

AFCC NEWSLETTER



**AFCC
KIDS COUNT
ON US**

VOLUME 20, NUMBER 2

An association of family, court and community professionals

SPRING 2001

New York City Conference a First for AFCC

For the first time in history AFCC will be holding a conference in New York and thanks to the efforts of New York AFCC members, all signs point to a highly successful event. AFCC's Northeast Regional Conference, *High Conflict Families and the Courts*, takes place September 13-15, 2001 at the New Yorker Hotel in the heart of Manhattan. The hotel is just across the street from Penn Station and only a five minute walk to Times Square. AFCC has negotiated a hotel room rate of only \$139 per night, single or double room.

The opening night session will take place on Thursday, September 13, 2001. "Overnights and the Best Interests of Infants and Young Children" will be a fast-paced roundtable discussion featuring Albert Solnit, co-author, *Beyond the Best Interests of the Child*; Michael Lamb, Head of the Section on Social and Emotional Development for the National Institute of

Child Health and Human Development; Hon. Jacqueline W. Silberman, New York Administrative Judge for Statewide Matrimonial Matters, and attorneys Sonja Goldstein, New Haven, CT, Robert Barrasso, Tucson, AZ and Robert Dobrish, New York, NY.

Friday morning's plenary will feature Janet Johnston, a pioneer in the study of high conflict families. Dr. Johnston will discuss the development of effective multidisciplinary professional partnerships with the courts on behalf of children and parents in high conflict.

The conference program features an exciting mix of workshops, institutes and plenary sessions including topics such as marital arbitration, mediation and domestic abuse, triage in court services, supervised visitation and collaborative law.

Thursday's pre-conference institutes include:

- Educational Programs for High Conflict Families
- Mediating High Conflict Cases
- Judicial Leadership Institute
- Parenting Coordinators and Special Masters: Managing Disputes in High Conflict Families
- Effective Cross-Examination and Expert Testimony

AFCC's Northeast Regional Conference is co-sponsored by Education & Assistance Corporation Incorporated (EAC, Inc.) and Hofstra Law School. AFCC is also pleased to present programs sponsored by the AFCC New Jersey Chapter and the New York State Office of Court Administration.

To see the conference brochure and register on-line go to www.afccnet.org and click on conferences.

AFCC Annual Conference Opens to Rave Reviews: Next Stop, Broadway!

AFCC's 38th Annual Conference completed a brief Chicago run, May 9-12, 2001, and received rave reviews from some of the world's toughest critics: more than 700 AFCC conference attendees. The Chicago opening was so successful that the conference producers will be opening AFCC's Northeast Regional Conference in New York this fall, September 13-15, 2001 at the New Yorker Hotel (see related story above). A brief sampling of the Chicago conference reviews includes comments such as:

"Creative and informative."

"Dynamic discussion."

"Excellent workshops and institutes."

"The best conference I've attended."

Many reviewers appreciated the opportunity to hear from some of the leading names in the field of family and divorce. The house was packed on opening night as researchers Judith Wallerstein, Paul Amato and Janet Walker discussed the impact of divorce on children. Professor Robert Mnookin of Harvard Law School delivered the Fourth Annual Meyer Elkin Address on "Creating Value in Divorce Negotiations" and received a hearty ovation. Headliners Professor Jay Folberg, Dr. Isolina Ricci, Dr. Arnold Shienvold and Eileen Pruett rounded out an impressive plenary cast.

Conference reviewers also appreciated the wide range of workshops. This year AFCC featured nearly 50 sessions from which attendees could choose. Friday evening's Annual Banquet provided

an opportunity for everyone to kick back and enjoy themselves as comedian Greg Schwem brought the house down with his jokes.

The city of Chicago also received high marks from conference attendees. Whether they were strolling the Magnificent Mile, shopping, dining, jogging along the shores of Lake Michigan or visiting the city's cultural attractions, AFCC critics gave the 38th Annual Conference and the city of Chicago two thumbs up.

Special Thanks

AFCC would like to thank all of those who helped to make AFCC's 38th Annual Conference a success. Special thanks go to the following individuals and organizations:

Earl Caldwell, A Breed Apart
Hon. Moshe Jacobius, Presiding Judge, Domestic Relations Division, Circuit Court of Cook County
Benjamin S. Mackoff, Schiller, DuCanto and Fleck
Larry Malloy, Complete Equity Markets
Kelly Browe Olson, Loyola University Childlaw Center
David Royko, Cook County Marriage and Family Counseling Service
Donald C. Schiller, Schiller, DuCanto and Fleck
Betsy Thomas, Complete Equity Markets
Victor Woods, A Breed Apart
Sharon Zingery, Mediation Council of Illinois



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Denise Herman McColley
Napoleon, Ohio

AFCC has entered the new millennium with a bang! The *Family Court Review* is bigger and better, there has been a growth in new membership (would you believe that the organization garnered 130 new members as the result of the recent Chicago conference?), we have seen the institution of on-line interest group discussions and, commencing July 1, 2001, a new structure of governance. All of these changes present new opportunities for service to AFCC.

