



NEWSLETTER

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

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

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Peter C. Salem

Supervised Visitation Network Forms

The Supervised Visitation Network (SVN) was formed in May, 1992 in New York to provide a network for the growing number of programs that offer supervised visitation. The SVN publishes a newsletter and will be holding a national conference March 25-27, 1993 at the Airport Embassy Suites in Tucson, AZ. Over 100 individuals attended the first organizational meeting of the Network. Delegates represented programs in all 50 states.

Supervised Visitation Programs are currently being used in at least two distinct types of family situations. Supervised visitation is being used for families with children in placement or foster home settings and for divorced, separated and never married parents where there are concerns about safety, domestic abuse, drug and alcohol usage and parental capacity.

Since January 1989, The Family Connection Center, a program of the Visiting Nurse Service in Indianapolis, has provided visit-related services for 1,130 children and their families. Approximately 200 of these were children from divorced families and 64% of these cases involved allegations of sexual abuse. Approximately 75% of the cases also involved allegations of domestic violence. Twenty five percent of the visiting parents are female.

Services for the "Dissolution Families," (supervised visitation with children in placement is called "Reunification"), are provided on a for-fee basis with federal subsidy funding for low income families provided by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

Visits occur at the Family Dissolution Center and are designed to help family members maintain relationships and practice new behaviors. The Center also serves as a place for "connections," the supervised transfer of children between parents.

The Center maintains a full-time security staff, a metal detector, a breathalyzer and closed circuit TV. The first two visits are conducted under full supervision and can progress to minimal or intermittent supervision as progress is made. On site staff provides documentation of each visit and an assessment of the interaction.

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services has contracted with six pri-



vate agencies in Chicago to provide supervised visitation and transportation services for parents and children in foster-care. Several of the agencies also provide supervised visitation services to dissolution families.

Apna Ghar, a Shelter for Battered Asian Women, located in Chicago, provides court-ordered visitation for non-custodial parents. The Shelter's visitation facility is separate from the shelter facility and is open from 7am-8pm. Visits occur in a large room equipped with games, toys, including Nintendo, and snacks. Parents are not allowed to bring food to the facility and a security guard is on site 24 hours a day.

The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children will be developing a supervised visitation program with the help of a grant from the Ronald McDonald Children's Charities Foundation.

The Supervised Visitation Program in Bergen County, New Jersey began by offering supervised visitation in the courthouse to a small number of families. Today it is a large, well-organized program, coordinated and supervised by professional staff with two paraprofessional monitors who observe visiting parents and children at a spacious and secure site.

For further information about membership in The Supervised Visitation Network contact: Judith Wallach, Ph.D. Supervised Visitation Program, New York Society for Ethical Culture, 3 West 70th Street, New York, NY 10023, (212) 769-2081.

AFCC's Newsletter will begin offering a regular column on Supervised Visitation Pro-

grams. The column will be edited by SVN Newsletter Editor Tim Ballew, MSW, Manager, Family Dissolution Program, Family Connection Center, 222 South Downey Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46219, (317) 353-2607.

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AFCC's conference in New Orleans will include a workshop on Supervised Visitation Programs and will feature several of these programs and others that are being operated around the country.

Dues Are Due

AFCC 1993 dues notices were sent the first of December. Please remit your dues as soon as possible and save us the cost of having to send a reminder notice. Tax deductible contributions may be enclosed with your dues and will help AFCC to expand our services and reach new members. This is also a good time to sign up a new member or to give a gift membership.

Individual: \$95/yr

Institutional: \$180/yr
(provides 3 copies of Review, Newsletter, etc.)

Student: \$30/yr

Life: \$600
(may be paid in two installments)

CA Chapter Dues

Individual: \$25/yr
Institutional: \$50/yr
Student: \$5/yr

AZ Chapter Dues

Individual: \$20/yr
Institutional: \$40/yr

KS Chapter Dues

Individual: \$25/yr
Institutional: \$50/yr

Remit in US funds to:
AFCC
329 W. Wilson St.
Madison, WI 53703

He Said, She Said...

As the television and motion picture industries continue to chronicle custody battles, family violence, and the plight of the "non-traditional" family, recent headlines have punctuated the matter with a storyline in which what was alleged to be truth wasn't necessarily stranger than fiction.

Although it is not quite clear that life imitated art, Woody Allen, Mia Farrow, and the press, showed the world the dark side of a heated custody dispute in the aftermath of the couple's celebrated relationship. Allen's and Farrow's custody battle took a difficult turn when allegations of child sexual abuse surfaced.

Allegations of sexual abuse in divorce cases is not a new phenomenon. Court workers interviewed for AFCC's 1988 research, *The Sexual Abuse Allegations Project*, noted that the major increase in reports of sexual allegations within divorcing families took place in the early 1980's and continue to occur in a small but growing number of cases. It is the complexity, rather than frequency, of these cases which causes such concern. While estimates on the percentage of false allegations vary, the stakes and emotions are exceedingly high and the evidence is often ambiguous, especially with younger children. Over one-third of the cases in the study involving children 1-3 years of age resulted in no clear conclusion about whether the allegations were true or false.

The Sexual Abuse Allegations Project provides an in-depth examination of the issues when there are allegations of sexual abuse. Based on data from cases in 12 court systems throughout the United States, the report addresses issues including:

☐ Validity of the allegations

The validity of sexual abuse allegations heard in family court has increasingly become a source of conflict between parents and professionals. Some are concerned that children are placed at risk by skeptical judges. Others view the court as ready to accept the charge and accused parents are viewed as guilty until proven innocent.

☐ The nature of the allegations

Nearly half of the cases in the study involved claims that the child was fondled, exposed to graphic pornography or witnessed masturbation by the accused party. Sixty-five percent of the alleged victims were female. One third of the alleged victim children were 1-3 years of age, 34% 4-6 years old, 27% were 7-12 years old and 11% were 13 years or over.



