

AFCC NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 20, NUMBER 1

An association of family, court and community professionals

WINTER 2001

AFCC Sights Set on Chicago

by Tracy Mayer, AFCC Intern, Madison, WI

AFCC's 38th Annual Conference, *Conflict Resolution, Children and the Courts*, kicks off on May 9, 2001 at the Westin Hotel on Michigan Avenue in Chicago. The four-day conference will feature more than fifty pre-conference institutes, workshops and plenary sessions addressing cutting edge issues for professionals who work with families and children in conflict.

This year's plenary session presenters represent a "Who's Who" in family conflict resolution. Presenters include researchers Dr. Judith Wallerstein, Dr. Paul Amato and Dr. Janet Walker, law professors Robert Mnookin and Jay Folberg, Dr. Isolina Ricci, Assistant Director of California's Center for Children, Families and the Courts, and Dr. Arnold Shienvold, President of the Association for Conflict Resolution.

This year's conference will feature a variety of workshops addressing topics including domestic violence, high conflict families, representing unreasonable clients, mediating step family cases and much more.

Judicial Officers Forum

AFCC's Judicial Officers Interest Group, chaired by Hon. Fred Newton and Hon. Linda Dessau, will be presenting the Third Annual Judicial Officers Forum on Thursday, May 10, 3:30pm-6:00pm. This year's program, *The Impact of Religious Issues in Custody Disputes* will feature Hon. Mosche Jacobius, Presiding Judge of the Cook County Domestic Relations Court, Daniel Gottlieb, Associate Director of the Shinui Institute of Israel, Carolyn Wah, J.D. and Hon. Fred Newton. Following the program participants will have the opportunity for informal networking.

Extended Workshops

Friday afternoon, May 11, AFCC will present four extended workshops. These three-hour, hands-on sessions will provide participants with the opportunity for an in-depth learning experience. Extended workshops include:

- *Working with Children: Techniques and Tips for Effective Interviewing*, with Kathleen Clark, Ph.D., Executive Director, Ohio Task Force on Family Law and

Children, Galion, OH; Alan P. Childs, Psy.D., Chicago, IL; and Hon. Lisa Rubel Murphy, Cook County Domestic Relations Division, Chicago, IL

- *Negotiation and Communication Skills for Lawyers*, with Nina Meierding, J.D., Past President, Academy of Family Mediators, Ventura, CA
- *How To's in Family Law Cases Involving Domestic Violence*, with Leslie Drozd, Ph.D., Newport Beach, CA; Toby Kleinman, J.D., Adler & Kleinman, New Brunswick, NJ; and Lenore Walker, Ed.D., Author, *The Battered Woman's Syndrome*, Denver, CO
- *Supervised Visitation: Facilitative and Therapeutic Models*, with Susan Buckman-Schulson, J.D., L.C.S.W., Office of the Public Guardian, Chicago, IL; Nancy Cohen, L.C.S.W., Chicago, IL; Penny Hinze, M.S.W.; Sheila Murphy-Russell, M.S., DuPage County Psychological Services, Wheaton, IL; Maureen Sheehy, M.A., Evanston, IL; Kimberly Stemm, M.S.W., Naperville Community School

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www.afccnet.org

New AFCC Web Site Launched

AFCC is pleased to announce the launch of its new web site. The new site provides members with some exciting new pages and new and improved navigation.

Members Only Interest Group Discussion Forum

The highlight of the new AFCC web site is the members only on-line discussion forum. AFCC members have the opportunity to participate in on-line discussions on nearly twenty topics including the Alienated Child, Unified Family Courts, Parent Education and Domestic Abuse. The forums are facilitated by AFCC Interest Group Coordinators and provide members with the opportunity to ask questions and participate in discussion on cutting edge issues. AFCC members can log in to the site using their email address as their log-in name and password. After entering the members only

page, members may then create a private password for future use. If you experience any difficulty logging in, please contact Dawn Holmes, AFCC Registrar at (608) 664-3750 or afcc@afccnet.org.

Resource Page

The site also features a new resource page which offers links to searchable databases and other useful web based documents. The resource page also contains AFCC's *Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluation* and the new *Model Standards of Practice for Family and Divorce Mediation*. Both are available on-line and in downloadable and printable pdf files.

The AFCC web site continues to offer access to AFCC conference brochures, registration form, membership information and application and general information about AFCC. If you haven't visited in awhile, check out the new site at www.afccnet.org.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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

It is often said that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. I have noticed recently that many of the larger, single-disciplinary organizations such as the American Bar Association, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and American Psychological Association have begun to offer interdisciplinary programs which strongly resemble AFCC conferences.

Notwithstanding program similarities, as the only organization with a truly interdisciplinary membership, AFCC remains unique in our ability to support the cross fertilization of ideas on a regular and ongoing basis through our conferences, publications and chapters. By now you should be aware of our latest effort to enhance interdisciplinary networking, AFCC's on-line discussion forums.

Access to the discussion forums is available to AFCC members through the members' section of our new web site. If you are an AFCC member and have not yet seen our new site, just go to www.afccnet.org and visit any of our interest groups. If you are not yet an AFCC member you can use the web site to join AFCC, then join the discussions of greatest interest to you. As new issues and ideas emerge, we expect that new interest groups will be formed.