Many of you will be particularly interested in the new structure of governance and in learning how you can be involved with the organization. The Board of Directors has been reduced from a fifty-person board, including eight officers, to a board composed of nineteen individuals including five officers. The board will operate as the decision-making body for the organization. Much of the work of the board will be conducted by its nine committees and four task forces.

AFCC's nine committees include Awards and Scholarships, Chapter, Conference, Development, Finance, Membership, Nominations, Professional Development and Technical Assistance and Publications. I know that each of the committee chairs would appreciate any comments or suggestions you might care to make and, more importantly, would appreciate your help with their projects as they develop throughout the year. A complete listing of committee chairs and contact information may be found on page 9 of this newsletter.

There are also three active task forces presently at work on time-limited projects of the organization. These include the Task

Force for Development of Model Standards for Parenting Coordinators/ Special Masters chaired by Christie Coates; the Strategic Planning Task Force, led by Carole Brown; and the Leadership Development Task Force with George Czutrin acting as chair.

Every board member has accepted an appointment to at least one committee or task force and will be joined by members of the organization in committee and task force work. I expect that all committee and task force members will be very busy throughout the year on various AFCC projects.

As you may be aware, AFCC now has several interest groups which AFCC members are able to contact through the AFCC website. Members are encouraged to log on, join an interest group and participate in the discussions. Interest groups and coordinators are listed on page 7.

Finally, a new innovation of AFCC governance is the institution of an Advisory Council. The AFCC Advisory Council, which will be composed of no more than thirty members and past-presidents, is designed to provide information and make recommendations regarding innovations, trends, policy, legislation and professional development in the field of family law, child protection proceedings and all other legal proceedings affecting families. The Advisory Council will be chaired by AFCC's Past President, Hon. Arline Rotman (ret.), and will have its organizational meeting at the AFCC Northeast Regional Conference in New York this September.

There are many ways to become a part of AFCC, from committee and interest group involvement, to board and Advisory Council membership. AFCC has become a large organization with members from all over the globe. This presents new opportunities but also new challenges to members who wish to become actively involved in AFCC. While it may not be possible for one person to know all of the members, the many ways of becoming involved in AFCC coupled with the use of the Internet will allow many individuals who formerly were not able to be personally involved in the organization to have the opportunity to become an active part of AFCC. I encourage each of you to take the opportunities to become a part of AFCC, to learn from your colleagues and, in doing so, to obtain the maximum benefit from your AFCC membership.

AFCC Dues

The AFCC Board of Directors approved an increase in annual dues at its meeting in Chicago, May 12, 2001. Effective July 1, 2001 annual dues are \$150 for Individual Members, \$360 for Institutional Members, \$60 for Student Members and \$1,500 for Life Members. Life Members may pay in three annual installments of \$500.

MEMBER PROFILE

AFCC President Denise McColley

For AFCC President Denise McColley, the city of Chicago has special meaning. The Windy City is just a few hours from her home in Napoleon, Ohio and over the years she and her husband and children have spent many a long weekend visiting with family and friends. Chicago was also the site of Denise's first AFCC conference in 1989 at the Drake Hotel. Twelve years later, just across the street from the Drake, Denise would preside over AFCC's 38th Annual Conference at the Westin Hotel Michigan Avenue as incoming AFCC President.

Denise was born and raised in Napoleon, Ohio, a small town outside of Toledo. She attended Bowling Green State University, graduating magna cum laude in three years with a degree in education. Following graduation she married Mike, her high school sweetheart, and worked as a teacher while earning her master's degree in education from Bowling Green.

After a few years in the front of the classroom, Denise went back to being a student and returned to school to pursue a law degree. She commuted from Napoleon to Columbus to attend The Ohio State University, where she completed her J.D. in two and a half years. Following law school, Denise took a job with the firm Lankenau & Wesche in general practice, eventually focusing on domestic relations and juvenile matters. Within five years Denise not only became a name partner at Lankenau, Wesche & McColley, she and Mike became the parents to three children, Patrick, 18, Rob, 16 and Cara, 14.

Denise was appointed as Magistrate in 1996. In addition to working full time and raising three children, Denise has stayed extremely active in professional and civic duties. She was President of the Henry County Bar Association, Chair of the CLE and Public Education Subcommittee of the Ohio Bar Association's Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, Secretary and Treasurer of the Mediation Association of Northwest Ohio, a member of the Napoleon Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Trustees, Vice President of the Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities and President of the Ohio State University Alumni Club of Henry-Defiance Counties.

