



ASSOCIATION OF
FAMILY AND
CONCILIATION COURTS



eNEWS

Early Registration Savings End October 5 AFCC Regional Conference in Columbus, Ohio

Receive the best prices on registration for the AFCC Regional Conference, *Do You Hear What I Hear? Listening to the Voice of the Child*, November 5-7, 2015, when your registration and payment are received by October 5. Rates increase after this date. [Register today](#)

Make Hotel Reservations at the Hyatt Regency Columbus

The Hyatt is offering AFCC conference participants a rate of \$139/night for single or double accommodations. The room block will be released October 12, and the special rate may no longer be available. [Make your reservation today](#) to ensure a room at this great rate.

Get Ready to Explore Columbus!

The Hyatt is in the heart of downtown and there are plenty of things to do within walking distance. The trendy Arena District, a lively neighborhood with numerous restaurants, bars and shops is close by. You can walk to Huntington Park and Nationwide Arena, home of the Columbus Blue Jackets NHL team. Or visit the Ohio State University Campus, State of Ohio Capital Building and Columbus' popular Short North Arts and Entertainment District. [Plan your free time!](#)

Submit a Proposal for Seattle 2016—Deadline October 2

AFCC 53rd Annual Conference, June 1–4, 2016 *Modern Families: New Challenges, New Solutions*

The conference committee is seeking proposals for 90-minute workshops to be presented at the AFCC 53rd Annual Conference, *Modern Families: New Challenges, New Solutions*, June 1–4, 2016 in Seattle. The Call for Proposals contains a list of topic suggestions or submit a proposal on a topic related to the

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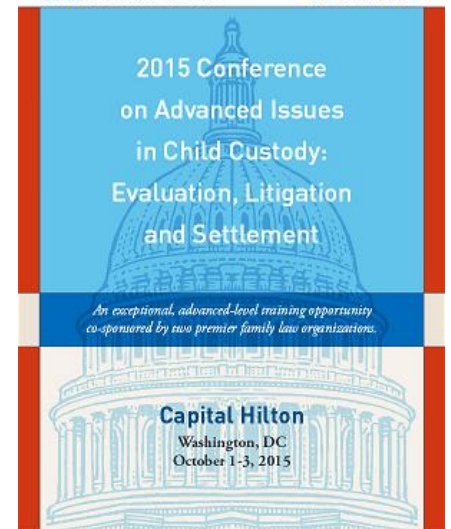
Upcoming Conferences



ASSOCIATION OF
FAMILY AND
CONCILIATION COURTS



AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF MATERNAL LAWYERS



Enrollment is limited. Priority registration for AAML and AFCC members open through June 30, 2015. Public registration opens July 1, 2015.

AFCC-AAML Conference
*Advanced Issues in Child Custody:
Evaluation, Litigation and
Settlement*
October 1–3, 2015
Capital Hilton
Washington, DC
[Program Brochure, Online
Registration](#)

conference theme or AFCC mission. [Submit a proposal](#)



Enjoy a few [photos](#) from the recent site visit.

Sponsor, Advertise or Exhibit at the Annual Conference

There are a number of opportunities to introduce AFCC members, conference participants and others to your organization or company and its products and services. Print advertising, sponsorships, exhibits and packet inserts are available for the 53rd Annual Conference in Seattle, June 1–4, 2016. [Learn more](#)

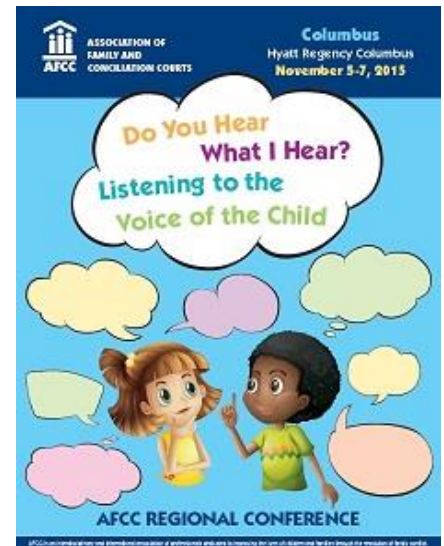


Sponsor Conference Tote Bags—Columbus and Seattle

Your organization or practice will receive loads of exposure with a listing on participant totes at two conferences. Plus, your marketing piece will be placed inside each tote—at both this fall's Regional Conference in Columbus and the 2016 Annual Conference in Seattle. An excellent way to support AFCC while getting your name and marketing piece into the hands of approximately 1,500 conference participants. Contact Erin Sommerfeld at esommerfeld@afccnet.org or 608-664-3750 for more information. [Sign up today](#), space is limited!

