



# NEWSLETTER

## Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

An international association of judges, counselors, court evaluators, mediators, and lawyers

Volume 3, Number 3  
October 1984

Co-Editors, Stanley N. Cohen  
Liz Hoffman

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For two decades the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts has represented international leadership in the advocacy of constructive resolution of family conflict as a complement to the judicial process. The educational, research, technical assistance and standard setting efforts of the organization have done much to influence the development of laws, practice and procedures for the prevention of family breakdown and preservation of family relationships following divorce.

AFCC activities have aggressively addressed the most critical issues confronting families, courts and allied professionals in the development of solutions to problems associated with family dysfunction and divorce.

In the emerging area of mediation, a two year collaborative effort under our auspices recently culminated in the development of Model Standards for the Practice of Family and Divorce Mediation. A federal research grant supported a three year AFCC study of court based mediation programs, and preliminary findings of that project have already served as the wellspring for enabling legislation in a number of states. Additionally, the Association

has responded to requests for technical assistance from court systems where mediation programs are being established. During the past year consultation services and educational seminars have been presented in Michigan, North Carolina, New Mexico, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Alabama and Toronto, Canada.

Problems associated with child support appear to be of major concern, and have significant personal, family and societal ramifications. AFCC interest in this area has led to the recent award of two federal grants to the Association for funding of research projects. One project will examine the relationship between various child custody arrangements and levels of child support obligations- including compliance patterns. The second project will evaluate the impact of resolving child support disputes through mediation on both the amount and payment of the obligations. In addition, an AFCC Committee will be appointed to conduct a comprehensive review of child support issues and recommend development of organizational approaches to improve current practice and procedures.

The Association needs to move forward in a number of areas in the upcoming year. Of primary concern are

development of model standards and guidelines for custody evaluators, national distribution and implementation of the standards for mediation practice, and enhancement of educational resources and programs pertaining to the prevention of family breakdown. Perhaps the most important and wide ranging undertaking is the expansion of technical assistance efforts and resources to more effectively respond to the needs of courts where no adjunct services exist, or where the structuring of services is being newly considered. The expansion of such services would involve the development of new handbooks, brochures and video tapes as well as standardized educational programs.

Our ability to undertake and complete these tasks will depend not only on active membership and strong committee structure, but also on the requirement of increased and unprecedented fundraising efforts.

We thank all of you who have given of yourselves in the past and invite your continued participation through membership dollars and committee involvement. New members are encouraged to participate on a committee of their choice. Your support will enable us to sponsor the kinds of pro-

Message . . . Continued

fessional activities required to achieve our important goals.

I urge each of you to attend the Midwinter Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. The strength of AFCC lies in the interdisciplinary nature of its membership. Our conferences provide not only an excellent educational experience but also a rare opportunity for stimulating interaction with colleagues in allied professions.

I look forward to seeing each of you in Scottsdale.

Anthony J. "Tim" Salius  
President

## MEMBERSHIP

The Association has welcomed over 200 new members this year with some 1000 members now belonging to AFCC. We are pleased to see our organization grow and benefit from the talents and ideas of our members.

AFCC always has been unique in the interdisciplinary nature of its membership. Coming from different backgrounds and professional disciplines, our members look at the issues and problems of family counseling, mediation and divorce from a broad perspective. They offer insights and strategies to the helping and legal professions at large that are inclusive rather than exclusive, and have helped meld the respected reputation the Association enjoys.

However, dedicated professionalism is not the only aspect of an Association. Financial solvency is a catapult to meet Association

goals for the future. As you all know, grant money is no longer easily come by. Organizations need to be self supporting and have a posture of stability and solvency when they do apply for monies. Thank you to all members who have paid their current dues. To those 260 of you who have not, please remember the financial responsibility of professionalism.

Enclosed in this newsletter you will find an Association membership application. Please give it to a colleague and encourage her or him to join. As stated on the application, if joining after July 1st, membership is half price for 1984. New members will receive the forthcoming Conciliation Courts Review in December as well as a "new members packet" four to six weeks after joining.

We look forward to welcoming new members into the Association. They will bring new ideas and perspectives to us as well as benefit from the experience, dedication, professionalism, and friendliness that already abound in AFCC.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

On behalf of Liz Hoffman and myself, please accept our appreciation for your patience during this transition year. We believe we are now able to handle your requests with more prompt dispatch than in previous months. While there are "slip ups" and "glitches", the processing of AFCC business seems to be smoother now.