Family law has a unique position within the legal system. No other area of the law involves the interplay of social policy, interpersonal dynamics, family systems and legal doctrine. As family conflict becomes more complex, interdisciplinary forums such as AFCC interest groups, conferences and publications are no longer luxuries for those who want to stay ahead of the curve. Members of other organizations are now realizing what AFCC members have always known. An interdisciplinary approach to our work is necessary if we wish to provide effective services to families. I believe that this explains why other organizations have developed similar programs and it is also the reason that AFCC is evolving from a small volunteer-led organization into a more effective far-reaching professional organization widely recognized for its intellectual leadership in the family court community.

To keep pace with our growth in size and stature, AFCC leadership has invested significant time and effort in reviewing the needs of the association. In the past two years with assistance of consultants we have conducted a member survey and organizational assessment which led to intensive work by AFCC's Governance Task Force and Bylaws Committee. The results are incorporated into our new bylaws which were sent to all AFCC members and will be offered for approval at the AFCC Annual Conference, May 9-12, 2001 in Chicago.

The new bylaws changes recognize that AFCC cannot be effectively governed by a fifty-person Board of Directors nor by an eight member Executive Committee. One body was too big and the other too small. Therefore, the new bylaws set the size of the Board at 19 members. The people who will comprise the new board will be taking on significant responsibilities for shaping and implementing a new programmatic and financial strategic plan to guide our future growth.

Recognizing the extraordinary talent and ideas that lie beyond the Board of Directors, the bylaws create a new Advisory Council. The broadly defined role of the Advisory Council is to make recommendations to the Board about issues which AFCC should consider addressing. Over time, both the Board and the Advisory Council will fine tune their individual roles as well as their relationship to one another and to the administrative staff in Madison.

This new structure represents a significant change from the past. The countless and thoughtful volunteer hours that many of our members have given to creating this new structure should bear fruit for the future.

As I consider all that we are undertaking I continue to be amazed by the personal qualities of our members. Other professional organizations to which we all feel we must belong have significant advantages. Having to serve only a single discipline, their mission is more easily defined. They have the financial advantage of endowments, access to government funding and more clearly defined paths to foundation funding which allows for more staff to carry out their programs. Our greatest advantage, however, remains our committed membership. In this day and age of consumerism and the seeming veneration of the accumulation of wealth, AFCC members are marked by their willingness to commit their time and intellectual capital to improve the quality of life of others.

I would like all of us to take an extra moment to enjoy the personal pride resulting from remaining true to our ideals. And I would like to thank each of you for the enormous privilege you have bestowed on me by allowing me to serve as your President. I look forward to seeing you all in Chicago.

Stu Webb, Collaborative Family Law

Stu Webb is a Minneapolis family law practitioner who is widely acknowledged as the founder of Collaborative Law, an innovative way to practice family law that is catching on with family law attorneys around the world. Mr. Webb has presented on Collaborative Law for AFCC and other organizations throughout North America.

AFCC: What is collaborative law and how is it different from traditional legal divorce proceedings?

SW: Collaborative law is a way of practicing law whereby the attorneys for both parties to a dispute agree to assist their clients in resolving conflict and reaching agreement using cooperative strategies rather than adversarial techniques and litigation. The attorneys by agreement with their clients are disqualified from participating in any ensuing adversarial proceedings and will withdraw from their representation in such an event. The key to collaborative practice is the premise that the collaborative lawyers will not engage in a litigation practice if retained collaboratively. The bottom line in collaborative divorce work is finding a way for the parties to reach agreement on all relevant issues outside of court proceedings. Traditional legal divorce proceedings foster an adversarial approach—us against them. This begins with the service of the Summons and Petition. Immediately, the recipient of the service feels attacked, invaded and fearful. The necessary response is to seek out an adversarial lawyer to defend against the attack in an attempt to right the balance. And they're off and running to the first hearing, which intensifies the polarity with negative affidavits and arguments asking the court to solve their problems for them. In collaborative law, the parties and their attorneys work toward agreement before either party has been served with divorce papers. The courts are generally only involved to process the final papers after the parties have reached agreement on all issues.

AFCC: You have been identified as the founder of the collaborative law movement. How did its inception come about?

SW: Through desperation! In the late 1980's, after practicing traditional civil law for eight years and family law for seventeen years, I was approaching burn-out. I hated the adversarial nature of my practice and hated to go to work in the morning. It was becoming harder and harder to tolerate the schizophrenic nature of trial and family practice. Incivility seemed on the increase rather than the decrease. In other words, I'd

had it! I was prepared to close down my practice and, in preparation for that, started taking courses in psychology. It did not take too many courses to convince me that my future did not lie in becoming a psychologist. So then I started thinking, if I was willing to ditch my practice, maybe I could come up with a way to continue my family law practice using a model that would allow me to continue those parts of my practice which I enjoyed and eliminate the rest. I started experimenting. I worked with another lawyer that I trusted to achieve client settlements in a four-party setting. That model fell apart disastrously when a case we were handling turned into a case from hell and we didn't have enough sense to get out. Since the best learning often comes from disasters, this was the case where I concluded: "Aha!! The settlement lawyers need to withdraw if the case turns adversarial." With that conclusion, everything fell into place and Collaborative Law was born. I started practicing collaborative family law exclusively as of January 1, 1990. We have over forty collaborative law practitioners in the Twin Cities. The idea has spread to include four or five communities in California, Eugene, OR, Columbus and Cincinnati, OH, Miami, Atlanta, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Dallas, Houston, Boston and Wisconsin.

