



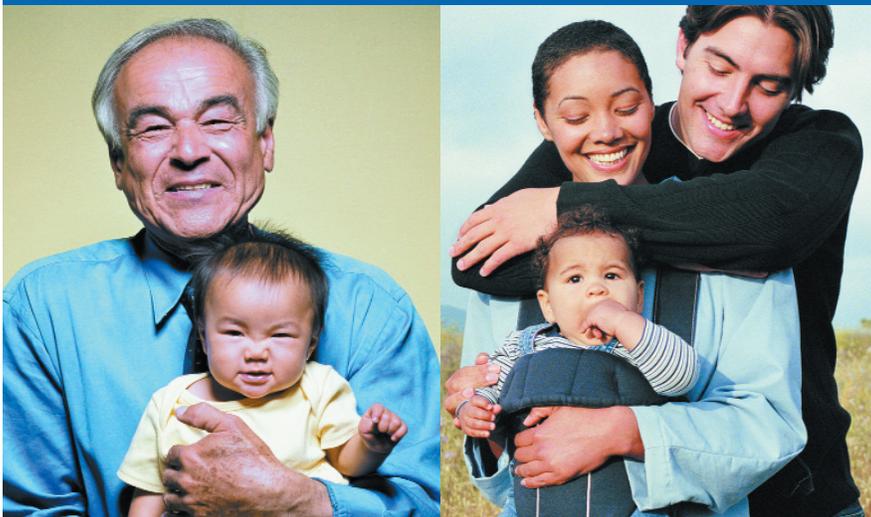
AFCC NEWS

FOUNDED IN 1963

ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONCILIATION COURTS

Volume 26, Number 3

Summer 2007



AFCC and NCJFCJ Regional Training Conference in Columbus

AFCC's Second Regional Training Conference, *Applications for High Conflict Families, Domestic Violence and Alienation*, September 27-29, 2007 in Columbus, Ohio is an event you won't want to miss. Make plans today for this exciting first-time collaboration between AFCC and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ).

Expanded Three Hour Workshops

AFCC first offered the training track format with three-hour workshops in 2005 by offering four program tracks for interdisciplinary professionals. The conference received rave reviews for its unique format and this year's program features five tracks and 25 sessions designed for judicial officers, lawyers, mediators, custody evaluators and parenting coordinators. Participants can sign up for a full track or mix and match the workshops that are of most interest.

Pre-Conference Institutes

Five challenging full-day programs, each highlighting one track, will take place on Thursday, September 27. The lawyer track features Kelly Browe Olsen, J.D.,LL.M., Daniel Bloom, J.D. and Stacey Platt, J.D. with *Legal Representation in Domestic Relations Cases where*

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Vancouver 2008
Save the Date!
AFCC 45th Annual Conference

*Fitting the Forum to the Family:
Emerging Challenges for Family Courts*
May 28-31, 2008
Westin Bayshore Resort

See the Call for Presenters on page 15

www.afccnet.org



ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONCILIATION COURTS

AFCC is an interdisciplinary and international association of professionals dedicated to the resolution of family conflict.

Mission

To improve the lives of children and families through the resolution of family conflict.

Vision

A justice system in which all professionals work collaboratively through education, support and access to services to achieve the best possible outcome for children and families.

Values

- Collaboration and respect among professions and disciplines
- Learning through inquiry, discussion and debate
- Innovation in addressing the needs of families and children in conflict
- Empowering families to resolve conflict and make decisions about their future

Views expressed in the AFCC News are those of individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of AFCC.

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AFCC News

Vol. 26, No. 3 Summer 2007

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AFCC News is a publication of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts and is published four times a year. Deadlines for news items and advertising are January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1.

AFCC News Advertising

	AFCC member	Non-member
Full page	\$425	\$600
Half page	\$300	\$450
Quarter page	\$150	\$250

President's Message

AFCC HEADLINES:

- **AFCC Reports Record Growth!**
- **D.C. Most Successful Conference Ever!**
- **(Small-town judge elected AFCC President)**

Okay. No pressure. Actually, as judge in a small rural jurisdiction, I have come to appreciate the beauty of smallness. When a court system is small, you know the players, you are familiar and you communicate. You are in a position to make relatively rapid decisions about what will work

and what won't. Resources are limited, but you share. I have never worked in a large trial court system, but I bet life is tougher. As President of an international organization that has topped 3,000 members and is no longer small, my goal is to retain the values often inherent in "smallness" while the organization continues to grow.

And what a period of growth it has been. Much credit is to be given to Immediate Past President, Mary M. Ferriter. Mary is definitely a hard act to follow. Mary's sure hand guided AFCC during a period of unprecedented collaborations with other organizations on special projects and programs, including our Wingspread

Conference on Domestic Violence and Family Courts, and our Fall Regional Training Conference, both cosponsored by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) I was able to follow up on Mary's work when I attended the NCJFCJ Board of Directors meeting in San Francisco this summer.

Last year, I watched Mary closely as I prepared for my year as President. What I saw was a tireless advocate for the AFCC message that when all professionals of a court system collaborate, share and learn, we enrich the process and immeasurably improve the result.

AFCC will continue to grow because our message is so compelling. Where else can a professional go to learn from not only the best experts in their own discipline but in the discipline of others who work in the family court? There is great value in seeing the same problem from a new perspective as with a different set of eyes.

This is the value of AFCC as a professional organization. Structurally, precisely because of our interdisciplinary approach, the organization is and will continue to be an agent of change in the way courts are run. As ideas and perspectives continue to be shared through AFCC, court processes will continue to evolve in a manner that is more efficient, more humane and more beneficial to children and families.

The great strength of the organization (and perhaps its secret) is that it is not really an "affinity" organization but a "values" organization. AFCC is a clearinghouse for a vast sea of ideas all dedicated to a single purpose—the betterment of the lives of families and children involved in court proceedings.

