- Highlights**
- Over 15 years experience personally advising more than one hundred cases of international abduction and access disputes involving Japan.
 - Submitted statements and testimony regarding child abduction, custody and access issues to U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, and for legal cases in the U.S. and Japan.
 - Personal legal experience at all levels of the Japanese court system, including the Japanese Supreme Court on two separate occasions, as well as at the local, state, and federal levels in the United States.
 - Featured in media reports on major U.S. and Japanese television networks, magazines, and newspapers, including CBS, CNN, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, Atlantic Monthly, Newsday, International Herald Tribune, Japan Times, Daily Yomiuri, Asahi Shimbun, Mainichi Daily, Tokyo Journal, and others.
 - Founded website (www.crcjapan.com), blog (www.crcjapan.wordpress.com), and free online discussion group.

- Key Events**
- May 5, 1996: Co-founded Children's Rights Council of Japan, a non-profit operating under the 501 © (3) group exemption of Children's Rights Council, a registered United States non-profit, tax exempt organization working to strengthen families and assist children.
 - March 9, 1998: Organized first significant press conference relating to international parental kidnapping in Japan. Seven parents with children kidnapped to Japan and/or held in Japan spoke at the conference, which took place at the Foreign Correspondents Club in Tokyo.
 - March 1, 2000: Testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee regarding international parental kidnapping issues and the Elian Gonzalez case.
 - October 2, 2002: Participated at the first White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children.
 - January 26, 2004: Together with a coalition of Japanese and non-Japanese parents' groups, submitted a report to the United Nations regarding Japan's deficiencies in protecting the rights of children of divorce and other forms of parental separation.
 - December 3, 2005: Helped organize, and participated in, the Seminar on the Hague Convention and International Child Abductions, held at the Embassy of Canada, Tokyo, Japan. This was the first conference of this type held in Japan, with representatives from over 20 foreign governments participating.
 - November 6, 2006: Participated as a panelist for an international symposium on Capitol Hill titled "International Parental Kidnapping and Custody Trends Around the World." The symposium included representatives from the U.S. State Department, ICMEC, NCMEC, and at least two foreign governments.
 - * April 27, 2007: Organized press conference at National Press Club in Washington, D.C., to coincide with Premier Abe's Washington, D.C. meeting with President Bush. Participants included five parents being denied access to their parentally kidnapped children in Japan, legal experts, and representatives from the national Children's Rights Council and International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children.
 - * October 3, 2009: Organized Rally at Japanese Embassy and White House Candlelight Vigil on behalf of Christopher Savoie.

Professional Experience	<u>Children's Rights Council of Japan</u> , Max Meadows, VA and Tokyo, JAPAN <i>Co-founder and CEO</i>	1996-Present
	<u>Blue Ridge Sun</u> , Max Meadows, VA <i>Dealer for Alternative Energy Products, design and installation services</i>	2009-Present
	<u>M.D. NEWS Magazine</u> , Max Meadows, VA <i>Publisher of regional business & lifestyle magazine for physicians</i>	2001-2010
	<u>Lenzkes Clamping Tools, Inc.</u> , Christiansburg, VA <i>Vice President for Sales</i>	1997-2000
	<u>George S. Mav International Co.</u> , Max Meadows, VA <i>Special Representative</i>	1996-97
	<u>Mitoku Co., Ltd.</u> , Tokyo, JAPAN <i>Director of Marketing & Administration</i>	1992-95
	<u>Northwest Airlines</u> , Tokyo, JAPAN and St. Paul, MN <i>Manager of Market Planning in Tokyo, Manager of Statistics in St. Paul, MN</i>	1980-92
	<u>Wachovia Bank and Trust</u> , Winston-Salem, NC <i>Foreign Exchange Trader Trainee</i>	1978-79

Education	<u>Colgate Darden Graduate School of Business, University of Virginia</u> , Charlottesville, VA <i>Master of Business Administration.</i>	1979-81
	<u>Washington & Lee University</u> , Lexington, VA <i>Bachelor of Science-Business Administration, Bachelor of Arts-German, Spanish, Phi Beta Kappa, magna cum laude.</i>	1974-78

Other Foreign languages: Fully fluent in German, basic skills in Japanese (certified Level 4 of the Japanese Proficiency Test) and Spanish.