AFCC: How does the role of the collaborative attorney differ from that of the traditional family lawyer?

SW: The role of the collaborative lawyer is dramatically different from the way a lawyer normally participates in a divorce proceeding. Perhaps because collaborative lawyers do not have the ability to participate if the matter escalates to court, they must learn different ways to assist clients in achieving agreement. We find that we are freed up to use our problem-solving skills in aid of settlement. I like to frame the process as one where the problem is in the middle of the table and the attorneys and clients are looking at it from different angles seeking a mutually satisfying solution. As a litigating lawyer, I found for the most part that I did not have the time or opportunity to approach problems this way as the proceedings were usually framed as a battle. We learn a lot from the mediation field in how to work toward agreement. The clients have a much more central role in the proceedings. The attorneys model behavior conducive to settlement and encourage sound listening skills.

AFCC: What setting or approach do you use to work on settlement?

SW: What works best for us is to meet in a four-way configuration around a conference table. We try to make the setting as informal as possible and encourage communication between the two lawyers and two clients. Thus, I may be talking to my client's spouse directly — this would be almost heresy in traditional practice. We do as many four-way meetings as it takes to arrive at final settlement. Before the first four-way meeting I will have conferred with my client and would have talked informally with the other attorney to establish good communication and confirm the relationship. We might also have a general discussion of the issues and take an initial try at an agenda for the first four-way meeting.

AFCC: How does it work to get the parties together in the same room?

SW: In most cases it works wonderfully. When I had an adversarial divorce practice, I used to resist the idea of getting the parties together when there were problems. Instead, we'd bring motions to have the court solve the problems. Now when a problem comes up my first thought is, "We've got to get together and solve this!" Something almost magical sometimes happens in the four-way process. This is hard to put into words, but a shift of some sort occasionally takes place in the energy whereby the lines between the "sides" gets blurred and parties start seeing things more from their spouse's position. If the parties cannot reach settlement with the help of their collaborative lawyers, there may be an exploration of whether they may want to try an alternative way to resolve their matter. If not, then their collaborative lawyers would withdraw and the parties would obtain attorneys to proceed to prepare the matter for trial.

AFCC: Isn't it duplicative to have non-trial lawyers and then possibly having to hire trial attorneys as well?

SW: Out of context it does seem duplicative. In context, we need to understand that we lawyers, by training and instinct, are trial and court oriented. Even though we say we try to settle all our cases we drift to court proceedings. Once in court, the time, costs and stress start to escalate. Not being able to go to court requires the collaborative lawyer to become a settlement specialist. The trial lawyer is a trial specialist. The parties who have engaged collaborative lawyers for settlement and trial lawyers for trial have had the best of both approaches.

For additional information on Collaborative Law please contact Stu Webb at stuwbb@aol.com.

Professor Robert H. Mnookin to Present Meyer Elkin Address



Robert H. Mnookin

Professor Robert H. Mnookin, Samuel Williston Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, will present the Fourth Annual Meyer Elkin Address on May 11, 2001 at AFCC's 38th Annual Conference in Chicago, IL.

The Meyer Elkin Address is presented annually by major contributors to the well being of families and children in honor of the late Meyer Elkin, founding member of AFCC and founding editor of the *Family Court Review*. The address has been presented previously by Marion Wright Edleman, founder of the Children's Defense Fund, Peter Edleman, Georgetown University Law Center, and Jonah Edleman, Stand for Children; Hon. George Thomson, former Deputy Minister of Justice of Canada and U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone and Ms. Sheila Wellstone.

Drawing on his recent book, *Beyond Winning: Negotiating to Create Values in Deals and Disputes*, Professor Mnookin will provide a conceptual framework for better understanding the challenges of divorce negotiations as well as advice about how professionals can help couples creatively

resolve issues posed by divorce. *Beyond Winning*, winner of the Center for Public Resource Book Prize for the year 2000, is the most recent of nine books written or edited by Professor Mnookin.

Among his many recognitions, in 1993, together with co-author Eleanor Maccoby, Professor Mnookin received the William J. Goode Book Award for their contribution to family scholarship for the book *Dividing the Child: Social and Legal Dilemmas of Custody*.

Professor Mnookin serves as Chair of the Steering Committee of the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School and Director of the Harvard Negotiation Research Project. Prior to joining the Harvard faculty, Professor Mnookin was the Adelbert H. Sweet Professor of Law at Stanford Law School and Director of the Stanford Center on Conflict and Negotiation.

Chicago's Top Ten List

by Tracy Mayer, AFCC Intern, Madison, WI

AFCC's Annual Conference will provide plenty of activity and for those looking for just a bit extra, the city of Chicago offers a myriad of activities available just outside the doors of the Westin Hotel Michigan Avenue.