As I look ahead, I am excited by the challenge of spreading the AFCC message. I look forward to continuing existing projects and starting new ones. Recently, I appointed a task force to be chaired by Linda Cavallero and Phil Bushard to look into developing criteria for "focused" or "brief" evaluations. In addition to paying a call to the NCJFCJ in July, I will be attending the National Association of Counsel for Children conference in August. I hope to schedule meetings with many state chapters as well. And of course, our fall conference will be here before we know it, and I hope to see you September 27-29 in Columbus, Ohio.

I am hoping to meet (or meet again) a good many of you on these visits. I would also like to extend an invitation to all AFCC members to contact me with your concerns, ideas and questions.

We should never get too big for that.



Hon. Bill Fee
AFCC President
Angola, Indiana

As President of an international organization that has topped 3,000 members and is no longer small, my goal is to retain the values often inherent in "smallness" while the organization continues to grow.

MEMBER PROFILE

AFCC President, Hon. William C. Fee

Like most who become AFCC President, Bill Fee is certainly a loyal devotee. He has attended most of the conferences since becoming a member nearly 20 years ago; he has served on and chaired numerous committees; presented at workshops; volunteered many hours; and served as a member of the Board of Directors.

Like many AFCC members, Bill has come to conferences with family members in tow. Of course, lately, he doesn't really have much of a choice—for the last couple of years his June 1 wedding anniversary has fallen right in the middle of AFCC's Annual Conference. This year, Bill and his wife Amy shared their fifth anniversary dance at the AFCC Annual Banquet in the Presidential Ballroom at the Capital Hilton, alongside hundreds of conference attendees.

Of course, Bill and Amy didn't think about what they were getting into when they decided to honeymoon at AFCC's 2002 Annual Conference on the Big Island of Hawaii. "The honeymoon in Hawaii was a great idea," Bill said. "But we didn't realize at the time that it would mean a lifetime commitment of bringing my family to AFCC conferences." In addition to Amy, Bill has been accompanied by his stepchildren, Landon, age 13; Jaelyn, age 10; and Bill's and Amy's daughter Sienna, who is nearing her second birthday. Bill proudly points out that Sienna has been at every (both) AFCC annual conference in her lifetime.

Bill and his family live in Angola, Indiana, in the northeast corner of the state, the same town in which Bill was born and raised. "We have about 35,000-40,000 people in Steuben County most of the year. The summer population is more than 120,000 because of the summer residents, or 'lakers' as they are called." In fact, Bill is a laker himself, living on the shores of Lake James.

Growing up, Bill's family lived in town just two blocks from the courthouse where he has worked more than two decades. When he was only 11 years old, his father passed away as a result of a farming accident. "My father grew up farming. He went to Purdue University and got his degree in agriculture, and after that he was a teacher," Bill said. "When my parents started a family he sold insurance, but he always loved farming and he kept the family property as a hobby farm. My siblings and I still have the farm in the family today.

"After my father died, my mother was at home with the kids. She was really unbelievable and did so much to keep the family together. She was there for her children in everyway. She later told me when things became emotionally difficult for her, she would just go into her room at the end of the day and close the door. The kids never saw any of that. It really makes me appreciate the advantages of good parents."

Bill attended Purdue University where he was a member of the rugby club and was acknowledged for his

academic achievements. He double-majored in political science and education and spent a semester as an intern in Washington, D.C. working for a nonprofit public interest group.

He then enrolled in law school at Case Western Reserve in Cleveland, Ohio. On his decision to go to law school Bill said, "I remember when I was just a kid going with my father to see a lawyer and watching my dad just listen so intently to the lawyer's advice. Of course when you are young you think your father knows everything, so it really stuck with me that he was going to someone else for advice. Also, by the time I was out of high school it was clear that I wasn't going to be a scientist or mathematician."

After graduation, Bill earned a Reggie Fellowship through Howard University to provide legal aid services in Kokomo, Indiana, about an hour north of Indianapolis. After 18 months, cuts in legal services funding closed the Kokomo office and Bill continued his legal aid work in Lafayette.

Then, a vacancy on the bench opened up in Angola, and at age 29, Bill moved home to run for County Judge. "I moved in with my mother and grandmother, around the corner from the courthouse," said Bill. "I worked very hard and knocked on a lot of doors. I won the primary in May and was unopposed in the general election, which wasn't until November. So I bought a Eurail pass, put my bike on a plane and spent the rest of the year traveling through West Germany, Norway, Paris, Greece, Bulgaria, Turkey and Yugoslavia. I had a great time and really appreciated the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

When Bill started on the bench in January 1985, the County Court was limited jurisdiction including traffic, small claims and misdemeanors but not family, felony, criminal or civil matters. But in 1987, it was changed to a court of general jurisdiction and Bill became responsible for, among other things, making decisions about child custody.

"I considered myself a pretty good uncle," Bill said. "But otherwise I had no experience with children at the time." It was then that Indiana judge Betty Barteau, a former AFCC President herself, introduced Bill to AFCC. "I went to a couple of conferences in Indianapolis and Cincinnati. I knew the law, but I really needed the specialized training." Bill became a regular at AFCC conferences and an active member, first joining the Board of Directors in 1994.

The training Bill was looking for when he first joined AFCC seems to have taken, if his work as a judge is any indication. Among his accomplishments, he was named Outstanding Judge by the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence in recognition of his work developing a

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Introducing Parenting Coordination to Unified Family Court Cases

by Hon. Sandy Karlan and Linda Fieldstone, M.Ed.
11th Judicial Circuit, Miami-Dade County, Florida

Two parents were involved in a high conflict custody case, mediation was unsuccessful, they each went through multiple attorneys and the judge designated a parenting coordinator to concentrate on the non-legal child-related issues of the case. This typical scenario is replicated in jurisdictions across the United States and Canada with great success—the parents' collaboration improves and they begin to concentrate more on their children than their litigation process.

