



# NEWSLETTER

## Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

An international association of judges, counselors, mediators, and lawyers.

Volume 1, Number 2  
January 1982

Editor, Laurance M. Hyde, Jr.

### SECOND ISSUE

We are pleased with responses to our first newsletter, and urge you to send us information about what is happening in our field in your area. Share the news with your colleagues everywhere. Our next newsletter will be published in April, shortly before the annual meeting in San Francisco.

The address and phone:

Larry Hyde  
c/o Nova University Law School  
3100 SW 9th Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale FL 33315  
(305) 522-2300 ext 128

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

A membership dues statement is enclosed with this newsletter. We have had some difficulty with our mailing list so a number of our members may not have received their 1981 dues notice. We ask your assistance in bringing your membership up to date and early remittance for 1982.

Individual -- \$50/year (\$60 Canadian)  
Institution - \$100/year (\$120 Canadian)  
Student -- \$15/year (\$18 Canadian)  
Life Membership -- \$500 (\$600 Canadian)  
(may be paid in two installments)

### AFCC BOARD APPROVES NEW POSITION OF FIELD SECRETARY

In light of the recommendation of the Long Range Planning Committee, that the AFCC begin to develop a chapter regionalization plan and the need for publicity and membership recruitment, the Board of Directors approved the establishment of a membership development and chapter coordinator. Ann Milne submitted an application for the position and the Executive Committee authorized her to develop and carry out a six month program of membership recruitment to facilitate the development of AFCC chapters. Ann's title is "Field Secretary". She will be developing a descriptive packet about the Association, its goals, technical assistance, conferences and publications. This will be sent to judges, lawyers and mental health professionals to acquaint them with the Association and to invite their membership and attendance at the annual meeting in San Francisco. The Association will also be represented at several upcoming professional conferences and informational booths will be set up to provide prospective members with Association materials. Anyone having additional ideas or wishing assistance in distributing information may contact Ann Milne at 314 E. Mifflin Street, Madison, WI 53703 (608) 251-0604.

## AFCC PUBLICATIONS

The following video tapes and written materials may be obtained by contacting the Executive Director, Laurance Hyde, Jr., 3100 SW 9th Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33315.

### Video Tapes

"Custody Resolution Counseling"  
Designed for training counselors in mediation techniques for family disputes concerning child custody and visitation. 3/4" video tape cassette, 45 minutes.

"A Family Affair"  
Designed to inform judges and other professionals of the legal remedies and implications regarding domestic abuse. 16 mm film or 3/4" video tape cassette available through VISUCOM Productions, Inc., 1047 Whipple Avenue, Red Wood City, California 94063. Rental --\$60/3 days.

The 16 mm film is also available without charge from RHR Filmedia, 9 E 38 St., NY, NY 10016, (212) 686-9833.

"A Family Affair" is AFCC's production, under a \$100,000 LEAA grant, and it has already won two prestigious awards. It was the Gold Medal winner in its category in the fall New York International Film and Television Festival. It also was a winner in the Motion Pictures Seminar of the Northwest.

"Best Interest of the Child"  
Designed to be shown to parents who are to engage in, or are considering mediation of custody or visitation issues. It is a discussion between Superior Court Judge Don King and mediator/author Judith Wallerstein about the process in San Francisco. The 3/4" 17 minute cassette is available for purchase for \$30 from The Center for Judicial Education, 2150 Shattuck Ave., Suite 810, Berkeley, CA 94704.

## Publications

"Parents are Forever"  
Internationally acclaimed pamphlet used by Conciliation Court staff, family courts, lawyers, counselors and mediators to assist families in the divorce process. Pamphlet addresses custody and visitation issues and assists parents in using the divorce experience as an opportunity for growth. Cost -- \$.10 each.

"An Important Message to Step Parents"  
This pamphlet provides guidelines that will assist the blended family in working together. Cost -- \$.10 each.

"My Mom and Dad Are Getting a Divorce"  
Written by Florence Bienenfeld, an AFCC member and conciliation court counselor in Los Angeles, this colorfully illustrated book appeals to children whose parents are going through divorce and assists parents in understanding their children's feelings. Available for \$3.95 plus \$1.25 postage and handling from Changing Times Education Service, Division of EMC Publishing, 180 E. 6th Street, St. Paul, MN 55101. (800) 328-1452.

"Guidelines for Establishing Court Connected Counseling Service"  
A manual written for courts and individuals with helpful information regarding how to establish a court connected counseling service. Cost -- \$2.

"Joint Custody-A Handbook for Judges, Lawyers and Counselors"  
The purpose of the handbook is to provide a comprehensive exploration of the advantages and disadvantages of joint custody and to present some of the initial research findings. With this information, professionals can

begin to build a resource book that will assist in the best possible planning for parents and children experiencing divorce. The handbook is available at a cost of \$10, which includes third class postage. Orders can be placed by writing to the Association.