Shop 'Til You Drop

Chicago's Magnificent Mile begins right outside the hotel with a range of stores from Gucci to Tiffany and Co. The newly opened American Girl Store, ESPN Zone, F.A.O. Schwartz and Disney Quest are great attractions for kids of all ages. Water Tower Place, located across the street from the hotel, is one of the first vertical malls in the United States, featuring eight floors of shopping. Just around the corner is Oak Street for those who want a more upscale shopping experience. There you will find Chicago's finest, including Nicole Miller and Versace.

The Museum Campus

It is only a short cab ride to the south end of the loop where you will find Chicago's Museum Campus. Visit the Shedd Aquarium and take in a show at its Oceanarium with the spectacular Lake Michigan backdrop. Reach for the stars at the Adler Planetarium or take in the Field Museum of Natural History. Contact the Museum Campus Hotline at (312) 409-9696 for museum hours and updates on current exhibits.

The Art Institute of Chicago

If you haven't been, the world renowned Art Institute of Chicago is a must-see. Located on Michigan Avenue, just a couple of miles

from the hotel, the Art Institute features classics such as Monet's *Water-lilies*, Seurat's *Sunday in the Park* and Chagall's *Windows*.

Reach Fantastic Heights

Chicago is home to two of the tallest buildings in the world, The John Hancock Center and The Sears Tower. The John Hancock Center is directly across the street from the Westin Michigan Avenue. Take a ride up to the sky deck or relax over an appetizer, meal or drink at The 95th, at the top of the Hancock Center. Reservations are recommended so call ahead to (312) 787-9596.

See Great Sights

A stroll down Michigan Avenue includes the Chicago Water Tower, The Wrigley Building and many other splendid pieces of architecture. Take in the light show in Grant Park's Buckingham Fountain or a boat ride on the Chicago River.

Navy Pier

Take the trolley from the hotel to Chicago's famous Navy Pier. It is a wonderful way to spend an afternoon outdoors. Navy Pier includes shopping, dining, a giant Ferris Wheel and an outdoor theater.

Chicago's Own Broadway

Chicago has an array of theaters that will satisfy any taste. Check out the Internet to find out what's playing at the Goodman (www.goodman-theatre.org), Steppenwolf (www.steppenwolf.org), the Lyric Opera House (www.lyricopera.org) and the Symphony Center (www.chicagosymphony.org). These are just a few of Chicago's favorite venues. Tickets are available online and at HotTix located on State Street across from

Marshall Fields. HotTix sells half price, day-of-performance tickets for those willing to stand in line on the day of the show.

The Second City

Chicago is home to the famous Second City Improvisational Comedy Club, where stars including Jim and John Belushi, Shelley Long, George Wendt and Bill Murray got their start. Advance reservations are necessary, so contact the Second City at (312) 664-4032.

Our Nation's Pastime

Sorry National League fans but the Cubs are away the week of the AFCC conference. However, the Chicago White Sox, last year's American League Central Division Champions, are in town to play the Texas Rangers at Comiskey Park. This is a great chance to relax, enjoy great baseball and an authentic Chicago-style hot dog. Saturday night games include a fireworks display after the game. Tickets range in price from approximately \$16 to \$26. The Sox website can be accessed though www.whitesox.mlb.com.

Great Food

If you like to eat then Chicago is the place for you. Visit the famous Billy Goat Tavern, inspiration for the famous Saturday Night Live "Cheeseburger! Cheeseburger!" sketch. Greektown, Little Italy and Chinatown offer dozens of great restaurants. The original Ed Debevic's will bring you back to the 1950's with its soda fountain and burgers. If you crave pizza, the original Uno's is the best there is. The possibilities are endless!

Call for Presenters

AFCC Northeast Regional Conference

High Conflict Families and the Courts

An International Showcase



New York City

September 13-15, 2001 • New Yorker Hotel

\$139/night, single or double

Preliminary Topics

Lawyers, Ethics and High Conflict Parents

Interdisciplinary Approaches to Managing High Conflict Families

Standards for Expert Testimony

Custody Evaluations with High Conflict Families: Model Practices

Child Protection Mediation

Educational Programs for High Conflict Parents

Mediation and Domestic Abuse

Judicial Settlement Conferencing

The Role of the Children's Lawyer

AFCC is accepting proposals for ninety minute workshop sessions including, but not limited to, the topics listed above. If you are interested in presenting a workshop, please send a one paragraph abstract, a one page outline, three learning objectives of your workshop and a resume and complete contact information for all proposed presenters to AFCC, 6515 Grand Teton Plaza, Ste. 210, Madison, WI 53719, Phone: (608) 664-3750; Fax: (608) 664-3751; E-mail: afcc@afccnet.org (Word or Wordperfect only, please). Please identify the name of your workshop coordinator. **AFCC is unable to process incomplete proposals. The deadline for accepting proposals is May 15, 2001.** AFCC offers a reduced registration fee for conference presenters. We are unable to reimburse travel and related expenses.

20 Ways to Activate Your Local

AFCC members consistently report that one of the greatest benefits of AFCC membership is networking with other members at AFCC conferences. To help facilitate networking and member involvement between conferences, AFCC is pleased to provide 20 ideas on how to get AFCC members involved at the local level.



Organize a Fund Raising Event and Invite Non-AFCC Members

Let people out there know what AFCC stands for. Organize a fun-run, auction or concert-in-the-park in order to introduce people to AFCC as well as recruit potential members while raising money for the association. Auctions, golf outings, wine tastings or an annual appeal can increase local involvement.



