



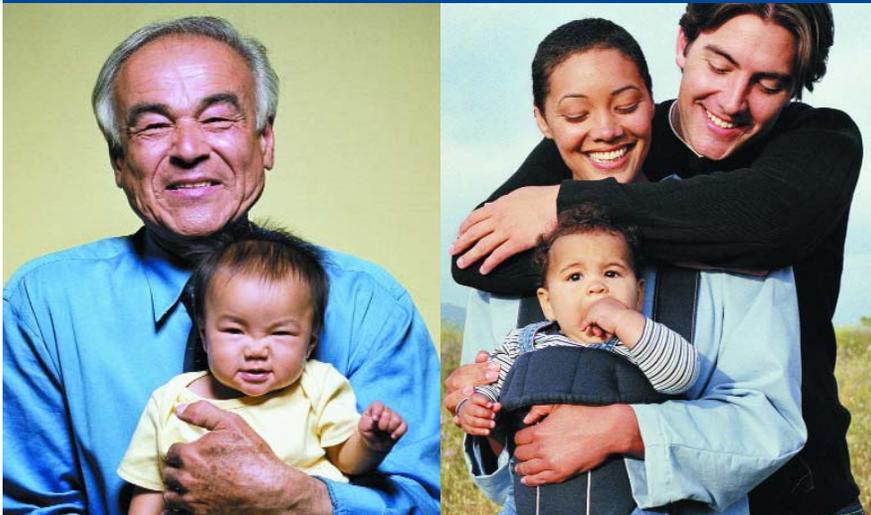
FOUNDED IN 1963

AFCC NEWS

ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONCILIATION COURTS

Volume 26, Number 1

Winter 2007



44th Annual Conference

AFCC will Sweep you off your Feet

"If you keep coming to AFCC conferences, eventually you'll have the opportunity to meet virtually every important thinker in the field."
-Hon. Arline Rotman (ret.), Norwich, Vermont

The Capitol Steps, *Dancing with the Starnes*, fabulous networking and nearly 70 conference sessions await AFCC members and colleagues at AFCC's 44th Annual Conference, May 30-June 2, 2007. *Children of Separation and Divorce: The Politics of Policy, Practice and Parenting* will take place at the Capital Hilton in downtown Washington, D.C. and features the latest topics that impact children and families.

Plenary Sessions

Professor Arthur R. Miller, Bruce Bromley Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and world-renowned expert legal commentator; Robin Deutsch, Ph.D., Program on Children and the Law, Massachusetts General Hospital; Professor Steven H. Hobbs, University of Alabama School of Law; and Hon. Judith Kreeger, Miami, Florida will kickoff the first plenary with *Ethics in Family Law* on Thursday morning.

Children, Marriage, Separation and Divorce: The Politics of Policy, Practice and Parenting, will take place Friday morning. Scholars and policy analysts on the panel include Robert Emery, Ph.D., author, *The Truth About Children and Divorce*; Ron Haskins, Ph.D., The Brookings Institution; Ronald Mincy, Ph.D., editor, *Black Males Left Behind*; and moderator, Theodora Ooms, M.S.W., Couples and Marriage Policy Consultant.

International Child Abduction: Risk Factors and Prevention will feature internationally recognized judges from Australia, Germany and New Zealand. They will discuss the newly

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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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Editor

David Vigliotta
editor@afccnet.org

Newsletter Design

Nola Risse-Connolly

Published by AFCC
6525 Grand Teton Plaza
Madison, WI 53719
Tel: 608.664.3750
Fax: 608.664.3751
Email: afcc@afccnet.org
Web: www.afccnet.org

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AFCC News Advertising

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

President's Message

It is an exciting time for AFCC and we are growing like never before. Membership has increased by 85% since 2002 and we recently eclipsed the 3,000 member mark for the first time in AFCC history. Our chapters are growing in number and in strength and an increasing number of people are experiencing the wonderful opportunities that AFCC has to offer.

Reaching 3,000 members is a true milestone for AFCC. It demonstrates that our mission, vision and values are resonating with professionals all over the world. Families in conflict need better pathways to resolution, and AFCC's interdisciplinary approach seems to strike a chord with professionals looking to provide that better way. Some are attracted to AFCC because we are willing to take on the

Families in conflict need better pathways to resolution, and AFCC's interdisciplinary approach seems to strike a chord with professionals looking to provide that better way.

tough issues and to debate and challenge prevailing wisdom and assumptions. Others join so that they can network and learn from the experts. Still for others, AFCC offers the opportunity to meet like-minded colleagues who are passionate about their work and truly dedicated to improving the lives of the children and families involved in the legal system.

As I draft this message my tenure as president is turning the corner from incoming to outgoing. As AFCC President I have traveled throughout the United States, representing AFCC at various conferences and events. In addition to racking up the frequent flier miles, I have had the pleasure of meeting many AFCC members in my travels. It has been an eye-opening experience for me and I have enjoyed meeting with our colleagues from the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Associa-

tion for Conflict Resolution, the University of Baltimore Law School and other organizations to strengthen our partnerships and deepen our collaborative relationships.