☐ Role of Professionals in the sexual abuse investigation

The report examines the role of professionals involved in a child sexual abuse case including the police, child protective service staff, the representative for the child and the private mental health professional.

☐ Case flow and management

Barriers to smooth case flow are discussed. It is not always easy to ensure that cases move as necessary from the domestic relations court to the child protective service agency and then proceed to a dependency hearing, criminal court or back to domestic relations court.

☐ Recommendations

The report contains fifteen recommendations including the promotion of cross-training between family court and child protective services staff and establishing formal policy to promote information sharing between family court and child protective service agencies.

The Sexual Abuse Allegations Project Report is an excellent resource for anyone dealing with the allegations of sexual abuse. Copies of the 94 page report are available from AFCC for \$12.50 each. The report may be ordered for \$12.50 plus S & H by calling the AFCC office at (608) 251-4001.

Divorce Court Case Characteristics

The National Center for State Courts Research Division announced new findings in case management, case characteristics, pace of litigation and outcomes in divorce cases in a study conducted in 16 urban jurisdictions. The study was funded by a grant from the State Justice Institute.

Findings included:

1. More than half of all divorce cases involve children.
2. More than one-third of the cases with children included child-related motions (custody, support, visitation).
3. One-fifth of the cases with children included a motion for a temporary restraining order.
4. Nearly three-quarters of divorce cases involve at least one pro se litigant.
5. Most divorce cases are uncontested—they do not have answers or motions filed.
6. Court control over the schedule of divorce-case events and the use of disposition time goals contributes to faster litigation.
7. The number of divorce filings per full-time judge and quasi-judicial staff was not correlated with case-processing time.
8. Insufficient resources was the problem most frequently identified by judges and court staff. Problems associated with pro se litigants was second.

To order a copy of the full report (R-141) contact: Publications Coordinator, National Center for State Courts, 300 Newport Ave., Williamsburg, VA 23187-8798, (804) 253-2000, FAX (804) 220-0449.

Board of Director Nominations

The Nominating Committee is seeking names of individuals to serve on AFCC's Board of Directors. Suggested individuals must be current members and have an interest in and a knowledge of AFCC and its work. Nominations should be received by February 1, 1993 in order to be considered by the committee prior to election at the annual conference in New Orleans in May. If you or another member you know is interested, please forward name and resume to Nominating Committee Chairperson Dr. Russell Schoeneman, Conciliation Services, 201 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, AZ 85003 (602) 262-3298.

NEW ORLEANS NOTES



AFCC's 30th annual conference will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana May 12-15, 1993. This is the second in a series of articles on New Orleans and the attractions that it holds for our conference attendees.

What's Cookin'?

Pack your appetite! AFCC is going to New Orleans to celebrate its 30th Anniversary. And what a feeding frenzy it will be! For those of you who have not sampled the culinary delicacies of French cuisine, Cajun and Creole cooking, and Nawlins noshings, we would like to provide you with an introduction to palette potpourri.

Cajun and Creole cooking share many similarities. Both are Louisiana born with French roots. Cajun is very old, French country cooking—a simple, hearty fare. Cajun cooking comes from southern France, moved to Nova Scotia and then to Louisiana with the Acadian population. The Acadians adapted their dishes, incorporating local herbs and spices such as bay leaves and cayenne pepper, learning their uses from the native Indians.

Creole cooking, just like Cajun, depends heavily on what is available. But unlike, Cajun, Creole cooking began in Louisiana and is a unique mix of French, Spanish, Italian, American Indian, African and other ethnic groups. Seven flags flew over New Orleans and each time a new nation took over, the deposed government would leave behind their cooks and servants. The position of cook was highly esteemed and the best paid position in the household. The cooks, most of whom were black, would have to change their style of cooking to suit the tastes of each new ruling nationality. Incorporating the different styles gave birth to Creole cooking, a more sophisticated and complex style of cooking than Cajun and often referred to as city cooking.

We've put together this glossary of taste delights to help you plan your eating itinerary.

Beignets (say bin yea) are melt in your mouth, fried, square donuts, without the hole, dusted with powdered sugar. Add a cup of Cafe au Lait and what a way to start the morning. Be sure and take plenty of napkins.

Cafe au Lait (say Cafe oh Lay) is very strong coffee added to hot, frothy milk or cream. Sugar to taste.

Crawfish Etoufee (say Ay too fay) is a little piece of cajun heaven. Etoufee means "smothered." Crawfish tail meat is simmered in a rich, brown roux with onions, peppers and spices and served over rice. I'll bet you'd eat it if it was called lobster etoufee. Crawfish is a major cash crop in Louisiana and all those consumers can't be wrong!

Dirty Rice (no, its not what it sounds like) is clean, long grain rice that has been cooked in a chicken stock with onion, green onion, garlic and herbs.

Gumbo is a thickened, Cajun soup usually containing a variety of seasoned vegetables, meats and seafood and served over rice.

Jambalaya (say Jum buh lie ya) is a spicy rice and tomato dish to which the cook may add sauteed shrimp or other seafood, smoked sausage, ham, chicken, beef and other tasty morsels. Jambalaya comes from the French 'jambon', meaning ham, the African 'ya', meaning rice, and the Acadian where everything is 'a la'.

Red Beans and Rice (You should be able to figure this one out) is down home cookin'. Red kidney beans are soaked in water for hours and then cooked for hours until soft. Louisiana smoked sausage, ham bone, onions, celery, and spices are added to the stew and served over white rice.

Shrimp Creole is usually made with whole, fresh shrimp and Creole tomatoes. The fat in the shrimp heads is an important taste and color contributor, giving the dish a natural sweetness and incredible flavor. The tomato based sauce is simmered with vegetables and used to cook the shrimp. The dish is served, naturally, over rice.