Collaborate with Colleagues on an article for the AFCC Newsletter or the Family Court Review

The *AFCC Newsletter* is always interested in learning about new programs and local initiatives. Consider getting together with a couple of local colleagues to put together an article about what is going on in your region to share with fellow AFCC members worldwide. The *Family Court Review* publishes articles on research, policy issues, practice and program development. Collaborating on an article for the *Review* can lead to other projects, conference presentations and more!



Launch an AFCC Mentorship Program

Pair up local established members of AFCC with those colleagues who are new to the field. Try partnering with the local graduate school and their social work/psychology departments or a law school. This relationship can lead to numerous networking opportunities, invaluable lessons and professional friendships.



Hold a Mini-Conference

Consult with local AFCC members and choose a topic that needs to be addressed. Hold a half-day or day-long conference. Begin with a group meeting, followed by several afternoon workshops. Invite a "big name" AFCC member to speak on a topic.



Set up a Local Listserve

AFCC members in your state or province can be an invaluable resource for one another. Information can be posted about upcoming legislation, conferences, training programs, local networking opportunities, policy development, news flashes, etc.



Honor a Local AFCC Member

AFCC members are always doing something noteworthy for the community. Set up a luncheon or awards reception to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of an AFCC member in your community.



Early-Riser Breakfasts, Monthly Brown Bag Lunches or Wine & Cheese Receptions

Have an informal get-together on a regular basis. Pick a discussion topic for each session and designate one person to lead the group, find related readings and keep the group up-to-date on findings—even invite a guest speaker to lead discussion for the group! This is a great way to learn about your colleagues' work and personal interests as well as develop collaborative working relationships.



Honor a Potential AFCC Member

If a person is not an AFCC member then they are a potential member! Is there a local judge, lawyer, mediator, custody evaluator, researcher or educator who has done something noteworthy? An acknowledgment from a local group of AFCC members will foster good will, help spread the word about AFCC and provide a networking opportunity for members and potential members.



Affiliate with an Existing Local Conference or Seminar

Propose organizing an AFCC-style interdisciplinary workshop at a conference sponsored by a local organization such as a legal association or mental health group. Local organizations are always looking for planning assistance. This provides an opportunity to mention AFCC at the session and recruit potential members.



Host a local AFCC Training Program

Contact AFCC to set up a training session on a topic of local interest such as mediation or custody evaluation. AFCC can provide advice and help identify trainers and topics.

AFCC Membership



11

Attend an AFCC Conference as a Group

Arrange for a large group, 10 or more, to attend an AFCC Conference together. Traveling with a group always makes the experience much more memorable.



15

Organize an Informal Community Referral Network of AFCC Members or a Local Resource Center for Divorcing Parents

Compile resources and referral lists for distribution by the local court and community agencies that highlight resources such as AFCC pamphlets, videos, community services, pro bono services for mediation and crisis intervention programs to help families through separation and divorce.

18

Hold Internet Chat Room or Instant Messaging Forums

Take advantage of the incredible technology at your fingertips. Get together on AOL in a private chat room with other local AFCC members at designated times each week! Chat rooms and instant messaging are great ways to make connections, exchange ideas, post updates and initiate brain tingling discussions!

12

"Each One-Bring One" Dinner

Organize a dinner to introduce a colleague to AFCC and vice versa. Each member is responsible for bringing a potential member. This is a great method of recruitment as well as a wonderful opportunity to socialize and make connections with those in the community you might not otherwise meet!

16

Volunteer a Group to Help with an AFCC National Event in Your Area

Encourage your local members' involvement in AFCC by helping the international association. This can increase your awareness of how the association works nationally and internationally as well as give you the opportunity for extended networking possibilities.



19

Form an AFCC Speakers' Bureau

Develop and promote a list of AFCC members who are available to speak on such topics as mediation, domestic abuse, child development, child support and innovations in family law. Publicize this list to other local and related groups.

13

Start an AFCC Book Club

Bring together members to discuss recently published books or articles in the *Family Court Review*. Incorporate dinner or wine and cheese into the discussion.



17

Collaborate With Colleagues on an AFCC Conference Workshop Proposal

Broaden the knowledge of fellow members by introducing a local program or initiative recently instituted in your community. Collaborate on the proposal for an Annual or Regional Conference.

14

Start a Local Newsletter

Keep local members up to date on what is happening with AFCC and related organizations in your area, as well as nationally, by putting together a print or electronic newsletter. Involve members in writing and distribution.

20

November is Mediation Month

Several states and mediation organizations are attempting to coordinate mediation-related events in November. Have your Governor proclaim November as mediation month in your state and invite local dignitaries to join in the festivities.



Family Court Review to Publish Special Issue on Child Alienation



Dr. Janet R. Johnston



Joan B. Kelly

A FCC and the *Family Court Review* are pleased to present a Special Issue on Child Alienation in Divorce, scheduled for publication in July 2001. The issue, co-edited by Dr. Janet R. Johnston and Joan B. Kelly, was developed in collaboration with the North-ern California Task Force on the Alienated Child.

