



ASSOCIATION OF
FAMILY AND
CONCILIATION COURTS



eNEWS

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President's Message

By Linda Fieldstone, MEd, Miami, Florida

We all seem to follow in the footsteps of others who have paved the way before us...our parents, siblings, teachers, people we have had the pleasure of working with, people we admire, people who inspire us and touch us in ways they do not realize.

[Read more](#)

Executive Director's Message

Getting it Right: Controversies, Conversations and Perspectives in Family Law

By Peter Salem

"Here's to the crazy ones, the misfits, the rebels, the troublemakers, the round pegs in the square holes...the ones who see things differently—they're not fond of rules....You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them, but the only thing you can't do is ignore them because they change things...they push the human race forward, and while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius, because the ones who are crazy enough to think that they can change the world, are the ones who do."

[Read more](#)

Proposals for Poster Presentations at the Annual Conference

AFCC is accepting proposals for posters to be exhibited during the annual conference. Poster presenters will have the opportunity to discuss their work with participants between scheduled workshop sessions. The

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

AFCC 49th Annual Conference

*Attachment, Brain Science
and Children of Divorce: The
ABCs of Child Development
for Family Law*
June 6–9, 2012

Hyatt Regency Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

[Conference brochure](#)

[Scholarship application](#)

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deadline to submit a poster proposal is March 15, 2012.

[Topic suggestions and submission guidelines](#)

[Submit a Poster Proposal](#)

Application for Annual Conference Scholarships Now Available

The application for a scholarship to the AFCC 49th Annual Conference, June 6–9, 2012, at the Hyatt Regency Chicago is now available. Scholarships include conference registration fees; pre-conference institute registration fees; a ticket to the welcome reception and entertainment; awards luncheon; annual banquet; AFCC hospitality suite; and a certificate of attendance. A limited number of scholarships will include a travel stipend of \$1,000. Preference for the scholarships with stipends will be given to applicants with higher travel costs, international applicants and those who demonstrate financial need. The application deadline is March 1, 2012.

[Apply for a Scholarship Guidelines and Criteria](#)

Scholarship Fund Update

Thank you to the members who have already donated to the Scholarship Fund. The last months of 2011 brought many generous contributions to this valuable program. Unfortunately, however, we are not on a pace to meet our goal. In the face of continued economic uncertainty, many repeat donors are unable to contribute as generously as they have in the past; some not at all. We ask that you donate what you can; any amount will help bring us closer to our goal.

The Scholarship Fund assists individuals who would otherwise be unable to attend AFCC conferences with scholarships to cover the cost of conference registration and also a limited number of stipends to assist with travel and lodging costs. These scholarships make a lasting difference in the lives of the recipients.

[Donate online](#), send a check to AFCC at 6525 Grand Teton Plaza, Madison, WI, 53719, or call the AFCC office at (608) 664-3750.

Ask the Experts

Top Ten Tips for Handling Child Custody Cases Involving Domestic Violence

By Loretta Frederick, JD and Gabrielle Davis, JD

Recent research confirms what many experienced practitioners know: intimate partner violence can have serious effects on children who are directly exposed to the violence or who are living with parents who use violence and coercive controls to manage family relationships.

[Read more](#)

Free Membership

Donna Wowk, LLB, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, has won a

[Schiller DuCanto & Fleck LLP](#)

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[American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers—Illinois Chapter](#)

AFCC 10th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

November 1–3, 2012
Arizona Grand Resort
Phoenix, Arizona

AFCC 50th Annual Conference

May 29–June 1, 2013
J.W. Marriott Los Angeles at L.A. Live
Los Angeles, California

AFCC 51st Annual Conference

May 28–31, 2014
The Westin Harbour Castle
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

AFCC TRAININGS

Managing Personality-Disordered Parents

William A. Eddy, MSA, JD
March 5–6, 2012
Chicago, Illinois

[More information](#)

Advanced Parenting Coordination Practice: Working More Effectively with Parents and Children

Joan B. Kelly, PhD
March 7–8, 2012
Chicago, Illinois

[More information](#)

free one year AFCC membership by providing AFCC with her email address. All AFCC members with an email address in the AFCC membership database were included in the annual drawing. Congratulations, Donna!

AFCC Dollars

Did you know that every time someone joins AFCC for the first time and lists your name as the referral source on the membership application, you get 10 AFCC Dollars? AFCC Dollars are a thank you—for helping promote AFCC by referring friends and colleagues—and can be used toward membership dues, publications or registration fees. This year AFCC gave away over 2,500 AFCC Dollars, and would like to thank the top promoters in 2011: Barbara Fidler, Linda Fieldstone, Karen Irvin, Lorraine Martin, Leslie Shear, Judy Sherwood, Arnie Shienvold, Betsy Thomas and Leslie Todd.

AFCC Thanks Sponsors of the 49th Annual Conference

Special thanks to the confirmed sponsors of the upcoming AFCC 49th Annual Conference in Chicago. If you are considering a sponsorship, there is still time to add your organization's name to this great list of conference sponsors. Sponsorships at the Gold, Silver and Local levels are available. For more details on the benefits of each, please see the [Exhibits and Advertising](#) page on the AFCC website or contact AFCC Program Coordinator [Erin Sommerfeld](#) via email or call (608) 664-3750.

