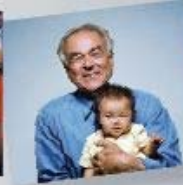




ASSOCIATION OF
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eNEWS

November 2017

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President's Message

Annette T. Burns, JD

When she was 16, my daughter wrecked a car. Totaled it, in fact. It was the middle of the day, a workday. I sit here and remember, twelve years and six months later, what I was doing when I got the call from her. Her, sobbing and hysterical on the phone. Me, driving to her and trying not to get in an accident myself. We got through that day. What I wasn't prepared for was how I reacted to getting her phone calls after that. Anytime I saw her number in caller ID, my

MONTHLY
E-NEWSLETTER

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Register Now
[AFCC December Training Programs](#)

[Parenting Coordination: Essential Tools for Conflict Resolution](#)
[December 4-5, 2017](#)

heart would start racing and I'd go into a panic. For the first few seconds of every call with her, I braced myself to hear sobbing on the other end of the line. This was always followed by my sense of relief when I heard her happy and talking about something normal that high school girls call their moms about.

[Read more](#)

AFCC Classic Rewind: Ask the Experts - Ten Tips for the Holidays

Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP

Every year, families must confront parenting challenges around the holidays and there are some long-standing tips that can help. The AFCC eNEWS is re-running a previous, and updated Ask the Experts column on Ten Tips for the Holidays.

[Read more](#)

December Training Programs

Register now for the December training programs sponsored by AFCC and the University of Baltimore School of Law. Each training is eligible for up to 12 hours of continuing education.

Parenting Coordination: Essential Tools for Conflict Resolution

Debra K. Carter, PhD

December 4-5, 2017

University of Baltimore School of Law

[Register now!](#)

Advanced Topics for Custody Evaluators: Interviewing, Report Writing, and Testifying

David A. Martindale, PhD, ABPP

December 6-7, 2017

University of Baltimore School of Law

[Register now!](#)

University of Baltimore
School of Law
Baltimore, Maryland

Advanced Topics for
Custody Evaluators:
Interviewing, Report
Writing, and Testifying
December 4-5, 2017
University of Baltimore
School of Law
Baltimore, Maryland

AFCC Annual Conference

Compassionate Family
Court Systems: The Role
of Trauma-Informed
Jurisprudence
June 6-9, 2018
Washington Hilton
Washington, DC

AFCC Chapter Conferences

**New York Chapter
Annual Conference**
December 8, 2017
New York City Bar
Association
New York, New York

**Arizona Chapter Annual
Conference**
January 26-28, 2018
Hilton Sedona Resort
Sedona, Arizona

**Louisiana Chapter
Annual Conference**
January 26-27, 2018
Paul Hebert Law Center
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**California Chapter
Annual Conference**
February 2-4, 2018
Park Central Hotel
San Francisco, California

[More Information](#)

Jaycee Dugard to Keynote AFCC 55th Annual Conference

AFCC is pleased to announce that Jaycee Dugard will present the opening session at the AFCC 55th Annual Conference in Washington DC. Ms. Dugard was abducted at age 11 and held captive for 18 years, and suffered physical and emotional abuse at the hands of her assailants. She has been reunited with her family and has created the JAYC Foundation to help families that have suffered abduction or other trauma. The conference brochure will be available online in late December and in hard copy in January.

[More Information](#)

[Click here to see Jaycee Dugard's interview with Diane Sawyer](#)

Sponsor, Exhibit, Advertise

Exhibiting and advertising at the AFCC Annual Conference are excellent ways to share your products and services with an interdisciplinary community of family law professionals. Sign up by December 5, 2017 to ensure your sponsorship or advertising is included in the program brochures, mailed out to over 21,000 family law professionals around the world! To view exhibit, sponsorship, and advertising opportunities, [click here](#). For all questions, please contact AFCC Program Coordinator, [Corinne Bennett](#).