According to the *AFCC Guidelines for Parenting Coordination*, the "overall objective of parenting coordination is to assist high conflict parents to implement their parenting plan, to ensure compliance with the details of the plan, to resolve conflicts regarding their children and the parenting plan in a timely manner, and to protect and sustain safe, healthy and meaningful parent/child relationships." (The Guidelines can be found on the AFCC Web site at www.afccnet.org/resources and clicking "Standards of Practice.") Parenting coordinators (PCs) provide education regarding child-related issues, facilitate referrals when indicated, offer recommendations, and with prior approval of the parties and/or the court, make decisions within the scope of the court order.

Consider this second scenario. A family entered the court system due to a reported domestic violence attack by a mother against a father in the presence of their three-year-old child. The father filed a Domestic Violence Injunction and a Petition for Dissolution of Marriage. In both cases the father was granted custody through *ex parte* temporary orders and a *guardian ad litem* (GAL) was appointed. The mother was charged by the state with assault and battery in the Criminal Division, the Department of Children and Family (DCF) filed a dependency petition against the mother, and the Juvenile Court judge gave custody of the minor child to the maternal grandmother and appointed a second GAL. All of these cases were filed within 48 hours of one another. The result was multiple judges, conflicting orders, confused parties and a victimized child.

This case was then transferred to the Unified Family Court Division, where one judge heard all non-criminal matters. At the initial case management conference, the parties agreed on an orderly procedure for all pending matters, including the coordination of discovery. The parties agreed to one GAL and to keep the child placed with the maternal grandmother. All earlier conflicting orders were modified to be consistent, including child support orders.

While this case was streamlined once it moved to the Unified Family Court, the management and monitoring of the case still proved challenging. Even with one judge, there were still multiple other players who did not coordi-

nate or communicate unless they were actually before the court. Now assume that there was a second child with a different father. Both children were caught in the middle of this dispute, their own relationship interrupted by incompatible time-sharing schedules and parents who have no informed or healthy way to interact with one another.

Who will help these parents develop functioning relationships when all individual and independent services and classes have been completed and the legal proceedings have terminated? Traditionally, PCs have not been designated to cases with dependency components involved. However, in Unified cases, parties often feel like they are drowning in myriad evaluations, appointments and court hearings. If PCs have proven their usefulness in high conflict divorce, separation and post-dissolution cases, couldn't they also help resolve the complex cases handled in Unified Court? Indeed, the 11th Judicial Court of Florida has found this to be the case, as PCs have assisted these families to transition beyond the court system and reduced post-judgment filings.

For instance, the mother in our example was mandated to attend anger management classes, extended parenting classes and individual therapy. The father was ordered to drug treatment, batterer's intervention and individual therapy. The parenting coordinator provided the link between the parties' education, coached them through their mediation process to provide consistent and coordinated parental access for both children, and gave both fathers and mother a way to practice their co-parenting skills. Once the PC was assigned to the case, the family's situation improved. The two children of the mother, each with a different father, began to spend consistent time together again as a parenting plan was established that made sense for both children and took into account the needs of all three parents; their vacation times were more easily executed; and their counseling programs were coordinated. The parents and the maternal grandmother shared the cost of a psycho-educational session with a psychologist and learned the effects of their continuing conflict on their children. In addition, the PC provided the court with more accurate, timely information regarding the entire family system. Whether two parents, three, or even four, a PC can help them prioritize the children's needs as they learn to work together, or, at least not in opposition to one another.

There may be greater challenges when considering parenting coordination for complex litigation cases. First, the opportunity and desire to combine roles may present itself more often in Unified cases, especially when services may not be provided expeditiously by other departments or agencies, or when situations may need immediate investigation. Still, it is crucial that the role of the PC be defined appropriately at all times and not cross the line to investigator, therapist, evaluator, visitation supervisor or legal

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Annual Conference Sets Attendance Record

More than 900 participants traveled from 18 countries to attend AFCC's record-breaking 44th Annual Conference, May 30-June 2, 2007, at the Capital Hilton in Washington, D.C. The previous record of 755 was set in the same hotel nearly a decade ago.

The conference kicked off with an opening night performance by political satirists, the Capitol Steps. Other social activities included AFCC's Ninth Annual Silent Auction and AFCC's Annual Banquet, which featured *Dancing with the Starnes* with a glamorous ballroom dancing performance and lessons from AFCC Past President Hon. Hugh Starnes and his wife Judy.

Highlights from the conference included three plenary sessions. The audio recordings are available at the Member Center of AFCC's Web site for download.

- *Ethics in Family Law* discussed the complexities of family law with Professor Arthur R. Miller, Dr. Robin Deutsch and Hon. Judith Kreeger.
- *Children, Marriage, Separation and Divorce: The Politics of Policy, Practice and Parenting* featured Dr. Robert Emery, Dr. Ron Haskins, Joe Jones and Elizabeth Marquardt with an energetic discussion on improving the lives of children and families struggling with family conflict.
- *International Child Abduction: Risk Factors and Prevention* was presented by Hon. Peter Boshier, Chief Justice Diana Bryant, Hon. Eberhard Carl, and moderator, Professor Linda Elrod who discussed the newly adopted Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act.

The conference also featured six pre-conference institutes, nearly 70 sessions on the latest topics that impact children and families and more than 180 presenters from Canada, Taiwan, United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, New Zealand and the United States. Participants had the opportunity to earn up to 21 hours of continuing education credit and network with colleagues in various disciplines from around the world.

Thank You

Special thanks to members of the AFCC Conference Committee in helping make this conference a success: Co-chairs Hon. Denise McColley and Arnie Shienvold, Christine Coates, Hon. George Czutrin, Marsha Kline Pruett and Robert A. Simon. Thanks also to conference shepherds Chris Jones, Richard Becker, Darrell Hale, Danielle Hamill, Valorie Hoppenworth, Kay Hughes, Grace Ji, Kathleen McKay, Myrna Murdoch, Marilyn Schiller, Kerry Tripp and Bill Wilensky.

