



NEWSLETTER

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

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

Volume 14, Number 1
Winter 1995

AFCC à Montréal: C'est bon!

A FCC is busy preparing for its 32nd Annual Conference, **Gender Issues in Family Law**, May 17–20 in Montreal, Canada. The 1995 Annual Conference, held in collaboration with l'Association de Médiation Familiale du Québec, promises to be one of AFCC's most exciting meetings to date.

The conference will take place at Le Centre Sheraton in the heart of downtown Montreal. AFCC has secured a conference rate of \$123 Canadian, approximately \$90 US, for a single or double room. This rate is valid for three days prior to and following the conference. Le Centre Sheraton is located a few short steps from Mount Royal, McGill University and Place des Arts performance center.

Six pre-conference institutes will be held on Wednesday, May 17 from 9:00 am–5:00 pm. The Custody Evaluation Institute will feature several popular presenters from AFCC's **First International Symposium**

on Child Custody Evaluations. Institutes for Special Masters, Judges, Lawyers, Mediators and those interested in Supervised Visitation Programs are also planned.

The conference program includes 40 workshops and general sessions covering a wide range of topics for attorneys, judges custody evaluators, parent educators and mediators. Featured speakers will include Ontario Appellate Court Judge Rosalie Abella, Kathleen Mahoney of the University of Calgary, Richard Warshak, author of *The Custody Revolution*, Montreal lawyer Miriam Grassby and David Sadker, co-author of *Failing at Fairness: How Our Schools Cheat Girls*.

Workshops topics will include sexual harassment in the work place, case management for judges, play therapy, mandatory parent education programs, ethical issues and boundaries for court services, neutrality in mediation, policies and programs for unmarried parents and much

more! Workshops will be sponsored by AFCC's International Committee, Child Support Committee, Mediation Committee, Academic and Research Committee, Parent Education Committee and Domestic Abuse Committee. Simultaneous translation will be offered for all general sessions and selected institutes and workshops.

The conference schedule will be supplemented by a variety of daytime and evening activities, including tours of Old Montreal and some of Montreal's most popular restaurants and jazz clubs.

Special Announcement for Committee Members

AFCC committee meetings will be held on Friday, May 19 from 12:00 noon–2:00 p.m. Location of committee meetings will be posted at the AFCC registration desk. Box lunches will be available for purchase.

Make Your Post-Conference Travel Plans Soon

The time is now to make your travel plans for one of AFCC's post-conference tours. AFCC's two week tour to Budapest, Prague and Vienna includes the Annual Conference of the International Commission on Marriage and Interpersonal Relations (IUFO), May 21–24 in Siofok on Lake Balaton. The conference entitled, "Who Pays?" examines the changing patterns of employment and the implications for families. The working languages of the conference are English and French, with simultaneous translation provided in plenary sessions and selected additional times.

AFCC now has alternative flights available for those wishing to arrive in Budapest on Sunday morning, May 21, 1995 after the close of AFCC's Annual Conference in Montreal. This will allow participants in the IUFO conference to arrive in plenty of time for the opening session.

The tour departs May 20 and returns to the U.S. on June 2. Cost of the tour is approximately \$2,000 U.S., not including

the IUFO conference-related costs. Registration, room, and meals associated with the conference will be approximately \$500 U.S. For further information about the IUFO Conference, please contact Byrnece Gluckstern at (303) 730-7227. For information about travel and tour arrangements, contact Pat Williams at Burkhalter Travel at (800) 556-9286.

A one week tour of France hosted by Montreal Conference Co-chairs Madame Justice Pierrette Sevigny and Attorney Richard McConomey departs upon the conclusion of the AFCC annual conference. Paris, Bordeaux and Versailles are on the itinerary as well as opportunities to wine, dine and meet with domestic relations professionals throughout France.

For information about the France trip, contact Richard McConomey, 1253 McGill College, Suite 550, Montreal, PQ H3B 2Y5, Tel: (514) 875-5311; Fax (514) 875-8381

If you are yearning to travel but can't break away to Europe, consider a weekend

excursion to Quebec City. A three hour train ride will bring travellers to the beautiful Chateau Frontenac. Justice Ross Goodwin of Quebec City will host AFCC members.

For information contact AFCC, 329 W. Wilson St., Madison, WI 53703; Tel: (608) 251-4001, Fax (608) 251-2231.

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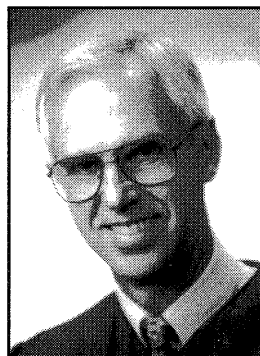
The AFCC Newsletter is a publication of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. The Newsletter is published four times a year. Deadlines for news items and advertising are March 15, June 15, September 15, and December 15. Advertising copy must be camera ready and payment made in U.S. funds.

Advertising Rates:

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President's Message

by Hon. Douglas McNish
Wailuku, HI



"I told my client the judge would definitely not be happy with her because the Court hated to have these matters go to trial," responded the attorney when asked how she got her client to settle. What a coercive court I thought momentarily. Wait a minute. That's my court. I'm not coercive. I have a whole mediation system I offer people. Coerciveness is what happens when people bring their disputes into the courtroom isn't it?

Is "The Coercive Court" something else perhaps? Does it include the court that insists, indeed demands, that disputes be resolved outside the courtroom. If the judge insists that disputes stay out of the courtroom, they will. Settlements will occur in pre-trial conferences, by lawyer negotiation and by mediation, if it is available. Cases will settle because nobody wants to have what the attorney described as the judge who "would definitely not be happy."

