



FOUNDED IN 1963

# AFCC NEWS

ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONCILIATION COURTS

Volume 28, Number 2

Spring 2009



## Rolling on to Reno

*Interventions for Family Conflict: Stacking the Odds in Favor of Children* is the theme for AFCC's Third Regional Training Conference, November 5-7, 2009, in Reno, Nevada. This don't-miss conference will feature three-hour workshops for in-depth training. There will be five program tracks for custody evaluators, parenting coordinators, judges, legal professionals and mediators. The workshops will combine a focus on skill development and theory that can be incorporated into practice.

Proposals for workshops are being accepted until June 5, 2009. To submit a proposal, see our Web site at [www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org) and click on "Conferences."

## Draft for Comment: AFCC Brief Focused Assessments Task Force

The AFCC Task Force for Brief Focused Assessments, co-chaired by Phil Bushard, D.P.A. and Linda Cavallero, Ph.D., was given the task of defining a model of "focused" or "brief" evaluation and to write suggested guidelines for such work. A draft document is now available for comment.

To view the draft, go to [www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org) and select "Task Forces and Initiatives" under the "About AFCC" tab, then click on "Brief Focused Assessments Task Force."

To comment, send an email to Phil Bushard at [Phil.Bushard@washoecourts.us](mailto:Phil.Bushard@washoecourts.us). Please reference specific section numbers in your comments. The deadline for comments is June 15, 2009.



[www.afccnet.org](http://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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## President's Message

This is my final President's message and while I deliver a positive communication, it is a bittersweet experience. I took this job without a real understanding of the depth of the organization, the brilliance and dedication of its members and commitment and creativity of the staff. Having now spent ten months of my term as AFCC President I am wowed, and I want to share that wow factor with you.

Most members cite the *Family Court Review* as one of the primary benefits of membership in AFCC, and it certainly is. However, it is more and there is more. AFCC history is something special. It was AFCC members who developed the first child custody mediation program in Los Angeles back in the early 1970s, in the very court in which AFCC was founded. Over the years, AFCC members also launched collaborative law, parenting coordination and other innovations. These initiatives arose from the foresight and effort of the same smart, educated and

enlightened people who make up our membership today. Most AFCC members belong to other organizations, such as their professional associations, where they frequently play leadership roles. They are committed to learning, staying up-to-date, and most importantly, they are dedicated to the resolution of family conflict.

AFCC is now well established as the "go to" organization for issues related to families and the

courts. This has afforded us an expanded role and broader perspective as we partner with other organizations to explore significant issues and contribute our perspective to new policies and projects. We continue to partner with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) on domestic violence and differentiation. We collaborated with Hofstra Law School on the Family Law Education Reform project (FLER), which has now created a Web site and interdisciplinary discussion guides for family law faculty.

AFCC is positioned on the cutting edge of policy and new projects. We developed the first Guidelines for Parenting Coordination in 2005; we developed, in conjunction with the ABA Family Law Section, Model Standards for Family and Divorce Mediation in 2000; and we also developed the Model Standards of Practice for Custody Evaluation in 2006. Currently we have two new task forces developing additional practice guidelines. The Task Force on Brief Focused Assessments has produced Guidelines, a draft of which is now available for comment on the AFCC Web site at [www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org) by clicking on "Task Forces and Initia-

tives" under the "About AFCC" tab, then select the Brief Focused Assessments Task Force. To date there has been no guidance at all as to when or how to conduct brief focused assessments.

The most current Task Force on Court-Involved Therapists is ongoing and is examining the role that therapists play when their clients are or become involved in litigation. Guidelines will address roles of the therapist, context for therapy (court-involved vs. court-appointed vs. community treatment), responsibilities, competence, role boundaries, fees, confidentiality and privilege, methods and procedures, documentation, and professional communication.

In an effort to provide members and others with the most current thinking in the field of family law, court services and interventions, we are completing the third in a series of Innovations books: *Innovations in Court Services* will join the series along with *Innovations in Family Law Practice* and *Innovations in Interventions with High Conflict Families*. True to the interdisciplinary nature of AFCC, these books provide access to thinking within and across the fields that contribute to efforts to be the most efficient and helpful in provision of services.

The benefits of AFCC are expansive. Within the larger international organization connections, education, policy, and projects influence what we do at home. After each conference AFCC chapters often build on plenary session topics. And obviously that is because the sessions embody what is new, innovative, and thought provoking. During this year I have had the privilege of seeing up close how the components of the organization fit together. And I have observed up front how dedicated and capable the staff of AFCC is. Under the leadership of our extraordinarily talented and skilled executive director, Peter Salem, we have an unbelievably hard working staff. In addition, we have a dedicated Board of Directors who donate their time and personal resources to the organization, and who maintain the legacy of the work that we do and chart the course for the years ahead. The current Strategic Planning process is focusing on maintaining our strength with new initiatives and structures for the next decade.

To be a shepherd of AFCC this year has been a privilege and an honor. I hope to see you all in New Orleans for a terrific conference that looks at both the past and the future as we once again consider how we can best serve families in the face of changing economic, political and social forces.



**Robin M. Deutsch**  
AFCC President  
Boston, Massachusetts

*AFCC is now well established as the "go to" organization for issues related to families and the courts.*

## MEMBER PROFILE

# Hon. Ernestine S. Gray

“Someone has defined insanity as doing the same thing over and over but expecting a different result. By that definition, what we have been doing in child welfare for the past two decades is insane.” Juvenile Court Judge Ernestine Gray said that in the ABA’s *Child Law Practice* in 2004, and her distinguished career is a testament to working for change and improvements in the laws and courts that serve families and children at the local, state and national levels.

Judge Gray received her juris doctorate from the Louisiana State University School of Law in 1976 and worked for the Baton Rouge Legal Aid Society, the Attorney General of the State of Louisiana and the U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission. She was elected to the bench in 1984 and has been re-elected in every election in which she has run since.

A list of Judge Gray’s achievements and honors would exceed the amount of space available, but some of the highlights include being invited to the White House to meet with Hillary Clinton, to attend meetings with then attorney General Janet Reno, and to speak before various Senate and House committees. She sits on numerous Boards, and has been President of the Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (1991-1992) and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (2001-2002). She has chaired or co-chaired many Task Forces including the Mayor’s Task Force on Children, Youth and Families; a Task Force on Welfare Reform, the Supreme Court Advisory Committee, Court Improvement Program and several on public education and dropout prevention. Her office in the New Orleans Juvenile Court has awards and commendations filling every inch of available wall and desk space, barely leaving enough room for her collection of Beanie Babies.