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AFCC Annual Awards Presented

AFCC members were honored for their accomplishments at the AFCC 44th Annual Conference Awards Luncheon, May 31, 2007 in Washington, D.C.

John E. VanDuzer Distinguished Service Award **Isolina Ricci, Ph.D., San Francisco, California**

Dr. Isolina Ricci was honored with the John E. VanDuzer Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions and achievements by members of AFCC. Dr. Ricci is the former statewide director of California Family Court Services and is currently a licensed marriage and family therapist in private practice and the director of the *New Family Center* in Tiburon, California. She is a longtime AFCC member and popular presenter with more than 30 years experience specializing in divorce, co-parenting, custody, remarriage and mediation. Dr. Ricci is an award winning mediator and the author of *Mom's House, Dad's House*, a resource book for parents now in its 45th printing, and a newly released book for older children, *Mom's House, Dad's House for Kids*.

Stanley Cohen Distinguished Research Award **Irwin N. Sandler, Ph.D, Sanford L. Braver, Ph.D. and** **Sharlene Wolchik, Ph.D., Tempe, Arizona**

Drs. Irwin N. Sandler, Sanford L. Braver and Sharlene Wolchik of the Arizona State University were awarded the Stanley Cohen Distinguished Research Award for their outstanding research achievements in the field of separation and divorce. The psychologists are co-principal investigators of ongoing research at the University's Prevention Research Center and have spearheaded multiple cutting-edge studies that have significantly added to the knowledge base of prevention science. The collective work of this team has shaped the field of prevention science and has set a standard of excellence and evidence for prevention programs to assist children and parents dealing with stressful life transitions such as divorce.

Irwin Cantor Innovative Program Award **The For the Children Program**

The For the Children Program was presented the Irwin Cantor Innovative Program Award. For the Children, developed by Dr. Elizabeth Austin, is Massachusetts' first mandatory parent education program for never-married parents. The program provides information and skills training to help parents strengthen their relationships with their children and their communication with each other. Through role play, video clips and skill development exercises, the program is now offered state-wide and focuses on the particular challenges faced by never-married parents.

President's Award

Hon. Arline Rotman (ret.), Norwich, Vermont

Mary M. Ferriter presented the AFCC President's Award to Hon. Arline Rotman (ret.). Judge Rotman joined the AFCC Board of Directors in 1994 and was instrumental

in starting the AFCC Massachusetts Chapter. She served as AFCC President (2000-01) and treasurer and chaired numerous AFCC committees and task forces. Judge Rotman was a force in the reorganization of AFCC's governance and administration and has been a prolific writer, contributing to *Family Court Review* and other AFCC publications. She has continued actively serving AFCC as a regular conference presenter and Chair of the Resource Development Committee. Under her leadership, the Resource Development Fund has grown significantly, while at the same time increasing the number of conference scholarships awarded and implementing the Innovation Mini-Grant Program.

Meyer Elkin Award

Joanna Rohrbaugh, Ph.D., Cambridge, Massachusetts

The Meyer Elkin Award for the outstanding article published in the *Family Court Review* was presented to Joanna Rohrbaugh. Dr. Rohrbaugh was honored for her article, *Domestic Violence in Same Gender Relationships*, published in April 2006. AFCC members can access this article in its entirety by logging on to the Member Center of the AFCC Web site and clicking "Family Court Review."

Special Commendation

AFCC presented a Special Commendation to Margot Bean, Commissioner of the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, for outstanding contributions to the resolution of family conflict. Commissioner Bean oversees the Department of Health and Human Services Access and Visitation Grant Program, administered by AFCC member Debra Pontisso. The program recently celebrated its 10th anniversary and during that time has partnered with AFCC to provide training and information to program providers throughout the United States.

Free Workshop and Plenary Session **Audio Online**

AFCC's 44th Annual Conference audio provider, Digital Conference Providers, Inc., is offering free online access to audio for the workshop, *Differential Assessment and Intervention in Domestic Violence Cases*, presented by Hon Susan B. Carbon, Billie Lee Dunford-Jackson, J.D., Hon. William G. Jones (ret.) and Nancy Ver Steegh, J.D., M.S.W.

AFCC members also have access to plenary sessions from the conference for free download by logging into the Member Center on the AFCC Web site and clicking "AFCC Conference Audio." If you were unable to attend or missed a workshop at the conference, all sessions can be purchased individually or as a complete set online at www.dcpvidersonline.com/afcc/.

Regional Training Conference

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Family Violence is a Factor. Bernie Mayer, Ph.D. and Zena Zumeta, J.D. will present the mediator track with *Mediating Cases with Enduring Conflict and Power Imbalances.* Leslie Drozd, Ph.D., Lorraine Martin, M.S.W. and Nancy W. Olesen, Ph.D. will present the custody evaluator track with *Advanced Issues in Child Custody Evaluation: Domestic Violence and Alienation.* The judicial officer track will be moderated by Magistrate Don Martin and features Hon. Karen Adam, Ann M. Haralambie, J.D., Katherine H. Federle, J.D., LL.M. and H.D. Kirkpatrick, Ph.D. with *Judicial Institute: The Child's Voice in Custody Disputes Involving Domestic and High Conflict Parents.* Christine A. Coates, M.Ed., J.D., Robin Deutsch, Ph.D. and Matthew Sullivan, Ph.D., will present the parenting coordinator track with *The Parenting Coordination Process.*

Featured Presenters and Workshops

The conference will kickoff with Friday morning's opening session, *Domestic Violence, Family Courts and Differentiation: A Look at the Future?*, presented by Co-reporters of the Domestic Violence and Family Courts Project, Clare Dalton, LL.M., Northeastern University School of Law and Professor Nancy Ver Steegh, J.D., M.S.W., William Mitchell College of Law. The session will provide the first insights from the AFCC and NCJFCJ cosponsored Domestic Violence and Family Courts Think Tank, February 15-17, 2007 at the Johnson Foundation's Wingspread Conference Center in Racine, Wisconsin.