Of her many contributions to her community, Denise is particularly proud of the work of those organizations which she helped get off the ground, including the Center for Child and Family Advocacy, an agency which provides treatment for sexually abused children and their families, supervised visitation and exchanges, domestic violence programs and counseling. Denise was a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Center, which is run by AFCC member Cheryl Robbins. Denise was also a founder of the Henry County CASA/GAL program and of the Henry/Defiance/Fulton and Williams Counties mediation program.

In 1989 Denise decided to become trained as a mediator and her local judge, then AFCC Board Member Hon. Kenneth Rohrs, suggested that she attend AFCC's Annual Conference in Chicago. "I remem-

ber meeting so many wonderful people there and it was such a great conference," she said.

Denise then became hooked on AFCC and in 1992 was elected to the Board of Directors. In 1993, along with AFCC members Michele MacFarlane, Beth Kerns and Ron Rimelspach, Denise helped to plan a Regional Conference in Toledo. She subsequently became Chair of the AFCC Conference Committee, a position she held until assuming the Presidency in July. She joined the AFCC Executive Committee in 1997. She is representing AFCC as a member of the Advisory Council for the American Bar Association Pro Bono Child Custody Project (see related story below). She also recently completed service on the Ohio Task Force on Family Law and Children having been appointed by Ohio's Chief Justice Hon. Thomas Moyer (see related story on page 6).

Denise notes that her schedule doesn't allow much time for hobbies. "I've spent most of my free time at my children's activities for the last 12 years," she said. She does enjoy traveling and includes Switzerland, Mexico and just about anywhere AFCC has a conference among her favorite destinations. "I enjoy the conferences because I get to meet people from all over the world and have the opportunity to talk with them about their work. The reason that is so interesting is because of the diverse nature of our membership. It all comes back to AFCC being international and interdisciplinary. That's what makes us unique."

AFCC to Help Guide New ABA Child Custody Pro Bono Project

AFCC President Denise McColley will represent the association as a member of the Advisory Committee of the American Bar Association Child Custody Pro Bono Project. The project was inspired by Ann Liechty, a dedicated child law advocate and the 1997 recipient of the ABA's Pro Bono Publico Award. Ms. Liechty's life was cut short by cancer shortly thereafter and through a generous \$1,000,000 grant from her aunt and uncle, Melita and Bill Grunow, the ABA launched the Child Custody Pro Bono Project.

The project is jointly sponsored by the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service and the ABA Family Law Section. The mission of the Child Custody Project is to design and implement programs and policies that foster children's well-being, development and safety during the children's involvement in custody matters. The areas of focus will be divorce, guardianship, adoption and parentage. In particular, the project hopes to:

- Increase the number of pro bono child custody projects, opportunities, attorneys and children served.
- Implement innovative delivery strategies to expand legal services for children in child custody matters.
- Provide higher quality representation in child custody matters.
- Improve coordination and communication among groups working at a national level on the complex issues involved in child custody.
- Heighten judicial sensitivity and knowledge in making decisions regarding a child's best interest in a custody matter.
- Better educate children and parents about custody proceedings, results and impacts.
- Improve relationships between lawyers and other children's advocates, including doctors, psychologists, social workers and teachers.

- Garner support for legislation positively impacting child custody matters.

The project is administered by and housed at the ABA Center for Pro Bono, and run by Project Director Linda Rio, who joined the ABA from the Chicago Bar Association and Foundation, where she served for six years as Community Services Director, a position she created. Prior to her work at the CBA, Linda was in private practice at Sidley & Austin for five years and an active pro bono volunteer for children and families.

In addition to AFCC's representation, the Project's Advisory Committee has representatives from the following ABA entities: Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service; Family Law Section; Steering Committee on the Unmet Legal Needs of Children; Litigation Section Children's Law Committee; Center on Children and the Law; General Practice, Solo and Small

continued on page 7

AFCC Recognizes Outstanding Achievement

AFCC held its Annual Awards Luncheon at its 38th Annual Conference, May 11, 2001 in Chicago, IL and recognized the outstanding achievement of the following individuals.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Bob Tompkins, Court Support Services Division, Connecticut Superior Court

Former AFCC President Bob Tompkins was recognized for his distinguished contribution to the AFCC Community. His experience in the Connecticut Family Division and his depth and breadth of knowledge are well known throughout AFCC and the family court services community. He is highly regarded not only as an expert but as one who is always willing to take the time and effort to provide advice and assistance to those with less experience. Mr. Tompkins was largely responsible for planning and developing AFCC's conferences through the early 1990's before AFCC had the capacity to hire professional staff to plan conferences. His efforts laid the groundwork for today's successful AFCC conferences. He was also instrumental in developing and providing leadership for AFCC's Professional Development and Technical Assistance Division.