"This special issue is a wonderful example of the critical importance of an interdisciplinary, collaborative approach to addressing controversial family law problems and the central role AFCC plays in bringing collaborators together," said Andrew Schepard, editor of the *Review*. This special issue will include the following articles:

"The Alienated Child: A Reformulation of Parental Alienation Syndrome," by Joan B. Kelly and Janet R. Johnston

"Should Judges Close the Gate on PAS and PA?" by Justice R. James Williams

"Assessing for Alienation in Child Custody and Access Evaluations," by S. Margaret Lee and Nancy W. Olesen

"Legal and Psychological Management of Cases with an Alienated Child," by Matthew J. Sullivan and Joan B. Kelly

"Therapeutic Work with Alienated Children and their Families," Janet R. Johnston, Marjorie Gans Walters and Steven Freidlander

Student Note

"Admissibility of Expert Testimony in Child Custody Cases: A Case Study of Parental Alienation Syndrome," Lewis Ziogiannis

All AFCC members will receive a copy as a benefit of AFCC membership.

Kids Count Club Thanks Contributors

A FCC's **Kids Count Club** thanks the Suzie S. Thorn Family Foundation and Mr. Len Carpenter of Hamilton, Ontario, for their generous support of AFCC's **Kids Count Club**. Both contributions were made at the Diamond Level (\$1,000-\$4,999) and have given a terrific boost to this year's fund raising campaign.

The **Kids Count Club** has launched an ambitious fund raising drive for 2000-01 in an effort to raise \$30,000 for AFCC's Resource Development Fund. AFCC is looking to support development of enhanced member services; provide conference scholarships; create opportunities for additional use of Internet technology for member networking; continue to conduct Youth Forum programs and provide financial awards to members of the communities which host AFCC conferences.

AFCC would like to thank the following members for being the first to contribute to this year's fund raising campaign:

Diamond (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Suzie S. Thorn Family Foundation
Len Carpenter
Hon. Arline Rotman

Platinum (\$500-\$999)

Doneldon Dennis

Gold (\$250-\$499)

R. John Harper
Denise Herman McColley
Valerie Houghton
Ann Milne
Peter Salem

Silver (\$100-\$249)

Phil Bushard
Hon. George Czutrin
Robin Deutsch
Lorna Glass
Leslye Hunter
Phyllis Kenny
Riegler, Shienvold & Associates
Rob Straus
Betty Vitousek

Bronze (\$50-\$99)

Richard Altman
Elizabeth Johnson
Beth Kerns
Mediation Association of Northwest Ohio
Michelle Morris
Robert Wistner

Contributors

Donna Jewett
Marlene Joy
Mary Lou Kaufman
Eileen McCarten
Peggy Nichols
Carla Nielsen
Leslie Abbot Smith
Barbara Suskind
David Woodbury

All AFCC members are invited to make a contribution to this year's **Kids Count Club** fund raising campaign. If you have not yet had the opportunity to make a contribution please clip and mail in the donation card below.

Member News

Joel Bankes, AFCC member from Washington, D.C., has resigned as Executive Director of the National Association of Child Support Enforcement and accepted a position as a Senior Policy Analyst with the Consulting Division of Policy Studies Inc. of Denver, CO. Mr. Bankes will work out of Washington, D.C.

Beth Kerns, AFCC member from South Bend, Indiana, was promoted to Director of Domestic Relations Counseling Bureau, the court-connected custody evaluation program in South Bend, IN. Ms. Kerns was assistant director since 1989 and an evaluator for the program since 1986.

Glenda Sharp, AFCC member from Chicago, IL, has resigned as Director of the American Bar Association Section of Family Law and accepted the position of Executive Director of the DuPage County, Illinois, Bar Association. Ms. Sharp has been Director of the Family Law Section since 1987. Her new address as of May 2001: DuPage County Bar Association, 126 S. County Farm Rd., Wheaton, IL 60187-4597. Phone: (630) 653-7779; Fax: (630) 653-7870.

Mary Ferriter, AFCC member from Boston, MA, has accepted a position with the Boston law firm of Packenham, Schmidt & Federico where she will concentrate in family law. She may be reached at 4 Longfellow Place, 35th Floor, Boston, MA 02114. Phone: (617) 742-6565; Fax: (617) 742-0292; Email: mary.ferriter@psflaw.com.

AFCC Chapter Update

AFCC Welcomes Florida as its Newest Chapter

The AFCC Executive Committee has approved the application of the Florida Chapter for provisional chapter status. A membership drive spearheaded by the Florida Chapter Coordinating Committee resulted in a near doubling of AFCC's Florida membership which now stands at more than one hundred members. The inaugural Florida Chapter Conference will take place November 9-10, 2001 in Tampa, FL.

AFCC congratulates its newest chapter and coordinating committee members, Deborah Day, Linda Fieldstone, Shelly Finman, Greg Firestone, Joe Hood, JoAnne Holt, Judy Kreeger and Hon. Hugh Starnes. For information on joining AFCC's Florida Chapter please contact JoAnne Holt at jholtcpa@gate.net or (941) 337-1979.

Massachusetts Chapter Conference

The AFCC Massachusetts Chapter will hold its 2001 conference on Friday, May 4, 2001 at Northeastern University Law School in Boston, MA. The theme is **Focusing on Fathers: Completing the Parenting Equation** with a keynote address from Kyle Pruett, M.D., Yale Child Study Center, and author of *Fatherhood: Why Father Care is as Essential as Mother Care for Your Child*.