It has been particularly rewarding for me to participate in AFCC Chapter conferences in Texas, New York and Arizona. Our chapters are extraordinary. They host fabulous conferences and do amazing work in a variety of other ways. They spread the mission, vision and values common to all AFCC members. And each chapter has a unique flair, a tradition, a place, an activity or a culture that sets it apart from the rest. It is often said by long-time members that attending an AFCC conference is like going to a family reunion. Well, participating in AFCC Chapter conferences is like attending small reunions for different branches of the family. At each conference I was introduced to people I had never met before, but without fail they welcomed me like a long lost member of the family. My schedule does not allow me to attend every chapter conference; however, I am looking forward to being home with my own branch of the family for the Massachusetts Chapter Conference in early April.

Of course, the best family reunions take place when all of the different branches of the family get together. For AFCC, that will happen at our 44th Annual Conference, May 30-June 2, 2007 in Washington, D.C. You can read about the program elsewhere in this newsletter, or simply go to www.afccnet.org and download the program. Whether it is the opening night performance of the Capitol Steps, AFCC's own *Dancing with the Starnes*, networking in our world-famous hospitality suite or even the multitude of outstanding conference sessions, our 44th Annual Conference will have something for every member of the AFCC family. Book your room soon because the room block is already more than half sold. See you in D.C.!



Mary M. Ferriter
AFCC President
Boston, Massachusetts

MEMBER PROFILE

AFCC Member, Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D.



Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D.
Corte Madera, California

Joan B. Kelly, AFCC member from Corte Madera, California is a clinical psychologist with more than 35 years of research, practice and teaching experience. Dr. Kelly received her Ph.D. from Yale University and is a longtime AFCC member and presenter. In the last year, she has presented two-day Parenting Coordination training programs for AFCC in Tampa and Chicago, with upcoming programs in New Orleans and Chicago. Dr. Kelly also served as the featured

presenter for the AFCC Chapter conferences in Texas and California. Dr. Kelly is presenting a pre-conference institute, Judicial Officers Institute: Domestic Violence and Differentiation, at AFCC's 44th Annual Conference on Wednesday, May 30, 2007 in Washington, D.C.

What are the biggest changes in our field that you have observed since you began your career?

I think the two most significant (and related) changes in the past three and half decades were the recognition that the adversarial system was inappropriate for many separating families and the emergence and implementation of alternative interventions, such as mediation, divorce education, and judicial settlement programs, which would better serve parents and their children. This was a tectonic shift.

The other important change has been the acceptance of the value of interdisciplinary training, conferences, and partnerships among those working with separated and divorcing families. Sharing information and perspectives, and working together to improve services for children and parents, has helped advance the field. I give AFCC a lot of credit for fostering the interdisciplinary spirit. Alas, there are still jurisdictions in the U.S. and abroad where lawyers, judges and mental health professionals do not speak to or learn from each other.

What are some of the major differences throughout your career in our field?

Actually, some of the biggest differences exist within our fifty States and are reflected abroad as well. Variations in the support for stridently adversarial family law practice, the use of mediation, the value placed on parent education programs, types of parenting plans, the extent to which fathers have opportunities to parent after divorce, and empirical knowledge of research on children and divorce are common here and abroad. Change has been slow and embraced more readily in some jurisdictions where judicial leadership was apparent.

What keeps you involved with AFCC?

From the very beginning—and I was there at the beginning—AFCC has been so much fun! The learning and the presenting, the wonderful friends made, the journal, the support of divorce-related and mediation research, and the contributions of AFCC to the advancement of the field—all have held my interest over the years more than any other organization.

What trends do you anticipate in the future?

Based on the amazing changes over the past 35 years, it is hard to predict with much confidence. I do think that there will be continued innovation in developing group and individual interventions for chronic high-conflict parents, and more acceptance and standardization of practice with the parenting coordination intervention. I anticipate, and hope, that the child custody field will work out standards and best practices for focused evaluations on particular issues, and save the full-fledged custody evaluations for more complex problems. Since resources will continue to shrink, I think overall there will be fewer child custody evaluations, and fewer parents that can afford them privately. I expect to see the adoption of more triage programs focused on getting parents to the most appropriate intervention early in the process and hope to see empirical research on the effectiveness of such efforts.

You have been a mediator, forensic psychologist, researcher, therapist, teacher, author, and parenting coordinator. What aspect of your work have you enjoyed the most?

I've enjoyed them all! I have particularly liked doing these roles simultaneously. Each contributed in unique ways to my professional life and enriched the others. My life has been often stressful and full of deadlines, but never boring. Other than the isolation of research and writing, all have involved fascinating and intense interactions with adults and children that needed assistance with their distressing issues and helped me learn.

What type of trends in post-separation and divorce parenting do you anticipate in the future?

I think the trends will depend on how effectively we communicate the empirical research on these topics. We've identified what factors create more risk for children and what things increase the possibility of children coping with their parents' separation and divorce without longer-term damaging effects. Quality, type and amount of parenting from both parents is so important, the importance of encapsulating parent conflict, listening to the views of children—these are but a few of the things that need to be communicated. Given that 35 years ago, and

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GLOBAL ISSUES

Children Beyond Dispute: A Prospective Study of Outcomes from Child Focused and Child Inclusive Post-Separation Family Dispute

by **Jennifer E. McIntosh, Ph.D. and Caroline M. Long, M.A.**

Victoria, Australia

This is Part I of a two-part article. This study was funded by the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department, and conducted through a collaboration between Family Transitions, Relationships Australia and La Trobe University, Victoria, Australia.