Judge Gray is now a member of the Coordinating Committee for a Louisiana Chapter of AFCC and is working with a group of other committed members to create this new chapter. She first learned of AFCC in 1986 and enjoys the opportunities to connect and share with experts from around the country who do this work. Judge Gray attended the AFCC reception in New Orleans this past February, and spent some time networking and socializing with other AFCC members.

Judge Gray took a few moments from her busy schedule to answer some questions for this profile. She explained that her current position as Juvenile Court Judge gives her the authority to hear and decide juvenile matters that include adoptions, neglect and abuse, termination, delinquency, child support and other miscellaneous matters. Her first job out of law school was with the Baton

Rouge Legal Aid Bureau where she was assigned to the Domestic Relations unit handling separations, divorce, custody and adoption matters. Judge Gray enjoys working with colleagues to create new and innovative ways to address the problems of the children and families who appear before the courts. She sees the greatest challenge now as dealing with the continuing definition of family and parents as affected by advancements in technology.

Judge Gray sees the work that we do as hard, but rewarding work that requires patience and compassion. She would like to see less of an adversarial system with more attention paid to the impact of separation and divorce on young children.

She has dedicated her career to helping families and children, and her proudest personal achievement is the privilege and honor of raising her two children with her husband, attorney James Austin Gray II: State Senator Cheryl Gray Evans, an attorney, and James Austin Gray III, a chemical engineer and attorney. She is the proud grandparent of five grandchildren. She enjoys reading and traveling and a little-known fact is that her greatest desire is to become a writer.

Judge Gray is presenting Workshop 36, *Child Protection in Louisiana: Family Group Decision Making and Mediation*, with Joy Peacock and Susan C. Norwood at AFCC’s 46th Annual Conference in New Orleans on May 29, 2009.



**Hon. Ernestine Gray**  
New Orleans, Louisiana

The AFCC conference flyer inadvertently used the phrase “The Best Parent is Both Parents®” which is a federal trademark owned by the Children’s Rights Council. AFCC regrets using this trademarked phrase without permission or attribution. CRC owns the phrase under federal trademark at No. 2,717,167. See CRC at [www.CRCKids.org](http://www.CRCKids.org).

# The Uniform Collaborative Law Act: An Exciting Time for the Collaborative Law Movement

**By Yishai Boyarin**  
Hempstead, New York

Collaborative Law ("CL") is an ADR process that allows lawyers to participate constructively in a problem-solving negotiation process focused on satisfying the needs and interests of the parties, and is designed to generate "win-win" results for the benefit of both parties. One of the cornerstones of the process is a commitment to voluntary exchange of information and confidentiality. Another is a commitment to reach a negotiated resolution, reflected in the agreement to disqualify the CL lawyers from litigating the dispute in the event that the CL negotiation process breaks down. Often, the CL process includes an interdisciplinary team of jointly-hired experts, such as a financial expert, psychologist, or child-custody evaluator.

Presently, a small number of states have enacted fairly basic CL statutes. In most jurisdictions however, the CL process is regulated by contract only, subject to the existing professional standards of practice. The drafting of the Uniform Collaborative Law Act ("UCLA" or "Act") represents an effort to provide a comprehensive and uniform statutory framework for CL practice. Hopefully, the Act will provide CL with an enhanced measure of legitimacy and exposure.

## Background on the Drafting Process

The emergence of CL as an ADR practice in the arena of family law led to the commissioning of the UCLA by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL). The Reporter for the Act is Professor Andrew Schepard of Hofstra. The UCLA Drafting Committee includes several members of the Mediation Act Drafting Committee, individuals experienced in drafting legislation, and a number of leading CL lawyers as both members and observers. AFCC also sent an official observer/participant to the drafting process, former AFCC president Mary Ferriter.

The drafting process has been an extensive, open process that took into account multiple perspectives and is reaching its final stages. The Act is currently being reviewed by NCCUSL and is being considered by various ABA Sections: Family Law, Litigation, ADR, and the ABA Commission on Domestic Violence (which sent a representative to the drafting meetings), just to name a few. The Act will be voted on in July by NCCUSL, and it is anticipated that it will pass this hurdle as there was support for the Act when it was first presented to NCCUSL. NCCUSL's vote will be followed by an up or down vote by the ABA around February 2010. If, or once, the Act passes, it will be presented to the various state legislators for enactment.

Additionally, Hofstra Law School is putting together a conference on the Act scheduled for November 19-20, 2009, which AFCC is co-sponsoring. A Hofstra Law

Review special issue on the Act, and a FCR special issue on CL (guest-edited by Woody Mosten) are also in the works.

## About the Uniform Collaborative Law Act

The primary goal of the Act is to reinforce the benefits that the CL process has to offer to potential CL parties, and ensure that such parties are well-served by the process. Another important goal of the Act is to broaden the acceptance of CL practice by legal communities and state legislators. In fact, the Act was crafted to allow for an expansion of CL practice from family law into additional areas of civil practice.

Not all of the features of the Act can be reviewed here. This update will summarize some of the central features of the Act: the Collaborative Law Agreement Requirements (Section 3), the Disqualification Provision and Low Income Parties (Sections 8 and 9), Informed Consent and Domestic Violence (Section 12), and the Evidentiary Privilege (Section 14). For further information regarding the current and previous drafts of the Act, please visit: <http://www.law.upenn.edu/bll/archives/ulc/ulc.htm#ucla>.

## A. Collaborative Law Agreement Requirements – Section 3

Under Section 3(a) of the Act, a CL participation agreement must:

1. be in a [written] record;
2. be signed by the parties;
3. describe the nature and scope of a matter;
4. state the parties' intention to resolve the matter through collaborative law;
5. identify the collaborative lawyer engaged by each party to represent the party in the collaborative law process; and
6. contain a signed acknowledgment by each party's collaborative lawyer confirming the lawyer's engagement.