"Conference Materials: Divorce Mediation-Theory and Practice" The reading materials for AFCC's December, 1981 Conference in Fort Lauderdale, comprising some 250 pages, soft bound. They are an excellent collection of new articles about mediation, and are available from AFCC for \$12 per copy.

#### DIVORCE MEDIATION RESEARCH PROJECT SURVIVES FEDERAL BUDGET CUTS

The three year Divorce Mediation Research Project sponsored by the AFCC and directed by Dr. Jessica Pearson survived its first budget crisis when the program funding was cut for years two and three of the project. After an extensive letter and phone campaign the funds were reinstated and the project resumed data collection. Couples in the divorce process have been contacted at the three court connected sites, Los Angeles, Minnesota and Connecticut and questionnaires have been distributed to public and private agencies and individuals to gather descriptive information regarding mediation programs for the forthcoming Divorce Mediation Resource Directory. Nancy Thoeness, Research Coordinator, reported on the research project during the mid-winter meeting in Ft. Lauderdale.

#### PROGRAM ASSISTANCE

AFCC, through President Frank Orlando, provided consultation to develop a two day workshop in Jacksonville FL, Feb 1 & 2 entitled Children of Divorce: Critical Issues & Interventions, Helping Create New Family Systems. It is sponsored by the Jacksonville Child Guidance Clinic, NASW Florida Chapter Northeast Unit and Baptist Medical Center. AFCC arranged for participation as presentors of Judge Rosemary Barkett, Circuit Judge, Palm Beach, FL and Ilene Vinikoor, Director of the Family Conciliation Unit of Broward County, Fort Lauderdale FL.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mel Morgenbessen, University of Wisconsin School of Social Work and Nadine Nehls, University of Wisconsin School of Nursing, have authored a new book, Joint Custody: an Alternative for Divorcing Families. \$13.95 plus \$2.00 shippingm Nelson-Hall Publishers 111 N. Canal St. Chicago Il 60606.

New Position: Director, Morris County NJ Family Mediation and Conciliation Service. Minimum requirements: Masters degree in a behavioral science and five years experience of which two were in an administrative or supervisory position in a comparable program. The program, a joint effort between Morristown Memorial Hospital and the Morris County Judiciary, will develop a service to mediate custody and visitation disputes. Send resumes and salary history, in confidence to: Phyllis Dalglish, Employment Manager, Morristown Memorial Hospital, 100 Madison Ave., Morristown NJ 07960

AFCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors met during the mid-winter meeting of the AFCC. Stan Cohen, Chairperson of the Long Range Planning Committee reported that this committee was established to recommend long range goals for the Association and to suggest means for their implementation. Dr. Cohen reported that the committee met previous to the Board meeting and is recommending that AFCC encourage the development of chapters within the Association. California has already become the first chapter of AFCC and other areas have expressed interest. The California chapter has sponsored several institutes to assist with the implementation of the mandatory mediation statute. The Association will be developing further guidelines for chapters, application procedure, seed money funding, dues structure, etc. Further information may be obtained by contacting the Executive Director, Larry Hyde, 3100 SW 9th Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33315.

It was also the recommendation of the Long Range Planning Committee, subsequently adopted by the Board, that the Association move toward sponsoring one annual conference in the spring, supplemented by regional meetings to replace the mid-winter conference and that the Executive Committee meet three times per year for the purpose of conducting Association business. Due to the growth of the Association and the expanded duties of the Executive Director, the Board endorsed the Association's consideration of a full-time Executive Director by January, 1983.

The Board further endorsed a membership recruitment and public relations effort by establishing the position of Field Secretary. The Board's executive committee has selected Ann Milne of Madison, Wisconsin to fill the position and Ann has begun her duties as of January 1, 1982. This position will be under the supervision of the Executive Director. The Board approved the publication of two additional pamphlets "Joint Custody: A New Way of Being related" and "How to Help Children Deal With Divorce: Twenty Questions Divorcing Parents Ask."

Dr. Stanley Cohen's resignation as Director of Technical Assistance became final December 31, 1981 and the Board voted its appreciation for the work that Dr. Cohen has done in assisting with the dissemination of information regarding court connected counseling services. The responsibility of providing technical assistance to individual courts and agencies will be transferred to the Executive Director.

Judge Betty Barteau reported on the successful conference and preconference in Indianapolis in May, 1981. Jeanne Ames discussed the upcoming conference May 19-22, 1982 in San Francisco and noted that they anticipate a large attendance and encouraged people to register early. The next Board meeting and election of officers will be held at the annual meeting May, 1982 in San Francisco.