[AFCC conference sponsors](#)

Chicago Trainings

Join AFCC and Loyola University Chicago School of Law's Civitas ChildLaw Center in Chicago this March for two two-day training programs dealing with personality-disordered parents and working effectively with parents and children post separation. [Managing Personality-Disordered Parents](#), presented by William A. Eddy, MSA, JD held March 5-6, and [Advanced Parenting Coordination Practice: Working More Effectively with Parents and Children](#), presented by Joan B. Kelly, PhD held March 7-8. Both trainings will be held at Loyola University's Philip H. Corboy Law Center in Chicago. [Register Online](#)

Nominate a Colleague for an AFCC Award

The AFCC Awards Committee is seeking nominations for the John E. VanDuzer Distinguished Service Award, Stanley Cohen Research Award and Irwin Cantor Innovative Program Award, to be presented at the AFCC 49th Annual Conference in Chicago, June 6-9, 2012. Nominations must be received or postmarked on or before March 15, 2012. Do you know a friend, colleague or program that deserves extra recognition this year? Surprise them with a nomination!

AFCC CHAPTER CONFERENCES

Louisiana Chapter Conference

Technology, Trauma and Transformation: Current Issues in Family Court
January 27, 2012
LSU Law Center
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
[More information](#)

Arizona Chapter Conference

100 Years and Counting: For Families the Future is Now! February 3–5, 2012
Hilton Sedona Resort and Spa
Sedona, Arizona
[More information](#)

California Chapter Conference

The New Frontier: Exploring the Challenges and Possibilities of the Changed Landscape for Children and the Courts
February 10–12, 2012
Sheraton Delfina Hotel
Santa Monica, California
[More information](#)

Florida Chapter Conference

Spirit of Cooperation
March 30–31, 2012
Renaissance Tampa
International Plaza
Tampa, Florida
[More information](#)

Washington Chapter Conference

Systemic Solutions for Families in Crisis
April 13–14, 2012
Washington Athletic Center
Seattle, WA
[More information](#)

ASK THE EXPERTS

Do you have a question that you would like answered by an AFCC expert? Let us know and

[Award criteria and submission instructions](#)

Call for Proposals

AFCC is accepting proposals for 90 minute workshop sessions to be presented at the 10th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations, held November 1-3, 2012 at the Arizona Grand Resort in Phoenix. The deadline to submit a proposal is May 13, 2012; proposals must be submitted using the online form.

[Topic suggestions and submission guidelines](#)

[Submit a Workshop Proposal](#)

In Memorium

Ellen Pence (1948-2012) was a scholar and a social activist. She co-founded the Duluth Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (DAIP), an inter-agency collaboration model used in all 50 states in the US and in more than 17 countries.

[Read more](#)

Conferences of Interest

Boulder Interdisciplinary Committee on Child Custody

February 3, 2012

Beginning with the End in Mind: An Interdisciplinary Look at Families' Actual Needs During Divorce

Arvada Center

Arvada, Colorado

[More information](#)

6th World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights

March 17-20, 2013

Building Bridges From Principle to Reality

Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre

Sydney, Australia

Call for Papers submission deadline March 1, 2012

[More information](#)

MDIC and COAFCC

Understanding and Managing High Conflict Personalities

February 24, 2012

University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Denver, CO

[More information](#)

Member News

Kathryn Kuehnle, Indian Shores, Florida and **Leslie Drozd**, Newport Beach, California have edited a new book, *Parenting Plan Evaluations: Applied Research for the Family Court*, published by Oxford University Press. Many of the contributing authors are AFCC members.

[Read more](#)

Barbara Landau, North York, Ontario, Canada, was awarded the 2011 McGowan Award of Excellence in Dispute Resolution by the ADR Institute of Canada. She

your question could be answered in the next *AFCC eNEWS*.

[Email your question](#)

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ABOUT AFCC eNEWS

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[AFCC eNEWS archive](#)

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was recognized for her work as co-chair of the inter-organizational committee that recently spearheaded reforms of family law in Ontario.

Family Law in the News

Frozen Moment of Judicial Compassion

By Valerie Mutton, Courtesy of The Lawyers Weekly

Justice Harvey Brownstone presides at a suburban Toronto building in which 6,000 family court cases are open at any given moment. It is the busiest such setting in the country. But when he senses someone appearing before him has difficulty reading, he doesn't mind taking a moment, slowing things down and carefully guiding the proceedings to make certain everyone grasps what's going on.

[Read more](#)

How to Lose Child Custody

By Jacqueline Harounian, Courtesy of Huffington Post

As a matrimonial law attorney who regularly represents mothers and fathers in contested divorce trials, I have very some straight forward advice for parents going through divorce, and who are contemplating a custody action. More than ever, I am counseling mothers on how to *not* lose custody of their children.

[Read more](#)

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