

MARSH & GAUGHRAN LLP

ATTORNEYS

JAMES R. MARSH
Admitted in NY and DC

TOLL FREE (800) 592-2251
TELEPHONE (914) 592-2626
FAX (914) 206-3998
WWW.MGLAW.US

JULIE E. GAUGHRAN
Admitted in NY

LAURA A. DEMPSEY
Admitted in NY and GA
Senior Associate

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: James R. Marsh, Esq
Released December 13, 2005

Masha Names Envoy to Russia

Today Masha named internationally known child welfare expert Thomas D. Morton, MSW as her envoy to Russia on adoption issues.

Mr. Morton has worked in the field of child welfare for more than thirty years and currently serves as the Executive Director of the Child Welfare Institute, a non-governmental organization dedicated to the improvement of outcomes for children entering the child welfare system in the United States. Prior to his current position he served on the faculties of four American Universities. Since 1994, Mr. Morton has worked collaboratively with Orphanage 19 in Moscow to expand the use of foster family care in Russia and to develop domestic solutions for children in need of alternative families.

Following one week after her groundbreaking appearance on ABC Primetime, Masha wants the Russian government and people to know that safe and legitimate international adoption must remain an option for the hundreds of thousands of children living in orphanages throughout the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Morton is traveling to Russia next week on a fact-finding mission to gauge Russian concerns about international adoption. He will be carrying a list of preliminary recommendations and a letter from Masha to President Vladimir Putin, the Ministry of Education and Science of Russia, the State Duma of the Russian Federation and the Ombudsman for Human Rights of the Russian Federation. Mr. Morton will be issuing a report upon his return to the United States in late December.

All media and other inquiries relating to this story should be directed to Marsh & Gaughran LLP.

– END –

WHITE PLAINS OFFICE
Westchester Financial Center
50 Main Street - Tenth Floor
White Plains, New York 10606-1900

MOUNT KISCO OFFICE
Lawyers Professional Building
61 Smith Avenue
Mount Kisco, New York 10549-2813