As Liz and I prepare this newsletter, we both agree that news from the membership is welcomed and heeded. We publish the newsletter in January, July and October. Please send us information about your work so we can share it with other AFCC members.

One other item. We are looking to find a name for the newsletter that appropriately describes our Association focus. Please send us any ideas you might have. Our address is AFCC, OHSU Dept. of Psychiatry, Gaines Hall- Room 149, Portland, OR 97201 (503) 220-5651.

## CONFERENCES

### Scottsdale, 1984

By now you should have received the brochure describing the Midwinter Conference meeting to be held December 6-8, 1984. The Conference theme is "Legal and Therapeutic Support of the Restructured Family" and Conference Coordinator Phil Bushard and his staff have put together what looks like an outstanding program in sunny Scottsdale, Arizona. We look forward to seeing you all. For additional information on the Conference, contact Phil Bushard in care of the Conciliation Court of Maricopa County, 201 W. Jefferson Street, Phoenix, AZ 85003 (602) 262-3296.

### Vancouver, 1985

May 23-25 is the date for our 23rd Annual meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia. The theme of the Conference is "A Mosaic of Families- The Challenge of Multiculturalism in the

Courts". The program, along with the hospitality of the Vancouver community, promises an exciting time. For additional information, please contact Chairperson Don Moir, P.O. Box 10051, Vancouver, British Columbia V7Y 1B6, Canada (604) 687-0038.

#### Post-Vancouver Conference

Additionally, AFCC is co-sponsoring a conference with the New Zealand Family Courts Association in Auckland, Rotorua and Queenstown, New Zealand to follow the Vancouver Conference. The purpose of the conference in New Zealand is to acquaint members with another court system and develop an awareness of how family law and dispute resolution is dealt with in a legal setting with a similar basic background but different history from that of the United States and Canada. For more information, contact International Committee Chairperson Lenore Levit in care of Suite 1901 Daley Center, Chicago, IL 60602 (312) 443-7914.

#### San Diego, 1985

The 1985 Midwinter meeting is to be held in San Diego. Philadelphia is the site for our 1986 May Conference. Program planning is under way and more information will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

#### **CONDOLENCES**

We regret to report that Judge Raymond Watson and his wife Pearl were involved in a tragic event resulting from a deliberate bombing of

their residence in July of this year. Mrs. Watson died from the attack, and Judge Watson was severely injured. He is now on the road to recovery. Our condolences are extended to Judge Watson and his family. For those of you who wish to contact Judge Watson, his mailing address is Judge Raymond Watson, Family Court Judge, P.O. Box 9991, Parramatta NSW, 2150 Australia

#### **COMMITTEE NEWS**

##### Mediation Committee

The Model Standards of Practice for Family and Divorce Mediation were completed during the third symposium on the topic convened by the Mediation Committee of AFCC, May, 1984. The Committee is now working with the 30 other participating organizations to assist in the distribution and adoption or endorsement of the Standards. The Standards will be published in the December, 1984 issue of the Conciliation Courts Review and it is anticipated that a pamphlet will be available in the near future. Congratulations to Ann Milne for a job well done.

Further information regarding distribution and implementation of the Standards may be obtained by contacting the National Office of AFCC, OHSU Department of Psychiatry, Gaines Hall- Rm. 149, Portland, Oregon 97201.

##### Academic Committee

As a continuing activity, the Academic Committee initiated (in cooperation with the

American Association of Law Schools section on Alternative Dispute Resolution) a survey of academicians in higher education- notably in graduate programs of law, psychology, sociology, social work, counseling and therapy, communications and human development- to document the existence of courses and programs relevant to the education of both public and private sector family mediators. The Committee is gathering the recommendations of academicians regarding the essential elements in the professional education of private and public sector family mediation providers. In addition, the Committee is compiling the names of persons and programs in higher education to facilitate a network among academicians, and a network between court service personnel and higher education.

The Academic Committee's proposed activities include the compilation of names of Universities and professors whose programs or individual interests compliment AFCC purposes and goals; commencement of a survey research study to ascertain how higher education can serve the preservice and in-service needs of court personnel and articulation of an AFCC conference presentation to highlight the special and unique components of the professional education of legal, behavioral and social science professionals.

Inquiries, suggestions and assistance are all welcome and should be sent to Dr. Elizabeth Koopman, University of Maryland, College of Education, College Park, Maryland 20742 (301) 454-2036.