Pursuant to Section 3(b), the parties cannot draft a CL participation agreement that excludes four specific provisions of the Act:

1. The provision that disqualifies the CL lawyers from representing the client in litigation in the event that the CL negotiation process fails.
2. The requirement that the parties voluntarily and informally exchange information.
3. Obtaining informed consent from the client that includes a discussion of the various processes (e.g.,

*continued on page 11*

## Collaborative Lawyers' Duties to Screen Cases for Appropriateness and Obtain Clients' Informed Consent

by John Lande, Columbia, Missouri, and Forrest S. Mosten, Los Angeles, California

Collaborative Law (CL) is an impressive dispute resolution process that offers significant benefits in appropriate cases. In the pure model of CL, the lawyers and clients sign a "participation agreement" promising to use an interest-based approach to negotiation and fully disclose all relevant information. A key element is a "disqualification agreement" which provides that both CL lawyers would be disqualified from representing the clients if the case is litigated. It is intended to motivate parties and lawyers to focus exclusively on respectful, interest-based negotiation and voluntary disclosure of information because termination of a CL process would require both parties to hire new lawyers if they want legal representation. Professor Julie Macfarlane's study found that CL negotiators generally did not engage in adversarial negotiation and both clients and their attorneys were satisfied with the process.

While CL often provides real benefits, it can also pose significant, non-obvious risks in some cases. Once parties get into a CL process, it is purposely designed to keep them in the process. If they do not produce a timely and satisfying agreement, however, they may exhaust resources that they might need to resolve the matter through litigation. Although the exit barrier of the disqualification agreement is not insurmountable (as some cases do terminate without agreement), it can have a major impact on the process. A recent study by Michela Keet and her colleagues described one party in CL who "went home and lost sleep over the fear of losing her lawyer" and said that it "felt like another victimization thing" when her husband "threatened not to show up." Two other parties initially felt hopeful about the process and both "made superficial gains" but as they "came closer to reaching agreement," their spouses "used the power to withdraw at the very end, leaving both feeling violated."

We reviewed eight books by CL experts and the Web sites of 126 CL practice groups in the US to identify factors relevant to the appropriateness of CL. These factors include: (a) the motivation and suitability of the parties to participate effectively in a collaborative process, (b) the trustworthiness of the parties, (c) whether a party is intimidated from participating effectively in the collaborative process, (d) whether there has been a history of domestic violence between the parties, (e) whether a party has a mental illness, (f) whether a party is abusing alcohol or other drugs, (g) whether the lawyers are suitable for handling the case collaboratively, (h) whether the parties would use professionals in addition to collaborative lawyers, (i) the parties' ability to afford new lawyers if the

collaborative process terminates without agreement, and (j) the parties' views about the risks of disqualification of lawyers.

Rules of legal ethics require CL lawyers to screen cases for appropriateness and obtain informed consent of prospective CL clients. Rule 1.2 of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct permits "reasonable" limitations of scope of employment and thus requires lawyers to consider whether CL would be reasonable under the circumstances. Similarly, Rule 1.7 requires lawyers to screen potential CL cases to determine whether there is a significant risk that a conflict of interest would materially limit the lawyers' representation and whether the lawyers reasonably believe that they can provide competent and diligent representation. Both rules require CL lawyers to use a thorough and balanced process in obtaining clients' informed consent. These ethical rules can be used to determine the standard of care should there be malpractice lawsuits or disciplinary complaints by clients against CL lawyers.

The draft Uniform Collaborative Law Act states that "before a prospective party executes a collaborative law participation agreement, a prospective collaborative lawyer shall . . . inquire about and discuss with the prospective party factors relevant to whether collaborative law is appropriate for the prospective party's matter." It also requires CL lawyers to make a reasonable inquiry about whether there has been a history of domestic violence between the parties. It creates a presumption against use of CL if the lawyer reasonably believes that there has been a history of domestic violence unless: (1) the CL process is requested by the parties, (2) the lawyers reasonably believe that the parties' safety can be adequately protected, and (3) the lawyers are familiar with nationally-accepted standards of practice for representing victims of coercion, manipulation and violence. The Act requires lawyers to obtain the client's informed consent in every CL case.

The Macfarlane and Keet studies found that although some CL lawyers are very conscientious about screening cases and obtaining informed consent, others are not. This is particularly important considering efforts to promote CL. Our review of local CL practice group Web sites shows that they generally provide glowing portrayals of CL, often with little or no indication of any risk.

Obviously, no one can know in advance how any process will work or what the most appropriate process (or processes) would be in a given case. There is no uniquely "right" answer about which process is best in each case. Ultimately, the parties must choose for themselves. These choices should be made based on a consideration of the

*Continued on page 11*

## AFCC Task Force on the Role of Court-involved Therapists

**by Matthew J. Sullivan, Ph.D**

*Task Force Co-Chair  
Palo Alto, California*

On June 5, 2008, AFCC President, Robin Deutsch, convened a task force on the role of court-involved therapists. Though court-involved therapy is widespread, little has been published to provide guidance on this practice to therapists, judges, lawyers and others who work in and with family courts. The charge of the task force is to gather and assess the existing information about this role and develop a set of guidelines for best practices in order to inform professionals and the public.

A distinguished group of judges and legal and mental health professionals from the United States and Canada have been working together for nearly a year, sharing both their experiences of problems encountered as therapists become involved in court processes and reviewing relevant literature in order to build a consensus of thinking to craft a set of guidelines for therapists who work in this context.

The guidelines are intended to assist and guide therapists in any court-involved role. These mental health treatment roles, when associated with court processes, fall into a unique and challenging niche that carry "forensic" responsibilities, while not being formal forensic expert or custody evaluation roles.

Therapists may become involved with a family before court processes begin and then become "court-involved" or initiate their work on a case after parents decide to divorce and court processes ensue. Therapists may be sought out by parents to address their own emotional concerns, or may be asked to provide treatment to children at the center of a custody conflict. Parents may seek such treatment out of a desire to assist their children, but may also have desires and expectations regarding the therapist's direct or indirect participation in the court processes that address custody disputes. Both the process of treatment and the information coming from the therapist may impact the process and outcome of a custody case. Appropriate treatment may offer considerable benefit to children and families, while inappropriate treatment may escalate conflict and cause considerable harm to families. Either effect may occur whether or not the therapist provides testimony in the case.

While therapists may come to these roles with different levels of experience and expertise, the general concepts embodied in the guidelines become applicable whenever therapists work with a court-involved role. The task force is attempting to address the many special considerations for providing therapy in court-involved situations, including:

- Obtaining and maintaining an adequate level of competence in substantive areas such as research related to child custody and child dependency issues, systemic

thinking, high conflict dynamics and legal and ethical standards in the local jurisdiction.