How can you resist? Register early for reduced conference rates. Delta Airlines and Corporate Travel Consultants, AFCC's official carrier and travel agency for this conference, are offering reduced rates and will assist you in your travel arrangements. Contact Corporate Travel Consultants Group Services at 1-800-323-0088 for airline and auto rental information. Identify yourself as traveling to the AFCC conference.



Northern Exposure: Alaska Member Drew Peterson

Drew Peterson is one of AFCC's northernmost members, living and working in Anchorage, Alaska. In addition to practicing mediation and family law, Drew is a partner with "Options Unlimited," a training group offering workshops in collaborative conflict resolution. Drew also writes a regular column on Alternative Dispute Resolution for the "Alaska Bar Rag," the newsletter of the Alaska Bar Association. His article, "Mediation and Ecological Epistemology" will be published in *Mediation Quarterly* early next year.

Drew was drawn to mediation eight years ago when, after being diagnosed with cancer, he decided to stop practicing law. "I love the field of mediation and collaborative negotiation," says Drew, who confesses that he has recently begun to practice law again as his oldest child starts college. "I was very frustrated with the family law system when I stopped. But now I really enjoy using collaborative techniques in my legal practice."

Drew participated in Alaska's first 40-hour mediation training in 1988. In 1990, Drew was among a select group of Alaska mediators chosen to participate in the Alaska Judicial Council's "Child Visitation Mediation Project." Project mediators received 40 hours of advanced training provided by AFCC. Next summer, "Options Unlimited" plans to offer the first Alaska Summer Mediation Institute as Drew and his colleagues attempt to lure mediators from the lower 48 to Alaska to participate in mediation training and to enjoy the beautiful Alaska summer.

An active athlete, Drew plays basketball, enjoys cross-country skiing and even formed his own "old timers" soccer club. Drew is a former union musician and plays the bass, occasionally performing in a dance band



playing swing music, although his real love is jazz.

Originally from St. Peter, Minnesota (about seventy miles outside of Minneapolis), Drew received his BA from Gustavus Adolphus College, where his grandfather taught, his parents both attended and his son, Tony, is now a freshman. Drew earned his JD from the University of Minnesota and worked for a short time in Stillwater, Minnesota before accepting an offer to supervise a legal aid office in Ketchikan, Alaska. In 1979, Drew moved the family to Anchorage so that his wife, Sue, could go to school. "After that," says Drew, "the kids took over and we've been here ever since."



AFM Executive Director Wanted

The recent resignation of Jim Melamed, Executive Director of the Academy of Family Mediators, has resulted in a request for applicants for the position. Jim intends to continue to reside in Eugene, OR with his wife and new baby and continue his private practice. Best wishes in your new endeavors!

Recruitment Announcement

National membership association representing family mediators seeks the one person who can lead their small but growing team. Major areas of responsibility include establishing an organizational structure; developing policies, procedures and programs; hiring and motivating staff; acting as liaison to committees and the Board; membership development and public relations; conference management; and fiscal responsibility. Requires: five years management experience including some supervisory experience, in a non-profit setting; excellent oral and written communication skills and financial oversight experience. Prefers: Knowledge of mediation issues, grant and policy writing experience and database management experience. Salary \$40,000-60,000 plus benefits and career opportunity. Four person office will be established in Chicago, Denver or Minneapolis. To apply, send resume and cover letter giving salary history and preferred location to: Betty Brubach, Recruiter, Academy of Family Mediators, 1100 Connecticut Ave., NW, #700, Washington, DC 20036.

Fairmont Hotel New Orleans

AFCC conference guests are encouraged to make hotel reservations early. The conference rate of \$89 single or double or suite at \$125 is exceptional. We anticipate that the conference will exceed its room block. For reservations call (800) 527-4727 or (504) 529-7111.

The Fairmont Hotel is located in the financial district of New Orleans, and an easy walk to the French Quarter. The grande dame of New Orleans has a Victorian elegance. The Sazerac restaurant, home of the Sazerac cocktail, and the Blue Room, the home of radio station WWL, are world famous for fine dining. The Hotel is now owned by the Swig family, owners of the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco.

Member News

Hon. Rebecca Albrecht, Phoenix, Arizona, has been named Associate Presiding Judge. She will be wearing two hats as she also continues to serve as presiding judge of Domestic Relations. She is the first woman to be appointed associate presiding judge in the state of Arizona. Congratulations Becky!

Murray Bloom, Director of the San Diego Family Court Services, and chair of AFCC's 1992 conference in San Diego, has announced his retirement from the Court Services effective January 6, 1993. AFCC extends best wishes to Murray and we hope this means that he will have more time to plan future conferences for AFCC! Best wishes Murray.

Patricia Dixon, former counselor/mediator with the Maricopa Conciliation Court, has moved with her husband to Salem, OR. Pat will continue to coordinate AFCC's post-conference trip to New Zealand and Australia in May 1994. Pat can now be reached at 358 19th St. NE, Salem, OR 97301.

Larry Green has been elected Judge in the 22nd Judicial District of the state of Louisiana. Judge Green is a member of the local conference committee for AFCC's annual conference in New Orleans.

Hugh McIsaac, Director of the Los Angeles County Conciliation Court, announced his retirement effective November, 1992. Hugh has been Director of the LA Conciliation Court since 1977 and served as AFCC President in 1988. Hugh will continue to edit AFCC's journal, *The Family and Conciliation Courts Review*. Does this mean that the Journal will be edited from a sailboat in the Pacific, Hugh? We look forward to Hugh's continued involvement in AFCC and his salient editorials in the *Review*. Hugh can be reached at 6320 Mariquita, Long Beach, CA 90803, (310) 598-3957.

Hon. John Van Duzer was recently honored at a retirement dinner by 400 of his colleagues. Judge Van Duzer will assume a supernumerary status (reserve judge) with the court system in Hamilton, Ontario Canada where he served on the bench for many years. AFCC Board member Robert McWhinney represented AFCC at the dinner and conveyed our best wishes to Judge Van Duzer. Judge Van Duzer served as AFCC President in 1983. He and his family have a special place within the AFCC family.