## AFCC MEMBERS APPOINTED TO NATIONAL FAMILY MEDIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

W. Patrick Phear and five other Association members: Thomas Bishop, James Boskey, Dudley Flanders, Jay Folberg and Ann Milne have been appointed to a nine member National Family Mediation Advisory Committee of the American Arbitration Association.

The Advisory Committee reaffirms AAA's commitment to family mediation and training of professional mediators. The committee will oversee the related activities of the AAA's Department of Education and Training, recommending workshops and seminars and reviewing curriculum.

The Chairperson of the Committee is W. Patrick Phear, Executive Director of the Children's Judicial Resource Council, Inc. and Director of Family Mediation Associates, both of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Other members are Mona Miller, Peter Ryan and Gary A. Weissman.

## A NEW JOURNAL

The premier issue of the Ohio State Journal on Alternative Dispute Resolution will be published in the Spring of 1985 and is welcoming all interested contributors for either this first issue (manuscript deadline: October 31, 1984) or for future issues.

In exploring the evolution of the many methods of alternative dispute resolution in the legal area, the Journal's scope will be broad-ranging. It is hoped this publication will serve as an exchange between

scholars, developing or commenting upon theoretical models of conflict resolution and practitioners, who will be integrally involved in implementing these models.

For more information, contact: Deborah A. Hammitt, Executive Editor, The Ohio State Journal on Alternative Dispute Resolution, The Ohio State University, College of Law, 1659 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43210.

## REQUESTS FOR MEDIATION TRAINING

The Association receives numerous requests for information on mediation training. Some requests are from court services while others are from individuals seeking mediation training and certification. The Association recognizes the needs of both groups.

AFCC provides training to court services and will provide technical assistance to courts in the process of developing and/or reorganizing their conciliation unit. In the past we have asked members of the Association interested in providing such training to send their curriculum vitae to the National Office for our records. We still welcome the CV's of those interested. In addition, as mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, the Academic Committee of AFCC is conducting a survey of academicians in higher education to document the existence of courses and programs relevant to the education of both public and private sector family mediators as well as facilitate a networks among academicians and between court service

personnel and higher education.

With regard to individual inquiries for mediation training, there are Association members who offer Mediation Workshops - often in different parts of the country.

The following persons or groups can be contacted for more information about their mediation institutes:

Mediation Training Institute  
(John Haynes, Virginia Stafford and Stephen Erickson),  
4139 Rosalie St., Suite 100, Winston-Salem, NC 27104

Mediation and Counseling Specialities (Taylor and Taylor), Country Square Building, Lake Oswego, OR 97034 (503) 293-3440 (Ans. Serv.)

The New Family Center  
(Isolina Ricci), 210 California Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306 (415) 328-3218

The Academy of Family Mediators (Ray Fowler), P.O. Box 246, Claremont, CA 91711 (714) 621-1234

If there are other members of the Association who also offer mediation training, please send us one of your brochures for our files.

## THE PRINTED WORD

### Pamphlets

"Parents Are Forever, An Important Message to Step Parents, Twenty Questions Divorcing Parents Ask About Their Children and Joint Custody- A New Way of Being Related" continue to be very popular AFCC publications.

We receive numerous requests for these pamphlets on a daily basis as well as inquiries on their availability and price. We know from your feedback that the pamphlets are very well received by clients.

Our pamphlets are priced at 20 cents apiece and may be ordered in any quantity desired. If an order is placed for 1000 pamphlets or more, the price of each individual pamphlet is reduced to 15 cents.

Orders may be billed or prepaid. If you prepay your order, AFCC will absorb shipping and handling costs. If you prefer to be billed, we must charge shipping and handling expenses based upon order weight and book rate postage schedules. Since we receive so many pamphlet orders and they are time consuming to fill, we have designated one day a week as our "pamphlet day" when we process orders. Please allow two to three weeks for the processing of your order.

You will notice a new look to "Parents Are Forever". When we ran out of our existing supply of pamphlets and had more printed, we also redesigned the format for a new look. The content has remained the same. Look forward to seeing the new look on all our pamphlets as well as an addition to our family of informational and educational materials—a mediation pamphlet scheduled to be available mid December, 1984.

## BOOKS OF INTEREST

### Joint Custody and Shared Parenting.

Edited by Jay Folberg, past President of AFCC and Professor of Law at Lewis and Clark College, this book provides the reader with a compilation of writings that cut across the disciplines of law, social work and psychology and presents a balanced debate on a difficult and sometimes volatile issue. Jay Folberg has brought together theoretical and research writings to present a spectrum of views, analyses and information on the subject of joint custody. The book's interdisciplinary approach enables judges, lawyers, social workers and family therapists to benefit from its material—providing insight into the issues of joint custody and assistance to the clients they serve.