- Critically evaluating information, recognizing that the court context may impact information coming into therapy, requiring an alertness to the biasing effects of one-sided and/or limited information.
- Dealing with issues of confidentiality. For example, the therapist-client confidentiality may be more permeable; this may inhibit or enhance treatment, depending on case circumstances.
- Designing treatment goals and interventions that are structured or limited based on directives from the legal context, such as court-ordered co-parenting counseling, conjoint therapy between a parent and child, reunification services, or treatment based on the findings of the court or a child custody evaluation.
- Raising the therapist's consciousness that their work or opinions may be used by a judicial officer to make determinations based on specific legal criteria, or to make decisions about parenting time or access.
- Providing guidance to therapists in the formation and expression of opinions to the Court process. Cautioning therapists to base feedback on adequate data, and limit expressed opinions to those directly related to the treatment role and recommending that therapeutic opinion should be anchored in behavioral observations or information adequate to support any opinions expressed.
- Addressing collaboration and information exchange with other professionals. For example, the therapist's role may require communication or collaboration with professionals who have other roles, such as the parenting coordinator, evaluator or attorney. The therapist must use caution in how information is shared, using appropriate channels, protecting children, and obtaining adequate and detailed informed consent.

There will be an opportunity for those AFCC members who are interested in sharing views about this controversial area of practice to engage in dialogue with several members of this task force at the AFCC 46th Annual Conference in New Orleans. An open forum is scheduled for Thursday at 5:00pm and everyone is encouraged to come and participate!

*Members of the AFCC Task Force on the Role of Court-Involved Therapists: Honorable Linda Fidnick, Co-Chair; Matthew Sullivan, Ph.D., Co-Chair; Lyn Greenberg, Ph.D., Reporter; Christopher Barrows, JD; Paul Berman, Ph.D.; Honorable R. John Harper; Honorable Anita Josey-Herring; Mindy Mitnick, M.Ed.; and Honorable Gail Perlman.*

# New Ways For Families

**By Bill Eddy, LCSW, Esq.**

Scottsdale, Arizona

New Ways for Families™ is a comprehensive new method being developed by the High Conflict Institute for handling high conflict cases in family court. It is a structured method with short-term counseling at the front end of potentially high conflict cases. It can be ordered whenever a parent or the court believes that one parent needs restricted parenting (supervised, no contact, limited time), at the beginning of a case or any time a parent brings a motion for restricted parenting – including post-judgment litigation.

This method emphasizes strengthening skills for positive future behavior (new ways), rather than focusing on past negative behavior – while still acknowledging it. It is designed to save courts time, to save parents money, and to protect children as their families re-organize in new ways after a separation or divorce, for married or never-married parents. It is designed to help manage cases with allegations of domestic violence, child abuse, substance abuse, false allegations and/or alienation.

This method was developed after studying the dynamics of high conflict court cases. To be successful, all professions need to participate in focusing parents on practicing three skills: flexible thinking, managed emotions and moderate behaviors. These are the opposite of how high conflict people normally think and act, and the opposite of what the adversarial court process normally reinforces. By reaching parents at the beginning of the court process, they may be immunized against becoming “high conflict” parents.

There are four basic steps:

## Step 1: Getting Started

Parents can agree to use New Ways, or a judge can order it while also making temporary parenting orders, support orders and restraining orders. Then, each parent selects his or her own Individual Parent Counselor from a list of local counselors trained in the New Ways method. Before the counseling begins, each parent prepares a Behavioral Declaration and a Reply Behavioral Declaration, which are the only declarations provided to their counselors.

## Step 2: Individual Parent Counseling

This includes 6 weekly sessions with a separate, confidential counselor for each parent using a Parent Workbook. Both parents are ordered into this counseling at the same time, with no presumptions about who is more difficult. The focus of these sessions is strengthening and practicing three skills: flexible thinking, managed emotions and moderate behaviors.

## Step 3: Parent-Child Counseling

This step includes three sessions with each parent and their child/ren, alternating weeks over six weeks. The parents share the same non-confidential counselor. They each have their own Parent-Child Workbook for these sessions. The Parent-Child Counselor does not write a report, but can be called to testify at court. The focus of these sessions is having the parents teach their children the same three skills they learned in their individual counseling, hearing the children’s concerns, and discussing the new ways their family will operate.

## Step 4: Family (or Court) Decision-making

Finally, parents use their New Ways skills to develop a lasting parenting plan with the assistance of their attorneys (if any), family court services, a private mediator or a collaborative team. If they are unable to settle the case at this point, then they go to family court to report what they have learned, then try the case. The judge then orders long-term parenting, support, and other orders, which could include long-term restraining orders, batterers treatment, drug treatment, parenting classes, a psychological evaluation, etc.

New Ways for Families can be used at any time by any family, from the beginning of the separation process or even after the divorce. While this method was developed for high conflict family court cases, it can also be used in out-of-court settings, such as collaborative divorce, divorce mediation, and in negotiated divorce settlements with or without lawyers. After basic parenting decisions have been made, this method can also be used in conjunction with a parenting coordinator.

While the counselors who have been trained in New Ways charge their own rates, they have been asked to keep their fees reasonable and to charge a reduced rate in one out of three cases. Using this structured approach, it is more likely that a potentially high conflict case could be completely resolved without ever going back to court. They are encouraged to use parenting classes and parenting coordinators for future assistance in their cases.

Does this approach work? We are just starting to test it in at least three counties and it will be presented at the May AFCC International Conference in New Orleans. Professional Guidebooks and Parent Workbooks will be available. Ask for New Ways!

*Bill Eddy, LCSW, Esq., is a family law attorney (CFLS) and a therapist (LCSW) in San Diego, where he is Senior Family Mediator at the National Conflict Resolution Center. He is also the President of the High Conflict Institute, based in Scottsdale, Arizona. For more information about New Ways for Families, see [www.HighConflictInstitute.com](http://www.HighConflictInstitute.com) or call 602-606-7628.*

## The University of Baltimore School of Law Center for Families, Children and the Courts

by **Barbara Babb, J.D., M.S.**  
Baltimore, Maryland

The University of Baltimore School of Law Center for Families, Children and the Courts (CFCC), a national leader in the movement to reform the family justice system, has enjoyed a banner year so far in 2009. With new initiatives on Unified Family Court (UFC) training and a half-million dollar federal earmark to replicate its successful Truancy Court Program (TCP), CFCC has achieved significant accomplishments in the past year.

Founded in 2000 by Professor Barbara A. Babb, who serves as the center's director, CFCC operates from an interdisciplinary perspective utilizing both legal and social science theory to inform its work. CFCC approaches all its work from two key perspectives. The first is a concept from the law—therapeutic jurisprudence—which involves ensuring that the family justice system is intervening in family problems in a manner that improves parents' and children's lives. The second theory from the social sciences is the ecology of human development, which directs and accounts for a holistic view of the many systems affecting the lives of families and children.