[View the opportunities](#)

AFCC Scholarship Fund

Help your colleagues attend AFCC conferences by giving to the AFCC Scholarship Fund. AFCC scholarship recipients increase our diversity by bringing professionals from different backgrounds, representing the many disciplines encompassed by who

Oregon Chapter Annual Conference

April 13, 2018
River's Edge Hotel
Portland, Oregon

EDITOR:

[Leslye Hunter](#)

ASSOCIATE EDITOR:

[Corinne Bennett](#)



afccnet.org

we are as an organization. The annual appeal letter was recently mailed to all AFCC members. Please consider making a gift today. Receiving your gift by the end of 2017 helps us plan for next year, and will provide US taxpayers with a deduction for the 2017 tax year. Will you contribute to allow a hard-working professional like yourself attend an AFCC conference?

[Donate Today](#)

Family Court Review Seeks Social Science Editor

Family Court Review (FCR), the quarterly academic and research journal of AFCC, is seeking a Social Science Editor. AFCC is an interdisciplinary and international association of judges, lawyers, mediators, mental health professionals, social scientists, court administrators, educators and others concerned with promoting constructive methods of family conflict resolution. FCR is an interdisciplinary journal prepared for publication at Hofstra University Law School by a student editorial staff, working under the supervision of the FCR Faculty Administrative Editor. The Social Science Editor will be responsible to and work closely with the Faculty Administrative Editor and the Editor in Chief. He or she will work with the Editorial Board and student staff of FCR to promote the interdisciplinary mission of FCR and AFCC. The deadline for submitting an application is February 28, 2018. If you are interested in a copy of the Call for Applications, please email Peter Salem, AFCC Executive Director, at psalem@afccnet.org.

AFCC Webinar Corner



Register now for next month's webinar:

Eldercaring Coordination

Linda Fieldstone, MEd

December 12, 2017 1:00pm Eastern

[Register now](#)

If you missed this month's webinar, Managing Holiday Time Conflict, members may access the recording for free through the [Member Center](#) of the AFCC website.

Now Introducing: AFCC E2M Webinar Series!

Join AFCC E2M (early-to-mid career professionals) webinar:

Establishing a Professional Practice: Walking the Tightrope Without a Net

Larry V. Swall, JD

December 15, 2017 1:00-2:00pm Eastern Time

[Register Today!](#)

This webinar is geared towards the E2M crowd and is free to AFCC members. Please register to participate!

AFCC Board Nominations

The AFCC Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for individuals to serve on the AFCC Board of Directors. Recommended individuals must be AFCC members and have an interest in and knowledge of AFCC and its work. Nominations must be received by January 31, 2018, in order to be considered by the committee prior to the election at the AFCC 55th Annual Conference, June 6-9, 2018, in Washington, DC. The term is three years, beginning July 1, 2018, and concluding June 30, 2021. If you or a member you know is interested, please send the first and last name, contact information, resume, and a letter of intent to the AFCC Nominating Committee, c/o AFCC, 6525 Grand Teton Plaza, Madison, WI, 53719, or via email to afcc@afccnet.org.

AFCC Member News



Former AFCC President **Robin Deutsch** was awarded the Kenneth H. Herman, PhD, JD Career contribution award from Massachusetts Psychology Association. Congratulations, Robin!



AFCC member and New Jersey Chapter member, **Madeline Marzano-Lesnevich**, was sworn in as the new President of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers in Chicago earlier this month. Congratulations, Madeline!