This study compared outcomes over one year for two groups of separated parents who attended mediation over parenting disputes. These parents engaged either in a Child Focused intervention or in a Child Inclusive intervention at one of three program centers in Canberra, Melbourne and Adelaide. The program centers are called Relationships Australia (RA) and are administered by the Australian Government's Department of Families and Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Two hundred and seventy-five parents took part in the study (142 families). They reported on 364 children, and 193 of those children, aged 5-16 years, also participated directly in the research. No significant differences were found between the two treatment groups on demographic variables. A good retention rate of 75% over the year occurred for children and 83% for parents.

The Child Focused intervention prioritized the psychological and relational elements of parents' separation, and the making of parenting arrangements that would best support the developmental needs of the children. Children were not seen for the purposes of the mediation. The average length of time spent with both parents in this intervention, including intake, was 5.1 hours.

The Child Inclusive intervention shared the same intent and

approach, but also involved a brief direct assessment of children's experiences of the separation and of their relationships with each parent. The children's material was carefully formulated and considered with parents, and core themes incorporated into their negotiations. The average duration of this intervention with parents, including intake and feedback of the children's material, was 6.2 hours, plus a separate 1.5 hours with children.

Extensive repeated measures of data were collected

from parents and children prior to mediation commencing, and then again three and twelve months after the conclusion of mediation.

Outcomes common to both groups

Entry into mediation was a point of high risk for both groups of families. Both parents reported high to very high current acrimony with their former or soon-to-be-former partner and a low rate of resolution of disputes. Their children reported still higher rates of conflict between parents. Of concern, one-third of children aged 5-16 were in the clinical range of psychological symptoms at the time of intake, on parent report.

Significant and enduring reduction in levels of conflict occurred for both groups in the year following mediation. The majority of parents reported improved management or resolution of the initial disputes that had brought them to mediation. Across all ages, children in both interventions perceived less frequent and intense conflict between their parents and better resolution of it, with a significant lowering of their own distress in relation to parental discord.

Outcomes unique to the Child Inclusive intervention

No isolated effects were evident for the Child Focused intervention at either the three or twelve month follow up points. In contrast, the Child Inclusive intervention was associated with a number of effects not evident in the other treatment group. These effects were strongest for fathers and for children.

One year post intervention, repeated measures of analyses showed significantly better outcomes for the Child Inclusive group in the following areas:

- Lower acrimony in fathers in relation to their former spouses;
- Greater improvement in the parental alliance for fathers;
- Children's experience of improved emotional availability of their fathers and greater sense of closeness to them;
- Greater contentment by children with care and contact arrangements, and less inclination to want to change them;
- Greater satisfaction of fathers with care and contact arrangements of their children, despite initially lower levels of overnight contact than the Child Focused fathers;
- Greater stability of care and contact patterns over the year; and

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AFCC New Orleans Trainings Featuring Joan B. Kelly and Nancy W. Olesen

Professionals who work with high-conflict families will not want to miss two great trainings sponsored by AFCC in collaboration with Loyola University New Orleans College of Law.

Parenting Coordination: Helping High Conflict Parents Resolve Disputes with Dr. Joan B. Kelly, March 27-28, 2007 will examine the parenting coordination structure and process, including the range of disputes resolved, practical and ethical issues, effective court orders, case examples, and the parenting coordinator role in cases with alienated children and relocation issues.

Dr. Nancy W. Olesen will present *Advanced Issues in Child Custody: Complex Family Violence, Alienation, Child Sexual Abuse and Attachment* on March 29-30, 2007. This workshop will address current research and describe best practices for these difficult cases.

Please secure your hotel reservation prior to registering for the training. For hotel reservations, check for Internet specials at Travelocity, Expedia, Orbitz, Kayak or one of your favorite travel Web sites. Search for hotels in the Central Business District of New Orleans. Each training program is eligible for 12 CE hours for psychologists and 12 CLE credits, and has been approved by the Louisiana Counseling Association and NASW-LA for 12 CEUs. Dr. Olesen's program is also approved for hours toward child custody evaluator training in California.

AFCC members receive a \$65 discount per training. Please view the program brochure for more information, which can be accessed at www.afccnet.org/training or contact AFCC at afcc@afccnet.org or (608) 664-3750.

Family Law Writing Competition

AFCC and Hofstra University School of Law are sponsoring the annual Family Law Writing Competition. The competition is run in cooperation with the editorial staff of *Family Court Review*. The subject of entries may be within any area of family law, although topics that focus on international or interdisciplinary subjects of family law are especially encouraged. First prize includes \$500 and consideration for publication of the article in *Family Court Review*. Submissions must be received by March 15, 2007. For further information, please contact the Managing Editor of *Family Court Review* at lawfcr@hofstra.edu.

AFCC Thanks Trainers and Partners

AFCC thanks the following academic institutions and trainers for partnering with AFCC for the 2006 training programs.

- Robin M. Deutsch, Ph.D.
- Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D.
- Mindy F. Mitnick, Ed.M., M.A.
- Nancy W. Olesen, Ph.D.
- Marsha Kline Pruett, Ph.D.
- Loyola University Chicago School of Law's Child and Family Law Center
- The University of Baltimore School of Law's Center for Families, Children and the Courts
- The University of South Florida Conflict Resolution Collaborative

AFCC offers training programs in collaboration with Universities that are open to the public and can also provide on-site training and consulting for agencies and organizations. Each training program is eligible for continuing education hours. Thanks again for making the 2006 training programs a huge success!

Free AFCC Membership Winner

Kathleen Winn of Mesa, Arizona won a free AFCC membership by simply providing AFCC with her email address. All AFCC members with an email address in our membership database were included in the drawing.