Using an interdisciplinary approach based on these two theoretical foundations, CFCC has developed and implemented UFC training and technical assistance initiatives around the country. Most recently, for example, CFCC, in collaboration with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), has presented a two-day UFC workshop for the New Mexico court system covering the following: the development, implementation, and evaluation of UFCs; their theoretical and structural components; their physical attributes; their operation; advantages of a UFC; court services provided by a UFC; and challenges posed by UFCs.

In addition to its training and technical assistance services, CFCC writes and disseminates information about UFCs. For example, CFCC publishes the only newsletter in the United States dedicated to reporting and commenting on UFC issues. The Unified Family Court Connection is a source of valuable information for nearly 2000 family court judges, court personnel, academics, and lawyers. The Spring 2009 issue focuses on children and the court system. CFCC's Web site, [www.ubalt.edu/cfcc](http://www.ubalt.edu/cfcc), is another critical resource for information about UFCs. Among the many CFCC publications included in this online resource is a comprehensive final report of the proceedings from the May 2007 ABA/CFCC Summit on Unified Family Courts: *Serving Children and Families Efficiently, Effectively and Responsibly*.

CFCC continues to enjoy a productive collaboration with the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) by guest editing various issues of the *Family Court*

*Review* (April 2008 and April 2009) and by conducting two trainings annually at the University of Baltimore.

In December, CFCC, in partnership with AFCC, hosted two two-day trainings. The first training program was conducted by Christine A. Coates, M.Ed., J.D., for professionals working with high-conflict families. The second training program was conducted by Marsha Kline Pruett, Ph.D., M.S.L., for professionals working with fathers in intact, separated, or divorced families. The well-attended workshops attracted professionals from across the country.

CFCC also focuses considerable effort on teaching law students. Under the auspices of its Student Fellows Program, a three-credit course that combines a classroom seminar and an experiential component, Student Fellows actively participate in one of CFCC's ongoing projects, such as its Truancy Court Program in the Baltimore City Public Schools or research and writing projects. The Student Fellows Program promotes the University of Baltimore's agenda as "the engaged urban university" and significantly enhances the quality of learning, teaching and research offered by the Baltimore School of Law.

In addition to its family justice system reform projects, CFCC develops and implements programs that reach out to the Baltimore community. For example, it has operated a Truancy Court Program (TCP) in the Baltimore City Public Schools since 2004. The TCP is an early intervention, school-based effort that targets students who have five to twenty unexcused absences during the prior semester of school. Using a therapeutic and non-punitive approach, CFCC brings together a team in each school consisting of a volunteer district or circuit court judge or master, students from the School of Law, public school administrators and teachers, the child, his/her parent or caregiver, and volunteers. The TCP is funded by the Charles Crane Family Foundation, the Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts, the Wright Family Foundation, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

As a testament to the TCP's success, CFCC recently has received a \$500,000 earmark under the Maryland Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act. These funds enable CFCC to provide technical assistance and training to education stakeholders in four other Maryland jurisdictions to replicate the TCP. CFCC is most grateful to Maryland Senators Barbara A. Mikulski and Ben Cardin and to Congressman Elijah Cummings for their leadership. Sen. Mikulski notes that the TCP's efforts are working to improve the quality of life for Baltimore children and families.

Reflecting its commitment to address education and school attendance issues as a means to help keep families out of the justice system, CFCC recently launched its

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## AFCC Member News

Congratulations to **Beth Crawford** on becoming the new President of the Massachusetts AFCC Chapter!

Congratulations to **patti cross** on becoming the first President of the new Ontario AFCC Chapter!

The Florida Chapter of AFCC awarded their President's Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Chapter to **Hon. Ray McNeal**; their Service to the Community Award to **Sharon Press** and their Volunteers of the Year awards to **Lisa Daniels** and **Sue Tomberlin**.

**Marsha Kline Pruett**, AFCC member from Massachusetts, is directing a research project in which the Smith College for Social Work is partnering with Sesame Street Workshop. A recent primetime Sesame Street special, "Coming Home: Military Families Cope with Change" was aired and 350 research participants responded to written surveys and participated in focus groups in an effort to gather information about how children respond to issues surrounding their parents returning home after combat.

*Do you have news you would like to share? Please send information to Leslye Hunter, editor, AFCC NEWS, at editor@afccnet.org.*

### Sharon Press Named Director of Hamline University School of Law's Dispute Resolution Institute

AFCC member Sharon Press has been appointed director of Hamline University School of Law's nationally ranked Dispute Resolution Institute (DRI). Ms. Press is currently the director of the Florida Dispute Resolution Center and an adjunct professor at Florida State University College of Law. She will assume her new duties on July 1, 2009. Ms. Press has co-authored two ADR textbooks: *Mediation Theory and Practice*, co-authored with J. Alfini, J. Sternlight and J. Stulberg, 2001, second edition 2006 (LexisNexus) and *County Court Mediation: A Mediator's Manual*, written with Kimberly Kosch, 1999. She has published numerous professional articles and delivered mediation training in a wide variety of settings and locations. She is the recipient of numerous professional awards, including the Mary Parker Follett Award for Excellence and Innovation in Dispute Resolution presented by the Association for Conflict Resolution and CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution's Special Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Field and Future of Dispute Resolution. The Dispute Resolution Institute at Hamline University was founded in 1991 and was ranked fourth in the nation for dispute resolution in the 2008 *U.S. News and World Report* rankings of the nation's best law schools and specialty programs.



## AFCC Members Write On

**Paul Amato**, AFCC member from University Park, Pennsylvania has written: *Alone Together: How Marriage in America is Changing*, with co-authors Alan Booth, David R. Johnson and Stacy J. Rogers. Published by Harvard University Press, this book is based on two studies of marital quality in America that were done twenty years apart.

**Harvey Brownstone**, AFCC member from Toronto, Ontario has written: *Tug of War: A Judge's Verdict on Separation, Custody Battles, and the Bitter Realities of Family Court*. Already in its second printing from publisher ECW Press, it is climbing Canada's non-fiction best seller charts and is the first book of its kind: a book in layman's language written by a sitting family court judge.

**Janet Johnston**, AFCC member from San Jose, California, **Kathryn Kuehne**, AFCC member from Tampa, Florida and Vivienne Roseby have written a second edition of the classic: *In the Name of the Child: A Developmental Approach to Understanding and Helping Children of Conflicted and Violent Divorce*. Published by Springer Publishing Company, Incorporated, this edition will be available on June 28, 2009.