STANLEY COHEN DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH AWARD

Professor JoAnne Pedro-Carroll, University of Rochester

JoAnne Pedro-Carroll was recognized with the Stanley Cohen Distinguished Research Award. Dr. Pedro-Carroll is Director of Programs for Families in Transition, Children's Institute of the University of Rochester. Her work has focused on protecting children of separation and divorce through the development and evaluation of prevention programs. Dr. Pedro-Carroll has published major research studies in numerous mental health journals including the *Family Court Review*. She has shaped public policy

to protect the children of divorce and separation through testimony to Congress and state legislatures and through service on the New York Office of Court Administration's Committee on Parent Education Programs.

IRWIN CANTOR AWARD FOR INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING

Children of Separation and Divorce, Inc., Columbia, Maryland

Risa Garon and Gina DeLeonardis accepted the Irwin Cantor Award for Innovative Programming on behalf of Children of Separation and Divorce (COSD) Inc. AFCC recognized COSD for its innovative Family Resiliency Project, an interdisciplinary project involving lawyers, therapists, pediatricians, mediators, school guidance counselors and peer counselors. The program offers families a continuum of services including parenting seminars, individual or group therapy and assistance in developing parenting plans that address issues such as the developmental needs of children.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Dr. Fred Mitchell, Tucson, AZ

AFCC Immediate Past President Hon. Arline S. Rotman (ret.) presented the President's Award to Dr. Fred Mitchell, Director of the Family Center of the Conciliation Court in Tucson, AZ. Dr. Mitchell has served on the Board of Directors of AFCC and of the AFCC Arizona Chapter. He served as President of the Arizona Chapter and has been instrumental in the success of its Annual Conference. Dr. Mitchell served on AFCC's Chapter Task Force and is Co-Chair of AFCC's Chapter Committee.



Organizations Endorse Model Standards of Practice for Family and Divorce Mediation

The Model Standards of Practice for Family and Divorce Mediation were completed in August 2000. Thirty-five organizations representing local, state and national voices actively participated in the development of the Model Standards. As Model Standards they are available to organizations to adopt, endorse, approve or use as a resource document in drafting standards of practice.

To date the Model Standards have been approved and/or adopted by the following organizations:

ABA Section of Family Law
ABA Section of Dispute Resolution
ABA House of Delegates
AFCC

Connecticut Council for Divorce Mediation
Family and Divorce Mediation Council of Greater New York
Mediation Association of Northwest Ohio
Michigan Council for Family and Divorce Mediation
Wisconsin Association of Mediators

The Model Standards are the culmination of a three year collaborative project convened by AFCC, the ABA Family Law Section and the member organizations of the National Council of Dispute Resolution Organizations (NCDRO) which included:

The Academy of Family Mediators (AFM)
The ABA Section of Dispute Resolution
The Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC)

Conflict Resolution Network (CREnet)
The National Association for Community Mediation (NAFCM)
National Conference on Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution (NCPCR)
The Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution (SPIDR)

AFCC has been designated the record keeper for maintaining the list of organizations that have formally endorsed or adopted the Model Standards. If you know of any organization not listed above that has endorsed or adopted the Model Standards, please e-mail further information to amline@afccnet.org

AFCC Kids Count Club Update

AFCC held its Third Annual Silent Auction at the AFCC 38th Annual Conference in Chicago. The Silent Auction, special raffle and live auction raised nearly \$14,000 for the **Kids Count Club**. Hon. Fred Newton from Flagstaff AZ was this year's raffle winner. Judge Newton won a five night stay at a Starwood Resort property anywhere in the United States. AFCC wishes to thank Starwood and Global Sales Director David Narwich for its generous contribution. AFCC would also like to thank all of the contributors who helped make the silent auction possible.

Individuals

Richard Altman
Phil Bushard
Hon. Susan Baker
Hon. George Czutrin
Mary Ferriter
Greg Firestone
Judi Garland
Bill Howe
Leslye Hunter
Debbie Kulak
Michele MacFarlane
Denise McColley
Benjamin S. Mackoff
Ann Milne
Nancy and Hon. William Palmer
Eileen Pruett
Pat Ross
Steven Rotman
Hon. Arline and Barry Rotman
David Rotman
David Royko
Andrew Schepard

Hon. Susan Snow
Jan Shaw
Philip Stahl
Ben Stiller
Hattie Thurlow-McKinley
Robert Tompkins
Sharon Zingery

Organizations

AFCC
AFCC Arizona Chapter
AFCC California Chapter
AFCC Florida Chapter
AFCC Massachusetts Chapter
American Bar Association Section of Family Law
Association for Conflict Resolution
Barnes & Noble Bookstore
CDR Associates, Boulder, CO
Chicago Marriott Downtown
Chicago Wolves Hockey Club
Complete Equity Markets
Courter Films & Associates
Florida Dispute Resolution Center
Hilton Riverside, New Orleans, LA
Harper Jaskot, Hamilton, ON
Lands' End, Dodgeville, WI
Concourse Hotel, Madison, WI
Hilton Waikoloa, The Big Island of Hawaii
The Grill, Chicago, IL
Mediate.com
Pleasant Company, Middleton, WI
Quick Quality Press, Madison, WI
Starwood Resorts, Chicago, IL
Sound of Knowledge, San Diego, CA
The Second City, Chicago, IL
University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
Westin Michigan Avenue