Note: The Los Angeles Conciliation Court staff will be hosting a retirement party for Hugh McIsaac and would like to invite all AFCC members to submit a letter, anecdote or whimsy to be included in Hugh's "Book of Remembrances." Send to Jane LeFebvre, LA Conciliation Court, 111 N. Hill St. Rm. #241, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Research Update: The Effective Resolution of Custody and Visitation Disputes Involving Domestic Violence

Progress continues on the AFCC research project "The Effective Resolution of Custody and Visitation Disputes Involving Domestic Violence." The study is funded by a \$200,000 grant from the State Justice Institute (SJI) and is directed by Peter Salem.

Following site visits to Portland, Oregon and Minneapolis, Minnesota, advisory committee members met in Madison, WI over the weekend of September 11-13. The committee includes leading professionals in research, mediation, victim advocacy, children's rights and family court. Members include Hon. Susan Snow, Cook County, IL Circuit Court; Russell Schoeneman, Ph.D., Director, Maricopa County Conciliation Services; Janet Johnston, Ph.D., Director of Research for the Center for Families in Transition; Joan Kelly, Ph.D., Executive Director, Northern California Mediation Center; Professor Daniel Saunders, University of Michigan; David Levy, President, The Children's Rights Council, Inc.; and, Sheila Kuehl, J.D.,

Managing Director of the California Women's Law Center. Also participating in the meetings were Linda Girdner, Ph.D., Co-chair of AFCC's Domestic Abuse Committee, and Diane Bryner, Co-chair of AFCC's Mediation Committee. Program Manager Daina Farthing-Capowich represented the State Justice Institute.

Led by Principle Investigator, Dr. Adele Harrell, the committee reviewed the work completed by the project staff over the summer. Significant time and attention was spent on the domestic abuse screening instrument, developed with input from victim advocates and formerly battered women. It is anticipated that screening for research participants and data collection will begin in early January. Work is also ongoing on the legislative, policy and procedural survey which will examine how programs and statutes in different states deal with domestic violence cases in custody and visitation disputes.

Law School Essay Contest Winner

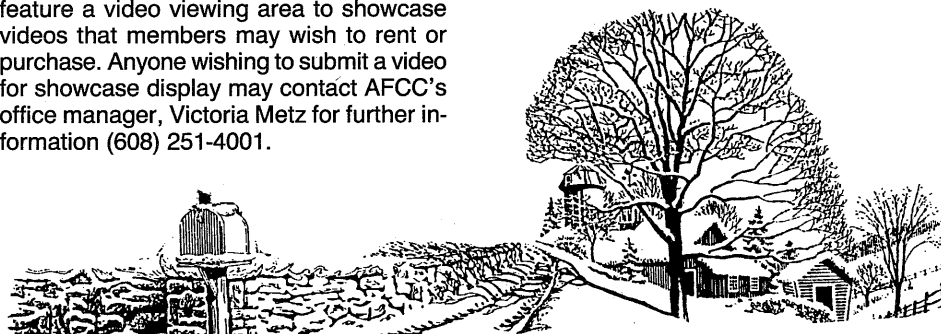
AFCC's First Law School Essay Contest attracted 11 submittals from the US and Canada. Beth Beattie, law student and now lawyer with the firm of Fasken Campbell Godfrey in Toronto was awarded the \$300 cash prize for her article on "The Inequality and Inappropriateness of Applying the Statute of Limitations to Civil Actions Arising from Child Sexual Abuse." Beth's article was chosen by a three judge panel. Beth was a student of Hon. Jim Williams. Congratulations Beth!

Call for Videos

The AFCC New Orleans conference will feature a video viewing area to showcase videos that members may wish to rent or purchase. Anyone wishing to submit a video for showcase display may contact AFCC's office manager, Victoria Metz for further information (608) 251-4001.

For the Sake of the Children

Written by Kris Kline, a divorced mother from Ellenton, Florida and Stephen Pew, Ph.D., a specialist in child behavior and family relationships, this book is sub-titled "How to Share Your Children With Your Ex-Spouse—In Spite of Your Anger." This book provides a number of stories that parents can relate to which aptly capture the need to develop a working relationship with an ex-spouse. The authors provide suggestions for how to communicate about the other parent with the children without condemning, how to break old habits, how to face the ex-inlaws and how to deal with the ex's new spouse. Distributed by Prima Publishing, P.O. Box 1260KK, Rocklin, CA 95677, (916) 786-0426.



AIDS Mediation Project in Philadelphia

Good Shepherd Neighborhood House Mediation Program, a service of the Philadelphia Neighborhood Justice Center, recently began intensive outreach efforts to extend mediation to Philadelphia area people with AIDS, those who are HIV positive, their families, friends, neighbors and employers. The AIDS Mediation Project, believed to be the first of its kind in this country, is sponsored by the Federal ACTION VISTA program, which pays stipends to full-time volunteers administering and staffing the project.

According to program staff member Mary Carol McClenon, the program is not necessarily looking to mediate specific AIDS-

related conflict. Rather, the project is looking at interpersonal problems involving people with AIDS or who are HIV positive. Twenty-two previously trained volunteer mediators received an additional 10-12 hours of specialized training to become familiar with the issues and realities faced by those with AIDS, as well as the laws governing confidentiality and AIDS. In addition, the project staff developed a training manual supplement, produced an AIDS mediation video for outreach activities, and developed English and Spanish brochures to promote the program. Referrals have included landlord/tenant, debt repayment and division of property issues.



Legislative News

Louisiana Act 1091, effective July 1992, has been heralded by the National Center on Women and Family Law as "the best statute to date in protecting children from spouse abusers and child sexual abusers." The act prohibits ordering any victim of family violence to mediation in any separation, divorce, child custody, visitation, child support, alimony or community property proceeding.

