



## Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

### The Goldman Act at Five Years

#### Panel I



**Carl C. Risch** was sworn in as Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs on August 11, 2017. Mr. Risch most recently served as the Acting Chief of Staff at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). He was previously the USCIS Field Office Director at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, South Korea. He also worked as an immigration officer for USCIS at the U.S. Embassy in Manila, Philippines. Mr. Risch is a former Foreign Service Officer with the Department of State, where he served as a consular officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Amsterdam. He earned his law degree from Dickinson School of Law in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

#### Panel II



**Patricia E. Apy** has developed a law practice that is primarily focused on international and interstate family law. She has directed the international litigation of child custody disputes throughout the world, serving clients in a wide range of cases in signatory countries and non-signatories to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. She successfully represented the left-behind father, David Goldman, in the repatriation of his minor son from Brazil, a case that drew worldwide attention to the application of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. She received her Juris Doctorate degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1986.



**Ruchika Abbi** has been a Legal Permanent Resident of the United States since 2010. She has been employed as a Cloud Solutions Architect with Amazon Web Services in Herndon, Virginia since 2013. For over 5 years, Ruchika has been desperately seeking her daughter's return to the U.S. and facing extreme parental alienation issues. Her daughter, Roshni Seth, is a U.S. citizen born in December 2007 in Fairfax, Virginia. She resided with both parents at the marital home in Chantilly, Virginia until April 2014. At 6 years of age, Roshni was uprooted from her home by her own father and taken to New Delhi, India without Ruchika's knowledge. The father abandoned his job and permanent residence status in the U.S., refused to return to the U.S. with Roshni, and denied Ruchika any access to Roshni multiple times for prolonged periods.