Member Q & A—Tennille E. Newton, JD

The current president of the Ohio Chapter, Tennille E. Newton, JD, is an attorney, guardian ad litem, parenting coordinator, and mediator at Plassman, Rupp, Hagans, Newton & Bohmer, LLC, in



AFCC Regional Conference

*Do You Hear What I Hear?
Listening to the Voice of the Child*
November 5–7, 2015
Hyatt Regency Columbus
Columbus, Ohio
[Program Brochure, Online Registration](#)

AFCC 53rd Annual Conference

*Modern Families:
New Challenges, New Solutions*
June 1–4, 2016
Sheraton Seattle Hotel
Seattle, Washington
[Call for Proposals](#)

AFCC 12th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

November 3–5, 2016
Sheraton Atlanta Hotel
Atlanta, Georgia

AFCC Trainings

Archbold, Ohio located in Fulton County. In this interview, Tennille talks about how she got involved with AFCC, the formation of the Ohio Chapter and more. [Read more](#)

Ask the Experts

Top Ten Reasons to Support a CASA Volunteer Program

Doug Stephens, Executive Director, The Ohio CASA/GAL Association

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) are private citizens from all walks of life who are strictly screened and extensively trained to advocate for children involved in juvenile court proceedings as a result of being victims of abuse, neglect, or dependency. The volunteers research the child and family's circumstances, make recommendations to the court, advocate for the child, facilitate the offering of services, and monitor the progress of the child. [Read more](#)

In Memoriam: Kathryn Ferris Kuehnle, PhD

Leslie M. Drozd, PhD, Newport Beach, California

Kathryn Ferris Kuehnle, born in February 1946, died August 2015, at age 69 in Chicago, Illinois. She was the loving mother of two sons, John and Peter; grandmother of four, Christopher, Hannah, Quinn and Sophia; and sister to Kit. And we can't forget Feather, her very tiny dog, who was aptly named and who was by her side until near the end. [Read more](#)


Final Days to Register—AFCC-AAML 2015 Conference Advanced Issues in Child Custody: Evaluation, Litigation and Settlement

October 1–3, 2015, Capital Hilton, Washington, DC

Make check-in even smoother by pre-registering online. If you are already registered, be on the lookout for attendee emails, which contain important information for accessing session handouts before the conference and helpful information about onsite logistics. Make the most of your trip by attending a pre-conference institute Thursday morning. There is still time to add an institute to your registration. [More information and registration](#)

Registration is Open—PC and Child Custody Trainings

AFCC, in collaboration with the University of Baltimore School of Law Sarya and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts, will hold two new trainings at the University of Baltimore. Debra K. Carter, PhD, will present *Construction of an Effective Parenting Coordination Process: Structure, Tools and*



ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONCILIATION COURTS

In collaboration with
University of Baltimore School of Law
Sarya and Neil Meyerhoff Center for
Families, Children and the Courts

Construction of an Effective Parenting Coordination Process: Structure, Tools and Techniques
A two-day training program for parenting coordinators, mediators, therapists, judges, therapists, social workers, and other professionals who work with high conflict families.
Debra K. Carter, PhD
November 28–December 1, 2015

Complex Issues in Family Law and Child Custody
A one-day training program for child custody evaluators and legal professionals who work in child custody litigation and mediation.
Philip M. Stahl, PhD, ABPP
December 2–3, 2015

University of Baltimore
Student Center
Baltimore, Maryland

AFCC is an interdisciplinary and international association of professionals dedicated to improving the lives of children and families through the resolution of family conflict.

Construction of an Effective Parenting Coordination Process: Structure, Tools, and Techniques

Debra K. Carter, PhD
November 30–December 1, 2015
University of Baltimore
Baltimore, Maryland
[More information, online registration](#)

Complex Issues in Family Law and Child Custody

Philip M. Stahl, PhD, ABPP
December 2–3, 2015
University of Baltimore
Baltimore, Maryland
[More information, online registration](#)

AFCC Chapter Annual Conferences

Indiana Chapter Annual Conference

September 25, 2015
Hyatt Place
Bloomington, Indiana
[More information](#)

Florida Chapter Annual Conference

October 1–2, 2015
Holiday Inn Tampa West Shore

Techniques, November 30–December 1, 2015, and Philip M. Stahl, PhD, ABPP, will present *Complex Issues in Family Law and Child Custody*, December 2–3, 2015. A discounted rate is available for those who register for both programs. [More information and online registration](#)

