



Improving the lives of children and families
through the resolution of family conflict



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President's Message

Hon. Dianna Gould-Saltman

Fall is now fully underway. The summer offered an opportunity for AFCC to engage with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in Denver. Cowboy/girl hats were worn, and not just by me, but by my follow bench officer, Judge Dan Michael, one of the keynote speakers from AFCC's conference in

ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONCILIATION COURTS
AFCC

13th Symposium on Child Custody



Guidelines and Standards
and Rules, Oh My!

Denver, Colorado
Embassy Suites By Hilton
November 8-10, 2018

AFCC 13th Symposium on Child Custody

*Guidelines and Standards and
Rules, Oh My!*
November 8-10, 2018

Washington, DC! AFCC and NCJFJC have many common goals and there is some wonderful membership cross-over.

[Read More](#)

13th Symposium on Child Custody

Guidelines and Standards and Rules, Oh My!
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Embassy Suites by Hilton Denver Downtown Hotel
Denver, Colorado

Haven't registered for the 13th Symposium? Hurry, registration is almost SOLD OUT.

Check out the symposium [program brochure, available online](#) and register today. There are over 40 sessions, featuring an exciting array of topics for psychologists, judges, mental health professionals, lawyers, mediators, counselors, social workers, and others who work with separating and divorcing families.

[Register today!](#)

Book Your Hotel Room

Rooms are available at the overflow hotel, the Hampton Inn & Suites Denver Downtown Hotel, just .7 miles from the conference. [Reserve your room online](#) or call 303-864-8000. The Embassy Suites by Hilton Denver Downtown Hotel is currently sold out. For updated information on room blocks, [click here](#).

Ask the Experts Ten Steps to Becoming A Trauma-Responsive Court

Judge Dan Michael

Dan Michael, a Juvenile Court Judge in Tennessee who serves on the Board of Directors of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, speaks from his extensive experience when he details Ten Steps to Becoming a Trauma-Responsive Court.

[Read More](#)

Embassy Suites by Hilton
Denver Downtown Hotel
Denver, Colorado

AFCC Chapter Conferences

[Illinois Chapter Annual Conference](#)
October 19, 2018
BeerMann Pritikin Mirabelli Swerdlove, LLP
Chicago, Illinois

[Ontario Chapter Annual Conference](#)
October 19, 2018
The Toronto Reference Library
Toronto, Ontario

[New York Chapter Annual Conference](#)
November 18, 2018
University at Buffalo School of Law
Buffalo, New York

[Arizona Chapter Annual Conference](#)
January 25-27, 2019
Sedona, Arizona

[California Chapter Annual Conference](#)
February 22-24, 2019
Westin South Coast Plaza
Costa Mesa, California

[Texas Chapter Annual Conference](#)
March 29-30, 2019
Hyatt Place
The Woodlands, Texas

[Australia Chapter Annual Conference](#)
August 15-17, 2019
International Convention Centre ICC Sydney
Sydney, Australia

December Training Programs

Registration is open for the December trainings, sponsored by AFCC and the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Parenting Coordination: Essential Tools for Conflict Resolution

Mindy F. Mitnick, EdM, MA
December 3-4, 2018

Advanced Issues in High Conflict Child Custody Cases

Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP
December 5-6, 2018

[View the brochure](#)

[Register today](#)

AFCC Annual Appeal and Scholarship Fund

AFCC members will be receiving a letter in the mail soon for this year's Annual Appeal to support the AFCC Scholarship Fund. Please consider helping your colleagues attend AFCC conferences by making a generous donation. AFCC scholarship recipients increase our diversity by bringing professionals from different backgrounds, representing the many disciplines encompassed by who we are as an organization. Will you contribute to allow a hard-working professional attend an AFCC conference?

[Donate Today](#)

Family Court Review: Family Law Writing Competition

Hofstra Law School and AFCC are sponsoring the tenth annual Family Law Writing Competition. The competition is run in cooperation with the editorial staff of the *Family Court Review*. We strongly encourage law students to participate in this competition and hope family law professors urge their students to submit articles. If you have questions, please contact the [Managing Editor](#) of the *Family Court Review*.

[Read More](#)

AFCC 56th Annual Conference Sponsorship, Advertising, Exhibit

The Future of Family Justice: International Innovations
May 29-June 1, 2019
Westin Harbour Castle

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Whether your marketing budget is \$500 or \$25,000, there is a sponsorship level for you! More than 1,100 participants are expected to attend. Conference presenters include leaders in the field, authors, and researchers who conduct landmark studies, leading policymakers, trainers, and program directors, who are responsible for selecting programs and products for agencies, firms, and courts. For more information, please contact AFCC Program Coordinator, [Corinne Bennett](#). For information on conference sponsorships, exhibit space, or advertising, [click here](#).