**Bernard Mayer**, AFCC member from Kingsville, Ontario has written: *Staying with Conflict: A Strategic Approach to Ongoing Disputes*. Published by Jossey-Bass, this book offers a new paradigm for dealing with long-term disputes. Rather than focusing on a speedy resolution, Mayer looks at a new long-term process and outlines six strategic challenges this new process will address.

**John A. Zervopoulos**, AFCC member from Dallas, Texas, has written a new book: *Confronting Mental Health Evidence: A Practical Guide to Reliability and Experts in Family Law*. The book, published by the American Bar Association, offers a practical, evidentiary-based model to address mental health materials and court testimony as well as concise literature reviews of important family law topics.

*Have you written a book? We want to let others know about new books in the field written by AFCC members. Please send information to Leslye Hunter, editor, AFCC NEWS, at editor@afccnet.org.*

## Uniform Collaborative Law Act

*Continued from page 5*

litigation, mediation, CL) that the client can choose from.

### 4. The requirement to screen for domestic violence.

Any other CL practice or additional contractual provision is permissible under the Act, subject to regulation by the various ethics committees. In other words, the Act provides a floor, not a ceiling, leaving the CL practitioner with a great deal of room for discretion and judgment. It is like other ADR statutes in this respect.

### B. The Disqualification Provision and Low Income Parties – Sections 8 and 9

Section 8 of the Act covers the disqualification requirement, under which a CL lawyer, or the lawyers in the law firm or any other legal organization with which the CL lawyer is associated with, cannot continue representing the party after the CL process is terminated in the matter covered by the CL participation agreement. For example, CL lawyers, or lawyers in the CL lawyer's law firm, cannot represent their CL client in an enforcement action of an agreement negotiated through a CL process.

Under Section 9, the CL lawyer's law firm will not be automatically disqualified from continuing the representation of the low income party, defined as a party with an income below 125% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, so long as the original CL lawyer is screened from the case. Section 9 is designed to keep CL law accessible to low income individuals. Low income parties will not choose the CL process if it means that they may lose their scarcely available legal representation in the event of disqualification, whether it is a Legal Aid type service, or a large firm performing pro bono work.

### C. Informed Consent and Domestic Violence – Section 12

Due to the relative novelty of the CL process, the Act requires that CL lawyers obtain their clients' informed consent to participate in CL. Moreover, the CL lawyer has the obligation to have a meaningful conversation with a prospective client about the advantages and disadvantages of the various available dispute resolution processes, include litigation.

Domestic violence raises a particular set of concerns with regards to the requirement to obtain informed consent. Under Section 12(b), the CL lawyer must make "reasonable efforts" throughout the process to determine whether there is a history of domestic violence. The ABA has a model screening process that would satisfy this requirement.

CL is not, per se, inappropriate where there is a history of domestic violence cases. However, special precautions have to be taken in such an event: the party that has a history of domestic violence must ask to continue the CL process, and the CL attorney must reasonably believe that

the safety of a domestic violence victim can be ensured. Part of this "reasonable belief" standard requires that the CL lawyer be familiar with the ABA's Standards of Practice for Representing Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking in Civil Protection Order Cases, for Lawyers Who Represent Children in Abuse and Neglect Cases, and for Lawyers Who Represent Parents in Abuse and Neglect Cases.

### D. Evidentiary Privilege – Section 14

Under the Act, a party or non-party professional that participates in a CL process may refuse to disclose, and may prevent any other person from disclosing, a CL communication. This is an evidentiary privilege only, and does not apply outside of the court proceedings; it is an extraordinary privilege that is designed to encourage open and honest negotiation and to encourage financial and mental health consultants to participate in CL. Under the Act, any such professionals can withhold the disclosure of their own communications and refuse to testify in Court under most circumstances.

*Yishai Boyarin is a Family Law LL.M. student at Hofstra, and is working with Professor Andrew Schepard on drafting the UCLA. Prior to joining the LL.M. program, Yishai was a business litigator for three years with the firm Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, in their Los Angeles office. He is in the process of transitioning to family law with an emphasis on ADR processes, such as collaborative law and mediation. Yishai can be reached at: yboyarin@yahoo.com.*

## Collaborative Lawyers

*Continued from page 6*

parties' capabilities and interests, potential risks in a case, the parties' preferences for different types of professional services, and their preferences for certain risks over others. Thus, even if a case involves some risks, CL lawyers may undertake a CL representation if they comply with the ethical rules. CL leaders and trainers can advance the interests of CL clients and the acceptance and growth of the CL field by encouraging CL lawyers to comply with their professional obligations to screen cases and obtain informed consent.

*This is adapted from John Lande and Forrest S. Mosten, Collaborative Lawyers' Duties to Screen the Appropriateness of Collaborative Law and Obtain Clients' Informed Consent to Use Collaborative Law, 25 Ohio State Journal on Dispute Resolution (forthcoming 2010). It is available at <http://www.law.missouri.edu/lande/publications.htm#ccl> and <http://www.mostenmediation.com>.*

## Counseling for Children in the New Zealand Family Court

by **Peter Boshier**

Chief Judge

New Zealand Family Court

Since 1981 when the New Zealand Family Court was created, there has been an emphasis on counseling and mediation before allowing parents to litigate. In most cases, counseling is compulsory for parents, and they are encouraged to mediate if counseling does not succeed.

Where we have historically fallen short is in also offering counseling to children who are necessarily embroiled in conflict because of their parents. New Zealand legislators have been loathe to include children in the counseling process; perhaps because of a fear that so many children would need therapeutic counseling that the situation would be unmanageable.

A recent development should greatly assist. In the Care of Children Amendment Act 2008 (formerly part of the Family Court Matters Bill) passed last September, counseling will soon be provided for children in certain situations, and they are threefold. The first is where the parents have been referred to mediation and the child wishes to join in the mediation process. A child will be able to receive counseling to clarify his or her views on the matter to be mediated before the mediation (s46ZA).

The second is where the parents are undergoing their own counseling and it is felt by the parents and the counselor that the child's input into counseling would be helpful to obtain perspective (s46T(3)). The legislation is silent on whether the child will attend sessions with the parents or be counseled separately by the counselor. Obviously there will need to be great caution in how this process is undertaken.

The third, very important facet will enable children to receive counseling in circumstances where the court has made an order and it is felt that the child is in "exceptional need" of assistance in accepting the terms of the order or in adjusting to any change resulting from the terms of the order (s46P(1) and (2)). We all know of so many difficult cases, particularly alienation ones, where the court makes an order which is extremely hard to enforce because the child has taken up a very strong position. For a long time we have wanted children in these situations to be assisted and this new form of counseling will do much to accomplish this.