National Self-Represented Litigants Project Intake Report

NSRLP Staff, courtesy of the NSRLP Blog

Despite closing the formal SRL National Study in January 2013, we continue to hear every day from SRLs all over Canada (and occasionally from other countries—the NSRLP website had visitors from 91 different countries in 2014). Many of these SRLs are as eager to share the story of their experiences as our original study respondents. After months of exchanging emails with some of these SRLs, we eventually realized that we had a data collection opportunity. [Read more](#)

equality effect Update

Those who attended the AFCC 51st Annual Conference in Toronto, in 2014, will remember Fiona Sampson's moving Keynote Address on [the equality effect's](#) 160 Girls Project. Here is an update on the organization's work and the progress that has been made to improve the lives of women and girls in Kenya. [Read more](#)

Make the Most of Your AFCC Membership

Accessing and Using the Online Member Directory

One of the benefits of AFCC membership is access to the 5,000+ member directory. You can look up members in your area, maintain connections with colleagues, or refer clients to fellow AFCC members. This [how-to tutorial](#) will show you how to log in to the Member Center and use the member directory.

Member News

AFCC President, **Judge Peter Boshier**, Wellington, New Zealand, has been appointed Chief Ombudsman of New Zealand. The Office of the Ombudsman is an independent entity answerable to Parliament, and the Chief Ombudsman heads the office. The role is one of governmental oversight, ensuring integrity and ministerial accountability.

AFCC Board Member, **Judge Dianna Gould-Saltman**, Compton, California, was presented with the Outstanding Community Service Award earlier this month at the Stand for Justice | Stand for Kids Gala. Judge Gould-Saltman was appointed to the bench in 2010,

Tampa, Florida
[More information](#)

Colorado Chapter Annual Conference

October 9–11, 2015
Beaver Run Resort
Breckenridge, Colorado
[More Information](#)

Ontario Chapter Annual Conference

October 23, 2015
Toronto Reference Library, Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario
[More information](#)

Arizona Chapter Annual Conference

January 29–31, 2016
Hilton Sedona Resort
Sedona, Arizona
[More information](#)

California Chapter Annual Conference

February 19–21, 2016
InterContinental Mark Hopkins
San Francisco, California
[More information](#)

Join AFCC

Are you a member?
[Join](#) or [Renew](#)

AFCC offers member benefits that promote excellence in practice.
[View member benefits](#)

Ask the Experts

Is there a topic you would like to see covered by an AFCC Ask the Experts piece?
[Email your suggestion](#)

The opinions expressed in articles published or linked to in the *AFCC eNEWS* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the positions of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts.

and sat in family law in Pasadena for four years, working to reduce a family law backlog. In December of last year, her assignment was moved to Compton to open a second family law department, where she was instrumental in dramatically reducing the lead-time between filing and hearing.

Ruth Whitney, LICSW, Cambridge, Massachusetts, was presented with the Simmons School of Social Work Distinguished Lifetime Career Award for her work in building interdisciplinary approaches to help support divorcing families. Her leadership positions with the Massachusetts Chapter of AFCC were specifically mentioned in the citation.

Featured AFCC Pamphlet

AFCC pamphlets are made to be shared with your clients. *My Mom and Dad are Getting a Divorce!* was developed specifically for young children, ages 4 to 12. It also provides guidelines for parents and specific examples of how co-parents can cooperate. [Read the full contents of the pamphlet.](#) [Purchase pamphlets for your office or court.](#) Discounts available for quantities of 1,000 or more.

Family Law in the News

Start Preparing for Same-Sex Divorce

Lili A. Vasileff, courtesy of Time.com

Now that the US Supreme Court has legalized same-sex marriage, I've been happy to see the celebrations and joyous faces of couples who have longed to make their commitment a legal one. The legal landscape is leveled for married same-sex couples, and the longtime challenge of navigating different state laws is finally over. [Read more](#)

Domestic Violence Hotline Relies on NFL Help as Traffic Increases

Nancy Armour, courtesy of USA TODAY

At each end of the National Domestic Violence Hot Line's call center, brightly colored monitors give a quick summary of the calls on hold. It's not uncommon for that number to hit double-digits. Oftentimes, it's a handful or more. Very rarely is it zero. [Read more](#)

Readers are welcomed and encouraged to forward this e-newsletter to interested colleagues. [Learn more or subscribe.](#)

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Member Q & A

Tennille E. Newton, JD, Plassman, Rupp, Hagans, Newton & Bohmer, LLC, Archbold, Fulton County, Ohio, and current president of the Ohio Chapter of AFCC.



What does your work entail?