AFCC Chapter News



Meet Daniel Ashbourne, President of the **Ontario Chapter**

[Read more](#)

AFCC hosted its **biennial Leadership Institute** in Milwaukee and welcomed chapter leaders from 17 chapters: Sharon Smith (Alberta Chapter president), Tracy McElroy (Arizona Chapter board member), Michele Brown (California Chapter President elect), Lenny Tanis (Colorado Chapter President elect), Debbie Weaver (Florida Chapter President elect), Beth McCormack (Illinois Chapter President elect), Nolanda Kirby (Maryland Chapter treasurer), Pat Brady (Massachusetts Chapter President), Victoria Brenner (Minnesota Chapter President), Simone McCartney (Missouri Chapter President elect), Amy Wechsler (New Jersey Chapter President), Larry Braunstein (New York Chapter President elect), Roz Florez (Ohio Chapter President elect), Sara Rich (Oregon Chapter board member), Brian Burke (Ontario Chapter President elect and treasurer), Dennis Cronin (Washington Chapter President elect), and Josie Cusma and Lynn Galbraith-Wilson (Wisconsin Chapter President elect and treasurer). The full day leadership institute was designed to share AFCC's history and structure, the nuts and bolts of running a nonprofit board of directors, the resources available to them, and brainstorming about increasing membership and chapter member benefits in a supportive setting. The leaders made personal connections and were enthusiastic about going forward and helping each other, as well as instituting many new plans. Leslye Hunter (AFCC Associate Director and facilitator), was assisted in the morning session by chapter committee co-chairs Kate McNamara (Colorado) and Ann Ordway (Tennessee).

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC)

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President's Message

*Annette T. Burns, JD
Phoenix, Arizona*

When she was 16, my daughter wrecked a car. Totaled it, in fact. It was the middle of a workday. I sit here and remember, twelve years and six months later, exactly what I was doing when I got the call from her. Her, sobbing and hysterical on the phone. Me, driving to her and trying not to get in an accident myself. We got through that day, but what I wasn't prepared for was how I would react when she called me after the day of the accident. When I saw her number in caller ID, my heart would start racing and I'd go into a panic. For the first few seconds of every call, I braced myself to hear sobbing on the other end of the line. This was always followed by a sense of relief when I heard her happy and talking about something normal that high school girls call their moms about. Calling me after the day of the accident was typical for her, but I was literally traumatized when she called. It was more than five years before I was able to answer my daughters calls without my heart rate soaring. I've received thousands of calls and texts from her since that day, and none of them gave me particularly terrifying news. But the definition of trauma is "a deeply distressing or disturbing experience." The call I received immediately following her accident was all of that.

Obviously when we talk about trauma in the court system, we're talking about something far more significant, like the death of a family member, domestic violence, child abuse, substance abuse, or some combination thereof. There are small yet significant forms of trauma in day-to-day dealings with the family court system. It's not hard to imagine someone's dread and physical reaction at seeing an envelope in the mail with an attorney's name or the court's name in the return address, when the last similar envelope brought news of a financial setback or a loss of parenting time. So much bad news in family court comes by mail, and now by email too. In parenting coordination cases where the parents' communication is poor, I often hear from parents about the sinking feeling in their stomachs when they sit down at the computer or phone and see emails (often many emails) from the other parent. All these things are traumas, or micro-traumas if you prefer, but the effect is largely the same: feeling as if you're re-living the initial shock or threat, and having the same visceral reactions you had at the time of the initial threat.

It's likely that most people reading this can receive a letter or email from the court, or from an attorney, without experiencing too much panic. We're used to that system and we know how it works. That's not the norm for the general population. Most people in the world have little or no experience with the legal system. It is scary to them, and with good reason: many people have had very bad things happen to them in family court, or even in a counseling setting. And if bad things have happened in the supposed safety of the justice system, past trauma is regenerated with each new court experience.

The AFCC 55th Annual Conference in Washington, DC (June 6-9, 2018) will present *Compassionate Court Systems: The Role of Trauma-Informed Jurisprudence*. The conference will examine the types of trauma we regularly hear about from our clients, our patients, our litigants, and their children. The information should increase our awareness of trauma, integrate this understanding into court culture, and increase compassion in our endeavors to serving children in this difficult area of practice.