Westin Ottawa
World Congress, Inc.
Wisconsin Association of Mediators

AFCC Honors Loyola ChildLaw Center

The Loyola University Chicago ChildLaw Center was honored with the 2001 **Kids Count Club Award**. Loyola is a nationally recognized leader in legal education and advocacy for children. The ChildLaw Center and Clinic offer programs for legal and nonlegal professionals who seek a specialized understanding of the law in order to better serve the unique needs of children and families. The ChildLaw Center was awarded \$2,000 to help implement its mediation program.

Resource Development Committee Honors Kids Count Club Donors

AFCC Development Committee Chair John Harper acknowledged the generosity of AFCC's Diamond and Platinum level contributors for the year 2000-2001. This year's major donors were the Suzie S. Thorn Family Foundation, William L. Carpenter, Hon. John and Joan VanDuzer and the Harbinger Foundation and Doneldon Dennis.

Thanks to the generosity of AFCC members and the Silent Auction, the **Kids Count Club** raised more than \$30,000 over the last year to help AFCC provide support for initiatives such as the AFCC Youth Forum, AFCC Kids Count Club Community Service Award and conference scholarships.



AFCC Hosts Access Program Training

AFCC hosted approximately 65 representatives of Access and Visitation Programs throughout the United States for a two-day training program in Chicago on May 7-8, 2001, immediately preceding AFCC's Annual Conference. This is the third time AFCC has collaborated to sponsor this program with the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, Department of Health and Human Services.

The program provided the opportunity for Access and Visitation

Program representatives to share information about their programs with one another and to hear from AFCC members Hon. Susan Snow, Hon. Thomas Dudgeon and Dr. Matthew Sullivan who generously contributed their time and energy to the program.

AFCC would like to thank David Siegal, Phil Sharman and Debra Pontisso of the Office of Child Support Enforcement for their work in developing the program and supporting the collaboration between their agency and AFCC.

Ohio Task Force on Family Law and Children F

In 1998 the Ohio General Assembly created The Ohio Task Force on Family Law and Children for the purpose of researching the state of family law in Ohio and making recommendations for enhancements to the processes that put children first, ensure that families have choices during the divorce and dissolution process, minimize conflict and emphasize problem solving.

In January of 1999, twenty-four individuals from nine different disciplines were selected to perform this work by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Ohio, Governors George Voinovich and Robert Taft, the Ohio Association of Domestic Relations Judges, the Ohio Association of Juvenile and Family Judges, the Ohio State Bar Association, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate. Among those selected to the Task Force was AFCC President Denise McColley.

For the first six months of 1999 the group met, without a budget or staff, and began an examination of Ohio's legal and social service systems that serve children whose parents do not reside together. In July of 1999, the General Assembly provided funding to hire staff and a comprehensive research effort was undertaken. AFCC member Kathleen Clark was appointed Executive Director of the Task Force. The General Assembly extended the original deadline for the Task Force report given the scope and importance of the project so that the research effort could be advanced more fully.

More than two dozen experts from around the state and across the country presented testimony to the Task Force over a six-month period. These experts included AFCC members Sanford Braver, Tempe, AZ, Christine Coates, Boulder, CO, Hugh McIsaac, Manzanita, OR, Eileen Pruett, Columbus, OH, and Phil Stahl, Danville, CA. Representatives from a variety of parents' organizations, as well as a panel of teens who had experienced their parents' divorces, brought their unique concerns to the Task Force.

Members of the Task Force traveled to Phoenix, Arizona, to meet with staff at the Maricopa County Court System and to AFCC conferences in New Orleans, Kiawah, South Carolina and Chicago.

At the end of the information gathering process, the Task Force examined all of the information obtained with one goal in mind, enhancing the well being of Ohio's children and families in a fiscally efficient and responsible way. Ideas were discussed and debated, and suggested statutory language created. The Task Force focused on the idea that Ohio's legal and social service institutions should minimize conflict between parents and protect children from the effects of their parents' conflicts, while providing opportunities and support to parents as they continue to be parents to their children, regardless of family structure.

Below is a summary of the Task Force's report and recommendations.

Ohio Task Force on Family Law and Children Goals and Recommendations

Goal One

Establishing and maintaining a parent-child relationship is of fundamental importance to the welfare of a child. Therefore, the relationship between a child and both parents should be fostered unless inconsistent with the child's best interest. Further, any legal process that allocates parenting functions and responsibilities should be guided by each child's best interests.