The act creates a presumption that a parent with a history of perpetrating family violence shall not be awarded sole or joint custody of the children. Louisiana is the sixth state to create such a presumption. Where a parent has a history of family violence, the court shall allow only supervised child visitation until the parent has successfully completed a treatment program, is neither abusing alcohol or drugs, poses no danger to the child and the court determines that such visitation is in the child's best interest.

Courts must suspend all visitation and contact between a parent who has sexually abused his or her child until the abusive parent has successfully completed a treatment program designed for sexual abusers and the court determines that supervised visitation is in the child's best interest. The person supervising visitation "shall not be any relative, friend, therapist or associate of the parent perpetrating family violence" and the abuser must "pay any and all costs incurred in the supervision of visitation. In no case shall supervised visitation be overnight or in the home of the violent parent."

Any violation of an injunction will result in a termination of all court ordered child visitation. All court costs, attorney fees, evaluation fees and expert witness fees involved in the furtherance of this act will be paid by the perpetrator of the abuse.

Interstate Child Support Enforcement Act: US Senate bill 3291 was introduced by Congresswoman Margie Roukema and Sen-

ator Bill Bradley based on a number of recommendations of the US Commission on Interstate Child Support. Hon. Frances Rothschild and Hon. Robinson, members of the Commission, issued a minority report suggesting that certain provisions of the majority's report be amended. Copies of the report and the bill may be obtained from the office of Senator Bradley, US Senate, Washington, DC 20510.

AFCC Policy on AIDS and Family Law

Approximately one million Americans are infected with HIV. The majority are 25-44 years old. As AIDS spreads throughout society, an increasing number of those entering the court system will be HIV positive. This trend raises a number of difficult and sensitive issues.

AFCC's policy statement, *AIDS and Family Law*, developed by AFCC Vice President John Kydd, Seattle lawyer, addresses some of the special problems faced by family court personnel when working with those who are infected or are HIV positive.

AIDS and Family Law addresses issues such as parenting capacity, HIV allegations against parents and when access to children might be limited. In addition, a factual background on AIDS and its transmission is provided. Copies of *AIDS and Family Law* are available from AFCC and may be ordered for \$2.50 plus Shipping and Handling by calling the AFCC office at (608) 251-4001.

National Center on Women and Family Law Offers Publications

The National Center on Women and Family Law, Inc. (NCOWFL) is a national organization that litigates family law issues of importance to women and children. Founded in 1979, NCOWFL provides legal expertise and tools to attorneys across the country, works on legislation and provides education for judges and court administrators. It also provides assistance to lawyers and advocates across the U.S. to help them deal more effectively with the legal problems of women and children.

NCOWFL produces manuals, resource packets and other publications on family law issues. Available materials include:

- ☐ Mediator's Guide to Domestic Abuse (\$15)
- ☐ Custody Litigation on Behalf of Battered Women (\$10)
- ☐ Mediation—A Guide for Advocates and Attorneys Representing Battered Women (\$40)
- ☐ Guide to Interstate Child Custody
- ☐ Disputes for Domestic Violence Advocates (\$25)
- ☐ Legal Issues and Legal Options in Civil Child Sexual Abuse Cases: Representing the Protective Parent (\$35)
- ☐ Child Support: A Manual for Attorneys (\$60)
- ☐ The Effect of Woman Abuse on Children:
- ☐ Psychology and Legal Authority (\$25)

For further information on these and other available publications, contact the National Center on Women and Family Law, 799 Broadway, New York, NY 10003, (212) 674-8200.



Northcentral Region Plans for 1993

Plans are progressing for the AFCC Northcentral Regional Meeting scheduled for October 7-9, 1993 in Toledo, OH. Conference coordinator and Board of Director member Denise McColley invites those with an interest in presenting to submit a proposal not exceeding 200 words that fits within the theme, **Bridging Troubled Waters: The Professional's Role in Helping the Family.**

As home of the world class Toledo Museum of Art and acclaimed Toledo Zoo, accessible to Lake Erie islands by ferry or pleasure boat, with the community-wide hobby of supporting a wide range of ethnic

as well as meat-loaf and apple pie restaurants, in addition to supplying the usual mid-western pastimes of communing with nature in our splendid metroparks and watching corn grow, Toledo will provide much enjoyment beyond the conference sessions. Watch for further announcements on this upcoming conference.

To request a copy of the conference proposal outline, contact Program Committee Chairperson Hon. Kenneth Rohrs, Henry County Court of Common Pleas, Napoleon, OH 43545, (419) 592-5926.

Wisconsin Mediators Conference on Emerging Issues in Mediation

Over 250 mediators from California to New Jersey found their way to Madison, Wisconsin November 17-18 for the Wisconsin Association of Mediators (WAM) first annual conference entitled, **Emerging Issues in Mediation.** Featured speaker Professor Frank E.A. Sander, Harvard Law School, spoke on institutionalizing alternative dispute resolution. Mediators and professionals from a variety of disciplines participated.

Workshop presenters included AFCC members Hon. Susan Snow, Denise McColley, Joan Massaquoi, Doneldon

Dennis, Lynn Jacob, Kathleen Jeffords, Michele MacFarlane, John Lande, Michael Lang, Zena Zumeta and Margaret Shaw. Workshops included sessions on family, domestic violence, public policy, community, school, small claims and private sector disputes and professional issues.

"The conference exceeded our expectations" said WAM President Harry Webne-Behrman. "It led to a wonderful sense of collegiality between mediators from a variety of fields. We are really looking forward to making this an annual event."

And the Oscar Goes to . . .

The award for most dedicated conference presenter is shared between AFCC Past-President Hon. Susan Snow and AFCC Board member Denise McColley. Both presented at the AFCC Northeast Regional Conference in Baltimore, November 12-14. Judge Snow closed the Baltimore conference Saturday afternoon and winged her way to New Jersey to discuss the family court system with members of the judiciary and court administration. On Tuesday, Judge Snow flew to Chicago, hopped in her van and drove directly to Madison, Wisconsin to present at the Wisconsin Association of Mediators conference. She returned to her suburban Chicago home that evening to reunite with her husband whom she had

not seen in two weeks and to get ready to return to a full day on the bench.