I'm sure many of you have stories about lawyers who have pushed clients to settlement when they really believed the interest of their clients or the client's children were not well served—too much pressure from the court. Perhaps you have stories about mediators who went too far in obtaining agreements because the judge expected cases to be resolved in mediation. Is there subtle pressure on mediators? For example, despite our constant plea that mediators not be assessed by the number of agreements they produce, isn't that still the primary standard by which we judge their skill? In a system where one mediator has a 70 percent agreement rate and another 40 percent, is there a question which one is perceived to be the better mediator?

There are some obvious remedies to the problem of what I am calling "The Coercive Court." Get rid of the judge and replace him or her with someone else; someone who will put effort into making the courtroom experience more humane, more responsive to the parties needs, someone who will be as concerned with the parties as with docket congestion, someone who will encourage settlement out of court but will not demand it.

Fantasy! Fantasy! Fantasy! It isn't going to happen. There are too many cases in our courts to do justice for many of them. The limited amount of court time gets divided by an increasing number of cases. Judges are forced to develop rigid procedures that limit determination on a case by case basis. Visitation guidelines become presumptions,

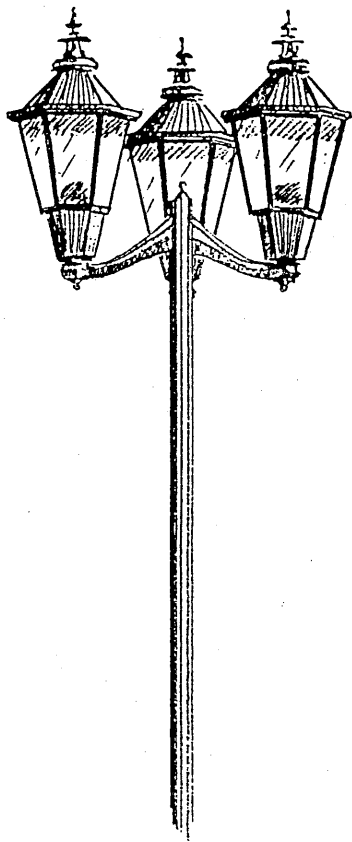
hearings are compressed into 10–15 minutes of arguments by attorneys and decisions get made without anything approaching a full and fair hearing. Add to this the complex dynamics of custody cases, where the line between pushing too hard or not hard enough for settlement is not so clear that we can go about traipsing across it with regularity, even with the noblest of intentions, and the pressure from the courts to divert cases will only increase.

The best we can do, I think, is to create options for people. A single mediation program is not enough. If there is anything we should have learned from working in our courts it is that we cannot group all people together. They are different, and we must take our cases single file, one by one. Thus we need a variety of alternative dispute resolution possibilities in our arsenal. We need mediation programs that range from process-only focused to those heavily involved in product. We need informal arbitration processes, custody evaluations both confidential and non-confidential, and certainly some therapeutic intervention programs. The more options we have the more people are served without coercion.

This brings me, at last, to the punch line. AFCC is the source of our learning about options. Our creative members are the people who have developed models and established programs. Our conferences and publications are your opportunity to learn about what is possible and to share your discoveries and accomplishments. I encourage all of you to take advantage of your membership. Increase the options.

P.S. I am interested in your "Coercive Court" stories. Send me your best, your worst, your funniest. 2145 Main Street, Wailuku, HI 96793





See Montreal!!

A visit to Montreal for AFCC's Annual Conference would not be complete without taking in the sites of this beautiful and historic city.

From its roots as a small French colony, Montreal developed into a thriving trade center of British merchants. It subsequently became a multi-cultural center, enriched by the hard work and tradition of immigrants from every continent. Montreal is the second largest French-speaking city in the world; however English is very much in evidence.

Montreal is a cosmopolitan center full of festivals, artistic performances and sporting events. The old section of the city (Old Montreal) is a virtual open-air museum of historic buildings and monuments. Vestiges of the first settlement of Ville-Marie can be seen today at the Pointe-à-Callière Museum of Archeology and History. Notre-Dame-de Bonsecours Chapel, the "Sailor's Church," sits on remnants of the first wooden chapel's foundation, built in 1693. Almost two centuries later, the construction of Notre-Dame Basilica, a masterpiece of Neo-Gothic architecture, symbolizes the growth of the community. Inspired by the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, the chapel is a unique tribute to Quebec artistry with its carved wood, gold leaf interior. Across the street, the statue of Paul de Chomedey, sieur de Maisonneuve, the founder of Montreal, stands proudly in Place d'Armes.

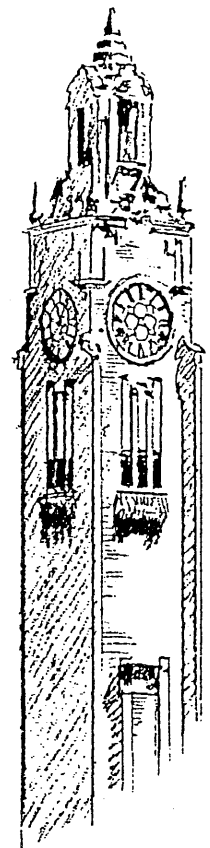
Over time, the city expanded uphill towards the Mount Royal and the vitality of the old city temporarily diminished. However the entire Old Montreal region was revived in the 1960's and museums, restaurants, bars and shops have since taken over the restored buildings. Montrealers and visitors delight in exploring the narrow cobblestone streets.