More than 50 presenters from 25 states and provinces will address the complex environment of family law and dispute resolution, including Hon. Dale Koch, Marsha Kline Pruett, Ph.D., Magistrate Dick Altman, Hon. Denise McColley, Crevon Tarrance, M.S.W., J.D., Arnie Shienbold, Ph.D., Hon. W. Dennis Duggan and Greg Firestone, Ph.D. The conference features workshops on collaborative law, child

relocation, parenting coordination and the courts, mediating conflicts over child abuse and more. Additionally, members of AFCC's Task Force on Focused Evaluations will discuss the development of the Guidelines for Focused Evaluations.

Continuing Education

The conference offers continuing education opportunities for professionals of all disciplines. AFCC is approved by the American Psychological Association and the program offers up to 19 CE hours for psychologists. The conference also offers CE opportunities for mediators, lawyers, counselors, social workers, marriage and family therapists, custody evaluators and parenting coordinators.

Accommodations

The Hyatt Regency is located in downtown Columbus, five blocks from the State Capitol, seven miles from Port Columbus International Airport and in the heart of some of the city's best attractions and entertainment. The newly renovated hotel features an indoor swimming pool, workout room, off-property health club membership to guests and high-speed Internet access.

The Hyatt Regency is offering the special rate of \$131 per night for a single or double room. Please make your reservations online or by calling Hyatt Reservations at (800) 233-1234 and identify yourself with AFCC to receive the special group rate. On September 4, 2007, any non-reserved rooms remaining in the block will be released to the public for general sale and the special group rate will increase after that date, if rooms are still available.

Complete program information, including online hotel reservations and online conference registration, can be found at www.afccnet.org and by clicking the "AFCC Conferences" link. For further information, please contact AFCC at afcc@afccnet.org or (608) 664-3750.

AFCC Books for Asia Project

Nearly 300 Books Donated by AFCC Members

AFCC partnered with the Asia Foundation's Books for Asia Program in 2006 to help establish collections of family law, dispute resolution, mental health and social science research publications in developing nations.

A total of 35 members participated, donating 294 books. The books are currently pending shipment and are scheduled to deliver this summer at the following libraries:

- Ateneo de Manila University School of Law, the Philippines;
- Kathmandu School of Law, Nepal;
- Lahore High Court Bar Library, Pakistan;
- Colombo Law Library, Sri Lanka; and
- Ulaanbaatar Metropolitan Library Law Reading Room, Mongolia.

In addition to the Books for Asia program, the Asia Foundation works in legal reform across Asia. More information on the Books for Asia Program can be found at the Asia Foundation's Web site at www.asiafoundation.org.

AFCC Thanks Books for Asia Contributors

Constance Ahrons
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Nicholas Bala
Allan E. Barsky
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Top Ten Things to do While Visiting Columbus

Columbus is the largest city in Ohio and the 15th largest in the U.S. This conference will be a great place to bring the family or simply unwind and network with AFCC and NCJFCJ colleagues. For more information on Columbus, visit www.experiencecolumbus.com.



1. German Village Oktoberfest: Oktoberfest features German polka as well as other styles of live music in Munich-style tents, authentic German food, unique shops and, of course, delicious German beer. "One of the top 100 events in North America," the festival takes place during the conference dates, September 28-30, 2007.

www.germanvillage.com/oktoberfest/home

2. Stroll the Short North: The Short North Arts District is the neighborhood to visit when you're in Columbus. A historic urban neighborhood, which is known for its art galleries, unique boutiques and restaurants. www.shortnorth.org

3. Dine at the North Market: Find out why one million customers visit the North Market annually. Established in 1876, the North Market is the last remaining public market in Central Ohio. A great spot to try a variety of ethnic foods for lunch or dinner. www.northmarket.com

4. Major League Soccer: Don't miss your chance to see the Columbus Crew take on the Los Angeles Galaxy and their newest addition, U.K. superstar David Beckham, Sunday, September 30th. Tickets range from \$10-\$35. <http://web.mlsnet.com/t102/>

5. COSI Museum: Located downtown, COSI (the Center of Science and Industry), features more than 300 interactive exhibits. The discovery-based exhibits include: ocean, space gadgets, life, little kidspace, progress and the outdoor big science park. www.cosi.org

6. Bar Hop in the Arena District: The bars and restaurants in the Arena District are hopping all year long. A wide array of nightlife can be found in this area from sports bars to dance clubs, cocktail lounges to local breweries, DJs to live bands. It won't be hard to unwind here! www.arena-district.com

7. Columbus Zoo and Aquarium: Located along the banks of the Scioto River, the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium is a picturesque setting of naturalistic wildlife habitats including an endangered manatee exhibit, gardens, picnic areas, recreational facilities and a golf course. Made famous by Jungle Jack Hanna, the zoo is home to over 650 wildlife species. www.columbuszoo.org

8. Tour the Ohio State University Campus: Columbus is home to one of the largest universities in the nation, and the campus is full of interesting activities for non-students and visitors. The commercial strip along High Street is famous for its stores, shops and food. www.osu.edu

9. Columbus Museum of Art: The Art Museum is located in the heart of downtown and features a large collection of late nineteenth and early twentieth century American and European modern art. www.columbusmuseum.org

10. The Franklin Park Conservatory: This conservatory offers 90 acres of international gardens to be enjoyed and explored. Some of the habitats featured include the Japanese Gardens, the Himalayan Mountains, a Pacific Island, a Tropical Rainforest and a Bonsai Garden. www.fpconservatory.org

Traveling to Columbus

Getting to Columbus is easy and affordable! Columbus is within 550 miles of more than half of the U.S. population and less than one day's drive away for many U.S. and Canadian residents. The Hyatt Regency is in the heart of downtown Columbus and conveniently located only six miles from Port Columbus International Airport.