The conference will include workshops on topics including developmentally appropriate parenting plans, father absence, attachment theory, violent fathers and their children and gay and lesbian families. For further information, please contact Nancy Perkins at (508) 856-8600.

2002 California Chapter Conference Set

Mark your calendar for February 8-10, 2002 in Sonoma, CA for AFCC's California Chapter Conference. Watch future editions of the *AFCC Newsletter* for more information.

AFCC Arizona Chapter Conference a Success

by Fred Mitchell, Past President, Arizona AFCC Chapter, Tucson, AZ

AFCC's Arizona Chapter attracted its largest attendance in history at its Annual Chapter Conference, February 9-11, 2001 in Sedona, AZ. The conference theme, *Picking Up the Pieces: A Team Approach to Strengthening Families*, aptly described a weekend which enabled participants to explore the role of family court as the anchor for those who help families weather the trauma of divorce and family reorganization.

Preceding the conference, and in keeping with its theme, the Collaborative Divorce team from California presented a five-hour pre-conference institute on an interdisciplinary and therapeutic approach to supporting families through the divorce process.

Professor Jay Folberg, former AFCC President, opened the conference with the

question, "Would we design a system of family courts just like the system we have now if we were starting from scratch?" Professor Folberg argued for more experimentation with family court systems in order to meet the complex challenges of changing families.

Author and researcher Dr. Robert Emery presented on his longitudinal study of mediation and litigation in custody and access cases. The study demonstrated much better outcomes, even 12 years later, for parental involvement in their children's lives if they mediated their parenting agreements instead of litigating in court.

Conference workshop topics included: the marriage support movement; the increased emphasis on the rights and voices of children in the divorce process; new approaches for assessing and treating high conflict family situations; the development of Arizona's model parenting plans

and the process of developing family law legislation.

The conference closed with a panel of experts moderated by former Arizona AFCC President Robert Barrasso. The panel included Arizona Chief Justice Thomas Zlaket, Dean Toni Massaro of the University of Arizona College of Law, Judge Steve Rubin, representing the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, psychologist Lynne Kenney Markan and State Representative Bob McLendon.

Arizona AFCC was honored to host International AFCC President Hon. Arline Rotman who gave a welcoming address at Saturday's luncheon. In her remarks, Judge Rotman echoed our theme and AFCC's forte, the convening of family law and ancillary discipline professionals, meeting together as equal team members to meet the challenges of strengthening families.



Board of Directors and Officers Nominated

The AFCC Nominations Committee, chaired by Robert Tompkins, has announced the nominees for AFCC's 2001-02 Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Board members and officers will be elected at the AFCC Annual Conference, May 9-12, 2001 in Chicago.

The following members have been nominated to serve a one year term on the Board of Directors:

Doneldon Dennis, Minneapolis, MN
 Mary Ferriter, J.D., Boston, MA
 LaDeanna Gamble, M.S.W., Las Vegas, NV
 Hon. Ross Goodwin, Quebec City, PQ
 Michele MacFarlane, M.S.W., Toledo, OH
 Hon. Arline Rotman, Boston, MA
 Chapter Council Representative to be designated by AFCC Chapter Council

The following members have been nominated to serve a two year term on the Board of Directors:

Carole Brown, Ph.D., Sydney, Australia
 John Harper, LL.B., Hamilton, ON
 Larry Lehner, Ph.D., Oakland, CA
 Denise McColley, J.D., M.Ed., Napoleon, OH
 Hon. Hugh Starnes, Fort Myers, FL
 Janet Walker, Ph.D., Newcastle, England

The following members have been nominated to serve a three year term on the Board of Directors.

Robert Barrasso, J.D., Tucson, AZ
 Hon. George Czutrin, Hamilton, ON
 Hon. Linda Dessau, Melbourne, Australia
 Leslye Hunter, M.A., New Orleans, LA
 Eileen Pruett, J.D., Columbus, OH
 Jan Shaw, M.P.A., Orange, CA

The following members of the Board of Directors have been nominated to serve as officers:

President

Ms. Denise McColley
 Napoleon, OH

President-Elect

Jan Shaw
 Orange, CA

Vice-President/Secretary

Hon. George Czutrin
 Hamilton, ON

Treasurer

Larry Lehner
 Oakland, CA

Past President

Hon. Arline Rotman
 Boston, MA

Arizona Chapter Elects Officers and Board

AFCC's Arizona Chapter is pleased to announce its Board of Directors for the upcoming year.