Does AFCC have your email address? By providing AFCC with your email address, you will receive AFCC's bi-monthly e-newsletter, *AFCC eNEWS*, which features the most up-to-date interdisciplinary topics on new legislation, programs, services, research, international news and more. Make sure we have your email so you can receive the next issue in your inbox. AFCC also sends email announcements once or twice a month to members on AFCC topics such as conference dates, trainings, scholarship information and more.

Go to the Member Center on the AFCC Web site and click "Update Your Email" to make sure we have your most current email or to provide a new email address. AFCC will never distribute or publicize your email address beyond listing it in the AFCC Membership Directory, available only to AFCC members. If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Holmes at dholmes@afccnet.org or (608) 664-3750.

A Brighter, Clearer Voice for Children

Proposed Guidelines to Clarify Role of Child Counsel in Maryland Custody Cases

by **Pamela Cardullo Ortiz, J.D.**

Executive Director, Family Administration, Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts

New guidelines currently pending before the Maryland Court of Appeals will, if endorsed, provide guidance to attorneys appointed by the court to represent children in custody cases. The Maryland Guidelines of Practice for Court-Appointed Lawyers Representing Children in Custody Cases were developed by the Maryland Judicial Conference Committee on Family Law and its custody subcommittee, under the direction of subcommittee Chair, Judge Marcella Holland. The guidelines are currently being considered for inclusion as an appendix to the Maryland Rules and will be referenced in the Maryland Lawyers' Rules of Professional Conduct. The Maryland Court of Appeals will vote on whether to include the guidelines in the Rules and make related rule changes after a public comment period and an open meeting on the changes later this year.

The guidelines apply to court-appointed attorneys in child custody matters, including divorce cases where there are child custody issues. The guidelines do not apply to child welfare—child in need of assistance (CINA), termination of parental rights (TPR) or related adoption cases—as those are already governed by the Guidelines of Advocacy for Attorneys Representing Children in CINA, TPR and Related Adoption Cases (CINA/TPR Guidelines).

The guidelines were developed with three goals in mind: 1) to improve the quality and availability of representation for children in custody cases; 2) to promote consistency of practice and terminology around the state; and 3) to provide a uniform set of guidelines for attorneys in these cases.

In drafting the guidelines, the Maryland Judiciary drew from two existing guidelines, one national and one specific to Maryland. The subcommittee looked in part to the American Bar Association Standards of Practice for Lawyers Representing Children in Custody Cases (ABA Standards) as well as to the Maryland CINA/TPR Guidelines.

The guidelines include new terminology adopted from the ABA Standards with some differences in how those terms are defined and fleshed out. Three distinct roles are envisioned for Maryland attorneys representing children.

In the new Maryland guidelines, the term “Best Interest Attorney” replaces the Latin term “guardian ad litem.” A Best Interest Attorney is appointed to advocate for the child’s best interest. The Best Interest Attorney is to make an independent assessment of what is in the child’s best interest and advocate for that before the court. The Best Interest Attorney should ensure that the child’s position is made a part of the record whether or not different from the position the attorney advocates.

In lieu of a Best Interest Attorney, the court may appoint a Child Advocate. The Child Advocate is appointed to

provide independent legal counsel for a child and owes to that child the same duties of undivided loyalty, confidentiality and competent representation as are due an adult client. This type of attorney should be appointed when a child is in need of a “voice in court.” Best Interest Attorneys and Child Advocates should not testify at trial or file a report with the court.

Finally, the Maryland term “Nagle v. Hooks attorney” is replaced with the term “Child’s Privilege Attorney.” The latter is an attorney appointed to assert or waive a statutory privilege on behalf of a minor child.

From the CINA/TPR Guidelines, the subcommittee adopted the definition of “considered judgment.” The new guidelines anticipate that, if appointed as a Child Advocate, the attorney may need to petition the court to alter his or her role, or appoint a separate best interest attorney if they find the child does not have considered judgment.

The proposed guidelines go on to define the duties of the various types of child counsel. The guidelines also address issues of ethics, confidentiality, training, qualifications, compensation and appointments.

A report including the proposed guidelines and recommended changes to the Maryland Rules may be found at www.courts.state.md.us/rules/157report.pdf.

Member Profile: Joan B. Kelly

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again more recently, a number of research projects reported how dissatisfied the majority of children were with traditional visiting plans of every other weekend, and how they wanted more time with their dads, it is astonishing how some jurisdictions still cling to older ways of thinking. I would hope that parenting plans of the future would reflect the diverse needs of families, and that we would see a range of living arrangements, from limited contact where appropriate to more expanded access, to fully shared physical custody. I hope the trend of arbitrarily dividing legal custody does not continue, but instead that we provide more resources to assist parents in reducing their conflict.

What type of activities or hobbies do you enjoy?

I am an active Board member of the Merola Opera Program, a training program for young singers under the umbrella of the San Francisco Opera Center. I love to cook, golf, garden and travel, and music remains an important constant in my life.

What is your proudest personal achievement?

I have been so fortunate to combine such an interesting career with my family life—39 years of marriage to a supportive husband, and two wonderful adult children have

AFCC will Sweep you off your Feet

continued from page 1

adopted Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act and highlight what their countries are doing to identify risk factors and prevent abduction of children by family members. Presenters include Hon. Peter Boshier, Wellington, New Zealand; Chief Justice Diana Bryant, Melbourne, Australia; Hon. Eberhardt Carl, Frankfurt, Germany; and moderator, Professor Linda Elrod, Reporter, Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act.