I practice primarily in the family law field. I am an attorney/guardian ad litem (GAL)/parenting coordinator (PC)/mediator in divorces, dissolutions, custody cases, delinquency cases, abuse, neglect, and dependency cases.

How long have you been in practice?

I obtained my license on November 7, 2005, and have been practicing in the family law area ever since.

What aspects of your work do you find most rewarding?

I enjoy being part of the solution. That is, I like to work with families and move them through an often bad experience into a positive space. I particularly enjoy working in the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) realms. As a GAL and PC, I make recommendations that may help children have a better life, through better interactions between parents and by reducing conflict for them. As a mediator and collaboratively trained lawyer, I enjoy working cooperatively to develop creative solutions that take into account the interests of the parties rather than what I may think is the best solution.

When did you first decide to specialize in family law?

I was a legal secretary for five years before I became a lawyer. I worked for lawyers who focused their practice in family law. It was natural that I would be drawn to a field with which I was familiar. I also was in private practice, so I began by taking a lot of court appointments in juvenile cases and as a GAL. I always thought my first calling was psychology, so I imagine that lends itself to working with people of differing backgrounds and needs.

What do you find most challenging about your work?

The individual personalities of the clients and parties. It can be exhausting dealing with emotional, high conflict, and challenging individuals. I try hard to find balance and not take it home with me to my family.

What do you find most challenging about the field more generally?

I feel that the practice of family law is caught between two worlds. There is the progressive ADR that understands domestic abuse issues and wants to reach a resolution that doesn't cause more harm to the family unit. Then there is the "old school" mentality—professionals who don't understand, or don't want to understand, domestic abuse issues and the benefits of the various ADR techniques; those who continue to litigate to the detriment of the client and the family.

What do you see changing in the field in the next five years?

I see the collaborative law process becoming more mainstream and well-known. Unfortunately, despite the fact that Ohio has a statute adopting collaborative law as a process, many attorneys don't understand it and fail to discuss it with their clients as a viable option to traditional forms of resolving cases.

What advice do you have for someone who is thinking about studying family law?

You need to examine yourself and your temperament. It takes a certain disposition to live these cases day-in and day-out and not burn out. You need to be a person who can find balance in work and play. We all want to help people, but at the end of the day you may not feel good about or even like some of the families you are working with. Ask questions, talk to lawyers who have done this work for years and years, and make sure you are realistic about your expectations. Having realistic expectations about what I can do for families helps my level of satisfaction.

How did you first hear about AFCC?

I first learned of AFCC from Judge Denise McColley and Magistrate Richard Altman. My first conference was on scholarship at the Regional Conference in Columbus in 2007. From there I went to AFCC in New Orleans (2008) and presented on cross-over cases in dependency and delinquency matters. I attended in Chicago (2012) and presented on the voice of the child. I then attended in Toronto and followed the PC track. Thereafter, I was fortunate to be invited to the table and we established our Ohio Chapter.

What was your first impression of AFCC?

It was completely different from the Continuing Legal Education (CLE) that I was used to. AFCC CLEs are cutting edge. I usually have so much useful information after an AFCC conference that I have a hard time finding time to review it all! I feel that the courses are often able to be utilized in a tangible way to improve my practice.

Tell us about your fondest AFCC memory.

My fondest memory is seeing Magistrate Altman inducted into the presidency in Toronto. He is a wonderful mentor and someone I truly look up to.

Tell us about some of the people you've met since being involved with AFCC.

I've been exposed to researchers, practitioners, and judges from all over. I would never have had the opportunity to speak with, present with, and learn from such individuals if not for my involvement with AFCC.

You mentioned earlier that you were involved in the formation of the Ohio Chapter of AFCC. Tell us about the process of getting the chapter started.

In 2013, 15 to 20 professionals with varying backgrounds came together for a roundtable discussion with the goal of creating an Ohio Chapter of AFCC. After meetings in person and by phone, momentum grew and by April of 2014, we had a very successful launch event. We were able to secure enough Ohio members after that event to obtain provisional status. We filed with the secretary of state in August of that year and worked toward our inaugural education program which was held in April of 2015 on same-sex parenting. Ohio AFCC gained full chartered status at the international conference in New Orleans under the leadership of Magistrate Serpil Ergun.

What is next for the chapter during your presidency?

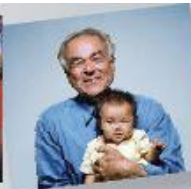
On April 6, 2016, we will be offering an education program presented by Dr. Frank Ezzo and Amy Armstrong on parental alienation and child custody. Our goal this year is to provide an excellent educational program and continue growing our membership. It is with the assistance of a fantastic executive board and board of directors that we have been able to accomplish so much in these first two years.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I enjoy spending time with my family, especially my 10 month old son, Zeno.