1. Language used in the Ohio Revised Code, Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure, Ohio Rules of Juvenile Procedure and Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio should reflect that both parents have continuing roles and responsibilities as parents when they are not living together. To the fullest extent possible, terms of conflict and empowerment should be removed from Ohio Statutes involving parenting issues.
2. Developmentally appropriate guidelines for parenting plans should be developed and available for use by all families and courts.
3. Courts should continue to be guided by the best interest standard.
4. The allocation of parenting functions and responsibilities should be presented in a single document called a parenting plan, regardless of whether the terms are a result of parental agreement or judicial intervention.
5. All parenting plans should provide for the allocation of parenting functions and responsibilities for all aspects of each child's daily needs consistent with the child's age and developmental level.
6. Courts should be given more statutory options for dealing with the difficult problems involved in the consideration of requests by one parent to deny or limit access of the other parent to their children or to information about their children.

Goal Two

In cases involving the allocation of parenting functions and responsibilities, the court process and procedure from filing to final orders should be as efficient and expedient as possible in order to minimize the emotional trauma and financial hardship caused by extended, unresolved parental conflict.

1. All contested issues concerning the allocation of parental functions and responsibilities should be referred to mediation as early as possible.

2. An efficient and expedited standardized financial discovery process should be created to minimize parental conflict and accelerate progress toward final disposition.
3. Judges and Magistrates should have the discretion to permit qualified mental health professionals to assist them during interviews with children in camera.
4. Courts should balance the need for stability and consistency in a child's life with the child's need to establish and maintain a relationship with each parent.
5. A child-centered approach should be used in deciding cases involving the relocation of a child.
6. Each court, or group of courts coordinating services, should create intake services for parenting time enforcement issues.
7. Confidential family information provided to the court should be placed in a family file, which is not a public record, in order to ensure that it remains private.
8. Non-adversarial dispute resolution processes should continue to be utilized once the family unit is restructured.

Goal Three

The institutions and agencies involved with families that do not reside together should provide parents, children and other parties with education, tools, services and opportunities to resolve their conflicts constructively and collaboratively, with a minimum of litigation.

1. All parties in proceedings that involve the allocation of parental functions and responsibilities should attend parenting education seminars.
2. Pilot programs should be developed by the Special Committee on Parent Education and the Ohio State University Extension Agents for educating never married parents about the dynamics of co-parenting.
3. Developmentally appropriate pilot programs to educate and assist children whose parents are divorcing, or are not living together, should be implemented, with the goal of expanding these programs to all counties.
4. Ohio should adopt a court rule that would allow for the appointment of a parenting coordinator in post-decree high conflict parenting function and responsibility disputes.
5. Services that minimize a child's exposure to parental conflict should be provided.
6. Services that enhance the child's safety and well being should be provided.
7. Individuals should be better prepared for the issues arising from marriage, family life, parenting, and the impact of divorce or separation.

Reports Findings

Goal Four

Opportunities for interdisciplinary education and dialogue should be provided for judges, lawyers, psychologists and other professionals, institutional personnel and agencies that are involved in making decisions about the care of children in families that do not reside together.

1. Public and private efforts should be made to increase the knowledge of judges, attorneys and other court personnel on issues of family law, family dynamics and child development.
2. Education for mediators who assist parents in apportioning parenting functions and responsibilities should be expanded.
3. A rule which standardizes the education, training, role and duties of Guardians ad Litem and separates Guardian ad Litem functions from attorney functions should be adopted by the Supreme Court of Ohio.

Goal Five

In divorce and parenting dispute cases, professionals and institutions should be encouraged to use innovative ways to deliver legal and social services to meet the evolving needs of the public they serve.

1. Counties should keep statistics about the number of parties who proceed *pro se* and this information should be included in The Ohio Courts Summary.
2. Standardized forms should be developed by the Supreme Court of Ohio, and made available for parties and attorneys in all 88 counties.
3. Standardized forms, directories of professionals and educational information should be provided on the Internet.
4. The Code of Professional Responsibility should be studied to permit attorneys to provide unbundled legal services to clients who request less than complete legal representation in domestic relations matters.

Goal Six

Services provided and legislative changes affecting the resolution of family disputes should be systematically studied to determine their effectiveness.

1. The Task Force recommends that a centralized multi-disciplinary institute be developed to conduct research on the efficacy of changes made to the legal and social service systems which impact the family.

AFCC Interest Groups and Coordinators

Alienated Child

Janet Johnston
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Child Protection and Dependency Mediation

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Court Appointed Special Advocates and Guardians ad Litem

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Language of Custody Law

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Child Custody Pro Bono

continued from page 3

Firms Section; Commission on Domestic Violence; and Judicial Division. Also on the Advisory Committee are representatives from the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers; National Association of Counsel for Children; National Council of Juvenile

and Family Court Judges; National CASA Association; American Psychological Association; the Melita and Bill Grunow Family, and an At-Large Representative.