AFCC Webinar Corner

Complexities of Culture in Divorce and Separation

Dr. Gitu Bhatia

November 15, 2018, 1:00-2:00pm Eastern time USA

[Registration](#) opens October 18.

There is still time to register for:

Unbundling Legal Services

Woody Moosten

October 24, 2018

[Registration](#) closes October 22, 2018 at 11:59pm Eastern time, USA

AFCC members may access the recording for free, along with all other previous webinars through the [Member Center](#) of the AFCC website. Not a member? Click here to [join today!](#)

Where in the World is AFCC?

#AFCCHats #whereintheworldisAFCC?



AFCC Ontario Board in Toronto, Ontario, Canada



Megan Hunter and husband floating in the Dead Sea in Israel.



Peter Boshier in Wellington, New Zealand

#AFCCHats are everywhere! Follow along on [Facebook](#) to see the submissions. Want to join in? Show your AFCC pride by taking a picture with your AFCC hat in your hometown, while your out on vacation, or at work. Email the photo with the location to [Corinne Bennett](#) and we will feature it on the [AFCC Facebook page](#). To sweeten the deal, an award for the best picture will be presented at the annual conference in Toronto!

Resolution Systems Institute's Guide to Court ADR Program Success

Resolution Systems Institute (RSI) is rolling out a new book on court alternative dispute resolution (ADR) programs. It is a step-by-step guide to designing, managing, improving or evaluating court ADR program. You can use this guide for any form of court ADR or at any stage, if you need assistance developing a program, and more.

[More Information](#)

Call for Input on the Scientific Literature for High Conflict Family Relationships with Child Involvement

The American Psychological Association Working Group to Review Scientific Literature for High Conflict Family Relationships with Child Involvement welcomes your submissions and input. The Working Group will review the scientific literature on families experiencing high-conflict family relationships and custody issues

[More Information](#)

[Submit Material](#)

Member News

Joan H. McWilliams, has recently published a new book: *A Parent's Guide to Understanding the Effects of Conflict and Divorce- Protecting Your Children from Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)*. If you would like to purchase this book, please [click here](#).

Chapter News



Meet Daniel Ashbourne, President of the Ontario Chapter

AFCC eNEWS

The AFCC eNEWS is the monthly e-newsletter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. The eNEWS provides up-to-date information for professionals including practice tips, case law and research updates, international news and the latest initiatives in family law and conflict resolution. The AFCC eNEWS is free and you do not need to be a member of AFCC to subscribe. [Subscribe here](#). AFCC members are free to share eNEWS content.

EDITOR:
[Leslye Hunter](#)

ASSOCIATE EDITOR:
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President's Message

*Hon. Dianna Gould-Saltman
Los Angeles, California*

Fall is now fully underway. The summer offered an opportunity for AFCC to engage with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in Denver. Cowboy/girl hats were worn, and not just by me, but by my follow bench officer, Judge Dan Michael, one of the keynote speakers from AFCC's conference in Washington, DC! AFCC and NCJFJC have many common goals and there is some wonderful membership cross-over.

Our own Australian chapter had a smashing conference in August with tremendous attendance and great feedback. Australia is experiencing some major shake-ups in its family court system and AFCC Australia puts context to that because of its engaged and multidisciplinary membership.

In September, I had the pleasure of visiting the Maryland chapter and participating in a day long program addressing the impact on children of coercive control in domestic violence cases. This month I am visiting the Ontario Chapter for its 10th anniversary! How time flies. November will see our 13th Symposium on Child Custody in Denver (the cowgirl hats may need to make a second appearance). Professor Stacey Platt and I will be representing AFCC on the Uniform Law Commission Joint Editorial Board at its meeting in Washington, D.C. in November as well.

But enough about me. Let's talk about you. Did you complete the AFCC member survey we sent last month? I hope so. We always want AFCC to reflect the goals of its membership and we want to make sure you have an opportunity to express your goals to us. We know those can change over time. Thanks to all of those who took the time to let us know how we're doing so that we can continue to provide meaningful professional tools for you.