For pure dining pleasure, Montreal has a well deserved reputation as a gastronomic capital, equal to that of the great European cities. Cafes, bistros or chic dining rooms are available to offer a smorgasbord of ethnic specialties, providing every conceivable type of food at almost any time of the day or night.

For the night crowd, an after-hours extravaganza of live entertainment awaits throughout the city. From piano bars to rhythm and blues clubs, or from jazz bars to salsa and lambada clubs, Montreal has it all.

Throughout the city, green spaces blend beautifully with the urban setting. The 200-acre Mount Royal Park has remained a haven for recreational activities in the middle of the city. From the mountaintop overlook, sightseers can see the "Parc des Illes" in the middle of the St. Lawrence river. Looking east from the lookout provides a view of the Olympic Park with the world's tallest inclined tower arching over the stadium. A short walk away is the 73-hectare Botanical Garden featuring spectacular Japanese and Chinese gardens.

The provincial capital, Quebec City, recently featured in Travelers Magazine, is the essence of French Canada. AFCC's post-conference trip will bring travelers there by train on Saturday afternoon for a weekend stay at the Chateau Frontenac. Join your AFCC colleagues in soaking up the European atmosphere for which Quebec is so well known.



From Courtroom to Classroom

Hon. Kenneth Rohrs, Reno, Nevada



With his recent move from Napoleon, OH to Reno, NV, Hon. Kenneth Rohrs left behind a decade of distinguished service as a judge, a lifetime of community service and many fond memories. Fortunately, one thing Judge Rohrs won't be leaving in Ohio is his connection to AFCC.

A member of AFCC's Board of Directors since 1989, Judge Rohrs was appointed Dean of the National Judicial College late last year, shortly after celebrating his tenth anniversary as a Judge in the Henry County, OH, Court

of Common Pleas. "Over the years I have developed a strong interest in judicial education," he said. "This opportunity was just too good to pass up."

Although his move to Reno wasn't his first from the Buckeye state, Judge Rohrs has strong roots in Ohio. He grew up on a family farm in Hamler, OH and notes that three of his brothers and their children still work the farm. After two years at Concordia College High School Lutheran Seminary in Milwaukee, Judge Rohrs decided against the ministry and returned home to graduate from Hamler High School.

Judge Rohrs attended Bowling Green State University, taking time out from his studies to serve four years in the Navy. He subsequently earned his law degree at the University of Toledo. He began his legal career with a fervor, serving as both part-time Assistant County Prosecutor in Lucas County, OH and undertaking a private practice, where he remained until his appointment to the bench in 1984.

Judge Rohrs has been extremely active in judicial education throughout Ohio and with the National Judicial College. His civic involvement includes service to the Lutheran Orphans' and Old Folks' Home Society, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Center for Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Northwest Ohio, United Way and Maumee Youth Camp.

Although Judge Rohrs will have to leave behind much good work and many organizational affiliations in Ohio, his connection with AFCC follows him to Reno. In fact, his introduction to AFCC took place at the National Judicial College in 1987, when AFCC Past President Hon. Betty Barteau made a presentation and talked about the association. Judge Rohrs subsequently attended an AFCC conference in Cincinnati and became hooked.

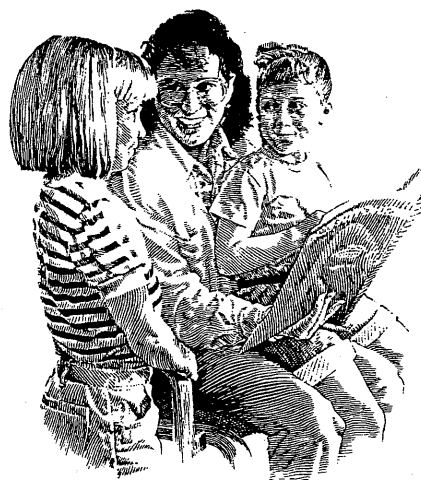
Judge Rohrs envisions a strong AFCC/National Judicial College relationship. "I would like to see the National Judicial College working cooperatively with AFCC and other organizations," he said. Providing joint training for judicial education programs is just one of the joint ventures he is considering.

For the time being, Judge Rohrs is getting acclimated to his new surroundings. "I am spending a lot of time meeting with the staff, learning from them and trying to find out what I can do to help them enhance their jobs. I want to make sure the Judicial College staff share the same vision and that we deliver the best judicial education possible." In addition, Judge Rohrs hopes to find ways to help the Judicial College bring technology to judges "in a nonthreatening way."

Judge Rohrs has two sons. The older son, Jeffrey, forced one of Judge Rohrs' toughest decisions when his graduation from Boston University Law School coincided with AFCC's Annual Conference in Maui (the graduation prevailed). Jeffrey is now a practicing attorney in Cleveland while his younger brother, Matthew, is a high school senior and class president in Napoleon. He will attend Miami University in Oxford, OH next fall.

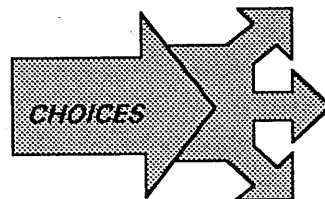
In what there is of his spare time, Judge Rohrs likes reading and fishing and hiking in the mountains. So far, he does not miss being a judge. "I miss the people, but my new job is so challenging in new and different ways. I am spending time with judicial educators from all over the world. For a judicial educator, this is the very best job in the country."