Driving Time to Columbus:

Chicago	6 hours
Cincinnati	1.5 hours
Cleveland	2 hours
Detroit	3 hours
Indianapolis	3 hours
Louisville	3.5 hours
Nashville	6 hours
St. Louis	6.5 hours
Toronto	7 hours
Washington, D.C.	6.5 hours

AFCC Member News

Martha McCarthy, AFCC member from Toronto, Ontario, was presented the Ontario Bar Association's Family Law Section 2007 Award for Excellence in Family Law on May 30, 2007. The selection of Ms. McCarthy is in recognition of her outstanding achievements and contributions to the practice of Family law in Ontario and across Canada. Ms. McCarthy recently opened her own firm in Toronto, Martha McCarthy & Company.

AFCC Task Force on Focused Child Custody Evaluations

AFCC President Hon. Bill Fee has appointed a Task Force on Focused Evaluations Co-chaired by Phil Bushard and Linda M. Cavallero. Members include: Jennifer L. Rosato (Reporter), Andrea Clark, Linda Fidnick, Jonathan Gould, Susan E. Hanks, Grace M. Hawkins, Lorraine Martin, Carole McKnight, Hon. Fred Newton, Nancy W. Olesen, Arnie Shienvold and Robert M. Smith.

AFCC Hosts Think Tank on Child Welfare Mediation

AFCC will host a Child Welfare Mediation Think Tank immediately prior to its Fall Regional Training Conference in Columbus, OH, September 27-29, 2007. The project is a collaborative effort supported by AFCC, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Werner Institute for Negotiation and Dispute Resolution at Creighton University, the National Center for State Courts and a planning committee composed of leaders in child welfare mediation.

Over the last thirty years there have been many chapters in the development of child welfare mediation programs. Programs have been developed, altered, improved, and re-invented. Many programs began strong and continue to thrive. Others have faced hard challenges, lost funding and been discontinued. The goal of the think tank project is to bring together contributors from all aspects of child protection mediation programs to closely examine questions that have arisen over the last thirty years and to collaborate with each other on best practice ideas from past and current programs.

The project intends to create a summary of the developments in these programs; a short-term plan for bringing about collaboration between programs and the experts who run them; and a longer-term agenda on writing and research relevant to the future of child welfare mediation programs.

The project will produce a special issue of *Family Court Review* on Child Welfare Mediation, edited by Bernie Mayer and Kelly Browe Olson. Project Co-chairs are AFCC members Marilou Giovannucci and Karen Largent.

AFCC Members Write On

Paul R. Amato, AFCC member from University Park, Pennsylvania has co-authored *Alone Together: How Marriage in America is Changing* with Alan Booth, David R. Johnson and Stacy J. Rogers. Published by Harvard University Press, the authors discuss the vast changes of marriage that has occurred in society in the last twenty years.

Kathleen Bird and Dawn Kuhlman, AFCC members from Kansas City, Missouri, have written a field guide for co-parents called the *Child-friendly Exchange Handbook*. The book contains information on low-stress exchanges, tips for child-friendly exchanges and pitfalls to avoid. The book was published with a grant from the Missouri Domestic Relations Resolution Fund.

Randy Flood, AFCC member from Grand Rapids, Michigan, has co-authored *Stop Hurting the Woman You Love: Breaking the Cycle of Abusive Behavior* with Charlie Donaldson and Elaine Eldridge. With over 27 years of combined expertise in the field of domestic relationships, the authors have published this down-to-earth, informative and inspirational self-help manual. The book is published by Hazelden Publishing & Educational Services.

Deborah Moskovitch, AFCC member from Toronto, Ontario, has authored *The Smart Divorce: Proven Strategies and Valuable Advice from 100 Top Divorce Lawyers, Financial Advisers, Counselors and Other Experts*, published by Chicago Review Press. The author draws on her own personal experiences with divorce and brings together the best advice from a wide range of divorce experts.

Joanna Rohrbaugh, AFCC member from Cambridge, Massachusetts, has authored *A Comprehensive Guide to Child Custody Evaluations*, published by Springer. This unique book emphasizes professional ethics, children's psychological well-being, and clear communication among all parties as keys to resolving disputes with efficiency and thoroughness, and minimizing the chances of children and their families getting lost in red tape.

Eve Sullivan, AFCC member from Cambridge, Massachusetts, has written *Where the Heart Listens: A Handbook for Parents and their Allies in a Global Society*. First published in 2001, its second edition has been published online in 2007. The book highlights the Parents Forum curriculum, which Ms. Sullivan founded in Cambridge to bring together groups of parents and others to practice effective communication skills.

Have you written a book?

We want to let others know about new books in the field by AFCC members. Please send information to David Vigliotta, Editor, *AFCC News*, at editor@afccnet.org.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

AFCC Awards Innovation Mini-Grant and Scholarships

Thanks to the generous support of AFCC members who contributed to the AFCC Resource Development Fund, AFCC's Resource Development Committee granted its third consecutive Innovation Mini-Grant. A \$5,000 grant was awarded to the Pima County Family Center of the Conciliation Court (FCCC) to conduct time sensitive issue-focused family assessments in Tucson, Arizona

The Resource Development Committee also granted a record twenty scholarships to the 44th Annual Conference

in Washington, D.C. This is an increase of nine scholarships from last year and includes a local scholarship for a graduate student and a scholarship designated to a chapter member. AFCC also awarded an international scholarship, which included a \$1,000 travel stipend. AFCC received more than 65 applications from 21 states and seven countries outside North America including Ethiopia, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, New Zealand, Nigeria, Singapore and the Philippines.