Not to be outdone, Denise McColley flew out of Baltimore Sunday morning to Columbus, Ohio and drove with Judge Kenneth Rohrs and Judge Bill Fee to her Napoleon, OH home (the van broke down on the way), arriving Sunday evening with just enough time to say hello to her husband and children, repack her bags, go to work and drive three other presenters to Madison, Wisconsin, arriving in the wee hours of the morning, for the Wisconsin Association of Mediators conference that began the next morning at 8:30 a.m. Our thanks to both for service above and beyond the call of duty!

Chapter News

Arizona—AFCC's Arizona chapter will be holding its state chapter meeting in Sedona March 5-7, 1993. Chapter President Bruce Cohen promises a great meeting including AFCC President Gerald Lecovin. More news to come.

California—The AFCC California Chapter will be holding the annual meeting in conjunction with the Northern California Matrimonial Lawyers January 31-February 1, 1993 at the popular Sonoma Mission Inn and Spa. The conference theme "Challenges for Families in the 90's" will focus on changing family roles and gender issues in the last decade of the century. Featured presenters will include Herma Hill Kay, Dean Boalt Law School; Jay Folberg, Dean San Francisco Law School; Appellate Judge Donald King; Hon. Tom Murphy, San Diego; David Smith, Haight-Asbury Free Clinic and Dr. Joan Kelly, Director Families in Transition. For further information contact: Margaret Taylor, c/o Shapiro and Thorn, 1242 Market Street, Fifth Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Kansas—Chapter President Amy Hackler and AFCC Kansas Board members Gary Kretchmer and David Woodbury attended the recent Northeast Regional meeting in Baltimore. A number of Kansas members are planning on attending the New Orleans conference and sharing the activities of this very active chapter.

AFCC Newsletter Advertising Rates

Advertising copy must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication. Send your camera-ready advertising copy and payment in US funds to:

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Madison, WI 53703

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The AFCC Newsletter is published four times a year in January, April, July and October. News items should be sent by the 15th of the month preceding publication to Newsletter Editor, Ann L. Milne, 329 W. Wilson St. Madison, WI 53703, (608) 251-4001.

The Games Children Play

Prior Newsletters have presented methods of evaluating children through the playing of board-style games. The staff at Dallas County Family Court Services also utilizes two types of games which are inexpensive, portable and accessible for most professionals. One type of game utilizes paper, pencils and crayons and the other utilizes the child's imagination and verbal skills.

Most children are accustomed to drawing pictures. It is a primary creative activity for children from pre-school through elementary school and older children frequently enjoy displaying their artistic abilities. Because most children are comfortable with drawing, it can be a non-threatening method of allowing them to express their views about what is happening to them and their families.

Having a child draw pictures of herself, her house, and her family with everyone doing an activity can be very revealing. These pictures are helpful in promoting a discussion with the child about her perspective and feelings. Sometimes, however, a child is guarded in her responses. At such times, The Squiggle Game can be used.

The Squiggle Game starts with the evaluator drawing a "squiggled" line on a piece of paper and asking the child to draw a picture starting with the squiggle. The child is instructed to create a picture and tell a story about the picture. These stories usually reflect the events, issues and feelings which are relevant to the child. The evaluator and the child can alternate drawing the squiggle and producing the picture and story. This format is helpful to encourage the participation of a reluctant child. It can also be used in a therapeutic setting for a counselor to give information or support to the child.

Another activity utilized to obtain information from children is a sentence completion exercise. The Dallas Family Court Services Office has devised a forty-seven item form. The child is instructed to complete the sentences by adding the first words which come to mind. Some of the lines begin with:

When I was younger . . .

I feel sorry . . .

The best thing that ever happened to me was . . .

The worst thing that ever happened to me was . . .

I am best when . . .

My greatest worry is . . .

A father . . .

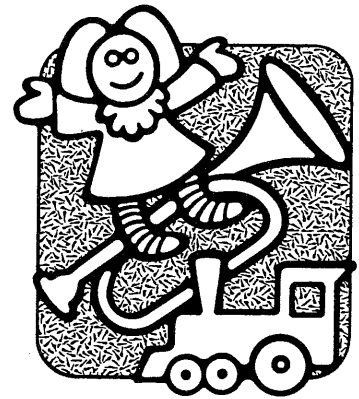
A mother . . .

This activity can be read aloud to non-reading children.

Imagination games can be used during a conversation or interview. The evaluator asks the child to imagine he is ship-wrecked on a desert island with one other person. The two of them must gather food and find or construct shelter. The child is asked who would be a good person to have along to assist with these tasks. His choice may identify a person who the child relies upon for care.

In a second imagination game, the child is asked, "If you could have three wishes, what would you wish for?" Frequently, these wishes focus on the child's concerns about the family, custody and access disputes.

These activities can provide pertinent information about the child's concerns, perceptions and feelings in a fun, non-threat-



ening manner. Children are often comfortable in activities which utilize creative and artistic talents. Paper, crayons and pencils are also inexpensive materials which are familiar to children.

For a copy of the sentence completion form, contact: Family Court Services, George Allen Courts Bldg., 600 Commerce St., Suite 7-176, Dallas, Texas, 75202-4606, (214) 653-7674.

Mediation Program in Maine Receives High Marks

In a new twist in program evaluation, the Commission to Study the Future of Maine's Courts, with support of the National Institute for Dispute Resolution (NIDR), recently completed an "expert review" of the Maine Court Mediation Service. Eschewing the traditional empirical evaluation approach, the Commission chose to blaze a new trail, using an expert review panel to assess the mediation service. The panel was chaired by AFCC member Margaret Shaw, and included AFCC President Elect Bob Tompkins and AFCC member Susan Terry.