For more information contact the Project's Director, Linda Rio, at (312) 988-5805 or lrio@staff.abanet.org. You can also visit the Project's web site at www.abanet.org/legalservices/pbpages/pbchildcustody

Chapter Update

New Jersey Chapter Granted Charter

AFCC congratulates the AFCC New Jersey Chapter on becoming the newest AFCC chapter. AFCC's Board of Directors voted to grant the AFCC New Jersey Chapter its charter at the Board of Directors meeting in Chicago, May 12, 2001. The charter will be presented to New Jersey Chapter President Ron Silikovitz at AFCC's Northeast Regional Conference in New York City, September 13-15, 2001.

Florida Chapter Looks to Fall Conference

AFCC's Florida Chapter is making great strides with its Inaugural Conference, to be held November 9-10, 2001 at the Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel. The keynote address will be presented by Florida Supreme Court Justice Barbara Pariente. In



addition to the outstanding Florida presenters, nationally known presenters will include Dr. Phillip Stahl, author of several books on child custody evaluations and Ann Milne ACSW, Executive Director of AFCC. Conference workshops will focus on areas such as therapeutic jurisprudence, financial issues, mediation, parent education and collaborative lawyering. The Florida Family Court Steering Committee will report on innovations and recommendations concerning court practice.

The AFCC Florida Chapter congratulates Hon. Hugh Starnes, the Chapter's first representative on the Board of Directors of AFCC and Greg Firestone, newly elected Florida Chapter President.

AFCC Texas Chapter Officers

President

Hon. Susan Baker
Galveston, TX

President Elect

Susan Speight, M.A. LPC
Dickinson, TX

First Vice President

Hon. Debra Lehrmann
Fort Worth, TX

Second Vice President

Katy Kappel
Austin, TX

Treasurer

H. Lynne Clarke
Houston, TX

Secretary

Pat Ross
Dallas, TX



Massachusetts Chapter Elects Officers

The AFCC Massachusetts Chapter has elected officers for 2001-2002.

President

Kathleen Snow, J.D.
Barnstable, MA

Vice President

Robin Deutsch, Ph.D.
Boston, MA

Secretary

Carol Lynn May, J.D.
Worcester, MA

Treasurer

Linda Cavellero, Ph.D.
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AFCC Board of Directors

A FCC members elected to the Board of Directors for 2001-2002 at AFCC's 38th Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

President

Denise McColley, J.D., M.Ed., Napoleon, OH

President Elect

Jan Shaw, Orange, CA

Vice President/Secretary

Hon. George Czutrin, Hamilton, ON

Treasurer

Larry Lehner, Ph.D., Oakland, CA

Past President

Hon. Arline Rotman (ret.), Boston, MA

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R. John Harper, LL.B., Hamilton, ON
Leslye Hunter, M.A., New Orleans, LA
Michele MacFarlane, M.S.W., Toledo, OH
C. Eileen Pruett, J.D., Columbus, OH
Patricia Ross, M.Ed., Dallas, TX
Hon. Hugh Starnes, Fort Myers, FL
Janet Walker, Ph.D., Newcastle England

AFCC Thanks Phil Bushard

AFCC would like to thank former President Phil Bushard for his service as a member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Dr. Bushard's work as chair of the AFCC Publications Committee, his leadership and his support of AFCC members over the years have been noteworthy.

AFCC would also like to thank the following members of the Board of Directors who have completed their service:

Sanford Braver, Tempe, AZ
Jim Campbell, Madison, WI
Hon. Anne Dranginis, Litchfield, CT
Greg Firestone, Tampa, FL
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Nancy Palmer, Orlando, FL
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Timothy Walker, Littleton, CO

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World Congress on Family Law and the Rights of Children and Youth

September 19-22, 2001 in Bath, England

Following the AFCC sponsored Second World Congress held in San Francisco in 1997, the 2001 World Congress on Family Law and the Rights of Children and Youth is being held in Bath, England this Autumn, the first time that this prestigious event, held every four years, has visited the UK. Under the theme of *International Cooperation for the Protection of Children*, the 2001 World Congress will bring together delegates and leading experts from all parts of the world to take part in an exciting, informative, practical and, at times, controversial program of education and training. Alongside the seminar program, the Congress also aims to create a network of lawyers and other professionals working for the protection of children everywhere—The International Children's Rights Protection Network.

This is your invitation to take part in this ground-breaking event, to meet with colleagues from around the world, to exchange ideas and experiences—and perhaps become involved in an important means of advancing the protection afforded to

children worldwide.

You will find full details about the conference program, speakers, aims and objectives and of the accompanying social programme and the wide range of accommodation available in the city (many of the hotels being within walking distance of the Regency splendor of Bath city center) online at www.lawrights.asn.au. The full registration fee is only £400 for three days of high level training. To book your place simply complete the registration form on the website or contact Capital Conferences at PO Box N399, Grosvenor Place, Sydney NSW 1220 Australia; Telephone +61 (0)2 9252 3388 +61 (0)2 9252 1635; Facsimile +61 (0)2 9241 5282; Email: lawrights@capcon.com.au for a brochure.