Hon. Kenneth Rohrs may now be contacted at the National Judicial College, Judicial College Building, University of Nevada, Reno, NV, 89557. Tel: (702) 784-6747, Fax: (702) 784-4235.



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Conducting Child Custody Evaluations:

Who is the Client?

The following is taken from **Conducting Child Custody Evaluations**, by Philip Stahl, Ph.D., AFCC Board Member from Dublin, CA. Reprinted with permission of Sage Publications.



When I do evaluations, I am often asked, "Who are they for?" Sometimes evaluations are done by stipulation or court order. In many states evaluators are appointed the court expert with quasi-judicial

status and immunity. This means that they cannot be sued because their role in the public sector is like that of a judge. Many evaluations are done by family court service personnel who work directly for the courts. Because of limited public resources and overburdened family court systems, private evaluators are hired, either by court order or by agreement and stipulation between the attorneys and their clients.

When evaluations are done in the public sector, there is often little or no cost to the family for the evaluation. Some jurisdictions charge an hourly fee for evaluations, but it is often on a sliding scale to ensure that all families in need have an available evaluation. In the private sector, the costs for an evaluation may be paid for completely by one parent or shared in some fashion between both parties. On rare occasion, a parent's health insurance may cover some of the costs of a custody evaluation, though most health insurance plans reject claims resulting from a legal referral. In situations where only one parent pays for the cost of a private evaluation, the other parent is often concerned that the evaluator may show a bias toward the parent who pays. Obviously, it is important to allay those fear-

simmediately. Finally, parents who do not trust the judicial system tend to fear that the evaluator will be looking more closely at the court's needs than their children's needs. It is important to help the parents recognize that the two are actually the same, that is, the court by law is looking out for the best interests of the child.

Regardless of who appoints the evaluator or who is paying the fee, the client must be the entire family. Although the evaluator hopes that an evaluation can assist the court and the attorneys in meeting the family's needs, it is clear that the family, especially the children, are the clients to be served. In an overburdened legal system with pressures from judges and attorneys, evaluators sometimes lose sight of the fact that the families are the clients and that helping the family understand and meet their children's needs is the job. Certainly evaluators can try to help judges make sound decisions and can try to assist attorneys in directing their clients toward settlement, but in all instances, the primary goal must be to help the parents understand the needs of their children.

I believe that the ethical duty of evaluators is to meet the needs of the family first and foremost, even if that leads to possible conflict with the needs or wishes of the court that has ordered the evaluation. Although this is unlikely because the court is looking for help to understand the best interests of the child, the family's needs—in particular the children's needs—must always be the paramount issue for the evaluator. The family is the consumer and the evaluator's ethical responsibility is to the family and its individual members. The children must be the main concern, as they are the most vulnerable and the ones in need of an advocate to safeguard their emotional and developmental needs. Thus, no matter who is paying for the evaluation, or in what context it is ordered, the children of divorce are the primary clients and their needs must be served first.

Resource Guide For Custody Evaluators Is Hot Off the Press

AFCC's **Resource Guide for Custody Evaluators** is now available. This popular 16-chapter publication sold out the initial printing after its debut at AFCC's **First International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations** in Tucson, November, 1994.

The **Resource Guide** addresses the custody evaluation process from beginning to end, including chapters on interviewing, psychological testing, report writing, testifying in court and ethical considerations. Price: \$35 plus shipping and handling.

Symposium Proceedings Available

AFCC is offering copies of the **Symposium Proceedings and Participant Directory** to those who were unable to attend the **First International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations**. The 200 page **Symposium Proceedings** include papers, handouts and other materials. Price: \$15 plus shipping and handling.

To order these and other AFCC materials contact P.J. White, AFCC, 329 W. Wilson St., Madison, WI 53703; Tel: (608) 251-4001, Fax: (608) 251-2231.

Planning Underway for Second International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

AFCC is making plans for the **Second International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations**, scheduled for January 20–22, 1996 at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort in Clearwater Beach, Florida.

In an effort to build on the success of the 1994 **Symposium**, AFCC is considering a format which includes advanced workshops, consultation opportunities and informal networking sessions.

If you are interested in presenting a workshop at the **Second International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations**, please send a brief abstract and a one page outline of your proposed presentation along with a resume to: AFCC, 329 W. Wilson St., Madison, WI, 53703 Tel: (608) 251-4001, Fax: (608) 251-2231.



Study Finds Mediation Contributes Toward Violence Reduction

An analysis of over 250 separating and divorcing parents in the Hamilton Unified Family Court Mediation Pilot Project found that "mediation makes a greater contribution toward preventing post-processing abuse of separated women by their ex-partners than lawyer negotiations."

The evaluation was designed to provide a comprehensive description and assessment of the Family Mediation Pilot Project to identify strengths and weaknesses of mediation, with particular attention to the risks mediation poses to women in comparison with the lawyer/court process.

The project studied a mediation model which addresses custody, access, support and property issues. Mediators in the project were assisted by a panel of family law practitioners who acted as consultants to the mediation service. Parents were interviewed before the lawyer/court process and the mediation process, and 12 months after completion of the process. Parents self-selected either mediation or lawyer/court processing of their dispute.

Among the research findings:

- The incidence of physical abuse is high among separating partners. Four out of every ten wives reported physical abuse to the mediators and lawyers who processed their separation.
- Mediation clients reported greater post-processing decreases in verbal and emotional abuse than clients of lawyers.
- Mediation makes a greater contribution towards decreasing post-processing physical and emotional abuse than does lawyer negotiations.
- Males and females in the mediation sample did not differ significantly with respect to power imbalances as measured in the study.
- Females in the mediation sample are more successful than female clients of lawyers in obtaining the amount of child support they want.
- Females in the lawyer sample are more successful than female mediation clients in obtaining sole custody.