Member Profile

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county protocol and community coordinated response. He also implemented a local court rule in Steuben County requiring the appropriate cooperative approaches to resolving parenting disputes. And he was one of four Indiana judges appointed by the Chief Justice of the Indiana Supreme Court to oversee drafting of Indiana's rules of evidence.

Meanwhile, Bill began renovations on what was formerly a small lakeside summer cottage (with two unheated rooms) that he purchased shortly after he became a judge. "The house was torn down to the original stone, and built up into what I thought would be more house than I would ever need," Bill said.

After the renovations were complete, however, Bill and Amy bumped into one another at the health club, renewing an earlier acquaintance and resulting in their AFCC Hawaiian honeymoon and a house full of children and dogs. Now on the bench 22 years, Bill has toned down his activities from triathlons, biking and water skiing to hiking, cross country skiing and spending time with his family.

And over the years, Bill has continued to spend time working with AFCC, which provided him with the training he needed twenty years ago and continues to offer that and something more. "It goes without saying that there are great conferences and learning experiences at AFCC, but it is the relationships you develop over time that really matter. I don't want to call it networking, because that doesn't really do it justice," Bill said. "It is the peer relationships that develop—the feeling that you can pick up the phone and call someone at any time about anything—that is especially valuable to someone in a small jurisdiction and even more so for someone just starting out."

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Ninth Annual Silent Auction Doesn't Miss a Beat

AFCC's Ninth Annual Silent Auction at the 44th Annual conference in Washington, D.C. raised more than \$10,000 to support AFCC special projects and initiatives.

Featured items at the auction included vacation getaways to Cape Cod, Hollywood, Breckenridge, Sedona, Washington, D.C., Columbus and a golf package for two at the Westin Innisbrook Resort in Tampa Bay. Other popular items included roundtrip airline tickets donated by AirTran Airways, tickets to the 2008 U.S. Open Golf Championship, *Schindler's List* autographed movie script, an iPod Nano, authentic food from Australia and fashionable clothes from Janet Marie Studios.

Organizations:

701 Restaurant
AFCC Arizona Chapter
AFCC Colorado Chapter
AFCC Florida Chapter
AFCC Massachusetts Chapter
AFCC Missouri Chapter
AFCC New Jersey Chapter
AFCC Texas Chapter
AirTran Airways
American Girl
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Beaver Run Resort
Blackwell Publishing
Capital Hilton
Capitol Steps
Complete Equity Markets
DC United
2009 World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights
ESL Music
Green Bay Packers

Green Mountain Coffee
Hilton Universal Studios in Hollywood
Hyatt Regency Columbus
Impact Publishers
Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club
Janet Marie Studios
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Mediation Works Inc.
Milwaukee Brewers
Minnesota Wild
Novica
Oshkosh B'Gosh
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Poi Dog Pondering
Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide
Think Ink and Design
United States Golf Association
Washington Wizards
Wegner, LLP

Individuals:

Dick Altman
Carol Booth
Emily Brown
Phil Bushard
Pamela Callahan
Doneldon Dennis
Robin Deutsch
Cori Erickson
Bill and Amy Fee
Mary Ferriter
Linda Fidnick
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Jonathan Gould
Leslye Hunter
Jake Keneen
Emile Kruzick
Debra Kulak
Denise McColley
Ray and Marilyn McNeal
Sondra Miller
Graham Mullane
Myrna Murdoch
Mary O'Connell

This year the funds raised will be used to support projects including AFCC's Domestic Violence and Family Courts Project, Focused Evaluation Task Force and the Family Law Education Reform Project.

AFCC would like to thank the following volunteers for their work in making this year's Silent Auction a success: Dick Altman, Mary Ferriter, Leslye Hunter, Jake Jacobson, Perri Mayes, Hon. Denise McColley, Bob Smith and emcee Hon. John Harper. A special thanks to all of those who contributed to this year's event.

Carren Oler
Kelly Browe Olson
Eileen Pruet
Arline and Barry Rotman
Peter Salem
Andrew Schepard
Bob Smith
Robert Simon
Phil Stahl
Hugh and Judy Starnes
Eve Sullivan
Kathy Townsend
Janet Walker
James R. Williams

Parenting Coordination

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advisor. PCs must continuously remind the parties and others, including the judiciary, of the limitations inherent in their specific role in order to avoid any conflict of interest and remain effective in the case.

Second, the parenting coordination process is not covered by insurance and the cost of community providers may be exorbitant, even when sliding scale fees are applied. The issue of payment is further complicated in cases with one mother and multiple fathers. Should this mother be required to pay twice as much as each father? The use of in-house intervention addresses this issue in

the 11th Judicial Circuit for now and is being reconsidered as the designation of parenting coordination for these cases rises.

The crossover cases in Unified Family Courts provide a thoughtful opportunity to capitalize on the success of PCs in cases involving children from multiple family units. It seems imprudent to restrict parenting coordination to the two-parent family, when the need for coordination is even more necessary in complicated cases with multiple issues and multiple parents. The 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida has found that a PC can be extremely useful to Unified Family Court cases, especially when the judge is knowledgeable of the parenting coordination process and the PC adheres to the role appropriately.

AFCC Board of Directors for 2007-2008

AFCC is pleased to welcome Andrea Clark, M.S.W., St. Louis, Missouri; Marsha Kline Pruett, Ph.D., M.L.S., Northampton, Massachusetts and Hon. Graham Mullane, New South Wales, Australia to the Board of Directors with terms beginning July 1, 2007. AFCC thanks Hon. George Czutrin, Hon. Linda M. Dessau and C. Eileen Pruett, J.D. who have completed their service on the Board of Directors. A special thanks to Mary M. Ferriter for her leadership and commitment to AFCC while serving as President. Mary will continue to serve on the Board and as Chair of AFCC's Nominations Committee.

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Contact information for Committee Chairs can be found on the AFCC Web site at www.afccnet.org/about and clicking the "Committees" link.