Pre-Conference Institutes

AFCC's pre-conference institutes on Wednesday, May 30 will offer participants challenging full-day trainings from expert presenters. Six institutes will be available on topics such as *Judicial Officers Institute: Domestic Violence and Differentiation* presented by Loretta Frederick, J.D., Janet R. Johnston, Ph.D., Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D. and Hon. Victor Reyes; *Parenting Coordination: Does One Model Fit All?* featuring Debra Carter, Ph.D., Christine A. Coates, M.Ed., J.D., Matthew Sullivan, Ph.D. and Lynelle Yingling, Ph.D.; and *Advanced Mediation Skills* with Larry S. Fong, Ph.D. and Nina Meierding, M.S., J.D.

Networking Opportunities

AFCC has scheduled outstanding events during the conference for colleagues to interact, share ideas and recharge their batteries. The opening night reception features a live performance by musical political satirists, the Capitol Steps. This performance is included as part of your conference registration. A limited number of additional tickets will be available for purchase on a first-come, first-served basis.

Friday night features two great events. AFCC's Ninth Annual Silent Auction will offer many unique items, including weekend hotel packages, sports memorabilia, original artwork, fine wines and much more. Proceeds from the auction will help support AFCC's special programs and initiatives. If you would like to donate an item, please contact AFCC Marketing and Development Manager David Vigliotta at dvigliotta@afccnet.org or (608) 664-3750.

Immediately following the auction, the AFCC Annual Banquet features *Dancing with the Starnes*, with competitive ballroom dancers Hon. Hugh and Judy Starnes. Lessons are included and dancers of all abilities (or no ability) are welcome!

Accommodations

The Capital Hilton is located in the heart of Washington, D.C. and only two blocks from the White House. Make hotel reservations online at www.capital.hilton.com/AFCC or by calling the Hilton reservation line at (800) 445-8667. The direct line for the Capital Hilton is (202) 393-1000. Please identify yourself with AFCC to receive the special group rate of \$165 per night for single or double accommodations.

On April 30, 2007 the AFCC block of non-reserved rooms will be released to the public for general sale and the special group rate will not be guaranteed after that date. **Please plan ahead and make your reservations early as hotel rooms have sold out for the last two annual conferences.** For activities and entertainment ideas in Washington, D.C., please view the next page of this newsletter.

Conference Registration

Online registration is now open and can be accessed on the AFCC Web site at www.afccnet.org. A brief description of each workshop can be found in the conference brochure posted on the conference page of the AFCC Web site. If you have any questions regarding AFCC's 44th Annual Conference, contact us at afcc@afccnet.org or (608) 664-3750. Don't forget your dancing shoes!

AFCC Thanks 44th Annual Conference Sponsors



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Top Ten Places to Visit in the Nation's Capital



The AFCC special hotel rate starts Sunday, May 27—so come early, enjoy Memorial Day weekend with your family and take advantage of everything Capital City has to offer!

1. National Mall & Memorial Parks

From the Capitol steps to the Lincoln Memorial, this two mile stretch features more than twenty major landmarks you do not want to miss. Sites include the Washington Monument, Thomas Jefferson Memorial, WWII Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial and numerous art galleries and Smithsonian exhibits. www.nps.gov/nama

2. Smithsonian Institution Building (The Castle)

Located in the National Mall, start your tour of the world's largest museum complex at the Smithsonian Institution Building, popularly known as the Castle. From here, create a personalized itinerary of the 17 Smithsonian museums at the Smithsonian Information Center. Admission is free at all Smithsonian museums! www.si.edu

3. White House Tours

Public tours of the White House are available for groups of ten or more people. Requests must be submitted through one's Member of Congress and are accepted up to six months in advance. All White House tours are free of charge. For the most current tour information, please call (202) 456-7041. www.whitehouse.gov/history/tours



4. Union Station

The most visited site in D.C., this beautifully restored train station houses shops and boutiques, restaurants, a nine screen movie theater and both Amtrak and Metro train stations. Check the Web site for a 15% off coupon. www.unionstationdc.com

5. National Gallery of Art

The West Wing features a collection of international masterpieces from the 13th through the 19th century, while the East Wing houses a modern collection of 20th century pieces. Admission is free; see the Web site for changing exhibitions. www.nga.gov

6. National Geographic Museum Explorer's Hall

This museum brings to life some of the world's most fascinating adventures and scientific research and also features live concerts, lectures, film screenings and more. Admission is free. See the Web site for changing exhibits. www.nationalgeographic.com/museum

7. Major League Baseball's Washington Nationals

Playing in the recently renovated RFK stadium May 29-31 against the Los Angeles Dodgers and June 1-3 against the San Diego Padres. www.nationals.mlb.com



8. International Spy Museum

One of Washington's newest museums, the International Spy Museum is the only public museum in the world dedicated to the tradecraft, history and contemporary role of espionage. www.spymuseum.org/plan

9. Eighteenth Street Lounge

Once home to Theodore Roosevelt, this historic mansion is now Washington's trendiest and most exclusive lounge. Inside you will find the city's best DJ's and perhaps a surprise appearance by Thievery Corporation, famed electronic group and former owners. (202) 466-3922

10. D.C.'s Neighborhoods

- Georgetown: One of the oldest neighborhoods in D.C.
- Adams Morgan: Hosts the most exciting nightlife in D.C.
- Capitol Hill: Home to the famous row houses.
- Dupont Circle: The most cosmopolitan neighborhood.
- 14th and U Streets: A new trendy neighborhood.