- Settlement rates are poor predictors of satisfaction rates among clients of both lawyers and mediators.
- Mediation clients make more fully informed choices than lawyer clients.

Researchers caution that the mediation model used in Hamilton contained numerous safeguards to ensure safety and protection of clients. There was also rigorous adherence to detailed policies and procedures designed to detect abuse and power imbalances and to ensure the protection of clients' legal rights. These findings may differ when compared to other models of mediation.

For additional information about the study contact:

Professor Desmond Ellis
LaMarsh Research Center
York University
217 York Lanes
North York, Ontario M3J 1P3
CANADA

1995 MEDIATION COUNCIL OF ILLINOIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Presented in cooperation with the National Association of Social Workers

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JUDITH WALLERSTEIN, Ph.D

Author of Second Chances

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ◆ How children experience the divorce process
- ◆ How the divorce process can be changed for the benefit of children
- ◆ Related issues of special concern to mediators
- ◆ Conference will qualify for both Academy of Family Mediators credits and social work credits

• For conference information, contact Kathleen Borland weekdays, 9 am to 4 pm at (312) 609-8766; or leave a message at MCI's main number, (312) 641-3000, and your call will be returned

• For hotel information, call the Holiday Inn at (312) 787-6100

AFCC and University of Wisconsin to Offer Custody Evaluation and Parent Education Training Programs

A FCC will team up with the University of Wisconsin's Division of Health and Human Issues to present two training programs this spring. The programs will take place in Madison, WI, home of the University of Wisconsin and headquarters to AFCC.

Conducting Child Custody Evaluations, a two-day seminar covering the fundamentals of custody evaluations, will be offered March 9-10, 1995. The program is ideal for both private practice evaluators and those working for family court or human services agencies. Faculty for this seminar will include Pamela Langelier, Ph.D., Doneldon Dennis, Supervisor of Hennepin County Family Court Services and James J. Podell, J.D., Past-chair of the American Bar Association Family Law Section.

AFCC and the University of Wisconsin will also offer **Developing Education Programs for Separated and Divorcing Parents**. This one-day "how to" seminar takes place April 11, 1995, and examines the many practical, professional and procedural issues in starting up a program. Featured faculty include Carol Roeder-Esser, LCSCW, director of divorce education in Johnson County, Kansas, Stephen Schlissel, J.D., co-founder of New York's statewide Parent Education and Custody Effectiveness (P.E.A.C.E.) Program and Hon. Susan Snow, Circuit Court of Cook County.

Registration is \$150 for **Conducting Child Custody Evaluations** and \$75 for **Developing a Parent Education Program for Separated and Divorcing Parents**. To register, call (608) 262-7942.

For further information about these programs, contact:

Peter Salem
AFCC Associate Director
329 W. Wilson St.
Madison, WI 53703
(608) 251-4001
FAX (608) 251-2231

or

Professor James Campbell
Division of Health and Human Issues
610 Langdon St.
Madison, WI 53703
(608) 262-2352

Survey Finds California Family Courts Offer Wide Range of Services

In addition to California's mandatory mediation in child custody and visitation disputes, a large number of other ADR methods are also being provided by Family Court Services. These ADR methods are being provided not only to the family court, but also to juvenile, probate, and civil courts, according to *Survey of California Courts: Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and Auxiliary Services*.

With more than 73,000 child custody mediation sessions a year, California's statewide mandatory child custody mediation program is the largest in the United States. This survey shows that in addition to this service, many of California's family courts have expanded mediation to resolve other family or domestic matters, such as guardianship, conservatorship, dependency, child support, or property settlement.

Among the survey's findings:

- Seventy-eight percent of the courts surveyed provide mediation for other disputes in addition to child custody;
- Seventy percent conduct mediation in guardianship cases;
- Twenty percent provide mediation for juvenile dependency cases;
- Twenty percent provide mediation for property disputes;
- Seventeen percent provide mediation for civil disputes;
- Eleven percent provide mediation for child support issues;
- Ninety-eight percent provide some type of evaluation or investigation services to the court;
- Seventy-six percent provide settlement conferences in family matters;

- Eighty percent of the courts provide auxiliary services, such as counseling, referrals, or assessments to the court.

Family Court Services conducted the statewide ADR study to determine the number and types of non-custody ADR forums operating in California courts. The study also identified the providers of the ADR services, the number of cases and the year each service was established. In addition, the study collected data on the types of settlement conferences, evaluations, assessments, investigations, counseling, and screening that are used to settle a matter out of court or to provide information to the court. Of 58 California superior courts, 48 participated in the study.

A Survey of California Courts: Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and Auxiliary Services is available from the Statewide Office of Family Court Services. Contact: (415) 396-9153.



A Work in Progress:

The Development of Standards and Guidelines for Practice in Supervised Visitation Programs

*Submitted by Hedi Levenback,
Supervised Visitation Network,
New York, NY.*

When the Supervised Visitation Network (SVN) was founded in 1991, SVN members provided supervised visitation in diverse settings. They shared common concerns, however, and perceived a need to create minimum standards and guidelines for supervised visitation.

In response to interest from the SVN membership, a formal decision to dedicate organizational time and effort to establishing standards and guidelines for these programs was made at the SVN Conference in Chicago in 1994. By then Rob Straus, SVN Past President, was involved in the Massachusetts effort to develop guidelines for visitation centers in domestic violence cases.

