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***Blondin v. Dubois*, 19 F. Supp. 2d 123 (S.D.N.Y. 1998), vacated and remanded for further proceedings, 189 F.3d 240 (2d Cir. 1999), on reh'g, 78 F. Supp. 2d 283 (S.D.N.Y. 2000), aff'd, 238 F.3d 153 (2d Cir. 2001)**

Under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of Child Abduction, a child taken from his or her home country must be returned unless there is a "grave risk of harm." This case involved the question of whether domestic violence can present a "grave risk" of harm to children within the meaning of the Hague Convention. Dubois came to the United States with her children after she and her children suffered significant domestic violence in France perpetrated by the children's father, Blondin. Blondin sued under the Hague Convention for return of the children to France. The district court held twice, the second time based on expert testimony, that the children would suffer psychological risk if they were returned to France where the abuse occurred. Blondin appealed for a second time to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. government filed an amicus brief urging return of the children to France. Legal Momentum filed an amicus brief drafted by the law firm Crowell & Moring describing why domestic violence can present a sufficiently grave risk to children to warrant departure from the Convention's ordinary application. On January 4, 2001, the Second Circuit affirmed the district court, holding that there was ample evidence in the record that return of the children to the place where they witnessed and experienced serious domestic violence presented a grave risk of psychological harm under the terms of the Hague Convention and return was therefore not warranted.