What is something that your colleagues might be surprised to know about you?

My husband and I are amateur genealogists. We love family history and exploring old records, looking through pictures, and trying to piece together the stories of our ancestors. We hope to travel to the homes of our ancestors to collect local information. We both have lines that go back to the colonization of America.



Top Ten Reasons to Support a CASA Volunteer Program

Doug Stephens, Executive Director, [The Ohio CASA/GAL Association](#)

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) are private citizens from all walks of life who are strictly screened and extensively trained to advocate for children involved in juvenile court proceedings as a result of being victims of abuse, neglect, or dependency. The volunteers research the child and family's circumstances, make recommendations to the court, advocate for the child, facilitate the offering of services, and monitor the progress of the child. They do not replace children's services caseworkers, nor do they provide legal services, but instead serve as an independent appointee of the court to advocate for the best interests of the child. Here are ten reasons to support a CASA volunteer program:

1. "To give a child a CASA is to give them a voice. To give them a voice is to give them hope, and to give them hope is to give them the world."
—a former foster child
2. Children with CASA volunteers spend less time in foster care. In at least one study, children without a CASA volunteer spent an average of over eight months longer in foster care compared to children with a CASA volunteer.¹
3. Children with CASA volunteers do better in school. Compared to other children involved in court as a result of abuse or neglect, children appointed CASA volunteers are more likely to pass all courses, less likely to be disruptive in class, and less likely to be expelled.²
4. Since its creation in 1977, in Seattle, by juvenile court Judge David Soukup, nearly 1,000 CASA programs have been established in 49 states with 77,000 volunteers serving a quarter of a million children every year.
5. In Ohio, 36 CASA programs exist serving 42 counties. Last year, 2,088 Ohio CASA volunteers served 7,698 children.
6. CASA volunteers see their children a minimum of once a month and average only three case assignments at a time.

¹ Cynthia A. Calkins, MS, and Murray Millar, PhD, "The Effectiveness of Court Appointed Special Advocates to Assist in Permanency Planning," *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, volume 16, number 1, February 1999.

² University of Houston and Child Advocates, Inc., *Making a Difference in the Lives of Abused and Neglected Children: Research on the Effectiveness of a Court Appointed Special Advocate Program*.

7. A paid CASA program staff person averages 30 volunteers. With each volunteer supervising three children, one paid staff serves up to 90 children.
8. Last year, in Ohio, CASA volunteers worked in excess of 55,334 hours and traveled over 287,362 miles, largely unreimbursed, serving their children.
9. In at least one study, children assigned a CASA volunteer were more likely to have a plan of permanency, especially children of color, and were substantially less likely to spend time in long-term foster care.³
10. Most CASA programs rely significantly on private donations and funding. In Ohio, 56% of funding for CASA programs comes from non-public sources.

The [Ohio CASA/GAL Association](#) is the state non-profit membership driven association that supports the work of local CASA programs throughout Ohio. We help local CASA programs with volunteer recruitment, training, funding, state leadership, quality assurance, and management assistance. Ohio CASA is a member in good standing of the National CASA Association. Our annual Celebrate Kids! State Conference will be held October 14-16, in Columbus, with over 300 attendees from all 88 counties.

[Read more: Evidence of the Effectiveness—Key Outcomes of the CASA/GAL Model](#)



Doug Stephens has been with Ohio CASA since April 2011. He has been affiliated with Ohio CASA since 1996 serving as a board member, treasurer, and the chair of the standards committee. Doug has spent over 33 years working within the Ohio court system, initially with Delaware County Juvenile Court, then with Licking County Probate/Juvenile Court and retiring from the Supreme Court of Ohio after 20 years on staff. With the Supreme Court he was a senior staff member serving as the Director of the Judicial & Court Services Division, which leads all support efforts for the nearly 400 Ohio courts and over 700 judges. Doug is a former member of the National Association for Court Management, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Ohio Association of Court Administrators, the Ohio Sexual Assault Task Force, and the Ohio Criminal Justice Information Services Advisory Board. He served on the magistrate search committee for the US District Court and is a past board president of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Doug is a graduate of The Ohio State University and a lifelong resident of central Ohio.

³ Abramson, S. (1991). Use of court-appointed advocates to assist in permanency planning for minority children. *Child Welfare*, 70, 477-487.