A Standards and Guidelines Committee was convened by Glynne Gervais of Chicago and Hedi Levenback of New York.

The committee gathered policy guidelines from programs throughout the country. These policy guidelines cover areas such as staffing, physical plant and site, security, emergencies and domestic violence. The committee also received the Standards for Children's Access Services drafted under the auspices of the Attorney General's Department, Canberra, Australia.

The Australian standards provided a new and valuable focus for the SVN Standards and Guidelines Committee. A revised draft of SVN Standards and Guidelines, integrating key components of these standards, will be presented to the SVN Standards and Guidelines Committee for comment prior to presentation to the entire membership at the fourth annual conference in Vancouver, British Columbia in April, 1995. Comments from the membership will be integrated into a new document for final presentation. If accepted, the Standards and Guidelines will be formally adopted at the fifth annual conference in Austin, Texas in 1996.

The formulation of standards and guidelines is a slow and cumbersome process. The aim, however, has been to develop guidelines based on consensus through an open process of comment and consultation with the membership.

The Supervised Visitation Network is strongly committed to the establishment of quality services. The enactment of this first set of Standards and Guidelines will be helpful to the current membership for the development of future programs, as a guide to optimal practice and as a resource for the development of operational and training manuals, funding, accreditation and licensing standards.

For comment or further information, please contact Glynne Gervais (312) 434-5577 or Hedi Levenback (718) 543-6867 Co-Chairs, Standards and Guidelines Committee, Supervised Visitation Network.

REACHING FOR DIVERSITY

MEDIATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The Academy of Family Mediators 1995 Annual Conference July 10 - 15, 1995 Cincinnati, Ohio

Join the Academy of Family Mediators for our 1995 Annual Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. In addition to presentations on working with diverse populations and innovative mediation approaches, the Conference will feature sessions on standard family mediation topics such as psychological issues, financial issues and research.

A sampling of this year's topics include:

- Neutrality in Mediation
- Divorce Education for Parents and Children
- Negotiating Support in the Age of Computers
 - Mediating with Explosive Clients
- Examining the Impact of Culture on Mediation

**For further information please contact:
Academy of Family Mediators
1500 South Highway 100, Suite 355
Golden Valley, MN 55416
(612) 525-8670 ●Fax - (612) 525-8725**

Domestic Abuse Committee Call for Members

AFCC's Domestic Abuse Committee is interested in recruiting new members. The committee will meet in Montreal at the Annual Conference. If you are interested in finding out more about the domestic abuse committee (whether or not you will be in Montreal) contact:

Hon. Arline S. Rotman
Worcester Probate and Family Court
2 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01609
(508) 756-2441

New Domestic Abuse Publications

The National Center on Women and Family Law announces the release of two policy reports on police arrest of abusers. *Mandatory Arrest: Problems and Possibilities and Analysis and Policy Implications of New Domestic Violence Police Studies* examine the results of implementation and research on mandatory arrest.

For further information and to order copies contact:

National Center on Women
and Family Law
700 Broadway, Suite 402,
New York, NY 10003
Tel: (212) 674-8200
Fax: (212) 533-5104.

Babies Can't Wait

The Texas Association of Infant Mental Health is hosting The World Association of Infant Mental Health Regional Conference in Arlington, TX, April 7-8, 1995. The conference theme is **Babies Can't Wait: A Collaborative Approach to Planning for Infants and Toddlers in the Legal System**. The conference will focus on issues concerning appropriate planning and intervention for infants and toddlers in the legal system.

For further information contact:

Deborah E. Butler
TCJC Child Abuse
Intervention Training Project
4801 Marine Creek Parkway
Fort Worth, TX 76179
(817) 232-7703

Northwest Regional Conference Taking Shape

AFCC's Northwest Regional Conference and Board Meeting will take place at the Skamania Lodge in Oregon's Columbia Gorge, November 2-4, 1995.

The conference committee has planned five workshop tracks including "Violence and Fear," "Sabotage of Settlement," "Parents that Don't (or Can't)" and "Violence and Fear: The Threat to Families and the Threat to Us." Track coordinators Hugh McIsaac, John Kydd, Ruth Garrett, Jerry McHale and Kit Furey are hard at work planning an array of interesting and challenging workshops.

Skamania Lodge is located in the scenic surroundings of the Columbia Gorge, less than a one hour drive from Portland. AFCC has blocked all two hundred rooms at the inn. Rates are \$85.00 for a single or double, \$99.00 for a room with a river view. Make your travel plans and reservations early.

For further information contact:

Hugh McIsaac
Family Services
Multnomah County
1021 S.W. 4th Ave., Room 350
Portland, OR, 97204
(503) 248-3189

AFCC Professional Development and Technical Assistance

AFCC can provide Professional Development and Technical Assistance opportunities to individuals and agencies interested in obtaining the skills and knowledge required to effectively meet the service needs of separated and divorcing families.

Professional Development and Technical Assistance Programs are available in the following areas:

- Conducting Custody Evaluations
- Mediation (basic and advanced)
- Establishing Parent Education Programs
- Effective Supervision Techniques for Court Services
- Ethical and Professional Boundaries
- Establishing Family Court Services

AFCC's Professional Development offerings include special topic conferences such as AFCC's **Congress on Parent Education Programs and Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations**.

For further information contact: Peter Salem, AFCC Associate Director, AFCC, 329 W. Wilson St., Madison, WI 53703; Tel: (608) 251-4001, FAX (608) 251-2231.