One of the tools I hope AFCC provides is the opportunity to learn and practice the skills, not only to help you excel at your chosen profession, but to do so with kindness and compassion that shows that you can do your job well, even extraordinarily, without sacrificing decency. Being a judge who does nothing but “punish” would be a very hard job that would quickly lead to burn-out. Being a family law lawyer who either bullies the other side into settling or takes a scorched earth policy in litigation would be a job with very little satisfaction at the end of the day. Being an evaluator who scolds parents rather than directs them to more child-focused behaviors would just be exhausting. And being a judge, a lawyer, or a mental health professional who perceives the other disciplines as “getting in the way of me doing my job” would just make you old and bitter at the end of your career.

So don't. The best prepared professionals are confident in the quality of their work so that they can see resolution that doesn't require a “winner” and a “loser.” Especially when there are children involved, these are relationships which, for the most part, will continue in some fashion long after our professional contact with the parties' ceases. As professionals, we will continue to deal with each other long after the parties with whom we work don't remember our names. We can practice our craft in a way that allows everyone to feel they've been heard and that their concerns have been acknowledged. Will we continue to encounter other professionals who continue to take that stance that there must be a winner or loser in every encounter? Of course. We then have the choice of being sucked into the vortex of their chaos or subtly influencing them with a brand of compassionate professional competence that AFCC helps to nurture in its members. Since you're reading this I'm pretty sure I know which side you're on.



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Ask the Experts: Ten Steps to Becoming A Trauma-Responsive Court

Judge Dan Michael

1) TRAIN FIRST

Trauma training for ALL court team members and continued updates for especially for staffers working in counseling and detention positions. Your team must be able to identify signs childhood trauma as soon as possible.

2) MAINTAIN OPEN DIALOG

Regular discussions between team members especially scheduled sessions to discuss successes; keeping in mind discussions about failures are equally important. I call this a train trainer follow-up

3) PROMOTE HANDS-ON EFFORTS

Create opportunities for implementation of policies and procedures to address and treat symptoms of trauma when they appear.

4) RECRUIT ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Build partnerships with outside trauma-informed agencies who will take the responsibility of carrying out the orders of the court while providing needed interventions and services

5) REVISIT PAST VICTORIES

Create the atmosphere for team members to institute follow-up procedures, documenting the contact with the child & family members and its results.

6) RECOGNIZE THE STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Develop support groups for families assisting and encouraging positive outcomes based on the data gleaned from testing and retesting clients; this fine tunes your

system for tracking vital metrics which help to develop services targeting specific groups of trauma-affected youth.

7) SEEK THE APPROPRIATE TOOLS

Utilize all approved trauma assessment tools until team members narrow their use based on the effectiveness over time invested formula.

8) MAKE DATA MAINTENANCE A PRIORITY

Put in place specialized team members focused on preserving the most accurate data possible collected from trauma assessments; giving the data specialists the freedom to add or remove categories based on the specific goals for those being assessed. (Always keep standard testing categories in place... shock, denial, or disbelief, confusion, difficulty concentrating, anger, irritability, mood swings, anxiety and fear, guilt, shame, self-blame, withdrawing from others feeling sad or hopeless, feeling disconnected or numb)

9) ALWAYS REMEMBER THEY ARE CHILDREN

Remember the main purpose for the Juvenile Court is rehabilitation which by proper design should treat and correct the behavior that brought the child to the Court initially. All team members must buy into rehabilitation; first realizing the detainment protocols are in place for safety and organized structure; not punishment.

10) SUPPORT THE TRAUMA HEALTH OF TEAM MEMBERS

Invest in every opportunity to address the trauma incurred by team members who have the day-to-day responsibilities of caring for the children and families who become court involved but; rarely take the appropriate amount of time needed to care for their own issues that may result from simply doing their job.

Dan Michael is the Judge of the Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee and a lifelong public servant. He was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in 2016 and elected Treasurer of that body this summer. Prior to being elected Juvenile Court Judge by the citizens of Shelby County, he served as Executive Director of CASA; Chief Counsel to Judge Kenneth Turner; Magistrate Pro Temp; Juvenile Court Referee; Chief Magistrate and Special Judge. Judge Michael believes a comprehensive understanding of brain development in children is essential for juvenile justice reforms to meet the demands of 21st Century.



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Meet Daniel Ashbourne, President of the Ontario Chapter

Dr. Ashbourne is a Registered Clinical Psychologist in the province of Ontario, and currently Executive Director at The London Family Court Clinic (L.F.C.C.), in London, Ontario. L.F.C.C. is specifically designed to work with children and their families involved with legal/clinical systems. Dr. Ashbourne provides assessments, consultations and training on family and criminal matters. He is a consultant to the ADR-LINK referral service, is assisting in the development of a Child and Youth Advocacy (CYAC) initiative for London-Middlesex, and is part of the FASD Community of Practice/Research network in London.