Thankfully, my daughter was fine. An ER visit and weeks of physical therapy helped with her healing. My healing involved 5+ years of startled reactions related to cell phones, and a gradual understanding of trauma on my own small personal level. Fortunately, I, too, am over it. I look forward to seeing you in Washington, DC



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Ask the Experts: Ten Tips for the Holidays

Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP, Wellesley, Massachusetts

1. Have a very specific plan for the holidays so there is no opportunity for confusion or conflict. Parents may alternate or split holidays, but when there is disagreement about this plan, consider the longer view of alternating holidays by even and odd years. Holidays are often a time of heightened emotions, and the reality of the loss associated with separation or divorce is no more apparent than when parents must spend a holiday without their children or without old traditions.
2. Try to continue traditions of the past for the children. If they are accustomed to spending Christmas Eve with one extended family, try to continue that tradition, if not every year then in alternate years. Parents should consider maintaining some of the family traditions the first year after the separation, and alternating beginning the following year.
3. If you can continue some traditions together, make them clear, attending to details of who, what, where, when, and how. Some families are able to be together without conflict arising, but parents often have different expectations about the experience itself, as well as the amount of time they will be together. The most important thing for the children is that they do not experience conflict between their parents.
4. Create new traditions that feel special to the children and family. This is an opportunity for the new family configuration to establish new traditions for the holidays including creation of a special holiday celebration or experience on a day other than the actual holiday. It is also an opportunity for the adult who does not have the children, to establish new practices such as time with friends, volunteering, movie days, and travel.
5. Think long-term—what do you want your children to remember about holidays when they have their own children? For children, holidays are magical. It is often the little rituals and practices that are most memorable, such as baking a pie, playing a game or lighting the fire.
6. Remember, children's memories include all senses—what they saw, heard, smelled, tasted and touched. To the extent possible, create a memory that involves each of these senses and describe it, e.g. we always listen to this music, eat cranberry sauce,

watch this movie, read this book, take this walk, and cut these branches. Do not allow conflict to enter into these memories.

7. Self-care is very important. Life for the adults has significantly changed. Find new ways to care for yourself, e.g. exercise, friends, books, movies, clubs, martial arts, dance, classes, activities that bring new energy and attention. You want to rejuvenate yourself and refocus on something to help you reconstitute yourself in your new life.

8. Keep your expectations small and be flexible. Focus on one thing that matters most to you during the holidays, e.g. some sense of connection to your family, having some time with extended family or close friends, creating a new tradition, continuing a tradition. Your holiday time will not be the same, but you can decide that you will have one small goal that you will work toward creating or preserving. Holidays may be accompanied by unmet needs and dashed hopes. By thinking small you can manage disappointment and decrease stress.

9. Though you, the parent, may feel disoriented and lost in the changed family, keep your focus on the children and the new family constellations. Make the holidays about your children, which means helping them to feel good about spending holiday time with the other parent.

10. In ten years or twenty years, what do you want to see when you look back on these years of change? From that long view you can highlight the tone and experience of these transformed holidays. Remember, children who find holidays stressful because of the conflict between their parents, have terrible memories as adults of holidays and of special family moments. It is in your hands to create fond, pleasant memories for your children. They can be traditional or not, but the message is that you and our family are important and we find ways to celebrate and enjoy holidays.

Robin Deutsch, PhD, ABPP is a former AFCC President and is a psychologist in Boston. She is the director of the Center of Excellence for Children, Families and the Law at the William James College, where she runs a postdoctoral fellowship program and offers a Certificate in Child and Family Forensic Issues.



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Meet Daniel Ashbourne, President of the Ontario Chapter

Dr. Ashbourne is a Registered Clinical Psychologist in the province of Ontario, and currently Executive Director at The London Family Court Clinic (L.F.C.C.), in London, Ontario. L.F.C.C. is specifically designed to work with children and their families involved with legal/clinical systems. Dr. Ashbourne provides assessments, consultations and training on family and criminal matters. He is a consultant to the ADR-LINK referral service, is assisting in the development of a Child and Youth Advocacy (CYAC) initiative for London-Middlesex, and is part of the FASD Community of Practice/Research network in London.