ON PARENT EDUCATION

Second International Congress is on the Horizon

AFCC is setting its sights on Clearwater Beach, Florida for the **Second International Congress on Parent Education Programs**. The Congress is scheduled for January 27-29, 1996 at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort in Clearwater Beach.

The Second Congress will provide in-depth, practical instruction on how providers can meet the challenges of establishing and maintaining a Parent Education Program. If you are interested in presenting a workshop at the **Second International Congress on Parent Education Programs**, please send a brief abstract and a one page outline of your proposed workshop with a resume to:

AFCC
329 W. Wilson St.
Madison, WI 53703
(608) 251-4001
FAX (608) 251-2231

AFCC and ABA Form Joint Task Force on Parent Education Programs

AFCC has joined forces with the Family Law Section of the American Bar Association to form a Joint Task Force on Parent Education Programs. The Task Force will focus on how AFCC and the ABA can further support the development of emerging and existing parent education programs.

Task Force members include: Co-chairs Hon. Douglas McNish, AFCC President, Wailuku, HI and Stephen Schlissel, Co-founder, P.E.A.C.E. Program, Mineola, NY; and members Linda Hahn, Director, Family Court Services, Dallas, TX; Tim Walker, Chair-elect, ABA Family Law Section, Littleton, CO; Tim Salius, Director, Connecticut Family Court Services; Joy Feinberg, Chicago, IL, Hon. Susan Snow, Bridgeview, IL; Mark Robens, Phoenix, AZ; and Andrew Schepard, Chair, AFCC Parent Education Committee, Hempstead, NY (Reporter). AFCC Associate Director Peter Salem will serve as staff consultant to the Task Force.

Program Profiles, Parent Education Packets Available

AFCC's **Parent Education Program Profiles** is now available. The **Profiles** offer information on over 100 parent education programs throughout the United States and Canada. The price is \$16, plus shipping and handling.

A limited number of **Parent Education Information Packets** remain available. Included in the packets are a copy of the Proceedings and Participant Directory from AFCC's **First International Congress on Parent Education Programs** and "War and P.E.A.C.E." an article and model parent education statute by Professor Andrew Schepard. The price for the **Information Packet** is \$18 plus shipping and handling. Order from P.J. White, AFCC, 329 W. Wilson St., Madison, WI 53703; (608) 251-4001, FAX (608) 251-2231.

MEMBER NEWS

Joel Bankes, Chair of AFCC's Child Support Committee, has taken on a challenging new position as Director of the Domestic Relations Division, Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Office of the Courts.

Robert Benjamin, former AFCC Board member from St. Louis, MO, has been selected President-Elect of the Academy of Family Mediators by the AFM Board of Directors. Mr. Benjamin will serve as AFM President during the 1996-1997 year.

Hon. Eugene N. Chipman Sr., AFCC member from Plymouth, Indiana retired from the bench in December, 1994.

Dorothy Howard, Chair of AFCC's Custody Evaluation Committee has recently begun a new position as a social worker at Sunrise Hospital in Las Vegas. Ms. Howard will work with transplant and cancer patients and will assist victims of domestic violence who come through the emergency room. While she looks forward to the challenges ahead, Ms. Howard notes that she and her husband Lary will both miss the wonderful people involved in AFCC.

Frank Laney, AFCC Board member from Raleigh, NC has accepted a new position as Mediation Coordinator for the North Carolina Industrial Commission. He may be contacted at 4300 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh, NC 27611, Tel: (919) 715-2791.

Jennifer Mastroski, Co-chair of AFCC's Academic and Research Committee, has accepted a joint appointment between the Department of Health Policy and Administration and the Institute for Continuing Justice Education and Research at Pennsylvania State University.

Frederic Mitchell, AFCC member from Tucson, AZ has been appointed Director of the Family Center of the Conciliation Court, Superior Court of Pima County. Dr. Mitchell is a licensed psychologist with over twenty years experience as a marriage and family therapist. He succeeds AFCC member Linda Kerr who resigned the position in the Fall and has moved to Boulder, CO.

Richard McConomy, Co-chair of AFCC's Annual Conference in Montreal, was featured in *National*, a publication of the Canadian Bar Association, for his commitment to public service. Mr. McConomy's role as president of numerous boards was noted along with his current role as president of United Way/Centraide Canada.

Joel Shawn and Dee Samuels, AFCC members from San Francisco, are pleased to announce that Kevin A. Duffy a Certified Family Law Specialist has joined the law firm of Samuels, Shawn & Marx. Jessica Metoyer has become an Associate and Peggy Roth has become the firm's Legal Administrator.

Adult Guardianship Mediation Project Funded

The Center for Social Gerontology (TCSG) in Ann Arbor, MI, in cooperation with the National Institute for Dispute Resolution (NIDR), has received funding from the Retirement Research Foundation to further the development of pre-trial mediation of adult guardianship disputes.

As reported in the AFCC Newsletter (Summer, 1994) TCSG has been mediating guardianship disputes between parents and adult children. The replication project will allow TCSG to help implement mediation of adult guardianship cases at four pilot sites: the Center for Conflict Resolution, Chicago, IL; Administrative Office of the Courts/Mediation and Diversion Services, Tampa, FL; New Mexico Center for Dispute Resolution, Albuquerque, NM; and Human Network Systems, Inc./The Cadence Group, Colorado.

TCSG will develop curriculum, materials and provide training for two trainers from each pilot site.