Helpful Tourism and Travel Links

The official tourism site of Washington, D.C.:
www.washington.org

Current events, best restaurants and more:
www.washingtonian.com

Interactive map of Washington, D.C.:
<http://map.mapnetwork.com/destination/dc>

Metro-bus and Metro-rail maps:
www.wmata.com/maps/maps.cfm

AFCC Thanks Contributors

AFCC's Resource Development Committee would like to thank AFCC members for their generous donations in response to this year's Annual Appeal. More than \$17,000 has been raised so far. If you have not yet contributed to this year's fund, please consider making a donation. You can mail your donation payable to AFCC or donate online at www.afccnet.org/about/committees.asp and click "Resource Development Committee."

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

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Jeffrey Arden
Nicholas Bala
Wendy Bryans
Linda Cavallero
Christine A. Coates
Ellen Craine
George Czutrin
Robin Deutsch
Nina Dodge Abrams
Linda Fidnick
Linda Fieldstone
Gregory Firestone
Joel B. Glassman
Jon Gould
Lyn Greenberg
Josh Hoch
Carl F. Hoppe
Bill Howe

Silver, continued

Leslye Hunter
Alexander Jones
Lawrence W. Kaplan
Phyllis Kenney
Emile and Mrs. Josie
Kruzick
Denise McColley
Douglas S. McNish
Eileen M. Shaevel
Judith N. Stimson
Mary Ann Stokes
Arnold L. Swartz
Betty M. Vitousek

Bronze (\$50-\$99)

Deborah Datz
Leonard P. Edwards
Henry Elson

Bronze, continued

Lesley Goldsmith
Robert A. Horwitz
Karen Levitt
Mindy Mitnick
Sheila O'Kane
Alexis L. Sterling
Barbara Suskind
Albert L. Tarvin
Shirley Thomas
Nancy Ver Steegh
Jeffrey Wittmann
Zena Zumeta

Contributor

Robert Appleton
Mary Kae Heller
Jacqueline Orlando
Susan Wiggin

"The most valuable benefit the [Seventh International Congress on Parent Education] scholarship provided me was the energy and enthusiasm I had lost for teaching my class. While the workshops were invaluable and very informative, the informal networking and collaborating provided me with the energy renewal I needed and answers to specific problems I face in my community."

—Cheryl Leatherwood, Mediator, Parent Educator
(Ozark, Alabama)

AFCC Member News

Steven Benmor, AFCC member from Toronto, Canada, has been certified as a Specialist in Family Law by the Law Society of Upper Canada. More information is available on his Web site at www.benmor.com.

Stanley Jaskot, AFCC member from Ontario, Canada, has launched Jaskot Family Law Barristers as the successor to the law firm of Harper Jaskot, which was established on January 1, 1997.

Aaron Robb, President of the AFCC Texas Chapter, and his wife LeeAnn celebrated the birth of their baby, John Michael Robb, on January 22, 2007.

Andrew Schepard, AFCC member from Hempstead, New York, was appointed as Reporter of a drafting committee to write a Uniform Collaborative Law Act by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL). NCCUSL's drafting committee will also

consider whether the act should be limited to family law cases or expanded to other areas of the law, such as estate planning.

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.

AFCC Online Member Bookstore

Is your book on the AFCC Web site? AFCC's Online Member Bookstore features nearly 100 books written or edited exclusively by AFCC members. Go to www.afccnet.org/shopping/ and click "Online Bookstore" to find out if your book is listed. Your book must be available on the Barnes & Noble Web site to be featured in the online member bookstore.

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An Outstanding Selection of Pamphlets for Clients

AFCC's pamphlets are a great way to help parents struggling with separation and divorce. Written in easy-to-understand language, these pamphlets are helpful and effective sources of information and are the perfect supplement to your professional services.

Many court programs, private practitioners and direct service agencies distribute AFCC pamphlets to clients or make them available in their waiting room. **The pamphlets are affordably priced at 25¢ each, and 20¢ each for orders of 1,000 or more.**



AFCC Members Earning AFCC Dollars

Congratulations to Leta Parks of Houston, Texas and Matt Sullivan of Palo Alto, California who have recruited the most members and earned the most AFCC dollars. AFCC has given away more than \$600 in AFCC credit this year to members who have recruited colleagues to join AFCC. AFCC members can earn AFCC dollars to spend on conference registrations, membership renewals or publications. Each time you recruit a colleague to join AFCC and you are named as the referral source, you earn ten AFCC dollars. Thanks to all AFCC members who have recruited colleagues!

Steve Abel
 Marc Ackerman
 Steve Baron
 Shelley Bresnick
 Lawrence Buchanan
 Mary Bullock
 Clarie Calinda
 Deborah Carter
 Deborah Cashen
 Linda Cavallero
 Clarence Cramer
 Elizabeth Davey
 Deborah Day

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 Leonard Florescue
 Alan Freed
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 Josh Hoch
 Cris Hodson
 Joan Holland
 Jake Jacobson

Martha Jacobson
 Uran Kaufman
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 Lorraine LaConti
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 Karen Levitt
 Eva McKenzie
 Ray McNeal
 Forrest Mosten
 Laurie Nowlin
 Leta Parks
 Karen Rhyne
 Aaron Robb

Janice Rosa
 Charlene Sabin
 Maggie Salter
 Susan Schultz
 Renee Schwartz
 Leslie Shear
 Phil Stahl
 Carmen Stein
 Matt Sullivan
 Peggie Ward
 Danielle Woods
 Lynelle Yingling

Save the Dates!