Supported by the world's leading family law and human rights professionals and organizations, the World Congress has become firmly established as the most significant international meeting of its kind. Do not miss this opportunity to attend before it moves on in four years time.

AFCC Member News

Kathy Clark, AFCC member from Marion, Ohio, has been appointed Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at The Ohio State University in Marion, OH. Dr. Clark recently completed service as the Executive Director of the Ohio Task Force on Family Law and Children.

Isolina Ricci, AFCC member from San Francisco, is leaving her position as Assistant Director of the Center for Children, Families and the Courts and moving on to new horizons. Dr. Ricci was the longtime Director of California's Statewide Office of Family Court Services and is author of the widely acclaimed book *Mom's House, Dad's House*. She has been a generous contributor to AFCC conference programs over the years and AFCC wishes her the best in her new endeavors.

Jan Shaw, AFCC President Elect from Orange, CA has been promoted to Executive Director for the Superior Court of Orange County. Ms. Shaw will oversee all the operations at the Lamoreaux Justice Center which houses the judiciary and staff for Probate, Family and Juvenile Courts as well as maintaining responsibility for the Mediation and Investigative Services and the Office of the Family Law Facilitator.



Southern California Employment Opportunities Orange County, Superior Court

Looking for highly motivated individuals for the following positions:

Director of Mediation and Investigative Services

Manages and leads a staff of about 70 employees through managers, supervisors to the Court Mediators, Court Investigators and support staff that conduct family law and dependency mediations, court ordered child custody, guardianship, domestic violence, conservatorship, stepparent adoptions and termination of parental rights investigations; writes and administers grants; collaborates with community and government agencies in program planning and implementation; liaisons closely with the judicial officers in family law and probate. **Requires:** MA (see below) **Experience:** One(1) year of experience as a Mediation and Investigative Services Manager for Orange County Superior Court OR five(5) years of combined experience in mediating, investigating and providing family counseling in child custody, visitation and guardianship matters in a conciliation court or a court recognized social services agency or clinic. **Desirable Experience:** Five(5) years experience supervising a professional staff, preferably mental health professionals. \$4,333 - \$8,320 Monthly.

Manager, Mediation and Investigative Services

Provides leadership to a team of professional staff conducting mediation, and investigations. **Requires:** MA (see below) AND significant related mediation and evaluation/investigations experience AND one(1) year of supervisory or management experience of professional staff, preferably mental health. \$4,160- \$7,540 Monthly.

Court Mediator

Work with parties experiencing custody/visitation disputes and marital conflict including domestic violence by conducting mediation conferences, child custody investigations. **Requires:** MA degree(see below) AND five(5) years post master full-time experience; CA LCS, MFCC or MFT may substitute for one(1) year experience. \$4,396 - \$5,299 Monthly.

All positions require: Master's degree in psychology, social work, family and child counseling or other behavioral science field
Excellent benefits and great career opportunities.

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For additional information please call (714) 935-7043

All vacancies are at the Lamoreaux Justice Center, 341 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92863

Post Hawaii Trip to New Zealand and Australia

Justices Alastair Nicholson and Patrick Mahony, from Australia and New Zealand respectively, have invited AFCC to hold a post-conference meeting with colleagues in those two countries. The meeting will take place immediately following AFCC's Annual Conference on the big island of Hawaii on June 5-8, 2002. This will be the third meeting of this type and each one has been a wonderful travel and educational experience. We are looking into travel arrangements and locations for the meetings. Let us know if you are interested so that we can make sure you are notified. E-mail AFCC of your interest at amilne@afcnet.org.

Upcoming AFCC Conferences

Northeast Regional Conference

September 13-15, 2001
New Yorker Hotel
New York, NY

2001 World Congress on Family Law and the Rights of Children and Youth

September 20-22, 2001
Bath, England
World Congress web site:
www.lawrights.asn.au

AFCC Florida Inaugural Conference

November 9-10, 2001
Tampa Airport Marriott
Tampa, FL
For further information email
jholtcpa@gate.net

AFCC California Chapter Conference

February 8-10, 2002
Sonoma, CA

AFCC Arizona Chapter Conference

February 8-10, 2002
Hilton Sedona Resort
Sedona, AZ
Contact: Sid Buckman
sbuckman@infomagic.net

AFCC 39th Annual Conference

June 5-8, 2002
Hilton Waikoloa Village
The Big Island of Hawaii

AFCC 40th Annual Conference

May 28-31, 2003
Westin Ottawa
Ottawa, ON, Canada



Start Planning!

AFCC'S 39TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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AFCC is also planning an exciting post-conference trip to New Zealand and Australia!

Further information will be available soon in the *AFCC Newsletter*
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