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In Memoriam: Kathryn Ferris Kuehnle, PhD

Leslie M. Drozd, PhD, Newport Beach, California



Kathryn Ferris Kuehnle, born in February 1946, died August 2015, at age 69 in Chicago, Illinois. She was the loving mother of two sons, John and Peter; grandmother of four, Christopher, Hannah, Quinn and Sophia; and sister to Kit. And we can't forget Feather, her very tiny dog, who was aptly named and who was by her side until near the end.

We in AFCC remember Kathy as a powerful leader in our professional community, as a mentor, and as a friend to many of us. Kathy's passion, intellect, and ferocious insistence that we bring rigor to protecting children have profoundly shaped us as professionals.

Kathy had moved from her home in Tampa, Florida, to spend the last year of her nearly 40-year fight with cancer with her family in Chicago. Few knew about her suffering. Those who did shared her more than nine lives with her. She had us all fooled many times as she fought back from death's doorstep. Kathy's determination and courage to live and work outsmarted even her physicians. In the end, Kathy's doctors literally gave up predicting when she would die. She was determined that her contributions and gifts to the profession survive her, working and publishing until almost the end of her life.

She needn't have worried. Kathy has had a profound influence on the way that professionals view allegations of child abuse. A passionate advocate of protecting children, she has consistently pressed for a professionally disciplined, systematic, scientifically based model of assessment that seeks to assess and mitigate *all* risks to children.

At one point in time, children who said they were abused were believed to be truthful because of the assumption that children do not lie about this. Then, between the 1960s and 1980s, a number of small sample studies were published that suggested that the majority of sexual abuse allegations were false and malicious. Kathy's writings and presentations helped shift the field away from a dichotomized assumption of a true or false allegation by insisting on the use of a systematic process to assess the best available evidence and to consider all factors of the case. Kathy's model has helped us improve our sensitivity and specificity about child sexual abuse allegations. Her work has protected children, who have been abused, from being missed and from children being mislabeled as

victims of sexual abuse without sufficient evidence. Inasmuch as the stakes of a false positive in either direction can be profound for a child and his or her family, the fact is that Kathy's legacy ultimately helps protect *all* children.

In 2005, AFCC awarded Kathy the John VanDuzer Distinguished Service Award for her profound contributions to the way that we understand and protect children. Since much of the profession has embraced her model and principles, it is easy to forget that at the time Kathy published her first book, the professional and political climate was very different. She embraced challenges to her work, which were at times ugly and personal, with the same courage that drove her battle for life. It is gratifying to many of us, and was also to her, that she lived to see the principles she advocated become an essential part of professional training. The gifts she has given to the profession, and ultimately to children, will long outlast her.

Kathy earned her PhD in Psychology from the University of Minnesota in 1982. She was an assistant professor at the Department of Mental Health Law and Policy at the University of South Florida. For the last 30 plus years of her life, she was in independent practice in Tampa, Florida.

Kathy's CV is staggering and exemplifies her scientist-practitioner model of mental health practice; though in independent practice, she maintained a publication schedule that would be impressive even for a research/academic professional. She was a prolific writer, a brilliant and cutting-edge thinker, and inspiring speaker. Kathy urged those of us working with families with allegations and cross-allegations to think in terms of multiple hypotheses as we collect data to support or disconfirm those hypotheses. Her model is taught in graduate schools.

Kathy wrote well over a hundred professional books, chapters, and articles. She was an internationally known presenter who trained both legal and mental health professionals on forensic assessment, child abuse, domestic violence, and assessment of child abuse allegations. A small sample:

- "Child Sexual Abuse in Parenting Plan Evaluations: Assessing Children's Memory and Behavior" with Pamela Ludolph and Sonja Brubacher in *Parenting Plan Evaluations: Applied Research for Family Court*, edited by Drozd, Saini, and Olesen (February 2016).
- "Assessing Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse in Child Custody Litigation: Children's Memory and Behavior in the Forensic Evaluation" with Leslie Drozd and Pam Ludolph in *L'enfant et le litige en matiere de garde: Regards psychologiques et juridiques*, edited by Poitras, Mignault, and Gouba (2014).
- "Child Sexual Abuse Evaluations" with Mary Connell in *Handbook of Psychology: Vol. 11 Forensic Psychology* (2nd ed.), edited by Weiner and Otto.
- *Parenting Plan Evaluations: Applied Research for the Family Court* with Leslie Drozd (2012).
- "Managing Children's Emotional and Clinical Needs" with Mary Connell in *Children's Testimony: A Handbook of Psychological Research and Forensic Practice*, edited by Lamb, Rooy, Katz, & Malloy (2011).
- *The Evaluation of Child Sexual Abuse Allegations: A Comprehensive Guide to Assessment and Testimony* with Mary Connell (2009).