Parenting Coordination: Helping High Conflict Parents Resolve Disputes

Presenter: Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D.

June 18-19, 2007

Loyola Law Center, Chicago, Illinois

Advanced Issues for Family Mediators: Beyond the Forty-Hour Training

Presenter: Christine A. Coates, M.Ed., J.D.

June 20-21, 2007

Loyola Law Center, Chicago, Illinois

AFCC Chapter News

Colorado

The AFCC Colorado Chapter is pleased to announce its inaugural event, *Breaking the Mold: Innovative Ideas in Family Law*, March 2, 2007 at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. The program will explore alternative methods and models for handling domestic relations cases while attempting to reduce the stress and cost of domestic litigation, expedite judicial case management and serve the child's best interests. The program will further examine the Hennepin County, Minnesota model of using Early Neutral Evaluations—a confidential, settlement-oriented and accelerated alternative dispute resolution technique for allocation of parental responsibility cases. Additionally, two Colorado professionals, Bill Fyfe, Ed.D. and Kim Willoughby, JD, will discuss the impact of the dissolution process on families, which will be followed by a panel of three distinguished Colorado professionals, Hon. Angela Arkin, Magistrate Elizabeth Leith and Pamela Gagel, JD.

At the end of the event the chapter will elect its first Board of Directors. The chapter would like to thank all the members of its Coordinating Committee who worked diligently to develop this chapter and AFCC for welcoming Colorado Chapter into the AFCC family.

Florida

The AFCC Florida Chapter thanks Debra Carter for her service as President and welcomes Hon. Raymond McNeal (ret.) as its President and Nancy Blanton as the President Elect. Three of the chapter's Board members, Greg Firestone, Sharon Press and Bob Matheson, ended their terms in 2006. The Florida Chapter thanks them for their leadership and support.

The Florida Chapter is a collaborating sponsor of a National Institute for Trial Advocacy program titled *Modern Divorce Advocacy* at Stetson University College of Law on March 1-3, 2007. The program is designed for attorneys and experts and was developed by AFCC members Andy Schepard, Phil Stahl, Arline Rotman, Louis Ortiz and Greg Firestone. More information and a course brochure can be found at www.crc.usf.edu.

The AFCC Florida Chapter will host its Annual Conference, *Moving from Conflict to Harmony: A Medley of Opportunities*, November 2-3, 2007 at the Wyndham Orlando Resort in Orlando, Florida.

Massachusetts

The AFCC Massachusetts Chapter announced its Annual Conference, *What a Tangled Web: Use and Abuse of Internet in Family Law Cases*, will take place April 6, 2007 at Regis College in Weston, Massachusetts. The keynote speaker is Dr. Sherry Turkle, Director, MIT Initiative on Technology and Self Program in Science, Technology and Society.

Missouri

The AFCC Missouri Chapter will host its Annual Conference, *The Alienated Child: a Reformation of Parental Alienation Syndrome and the Use of Parenting Coordinator in High Conflict Cases*, March 8-9, 2007 at the Crowne Plaza St. Louis Airport in Bridgeton, Missouri. The chapter is pleased to welcome Dr. Joan B. Kelly as the featured presenter. The conference brochure is available on the Chapter Conferences page on the AFCC Web site at www.afccnet.org/conferences/chapter_conferences.asp.

New Jersey

The AFCC New Jersey Chapter has scheduled its annual meeting for April 18, 2007. The meeting will include a program on *Interstate and Intrastate Removal* with a multi-disciplinary panel of mental health professionals, lawyers and judges. The chapter is monitoring a pilot project in three counties that are working with parenting coordinators and has developed its own parenting coordination roundtable, which meets monthly. The roundtable is coordinated by chapter members Dr. Sharon Ryan Montgomery and Dr. Marcy Pasternak.

Get Involved Locally!

AFCC chapters provide an outstanding vehicle for members to exchange information, network on a local level and discuss important issues that affect their communities. To get involved with your state's chapter, call or email your chapter contact today or join online at www.afccnet.org.

Arizona (www.azafcc.org): Grace Hawkins
(520) 740-5590, ghawkins@sc.pima.gov

California (www.afcc-ca.org): Susan Williams
(760) 940-4540, susan.williams@sdcourt.ca.gov

Colorado (www.coafcc.org): Katherine Delgado
(303) 654-3254, kathy.delgado@judicial.state.co.us

Florida (www.flafcc.org): Nancy Blanton
(386) 755-1800, nancy.blanton@jud3.flcourts.org

Massachusetts: Karen Henell
(413) 296-0389, khenell@verizon.net

Missouri: Larry Swall
(816) 792-9989, lvswall@aol.com

New Jersey (www.afcc-nj.org): Phil Sobel
(973) 428-4900, phil.sobel@verizon.net

New York (www.afccny.org): Hon. W. Dennis Duggan
(518) 427-3531, wduggan@courts.state.ny.us

Texas (www.texasafcc.org): Aaron Robb
(817) 239-3828, arobb@texascounseling.org

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Children Beyond Dispute

continued from page 5

- Preservation or improvement of the mother-child relationship, from the perspectives of both mother and child.