As we move ever closer to a child focused approach in our Family Court work, developments such as adequate counseling for children are fundamental to ensure that children are treated as they should be within family law systems.

## AFCC Ontario Chapter Holds Inaugural Event

April 3, 2009 marked the launch of AFCC Ontario's first Annual General Meeting (AGM) and educational event. An overwhelming success, the event was sold out and received excellent reviews. The theme was *Improving the Lives of Children and Families in Conflict*. Keynote speaker Dr. Jean Clinton, a psychiatrist and Assistant Clinical Professor at McMaster University, gave a highly entertaining and enlightening speech on "How Family Conflict Affects the Developing Brain." The points of interest included:

- Children need to feel heard and experience responsive parenting.
- We need to consider the next seven generations: How children are parented is a reflection of how their parents were parented and how those children will come to parent. The way this narrative gets written will last a very long time.
- The first five years and the child's experiences during those years are critical in how the brain develops.
- What we think affects how we feel and affects how we Act.
- Marital conflict and stress are key to child outcomes, not the divorce per se.
- The adolescent brain and executive functioning are under construction.

Dr. Clinton's keynote address was followed by an informative and thought-provoking address by Justice Harvey Brownstone who shared lessons from his best selling book *Tug of War: A Judge's Verdict on Separation, Custody Battles and the Bitter Realities of Family Court*. Concluding this exceptional day was a provocative multi-discipline panel on "Conflict: Challenging Assumptions and Changing Priorities" moderated by Howard Hurwitz with an esteemed panel of experts — Madame Justice Debra Paulseth, Lorraine Martin, Bernie Mayer and Jeffery Wilson.

The first AGM, led by Mr. Justice Craig Perkins and patti cross, ended with the election of a multidisciplinary Board of Directors consisting of 11 professionals within Ontario: Steven Benmor, Rachel Birnbaum, patti cross, Barbara Jo Fidler, Maggie Hall, Lynn Lavery, Anthony Macri, Deborah Moscovitch, Dena Moyal, Justice Debra Paulseth and Justice Craig Perkins.

# AFCC Chapter News

## Arizona

The AFCC Arizona Chapter is busy planning its next annual convention. The focus in these tough times is on mutual support while chapter members work hard to develop new ways to make services available to the most people at the lowest cost. There are four chapter members presenting at the AFCC Annual Conference in New Orleans this year: Connie Beck, David McPhee, Phil Stahl and Rebecca Stahl.

## California

The AFCC California Chapter has adopted a resolution that resolves that there is a clear and present danger to the public health of the children of the State of California based on our society's failure to adequately address the impact of child custody proceedings upon children. There is a chronic, system-wide, statewide, public health crisis that impacts the previous, current and future generations of California's most precious resource—its children.

The chapter hosted a successful annual conference with over 200 in attendance. This year the chapter is beginning an organizational development effort, lead by Angus Strachan, Ph. D. with the Board of Directors, to develop a new five-year strategic plan for AFCC-CA.

## Colorado

The AFCC Colorado Chapter held its spring conference, which was an exploration into nontraditional families and their varying influences on children. The conference included an examination of the interplay and tensions between what is best for children versus what the law allows, including a discussion of case law requirements for determining who is a psychological parent and the mental health effects of non-traditional families on children. The annual chapter meeting and the election of the new board of directors was held at the conclusion of the conference.

## Florida

The AFCC Florida Chapter has just concluded its most successful conference ever with 205 attendees! The focus on Florida's new "parenting time plans" statute was timely and well received. There were some challenges faced by working with a conference planner for the first time; it was a great learning opportunity and will enhance the way conferences are planned in the future. New officers were elected and two new Directors were welcomed at the board meeting held immediately following the annual conference. The Parenting Plan Committee is winding down its (500+ hours of volunteer time) research project on empirically based

parenting plans that will be published in the near future. The PC Committee is in the throes of a Parent Coordination "best practices" statewide research project. The Chapter is busy planning for the 2010 conference, *Riding the Wave to a Better Future in Family Law: Managing New Challenges*. The conference will be held in late February or early March.

## Missouri

The AFCC Missouri Chapter held its Annual Spring Conference, which was a big success with over 130 professionals in attendance. The conference featured guest speaker Leslie Drozd, who spoke on *The Battle Between Abuse and Alienation*. The conference included the chapter's annual meeting of the members during which the chapter elected three new members to its Board of Directors: Regina Goff, Hon. Ralph Haslag and Michelle Henry.

The Missouri Chapter would like to thank the retiring members of the Board of Directors, Hon. Sue Chrisman, Ellen Cowell, and Dr. Rosalyn Schultz, for their outstanding service and exemplary leadership.

## Two AFCC Receptions Held In Louisiana

Two receptions were held in Louisiana to promote the upcoming annual conference in conjunction with the formation of a new AFCC chapter. A Baton Rouge reception was hosted by Leslie Todd and Alan Taylor. Guests included three family court judges, Hon. Pam Baker, Hon. Toni Higginbotham, and Hon. Lisa Woodruff-White. Numerous attorneys, mediators and mental health professionals also enjoyed the social hour. Statewide networking efforts were discussed in preparation for the launch of a Louisiana chapter of AFCC. Judge Baker also discussed her role as chair of a Louisiana Law Institute committee to research the feasibility of creating family courts throughout Louisiana. All the mental health professionals on the committee are AFCC members: Dr. John Simoneaux, Dr. Sally Thigpen, Cindy Nassar and Leslie Todd.

AFCC held a wine and cheese reception in New Orleans in conjunction with the February Parenting Coordination training. Hon. Ernestine Gray, Susan Norwood and other members of the AFCC Louisiana Chapter coordinating committee were enthusiastically promoting the newly forming chapter with Leslie Todd, who has been chairing the effort. The level of interest is high and excitement is growing. Those interested in forming and/or joining the Louisiana Chapter will be gathering at the 46th Annual Conference at the Sheraton New Orleans, May 27-30, 2009.

## RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

### Annual Appeal and Conference Scholarships

AFCC's Resource Development Committee would like to thank AFCC members for their generous donations in response to the 2008-2009 Annual Appeal. More than \$21,000 was raised to support AFCC's scholarship and outreach programs. These donations have enabled the committee to designate scholarships for many professionals including international participants, graduate students, professionals in the conference host community, chapter

members, and court services professionals. The two international scholarships and three of the general conference scholarships also included travel and expense stipends.