Royalty proceeds have been donated by Jay Folberg to the Association. Joint Custody and Shared Parenting is available for \$25.00 through the Bureau of National Affairs, Distribution and Customer Service Center, 9435 Key West Ave., Rockville, MD 20850-3397.

### Mediation: A Comprehensive Guide To Resolving Conflict Without Litigation

A compilation of current information relative to the theory and practice of mediation as used to resolve disputes. Family and divorce mediation is covered comprehensively in this volume by Jay Folberg and Allison Taylor. The book is available through the publisher—Jossey Bass, Inc.,

433 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94104 (415) 433-1740.

Brochures for the following books have been sent to our office. Although we have not reviewed these books, they appear to be of interest and a brief description is offered for your information.

### The Changing Family

Stratmar Educational Systems announces the publication of The Changing Family-- Series I of a program for professionals working with children of divorce. The program was written by Paul J. Ciborowski, Ph.D., who has conducted many state and regional workshops with professionals on this topic. The Changing Family is a "structured relevant primer that guides the professional in working with middle, junior high and high school youngsters (ages 12-18) and is designed to aid teachers, school counselors, social workers, psychologists and mental health personnel" according to Dr. Ciborowski. The program details a series of plans for 12 group sessions. Each session focuses on a particular topic, such as listening skills, common feelings about divorce, what marriage is about and stepfamily living.

For more information, contact: Syd Ashe, Stratmar Systems, Inc., 109 Willet Avenue, Port Chester, NY 10573-4287 (914) 937-7171.

**Books ... Continued**Crazy Time - Surviving Divorce

Following her own emotional journey after her twelve year marriage dissolved in divorce, award-winning journalist Abigail Trafford went on a cross-country journey, interviewing hundreds of divorced men and women. What she discovered was that almost everyone goes through some version of what she has termed "crazy time", and in a series of critical, emotional passages she documents how each person has the opportunity to survive and go on to build a new and richer life. Crazy Time is available for \$3.95 plus \$1.25 shipping and handling through Bantam Books, 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103; Attn: R. Stephen Mudgett.

**VIDEO TAPES**Custody Resolution Counseling

Designed for training counselors in mediation techniques for family disputes concerning child custody and visitation. 3/4" video tape cassette, 45 minutes. Rental - \$40/5 days. \$150. purchase.

A Family Affair

Designed to inform judges and other professionals of the legal remedies and implications regarding domestic abuse. A Family Affair is AFCC's production, under a \$100,000 LEAA grant. It was the Gold Medal winner in its category in the fall New York International Film and Television

Festival. It also was a winner in the Motion Pictures Seminar of the Northwest. Available in 16mm film or 3/4" video tape cassette through VISUCOM Productions, Inc., P.O. 5472, 1255 Veterans Blvd., Red Wood City, CA 94063. Rental- \$60/3 days, \$450. purchase.

Your're Still Mom and Dad

A sensitive portrayal of the issues of joint custody. Designed for parents and others who wish to understand and implement this post-divorce parenting plan. 38 minutes, color, 3/4" video tape cassette. Rental - \$40/5 days, \$95. purchase.

**OTHER PUBLICATIONS**Guidelines For Establishing A Court Connected Counseling Service

A manual written for courts and individuals with helpful information regarding how to establish a court connected counseling service.

My Mom and Dad Are Getting A Divorce

Written by Florence Bienenfeld, an AFCC member and Conciliation Court counselor in Los Angeles, this colorfully illustrated book appeals to children whose parents are going through divorce and assists parents in understanding their children's feelings. Available for \$3.95 plus \$1.25 postage and handling from Changing Times Education Service, Division of EMC Publishing, 180 E. 6th Street, St. Paul, MN 55101 (800) 328-1452.

Parents Are Forever

Internationally acclaimed pamphlet used by conciliation court staff, family courts, lawyers, counselors and mediators to assist families in the divorce process. Pamphlet addresses custody and visitation issues and assists parents in using the divorce experience as an opportunity for growth.

An Important Message to Step Parents

This pamphlet provides guidelines that will assist the blended family in working together.

Twenty Questions Divorcing Parents Ask About Their Children

This pamphlet answers 20 of the most commonly asked questions about how to help children adjust to divorce, such as "How can parents prepare children for divorce?" and "What kinds of things are especially damaging to children?"

Joint Custody - A New Way of Being Related

This pamphlet provides guidelines for parents considering joint custody of their children and suggestions for what to include in a joint custody agreement.



# Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

## Introduction

You are invited

- to join an international association of judges, counselors, evaluators, mediators, attorneys and others who are concerned with the constructive resolution of family conflict issues
- to learn about new and innovative programs designed to assist families prior to, during, and after divorce
- to participate in public education programs and association sponsored conferences on such topics as conciliation courts, family courts, divorce mediation, joint custody and domestic violence
- to promote programs for the prevention of family breakdown and the strengthening of family life.

## Purpose

The **Association of Family and Conciliation Courts** was established in 1963 for the following purposes:

- to develop and improve the practice and procedures of family counseling as a complement to the judicial process
- to promote, maintain and preserve professional and ethical standards in court related marriage and divorce counseling
- to provide an interdisciplinary forum for the exchange of ideas and the development of solutions to problems of family discord
- to provide assistance in establishing court-connected counseling and mediation programs.

## Function

The **Association of Family and Conciliation Courts** exists because family disputes have an emotional impact that cannot be resolved entirely by judicial decree. Judges, lawyers, counselors, mediators and other professionals can assist families in cooperatively resolving family and divorce issues by sharing programs and ideas through their membership in the **Association of Family and Conciliation Courts**. The Association's annual conference and regional meetings allow members to share ideas and thus improve services, refine techniques and profit from exposure to the most recent research findings. Members receive the Association's

journal "*The Conciliation Courts Review*", which contains articles on court-connected programs, private practice, joint custody, mediation, current research and counseling techniques. Brochures, handbooks and video-cassettes on divorce related topics are available through association membership. In addition, members are eligible to purchase mediation malpractice insurance underwritten by Lloyd's of London.

A newsletter is published and mailed to Association members on a tri-annual basis.

## An Invitation

We invite you to join the **Association of Family and Conciliation Courts**. Today this dynamic movement extends across the United States, Canada and to many other countries. In addition to judges, counselors, mediators and attorneys, the membership now includes physicians, sociologists, social workers, ministers, educators, psychiatrists, and psychologists — the broadest spectrum of the behavioral sciences — all striving to lessen the adverse impact of family conflict.

The unique interdisciplinary nature of the **Association of Family and Conciliation Courts** allows members to network and exchange information through a common professional organization.

The Association's regional chapters encourage members to continue this interdisciplinary dialogue on a local level.

## Annual Conferences (May)

- 1983 Toronto, Canada
- 1984 Denver, Colorado
- 1985 Vancouver, British Columbia
- 1986 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

## Winter Conferences (Dec.)

- 1983 Williamsburg, Virginia
- 1984 Phoenix, Arizona
- 1985 San Diego, California

## Membership Application

(January 1 — December 31). If joining after July 1, dues are one-half the annual fee.

- Individual — \$50/year U.S., Canadian \$60
- \*  Institutional — \$100/year U.S., Canadian \$120
- Student — \$15/year U.S., Canadian \$18
- Life — \$500/U.S., Canadian \$600 (may be paid in two installments)
- Regional membership dues — California \$25/year; Arizona \$20/year

Please send check or money order to **Association of Family and Conciliation Courts**, c/o OHSU, Dept. of Psychiatry, Gaines Hall, Rm. 149 3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Road, Portland, OR 97201 503/220-5651

\* Institutional membership applications should include the name of the organization, and **one** individual designated as the association representative. Institutional members receive three copies of the review, newsletter and other association mailings.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Profession, Title or Specialization \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

I subscribe to the purposes of the Association and hereby apply for membership.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**AFCC ORDER FORM**

	Total No.	Price
"You're Still Mom and Dad" (videotape) \$40/5 days	_____	_____
"Custody Resolution Counseling" (videotape) \$40/5 days	_____	_____
"Guidelines for Establishing A Court Connected Counseling Service" Revision available Dec./84	_____	_____
"Parents Are Forever" 20¢ each	_____	_____
"An Important Message to Step Parents" 20¢ each	_____	_____
"Joint Custody - A New Way of Being Related" 20¢ each	_____	_____
"Twenty Questions Divorcing Parents Ask About Their Children" 20¢ each	_____	_____
Pamphlet orders over 1,000 - 15¢ each		
Total Remittance (US funds)	_____	_____

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Payable to the:  
 AFCC  
 OHSU, Dept. of Psychiatry  
 Gaines Hall, Room 149  
 3181 SW Sam Jackson Pk Rd  
 Portland, OR 97201  
 (503)220-5651

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts  
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