Durability of agreements and litigation patterns

Agreements reached in the Child Inclusive intervention were significantly more durable and workable over a year, as rated by mothers and fathers. Of those cases with no prior Court involvement, Child Inclusive parents were half as likely to instigate new litigation over parenting matters in the year after mediation than were the Child Focused parents.

Considering the difference in outcomes

Three unique change mechanisms were identified for Child Inclusive parents and children:

1. The wake-up call. The immediacy and intimacy of material created by the child consultation process meant that parents were frequently *moved* in a lasting way by the feedback they heard from and about their own children. The “wake up call” to these parents, to alter their behaviors around their children and their attitudes about their previous partner, was direct, compelling and impactful. Although both interventions actively focused parents on their children’s responses to their conflict and their needs in post-separation re-structure of the family, discussion about children and parental cooperation was necessarily generic in the Child Focused intervention, because the children’s direct experiences were not obtained for mediation purposes. In this light, the power of parental projections and inaccurate assumptions about their children and about their relationship with each parent, had greater license to continue unchecked through the Child Focused intervention, and resulting arrangements in that group could be tailored, at best, to what parents *believed* their children needed.

2. A level playing field for fathers. The perceived *fairness* of the Child Inclusive intervention was notable for fathers. Through the father’s eyes, this intervention often functioned to remove the mother from the psychological role of gatekeeper of the information about their children. As such, in negotiations around his children’s needs, this created the experience of a more level playing field for the Child Inclusive father than for the Child Focused father. The Child Inclusive fathers and mothers appeared able to listen to views that sometimes did not support their own argument when these views came from their children and were conveyed empathically by an independent specialist. Fathers in particular described the feedback session about their children as valued and transformative.

3. Developmentally correct arrangements. Through a sharpened focus on each of their children’s emotional and stage specific needs in the Child Inclusive treatment,

parents’ agreements tended to favour stability of residence, and improved attachment relationships. Fathers in the Child Focused treatment initially obtained significantly higher rates of overnight contact, which were then subsequently reduced over the course of the year, often through litigation. Fathers in the Child Inclusive intervention tended to agree to maintenance of overnight contact rates, rather than driving for their equal share. Of interest is the finding that these fathers were also substantially more content with the care and contact arrangements than fathers in the Child Focused group, and that they reported closer relationships with their children. The findings suggest that the Child Inclusive intervention assisted parents to create developmentally correct agreements, tailored to the core experiences of their children, and made it easier to resist arrangements tailored to any sense of adult entitlement.

Part II of this article will be published in the Spring 2007 issue of AFCC News. It will report the mental health outcomes of children, the characteristics of poor progress, the implications for targeting the Child Inclusive intervention and a conclusion of the study.



THE MEDIATORS

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APPLICATIONS FOR HIGH CONFLICT FAMILIES, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ALIENATION

COLUMBUS

Hyatt Regency Columbus
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September 27-29, 2007

Join AFCC and NCJFCJ for this first-time collaboration. This training conference will include pre-conference institutes and two full days of 3-hour skill-building workshops for in-depth instruction.

Proposals are being accepted for three-hour training workshops dealing with high conflict families, domestic violence and alienation and targeted to:

Judges
Mediators
Legal Professionals
Custody Evaluators
Parenting Coordinators

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

If you are interested in presenting a workshop, please send the following information: (1) an abstract of 150 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) name, address, telephone and fax numbers, and email addresses **for all proposed presenters**; (5) resumes for all proposed presenters; (6) the name of the presenter who will be coordinating your workshop; (7) name, telephone number and email address of two professional references. *Maximum of four presenters per workshop.*

Please note that the deadline for proposals is April 23, 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 and is unable to reimburse travel and related expenses. Please mail, fax or email proposals (Word or WordPerfect attachments only please) to: AFCC, Conference Proposal, 6525 Grand Teton Plaza, Madison, WI 53719-1048, Phone: (608) 664-3750, afcc3@afccnet.org. Electronic submissions are strongly preferred.



Upcoming AFCC Conferences and Trainings

AFCC Trainings

**Parenting Coordination:
Helping High Conflict Parents
Resolve Disputes**

Presenter: *Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D.*
March 27-28, 2007
Loyola University New Orleans
New Orleans, Louisiana
www.afccnet.org

**Advanced Issues in Child
Custody: Complex Family
Violence, Alienation, Child
Sexual Abuse and Attachment**

Presenter: *Nancy Olesen, Ph.D.*
March 29-30, 2007
Loyola University New Orleans
New Orleans, Louisiana
www.afccnet.org

AFCC Conferences

AFCC 44th Annual Conference

May 30-June 2, 2007
Capital Hilton
Washington, D.C.
www.afccnet.org

**AFCC Regional Training
Conference**

September 27-29, 2007
Hyatt Regency
Columbus, Ohio
www.afccnet.org

AFCC 45th Annual Conference

May 28-31, 2008
Westin Bayshore Resort
Vancouver, BC, Canada
www.afccnet.org

AFCC Chapter Conferences

**Colorado AFCC Annual
Chapter Conference**

March 2, 2007
University of Denver
Denver, Colorado

**Missouri AFCC Annual
Chapter Conference**

March 8-9, 2007
Crowne Plaza St. Louis Airport
St. Louis, Missouri

**Massachusetts AFCC Annual
Chapter Conference**

April 6, 2007
Regis College
Weston, Massachusetts

www.afccnet.org