AFCC received a great response to our call for scholarship applications with many qualified applicants. The Resource Development Committee is pleased to have offered 42 conference scholarships for fiscal year 2008-2009.

#### **Diamond** (\$1000-\$4,999)

AFCC Members in Honor  
of Peter Salem's 50th  
Birthday  
Margaret S. Powers  
Hon. Arline S. Rotman (ret.)  
Peter Salem  
Susie S. Thorn Family  
Foundation

#### **Platinum** (\$500-\$999)

AFCC Arizona Chapter  
AFCC California Chapter  
AFCC Florida Chapter  
AFCC Massachusetts  
Chapter  
AFCC New Jersey Chapter  
AFCC New York Chapter  
Annette T. Burns  
Hon. Emile and Mrs. Josie  
Kruzick  
Andrew and Debra  
Schepard  
Arnold Shienvold  
Robert Smith  
Philip and Ruth Stahl  
Hon. Hugh Starnes  
Matthew Sullivan

#### **Gold** (\$250-499)

AFCC Missouri Chapter  
AFCC Ontario Chapter  
Hon. Karen S. Adam  
Richard L. Altman  
Phil Bushard  
Andrea Clark  
Robin Deutsch  
Hon. William and Mrs. Amy  
Fee  
Linda Fieldstone  
Hon. Graham Mullane  
Robert Simon  
Law Offices of Stone and  
Davis

#### **Silver** (\$100-\$249)

William G. Austin  
Hon. Peter Boshier  
Jocelyn Bowman  
Wendy Bryans  
Aza Howard Butler  
Linda Cavallero  
Christine Coates  
J.M. Craig Press, Inc.  
Hon. George Czutrin  
Nina Dodge Abrams  
Dr. Barbara Fidler

#### *Silver, continued*

Gregory Firestone  
Gorman & Greenberg  
Lyn Greenberg  
Josh Hoch  
David Hodges  
Carl F. Hoppe  
Leslye Hunter  
Elizabeth B. Johnson  
Janet Johnston  
Hon. Lawrence Kaplan  
William and Chouteau  
Levine  
Denise McColley  
Hugh Mclsaac  
Linda Norris  
Hon. Gail Perlman  
Eileen Pruett  
Marsha Kline Pruett  
Kathryn Rettig  
Ian Russ  
Monika Sacks  
Eileen M. Schaevel  
Mary Ann Stokes  
Arnold Swartz  
TransParenting Program  
Nancy Ver Steegh  
Betty M. Vitousek

#### *Silver, continued*

Candace Walker  
Jeff Wittmann  
Zena Zumeta

#### **Bronze** (\$50-\$99)

Joan Anderson  
Paige Dunmire Firment  
William Eddy  
Mary Ferriter  
Linda Fidnick  
Alan S. Geismer  
Leslye Goldsmith  
Dianna Gould-Saltman  
Rhonda Lucineo  
Mary Macki  
Chet Muklewicz  
Jane M. Rippetto

#### **Contributor**

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Peggy Gorman  
Judith Meredith  
Mindy Mitnick  
Barbara Rath  
Nina Rodd  
Michele Tipple

### Center for Families, Children and the Courts

*Continued from page 9*

inaugural Urban Child Symposium, "Solving the Dropout Crisis: Getting the Other Half to Attend and Achieve." Panelists focused on the correlation between truancy and the dropout rate in a series of discussions about the challenges facing urban children and the best ways to help children face those challenges successfully. National Book Award winner Jonathan Kozol, author of *Death at an Early*

*Age and Savage Inequalities*, among others, delivered the keynote address for the symposium.

*For further information about CFCC, please consult CFCC's Web site at <http://law.ubalt.edu/cfcc>. Please also feel free to contact longstanding AFCC member Professor Barbara Babb at [bbabb@ubalt.edu](mailto:bbabb@ubalt.edu) or 410-837-5661 for information or assistance.*

## Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

**CALL FOR PRESENTERS****AFCC Regional Training Conference****Interventions for Family Conflict:  
Stacking the Odds in Favor of Children***Reno, Nevada***Peppermill Resort Spa Casino  
November 5-7, 2009  
\$99 single or double**

Proposals are being accepted for three-hour training workshops on interventions for family conflict. The conference will have individual tracks for judges, mediators, legal professionals, custody evaluators and parenting coordinators. Please indicate the track for which your proposal is intended.

Workshop proposals should combine a focus on skill-development and underlying research and theory that can be incorporated into practice.

If you are interested in presenting a workshop, go to [www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org) and submit the following information online: (1) an abstract of 300 words or less describing your proposed workshop; (2) a brief outline of your proposed workshop; (3) indicate the track for which your workshop is intended; (4) three learning objectives that will be addressed by your proposed workshop; (5) name, address, telephone and fax numbers, and email addresses for all proposed presenters; (6) the name of the presenter who will be coordinating your workshop; and (7) name, telephone number and email address of two professional references. After submitting the information for your proposed workshop, email resumes for all proposed presenters to [afcc3@afccnet.org](mailto:afcc3@afccnet.org). Maximum of four presenters per workshop.

Please note that the **deadline for proposals is June 5, 2009**. AFCC is unable to guarantee consideration of incomplete proposals or those submitted after the deadline. AFCC offers a reduced registration fee for conference presenters and is unable to reimburse travel and related expenses. To submit a proposal, go to [www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org) and fill out the online proposal submission form.

AFCC, 6525 Grand Teton Plaza, Madison, WI, 53719; Phone: (608) 664-3750; Email: [afcc3@afccnet.org](mailto:afcc3@afccnet.org);  
Web: [www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org)



## Upcoming AFCC Conferences and Trainings

### **AFCC 46th Annual Conference**

May 27-30, 2009  
Sheraton New Orleans  
New Orleans, Louisiana

### **AFCC Regional Training Conference**

November 5-7, 2009  
Peppermill Resort Spa Casino  
Reno, Nevada

### **AFCC 47th Annual Conference**

June 2-5, 2010  
Sheraton Denver  
Denver, Colorado

### **AFCC 48th Annual Conference**

June 1-4, 2011  
Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek Resort  
Orlando, Florida

### **Advanced Issues in Child Custody**

*Nancy Williams Olesen, Ph.D.*  
June 22-23, 2009  
Chicago, Illinois

### **Parenting Coordination: Advanced Practice and Skills**

*Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D.*  
June 24-25, 2009  
Chicago, Illinois

### **9th Annual AFCC Texas Chapter Statewide Conference**

*In collaboration with South Texas College of Law*  
October 23 - 24, 2009

[www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org)