The Maine Court Mediation Service, directed by AFCC member Paul Charbonneau, currently operates with a core of part-time mediators, located throughout the state and paid on a contract basis. Maine law requires that all contested issues in a divorce—including property and support—are to be mediated. Mediators work out of their local courthouse and handle both family and small claims mediation.

Over a six-week period, review panel members reviewed background material about the Maine Court Mediation Service and visited Portland, Bangor and Skowhegan to interview mediators, judges, lawyers, members of the Court Mediation Committee, the Chair of the State Bar Family Law Section, and the present and former Director of the Court Mediation Service. Panel members observed several mediations and interviewed a number of mediation clients. "It was wonderful to be able to spend time carefully listening to people in different parts of the system," said Ms. Shaw. "Instead of having experts come in and tell them what to do, the process allowed us to integrate the concerns so that they became committed to working together to move ahead."

Panel members reported that the Maine Court Mediation Service deserves recognition for its widespread support of the judges, lawyers, users and the legislature, and for re-

maintaining accessible and affordable. The program was lauded for maintaining dedicated, experienced, part-time mediators and emphasizing competency over degree-based criteria for selection. Mediators were found to have a genuine desire to learn and improve, attending meetings and professional development workshops despite lack of funding.

The panel also offered constructive criticism, which the Court Mediation Service has responded to with enthusiasm. Mr. Charbonneau reports that twenty-six of the twenty-nine recommendations were endorsed by the Court Mediation Committee, contingent on budgetary realities. The Committee recommended a Peer Review Program and returning the directorship to a full-time position. There has been increased communications between the bar, bench and Court Mediation Service. Administrative and reporting procedures are also being improved.

MEETINGS AROUND THE WORLD



First World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights

The First World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights will be held July 4-9, 1993 in Darling Harbour, Australia. The Congress will be co-convened by Lawasia's Family Law and Family Rights Section and the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia with the support of AFCC and a number of other international organizations.

The Congress is aimed not only at lawyers but at anyone working in the area of human relations. At a time when traditional relation-

ships of family are changing, there is a need to reassess the rights of people within their relationships and, in particular, the rights of children.

For more information contact: Gail Hawke, Manager World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights, P.O. Box N399, Crosvenor Place, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia, phone (02) 256-4444, FAX (02) 241 5282.

IUFO Conference in Vienna

The International Union of Family Organizations invites AFCC members to attend a working conference of the Commission on Marriage and Interpersonal Relations to be hosted by the Institut für Ehe und Familie, May 6-9, 1993 in Vienna, Austria. Two keynote papers will be presented. Professor Wilfred Dumon, sociologist at the University of Leuven, Belgium, will discuss how social change affects family patterns and the reciprocal effects of family change on society. Dr. Renate Riedler-Singer, Vienna psychologist, will address the same topic from her experience as a psychotherapist. The conference fee of \$285 US double and \$520 US single includes the conference registration fee, accommodation and all meals. For further information contact: Byrnee Gluckstern, 2009 W. Littleton Blvd., Littleton, CO 80120, (303) 730-7227.

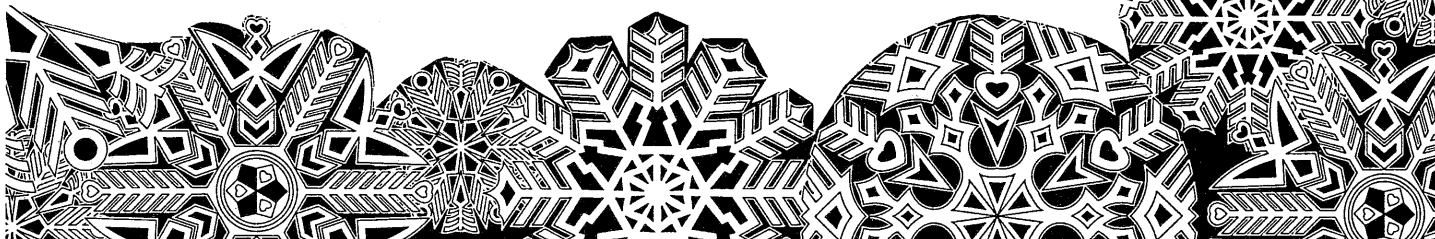
Federation of Law Societies/Canadian Bar Association

A Call for Papers has been issued by the Federation of Law Societies and the Canadian Bar Association for the National Family Law Program to be held in Western Canada, July 1994. Proposals must be received by March 15, 1993. For further information regarding guidelines for proposal submission and the conference contact: Heather Walker, Federation of Law Societies, 130 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario Canada M5H 2N6, (416) 947-4068.

International Society of Family Law

"Family Restructuring at the End of the 20th Century" will be the theme of the North American Conference of the International Society of Family Law to be held June 10-12, 1993 at Jackson Lake Lodge, Jackson Hole Wyoming. Topics will include reducing formalism and other procedural innovations, restructured families, family dissolution theory, economic consequences of dissolution and family restructuring, custody, rights of children and parents and new proposals concerning dissolution and family restructuring.

The deadline for the Call for Papers is January 5, 1993. Contact: Professor Lynn D. Wardle, ISFL North American Conference, 518 JRCB, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602.



Florida Supreme Court Issues Standards of Professional Conduct for Certified and Court-Appointed Mediators

In May of 1992 the Florida Supreme Court adopted Florida Rules for Certified and Court-Appointed Mediators, based primarily on recommendations from the Florida Supreme Court Standing Committee on Mediation and Arbitration Rules. The rules address three broad areas: 1) mediator qualifications, 2) standards of professional conduct and 3) discipline and are intended to instill and promote public confidence in the mediation process and to be a guide for mediator conduct.