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AFCC Chapter News

Florida

The AFCC Florida Chapter has been busy finalizing its upcoming conference, *Moving from Conflict to Harmony: A Medley of Opportunities*, November 2-3, 2007 in Orlando, Florida. The conference will host several pre-conference institutes, including a Magistrates' Forum sponsored by the Office of the State Courts Administrator.

The Florida Chapter AFCC Parenting Coordination Task Force has been diligently working to develop *Ethical Guidelines for Parenting Coordinators* in Florida. This organizational collaboration has met biweekly for over one year and recently disseminated its first draft, which is posted for review on the chapter's Web site at www.flafcc.org. The Task Force co-facilitators, Linda Fieldstone, Debra Carter and Alice Blackwell White presented the draft at the AFCC 44th Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. The presentation generated much discussion and the Task Force appreciates all the input received from the participants. The Task Force invites others to comment as well.

Massachusetts

The AFCC Massachusetts Chapter would like to extend its congratulations and gratitude to AFCC Past President and Chapter member Mary M. Ferriter, for her dedication in guiding AFCC this past year.

The chapter recently hosted a reception to celebrate the AFCC awards received by Chapter members at AFCC's 44th Annual Conference Awards Luncheon. Hon. Arline Rotman (ret.) received the President's Award for her continuous dedication to AFCC, Joanna Rohrbaugh received the Meyer Elkin Award for her outstanding article in *Family Court Review* and the For the Children Program was honored with the Irwin Cantor Innovative Program Award for its never-married parents' educational program. The chapter also formally welcomed Marsha Kline Pruett to the Bay State, as she accepted the Maconda Brown O'Connor Chair at Smith College in Northampton.

The chapter is in the process of planning a new initiative, focused on studying the Internet and its effect on and relationship to families, children, family law and society. As professionals working in and with the Probate and Family Court, we have all felt the multi-tentacled impact of the World Wide Web on our work.

Missouri

The AFCC Missouri Chapter will host a half-day seminar, *Child Custody Evaluations: Attorney, Court and Evaluator Perspectives*, on September 21, 2007 from 8:30am-12:00pm. The seminar will take place at the Brentwood Community Center in Brentwood, Missouri. Child custody evaluations are frequently ordered in contested custody

cases, but evaluators, attorneys, GALs and judges often have differing expectations as to the usefulness and purpose of these reports. The multidisciplinary panel will address the following questions: When should evaluations be ordered? How do professional organizations, such as AFCC and the American Psychological Association, define "best practice" for custody evaluators? What is the difference between a forensic evaluation and a clinical evaluation? What role, if any, should custody evaluators play in the settlement process?

The chapter also hosted a Lunch and Learn session in July on the topic, *Teenagers and Divorce: It's All About Me!* in Clayton, Missouri. The program featured Nancy Emmel, J.D. and Margaret Rissman, Ph.D.

Texas

The AFCC Texas Chapter is hard at work at its Annual Conference, October 5-6, 2007 at the Doubletree Hotel in Austin. The theme is *Child Custody and Mental Health Professionals – Social Sciences on the Witness Stand* and will feature renowned authors Jonathan Gould, Ph.D. and Timothy Tippins, Esq. as keynote speakers. The program offers to challenge and educate legal and mental health professionals on methods and means to best use their skills when working with one another in custody matters. Bridging the needs of the legal system and the traditional role of mental health services, this program will provide attendees with skills and techniques they can employ both in the office and the courtroom. Given the ongoing debate regarding both the limits of expert knowledge and practical applications of social science in the family courts it should be an exciting learning experience. More information, including the conference brochure, can be found at www.texasafcc.org.

Don't Forget Your Passport!

AFCC 45th Annual Conference
May 28-31, 2008
Vancouver, BC, Canada



All U.S. citizens traveling by air to and from Canada are now required to have a valid passport. Passports can take up to six months to be processed so please plan ahead. Information on applying for or renewing passports can be found at the Bureau of Consular Affairs Web site by clicking the "Passports" link at <http://travel.state.gov/>.

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

CALL FOR PRESENTERS

AFCC 45th Annual Conference

Fitting the Forum to the Family: Emerging Challenges for Family Courts

VANCOUVER

Westin Bayshore
May 28-31, 2008

Family court professionals serve families facing enormous challenges – from violence to relocation to drug and alcohol addiction – but an increasing number of service options are now available. This conference will explore new and emerging legal, judicial, mental health and dispute resolution interventions and special services for those intractable cases.

Submit your proposal by the October 5, 2007 deadline on topics including:

High conflict interventions	Substance abuse
Mediation models: Which works best?	Judicial settlement processes
Collaborative law best practices	Special issues for advanced practitioners
Dispute resolution and domestic violence	Research on interventions
Triaging court services	Focused or comprehensive evaluations?
Parenting coordination	Screening for domestic violence
Representation of children	Families with health and disability concerns
Domestic violence and parenting plans	Child welfare dispute resolution
Innovative funding models	Evidence-based programs

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 the following information: (1) an abstract of 200 words or less describing your proposed workshop; (2) a one-page outline of your proposed workshop; (3) three learning objectives that will be addressed by your proposed workshop; (4) resumes and complete contact information for all proposed presenters; (5) the name of the person who will be coordinating your workshop; and (6) contact information for two professional references. **Maximum of four presenters per workshop.**

Please note that the deadline for proposals is October 5, 2007. **AFCC is unable to guarantee consideration of incomplete proposals or those submitted after the deadline.** AFCC offers a reduced registration fee for conference presenters. AFCC is unable to reimburse travel and related expenses. *Electronic submissions via email are strongly preferred;* however you may also mail your proposal to AFCC, Conference Proposal, 6525 Grand Teton Plaza, Madison, WI 53719. Phone: (608) 664-3750; Fax: (608) 664-3751; Email: afcc3@afccnet.org (Word or WordPerfect attachment only please).

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**The Voice of the Child
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