AFCC MID-WINTER MEETING ON MEDIATION

Over 170 people attended the AFCC mid-winter meeting December 2-5, 1981 at the Marriott Hotel in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. The theme "Divorce Mediation - Theory and Practice" provided the opportunity for conference participants to focus on alternative means of resolving family and divorce issues. Ann Milne, Field Researcher for the Divorce Mediation Research Project presented an overview of current approaches to divorce mediation around the country. A panel consisting of Hugh McIsaac, Director of the Los Angeles Conciliation Court, Judge Philip Knight, Dade County, Florida, Jerome Weinstein, Director of the Divorce Resource and Mediation Center, Cambridge, Mark Lohman, Mediator in private practice, Great Falls, Virginia, Attorney Joseph Steinberg, Hartford, Connecticut and Lois Gold, Director of Family Mediation Center, Portland, discussed their practice, setting and approaches to mediation. Emily Brown, Director of the Divorce and Marital Stress Clinic, Alington, Virginia and Professor Frank Sander, Harvard Law School presented on the clinical and legal aspects of mediation, respectively. Ethical concerns and issues were highlighted by John Haynes author of Divorce Mediation: A Practical Guide for Therapists and Counselors and Professor of Law NYU Linda Silberman. Research findings were discussed by Professor Kenneth Kressel, Rutgers, Dr. Jessica Pearson, Project Director of the AFCC's Divorce Mediation Research Project and Nancy Thonness, Research Coordinator. Robert Coulson, President of the American Arbitration Association and Judge Nancy Ann Holman, Seattle, presented on arbitration. Isolina Ricci, author of Mom's House, Dad's House, spoke about the after effects of divorce mediation. Conference participants also attended a choice of workshops on court connected and private mediation programs, financial techniques and approaches, drafting and approving agreements, custody mediation and joint custody. John Haynes conducted a half day training program on mediation techniques and skills.

The conference was well covered by the media locally and nationally by the ABC program, "20/20". All in all the weather was lovely, the hotel was comfortable and everyone seemed to enjoy the opportunity to socialize and learn in Florida.

Conference Tapes:

Audio tapes of the mid-winter meeting are available from the Conferencecorder. 3901 Meadows Drive, Suite B-1, Indianapolis, Indiana 46205. (317) 547-8273.

Conference Materials:

The reading materials for the mid-winter meeting are available at \$12.00 per set from AFCC in Fort Lauderdale.

Judge Erwin Fleet, Chairman of the Florida Conference of Circuit Judges, addressed the following letter to Judge Frank Orlando, AFCC President:

Dear Frank:

Thank you very much for having afforded me the opportunity to appear on the program of the AFCC Winter Meeting in Ft. Lauderdale and to make a few opening remarks on behalf of the Florida Conference of Circuit Judges.

I am advised by those Circuit Judges who were in attendance that it was an excellent meeting and they were greatly impressed by the quality of the program and the contents of the subject matters discussed.

I am advised by Judge John Upchurch that our Educational Meeting in May will provide for consideration of some of the items which were on the agenda at your winter meeting.

Again, thank you for allowing me to be on your program and I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Sincerely,

Erwin Fleet,  
Chairman

RESEARCH PROJECT: ESTABLISHING AND FUNDING COURT SERVICES

The Association and Nova Univ. Law School plan to compile and publish information about the methods which have been utilized to establish and fund court counseling services for families.

This announcement is a call to our members and friends to send copies of statutes, ordinances, rules of courts which have authorized or mandated these services, along with information as to all funding sources, formal and informal, relating to such services.

The collected information will be organized by the Association and a descriptive article will be published about the results. In addition, we will have created a repository for the data, making it available to others.

Please, this week send information about your jurisdiction to Laurance Hyde, AFCC, c/o Nova Univ. Law Center, 3100 SW 9th Ave. Ft. Lauderdale FL 33315.

MEDIATION AND LEGAL ETHICS

AFCC Member Felicity Lavelle, Director of the mediation program in Concord, NH, writes that a sub-committee of the New Hampshire Bar Association is reviewing a decision which would make it unethical for a lawyer to act as a mediator in a

divorce case. She requests information as to what has occurred in other state bar associations and offers to share experience.

Write to her (copy to AFCC is requested) and we will, with her help, use the newsletter to disseminate the information. Write to her at New Hampshire Mediation Program, Inc. 88 North Main Street, Concord NH 03301.

ANNUAL AFCC CONFERENCE

San Francisco, May 19-22, 1982

Sheraton Palace Hotel

"Pattern and Perspectives: The 21st Century Family".

Among the many outstanding speakers who will make presentations during the conference will be the Hon. Michael Ballachey, Hon. Donald King, Hon. Billy Mills, Mr. Sam Kagel, Mr. Lawrence Stotter, Mr. Harold Lipset, Ms. Isolina Ricci, Dr. Judith Wallerstein, Dr. Dorothy Huntington, Dr. Joan Kelly, Dr. Susan Steinman, Dr. Richard Wolman and Ms. Keith Taylor.

Advance registration Fee is \$125 for member of AFCC and \$150 for non members. The difference may be applied to membership dues. For further information and, if you are a non member, to get on the mailing list to receive a copy of the program, write to: Family Court Services, Room 463, City Hall, San Francisco CA 95102.

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