- “Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse: When Those Who Want to Help Children End Up Hurting Them” with Mary Connell in the *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse* (2010).
- *In the Name of the Child: A Developmental Approach to Understanding and Helping Children of Conflicted and Violent Divorce* with Jan Johnston and Vivienne Roseby (2009).
- “Evaluating Child Sexual Abuse Allegations” with Steve Sparta in *Forensic Assessment of Children and Adolescents: Issues and Applications*, edited by Sparta and Koocher (2006).
- “Conducting Complex Custody Evaluations with Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse” with H.D. Kirkpatrick in the *Journal of Child Custody* (2005).
- “Incorporating the Principles of Scientifically Based Child Interviews into Family Law Cases” with Lyn Greenberg and Michael Gottlieb in the *Journal of Child Custody* (2004).
- *Assessing Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse* (1996). This is the book that catapulted Kathy to the top of the field.

Kathy served on ethics committees, working groups, and task forces locally and nationally. She helped write the *AFCC Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluation* (2006) and at the time of her death, she was on the AFCC task force working to create supplemental guidelines for assessing intimate partner violence in parenting plan evaluations.

I met Kathy through AFCC and we developed a very special friendship—one that I will cherish forever. We presented together, wrote many words together, laughed together, walked many miles together, traveled together, and sailed together. While I was gifted with moments in which Kathy challenged my thinking, I know I was not the only one who experienced this gift. Whereas my friend unhesitatingly voiced her disagreements with colleagues, she also listened to counter-arguments with an open mind. Many of us learned so much from her.

The last time we spoke, Kathy told me that she wanted to come to California to go sailing one more time. She didn’t make it in real time. She has, though, made it in spirit, every time I sail.

1. “160 Girls” Kenya Implementation Update
2. Defilement and Corroboration in Malawi
3. 2015 Interns’ Update
4. E² Annual Report
5. E² in the News, Awards & Endorsements



the equality effect update



1. Update on “160 Girls” Kenya

Since the release of the landmark “160 Girls” case in Kenya, we are seeing **improvements being made protecting girls from rape**, and perpetrators being held accountable for their violence. One *equality effect* rape shelter partner reports a “night and day” difference with respect to the police treatment of defilement claims since the “160 Girls” decision. Another reports that improved police treatment of defilement claims “is definitely making my job (getting justice for girls) easier.” While there is still certainly room for improvement, the progress being made is encouraging.

Securing justice for an individual girl is a success in each and every case. However the equality effect continues to work on securing justice and legal protection from violence for all 10,000,000 girls in Kenya through our partnerships with police, rape shelters and communities.

Agnes (featured here with her baby Innocence, conceived through the rape) was raped in Meru, Kenya. Agnes is pleased that the police acted quickly to investigate her defilement claim and arrest the perpetrator; the perpetrator is now being prosecuted.



“160 Girls” Police Training

The “160 Girls” Police Defilement Investigation training is in full swing, being rolled out in four pilot districts in Kenya (Meru, Kakamega, Nairobi and Mombasa). Our dedicated senior NPS (National Police Service) “160 Girls” Faculty are working tirelessly with the County Commanders in each of the pilot districts to ensure the smooth and effective delivery of the “160 Girls” training – the County Commanders personal endorsement of the training, an invaluable intangible, is significant. The training in the districts is being delivered by the local district “160 Girls” police instructors. The goal is to reach approximately 2400 police officers through the district training; approximately 10,000 officers will be trained through the Police Colleges. We look forward to sharing the results of the training evaluations once they are completed.

Five distinguishing features of the “160 Girls” Police defilement investigation training:

1. The “160 Girls” landmark High Court decision provides judicial guidance and authority for the training;
2. The training has been developed collaboratively by the Kenyan National Police Service, the equality effect, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, and members of the Vancouver Police working peer-to-peer;
3. The training is endorsed and supported by senior police who are taking leadership in its implementation;
4. The training is rolling out in pilot districts over a one-year period using a train-the-trainer model – it is not a one time, instructional session;
5. The training combines concrete police investigation skills with human rights law to ensure access to justice for defilement victims, as informed by the “160 Girls” High Court decision.



Anne Ireri, “160 Girls” National Co-ordinator and e² Counsel, leading part of the “160 Girls” Police training in Nairobi in March, 2015.