President

Mr. Sidney Buckman, M.A.
 Flagstaff, AZ

President Elect

Ms. Annette Burns, J.D.
 Phoenix, AZ

Vice President

Alexandra Furlong, Ph.D.
 Prescott, AZ

Secretary

Ms. Edith Croxen, J.D.
 Tucson, AZ

Treasurer

Ms. Michele Jordan, J.D.
 Scottsdale, AZ

Board Members

Mr. Robert Barrasso, J.D., Tucson, AZ
 Ms. Frances Bernfeld, M.Ed., Tucson, AZ
 Mr. Clarence Cramer, M.A., Coolidge, AZ
 Hon. Fred Dardis, Tucson, AZ
 Ms. Nancy Gray Eade, Yuma, AZ
 Hon. Bethany Hicks, Phoenix, AZ
 Jennifer Jordan, J.D., Prescott, AZ
 Ms. Lisa Johnson, J.D., Phoenix, AZ
 Marlene Joy, Ph.D., Scottsdale, AZ
 Mr. Phillip Knox, Phoenix, AZ
 Hon. Leah Pallin-Hill, Phoenix, AZ
 Hon. John Quigley, Tucson, AZ
 Russell Schoeneman, Ph.D., Mesa, AZ
 Hon. Janis Ann Sterling, Camp Verde, AZ

Ex-Officio

Fredric Mitchell, Ph.D., Tucson, AZ
 Hon. Fred Newton, Flagstaff, AZ

AFCC California Chapter Officers and Board of Directors

President

Bobby Vincent, San Bernadino, CA

President Elect

Donald Eisenberg, Long Beach, CA

First Vice President

Pat Foster, Visalia, CA

Second Vice President

Jane Shatz, Los Angeles, CA

Secretary

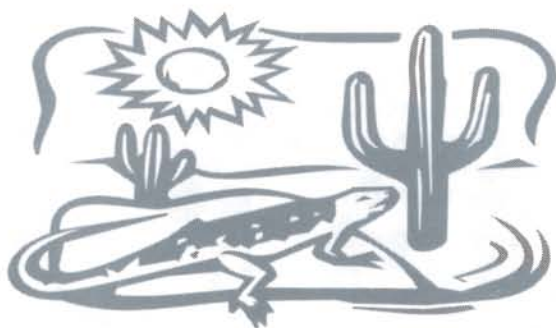
Linda Louie, Los Angeles, CA

Treasurer

Philip Stahl, Danville, CA

Board Members

Rhonda Barovsky, San Francisco, CA
 Robert Beilin, Ventura, CA
 Norma Castellanos-Perez, Visalia, CA
 George Ferrick, Redwood City, CA
 Larry Lehner, Oakland, CA
 Nancy Olesen, San Rafael, CA
 Geri Olin, Santa Ana, CA
 Robert Schnider, Los Angeles, CA
 Susan Ratzkin, Ventura, CA
 Susan Stephens Coats, San Francisco, CA
 Mary Swenson, San Diego, CA



Sights Set on Chicago

Continued from page 1

District, Naperville, IL; and Andrea Zimmerman, M.A., Community Counseling Center of the Fox Valley, Inc., Aurora, IL

Third Annual Silent Auction

AFCC's Third Annual Silent Auction will take place Friday, May 11 with proceeds benefitting the **Kids Count Club**. The auction will be open for bidding from 2:30pm-7:00pm. Auction items will include original artwork, sports memorabilia, hotel packages and much, much more! If you would like to donate an item for the auction contact Peter Salem, AFCC Associate Director at (608) 664-3750.

AFCC Annual Banquet

AFCC's Annual Banquet takes place at 7:00pm on Friday, May 11. This is a wonderful opportunity to kick back and relax with friends over a good meal and after dinner entertainment. This year AFCC presents comedian Greg Schwem. Greg has performed at comedy clubs from New York to Los Angeles and is author of the book *"Til What Do We Part?"*

And then some...

This years conference will be also include wonderful opportunities to network with friends and colleagues. For the early risers, informal morning run/walks are planned for Thursday and Friday at 7:00am. This is a great opportunity to get a glimpse of Chicago's incredible shoreline by running (or walking) on its lake path. It goes for miles!

AFCC's traditional Taste of the Town will take place Thursday evening. Sign up on site and join a group for dinner at one of Chicago's local restaurants. The AFCC Hospitality Suite will be open Wednesday through Friday evening. The Hospitality Suite is the perfect place to end the long day with a refreshment and relaxing conversation amongst friends and colleagues. Hours and location will be posted in the registration area.



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Southern California Employment Opportunities Orange County, Superior Court

Orange County Superior Court is looking for highly motivated individuals for the following positions:

Manager, Mediation and Investigative Services

\$4,160- \$7,540 Monthly

Looking for a highly motivated individual who can provide leadership to a team of professional staff conducting mediation, counseling and investigations. Requires: Master's degree in psychology, social work, family and child counseling or other behavioral science field AND significant related mediation and evaluation/investigations experience AND one year of supervisory or management experience of professional staff, preferably mental health.

Court Mediator

\$4,227 - \$5,095 Monthly

Mediators work with parties experiencing custody/visitation disputes and marital conflict including domestic violence by conducting mediation conferences, child custody investigations & marriage counseling. Requires: Master's degree in psychology, social work, or family counseling AND five years post master full-time experience; CA LCS, MFCC or MFT may substitute for one year experience.

Court Investigator I

\$2,980 - \$3,988 Monthly

Conducts investigations of conservatorship matters, by advising prospective and established conservatees of their legal rights; gathers, assesses and evaluates information regarding living arrangements; prepares written investigative reports with recommendations to the Court. Requires Bachelor's degree or 18 units upper division course work in social welfare, social work, gerontology, etc. AND one year full-time experience performing social service reports.

Excellent benefits and great career opportunities.

Apply immediately

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38TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Conflict Resolution, Children and the Courts

Chicago

Westin Hotel, Michigan Avenue

May 9-12, 2001



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