For information about the project contact:

Susan Hartman
The Center for Social Gerontology
2307 Shelby Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48103-3803
Tel: (313) 665-1126
Fax: (313) 665-2071

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 16-19, 1995

April 27-30, 1995

May 18-21, 1995

Basic Mediation Training

Location: San Francisco, CA

Contact: John Lemmon, Ph.D.

(510) 547-8089

March 9-10, 1995—Madison, WI

Conducting Child Custody Evaluations

Contact: AFCC

(608) 251-4001 or

Professor James Campbell

University of Wisconsin

(608) 262-2352

March 10, 1995—Cleveland, OH

Advanced Mediation Training

Contact: Phyllis Hulewat

The Center for Divorcing Families

(216) 292-3999

April 11, 1995—Madison, WI

Developing Parent Education Programs

Contact: AFCC

(608) 251-4001 or

Professor James Campbell

University of Wisconsin

(608) 262-2352

April 21-22, 1995—Chicago, IL

Mediation Council of Illinois

1995 Conference

Contact: Kathleen Borland

(312) 609-8766

April 24-28, 1995—Boulder, CO

Family Mediation (non-divorce)

Contact: CDR Associates

1-800-MEDIATE

April 27-28—Ann Arbor, MI

May 22-23—Burlington, VT

Mediation Training & Consultation Institute

Advanced Mediation Training

Contact: Zena D. Zumeta, J.D.

(800) 535-1155 or (313) 663-1155

April 27-28, 1995—Appleton, WI

Wisconsin Interprofessional

Committee on Divorce Annual Conference

Contact: Ginny Gigot

(414) 235-4910

May 1-5—Chicago, IL

Mediation Training & Consultation Institute

Basic Divorce Mediation Training

Contact: Zena D. Zumeta, J.D.

(800) 535-1155 or (313) 663-1155

May 17-20, 1995—Montreal, Canada

Gender Issues in Family Law

AFCC Annual Conference

Contact: AFCC

(608) 251-4001

June 7-11, 1995

Divorce Mediation Training

Contact: Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D.

Northern California Mediation Center

(415) 927-1422

June 12-16, 1995—Boulder, CO

Divorce and Child Custody Mediation

Contact: CDR Associates

1-800-MEDIATE

July 10-15, 1995—Cincinnati, OH

Academy of Family Mediators

Annual Conference

Contact: AFM

(612) 525-8670

October 25-28, 1995—Victoria, BC, Canada

Family Mediation Canada Annual Conference

Contact: FMC

(519) 836-7750

November 2-4, 1995—Columbia Gorge, OR

AFCC Northwest Regional Conference

and Board Meeting

Contact: Hugh McIsaac

(503) 248-3189

January 20-22, 1996—Clearwater Beach, FL

AFCC Second International

Symposium on

Child Custody Evaluations

Contact: AFCC

(608) 251-4001

January 27-29, 1996—Clearwater Beach, FL

AFCC Second International Congress

on Parent Education Programs

Contact: AFCC

(608) 251-4001

May 8-11, 1996—San Antonio, TX

AFCC Annual Conference

Contact: AFCC

(608) 251-4001

Fall 1996—Boston, MA

AFCC Northeast Regional Conference

and Board Meeting

Contact: AFCC

(608) 251-4001

May/June 1997—San Francisco, CA

AFCC Annual Conference

Contact: AFCC

(608) 251-4001



Second International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

Sheraton Sand Key Resort

Clearwater Beach, Florida

January 20-22, 1996

AFCC's **Second International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations** will include workshops ranging from general evaluation skills to advanced sessions for the experienced practitioner.

The Second International Symposium will also offer a variety of networking and consultation opportunities.

AFCC is looking for workshop presenters in the following areas:

- private vs. court services models
- innovative evaluation models
- the role of psychological testing
- what judges want from evaluations
- evaluating "non-traditional" families

Second International Congress on Parent Education Programs

Sheraton Sand Key Resort

Clearwater Beach, Florida

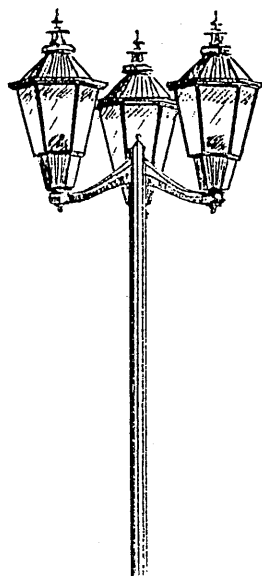
January 27-29, 1996

AFCC's **Second International Congress on Parent Education Programs** will provide in-depth, practical instruction on how providers can meet the challenges of establishing and maintaining parent education programs.

AFCC is looking for workshop presenters in the following areas:

- innovative programs
- program management
- standards and ethics
- conducting program evaluation
- service delivery to multi-cultural populations
- programs for post-divorce parents
- programs for children
- family violence

To submit a proposal for the **Second International Congress on Parent Education Programs** or the **Second International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations**, please send a brief abstract and a one page outline of your proposed workshop to AFCC, 329 W. Wilson St., Madison, WI 53703, Tel: (608) 251-4001, Fax: (608) 251-2231.



Montréal

AFCC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

May 17—20, 1995

Le Centre Sheraton

\$90 Single/Double U.S. (Approximate Exchange) \$123 Canadian

(514) 878-2000

Gender Issues in Family Law

— A Generation of Concerns —

For information contact: AFCC, 329 W. Wilson St.,
Madison, WI 53703. (608) 251-4001 FAX (608) 251-2231



**Association of Family
and Conciliation Courts**
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