2. Defilement and the corroboration requirement in Malawi

This project aims to secure **increased access to justice** for rape victims in Malawi, by challenging a common law rule that presents an often insurmountable legal barrier for claimants seeking justice. The rule requires the evidence of rape victims to be corroborated by third party witnesses and/or medical evidence. Originating in UK case law, the rule is based on the premise that women and girls tend to make false allegations of sexual assault, and therefore their evidence must be treated with extra caution.

Despite significant challenges — including a lengthy judicial strike across Malawi in late 2014, followed by a devastating flood in January 2015 that led the Malawian government to declare half the country a disaster zone—the dedicated and persistent efforts of our Malawian research team have led to significant progress in **evidence collection** for this ambitious litigation project.

Our partners, **WLSA-Malawi** & the **Women and the Law Network of the University of Malawi**, have continued to compile compelling examples of the injustice caused by the corroboration rule. For example, our team recently met **Catherine** (**not her real name*), who at 14 years old was raped by a man who broke into her home while her mother was away. Catherine immediately reported the rape to police, who arrested the accused perpetrator. The accused admitted to having sex with Catherine, but claimed it was consensual. At trial, the court acquitted the accused on the basis that it was Catherine’s word against his and there was no one else to corroborate Catherine’s version of events. The court justified its reasoning by stating, “**Corroboration is always sought in sexual assault cases because of the great risk of false accusation.**”

Catherine’s story is but one of the many stories we have compiled, highlighting the extent of the blatantly discriminatory legal treatment faced by rape victims. “160 Girls Malawi” aims to set a **historic human rights legal precedent** that will prevent this type of miscarriage of justice.

We look forward to continuing the work with our dedicated, cross-jurisdictional team, and to making legal history in Malawi!

[Click here](#) for more information about "160 Girls" Malawi.

Sasha Hart, e² Legal Counsel, interviews the father of a 15 year old rape victim in Blantyre, Malawi.



3. Equality effect 2015 Law School Interns

(Right: Maria Rodriguez, McGill University Law School, and Madison Hass, University of Toronto Law School, equality effect 2015 interns, with the Court Clerk at Githongo Law Court, Meru.)



We have worked with Ripples International on behalf of the equality effect this summer, and it has been the experience of a lifetime! Thanks to the “160 Girls” decision, great strides have been made for rape victims, and we have been lucky enough to see first-hand this pivotal transition period in Kenya’s legal system. There has been a profound change in police treatment and court proceedings as a result of “160 Girls” and the police training that has followed the decision. This change has been noticeable through the case files we have been analyzing, and our experiences out in the field. From visiting police stations to attending court, police officers and court staff have been accommodating and willing to assist us with our work in seeking justice for defilement victims. Securing access to justice for girls has become easier, but as Ripples staff agree, there is still room for improvement. We are very grateful for the opportunity to have participated in the ground breaking work being done on the “160 Girls” project – asante sana!

4. Equality Effect Annual Report

Please check out the equality effect's 2013-14 Annual Report; [click here to view the report](#).

5. The equality effect "in the news" and awards

The equality effect and our e² CEO are proud to have received the following awards since the last e² update:

- Lewis Perinbaum International Development Award
- YWCA Women of Distinction Award
- JusticeNet Access to Justice Award of Excellence



The following is some of the recent media coverage relating to *the equality effect's* work:

- CBC T.V. equality effect YWCA award coverage
 - "Join Up Dots" Podcast with David Ralph
-

Asante sana, zikomo kwambiri, meda ase ("thank you")

the equality effect's huge team of volunteers that supports our human rights work. Every year the legal volunteers alone donate over \$1.5 million of invaluable pro bono hours to *the equality effect*. Special thanks at this time to the members of *the equality effect* team who volunteer behind the scenes to make *the*

Thanks to our sponsors, funders, and partners!

**KOSKIE
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BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

equality effect's human rights work possible: Kathryn Beck, Jessica Bolla, Cynthia Vukets, Samantha Chang, Allison Lowenger, Brianna Guenther, Katie Degendorfer, Lara Wharton, Emma White, Joshua Lam, Tara MacDougall, Adriana Morrison, Richa Sandill, Gita Keshava, Elba Bendo, Carolin Jumaa, Liddy Teed, Kenya-Jade Pinto, Daksha Rangan, Allison Greene, Nastassia Michael, Jayne Olm-Shipman, Kate Portner Gartke, Carla Marshall, Naveeda Hussain, and Heather Mills.

Many thanks also to *the equality effect's* generous funders, partners and donors, without whom the critical human rights work of *the equality effect* would not be possible. Fundraising to support the above work continues; your contributions are always appreciated and you can donate online at our web site. [donate online at our web site.](#)

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