Under the Florida qualifications rules, a family mediator must:

(1) complete a minimum of 40 hours in a family mediation training program certified by the Supreme Court;

(2) have a master's degree or doctorate in social work, mental health, behavioral or social sciences; or be a physician certified to practice adult or child psychiatry; or be an attorney or a certified public accountant

licensed to practice in any United States jurisdiction; and have at least 4 years practical experience in one of the aforementioned fields; or have 8 years family mediation experience with a minimum of 10 mediations per year;

(3) observe 2 family mediations conducted by a certified family mediator and conduct 2 family mediations under the supervision and observation of a certified family mediator; and

(4) be of good moral character.

There are additional qualifications for County Court and Circuit Court Mediators.

The Standards of Professional Conduct section addresses a vast array of professional issues including the appropriateness of mediation, self-determination, mediator impartiality, conflict of interest for lawyers and therapists, confidentiality, professional advice, fees and expenses and training and education. The rules state that mediators are

obligated to acquire knowledge and training in the mediation process and continue their professional education throughout their active service. In addition, experienced mediators should cooperate in the training of new mediators, including serving as a mentor.

The rules also address mediator discipline with provisions for a complaint committee and hearing procedures. Potential sanctions for mediator misconduct include imposition of costs of the proceeding, oral admonishment, written reprimand, additional training, restrictions on types of cases to be mediated, suspension and decertification.

For a copy of the Florida Rules for Certified and Court-Appointed Mediators, write to:

Florida Dispute Resolution Program
Supreme Court Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(904) 644-2086.

Upcoming Events

January 8, 1993

January 20-24, 1993

Mediation Training

Contact: Emily Brown and Peter Maida
(703) 528-3900

January 21-24, 1993

February 18-21, 1993

March 18-21, 1993

April 2-4, 1993

May 20-23, 1993

June 17-20, 1993

June 25-27, 1993

July 15-18, 1993

August 19-22, 1993

September 16-19, 1993

October 1-3, 1993

October 16-18, 1993

October 21-24, 1993

November 11-14, 1993

December 15-19, 1993

Family Mediation Training

Gary Kirkpatrick

Contact: (214) 528-2830

or 1-800-888-8609

January 14-17, 1993

February 11-14, 1993

March 18-21, 1993

May 13-16, 1993

June 24-27, 1993

Mediation Training

Contact: John Lemmon

(510) 547-8089

January 25-29, 1993

June 14-18, 1993

October 11-15, 1993

Divorce Mediation Training

Contact: CDR Associates

100 Arapahoe Ave. Suite 12

Boulder, Colorado 80302

(303) 442-7367

January 31-February 1, 1993

AFCC California Chapter

Sonoma Mission Inn

Contact: Margaret Taylor

Schapiro & Thorn

1242 Market St., 5th Floor

San Francisco, CA 94102

March 5-7, 1993

AFCC Arizona Chapter

Sedona, AZ

Contact: Bruce Cohen, Pres.

300 W. Clarendon, Suite 240

Phoenix, AZ 85013

(602) 955-1515

May 12-15, 1993—New Orleans

1993 AFCC Annual Conference

Contact: Tim Salius

Family Division Superior Court

28 Grand Street

Hartford, CT 06106

(203) 566-7973

October 7-9, 1993

AFCC Northcentral Regional Conference

Toledo, OH

Contact: Denise McColley

105 W. Main St.

Napoleon, OH 43545

(419) 592-0010

May, 11-14, 1994

AFCC Annual Conference

Maui, Hawaii

Contact: Hon. Douglas McNish

2145 Main Street

Wailuku, HI 96793

(808) 572-9642

Fall 1994—Hamilton, Ont.

AFCC Northcentral Regional Conference

Contact: Gerald McNeilly

Unified Family Court

55 Main Street West

Hamilton, Ont CANADA L8P 1H4

(416) 525-1550





ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONCILIATION COURTS

1992 Annual Conference

May 6-9, 1992 * * * San Diego Hilton

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- ☐ 429-02. Welcome/Child Development Issues/Child Custody - A. Jones, S. Snow, W. Hodges
- ☐ 429-03. Settlement Techniques for Judges - Don King, Kenneth Black
- ☐ 429-04. Administration/Management of Family Courts - Isolina Ricci, Robert Tompkins
- ☐ 429-05. Grandparents and Other Support Systems - David Dreiman, Linda Daniels, Dean P. Metzner
- ☐ 429-06. Use of Evaluations in Child Custody Disputes - Marie-Elana James, Margaret Little, Russell Gold
- ☐ 429-07. Interdisciplinary Cooperation in Divorce - Tony Wells
- ☐ 429-08. Interventions for Children of Divorce - William F. Hodges
- ☐ 429-09. Mediation in Dependency - Jan Shaw, Maxine Baker Jackson
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- ☐ 429-14. Snapshot California: State Court Study of 1700 Family Court Clients - C. Depner, K. Cannata
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- ☐ 429-16. Domestic Violence Community Task Forces - Benjamin Mackoff, Casey Gwinn
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- ☐ 429-18. Representing Children - C. Pate, A. Clements, M. Lowenstein, L. Baldwin
- ☐ 429-19. Coordination of Juvenile/Domestic Courts - L. Edwards, L. Quinn, M. Town, F. Castro, I. Johnson
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- * ☐ 429-22. Children's Waiting Rooms and Volunteers - Leslie Henderson, Julie Myres
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- ☐ 429-29. General Meeting AFCC
- * ☐ 429-30. Update on Current Research - Joan B. Kelly
- * ☐ 429-31. Custody Battle As Manifestation of Unresolved Grief - Meredith Ringler White
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The 5th annual Meyer Elkin Essay Award will be presented at AFCC's annual meeting in New Orleans, May 1993. The winner will receive a \$250 cash prize and award certificate. The winning article will be published in the **Family and Conciliation Courts Review**. Articles may address any of the themes listed above. Articles must be received by March 15, 1993. Entries should be submitted to Review Editor Hugh McIsaac, Family and Conciliation Courts Review, 111 N. Hill Street, Rm. 241, Los Angeles, CA 90012 USA, (213) 974-5524.

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