Overview

The Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) seeks a new editor for its quarterly academic and research journal, *Family Court Review (FCR)*.

AFCC is the premier interdisciplinary and international association of professionals dedicated to the resolution of family conflict. AFCC members are the leading practitioners, researchers, teachers and policymakers in the family court arena.

*FCR* is an interdisciplinary journal at the intersection of policy, research and practice that supports the mission of AFCC. *FCR* has over 5,000 subscribers worldwide. It had over 120,000 full text downloads in 2013. It is included in the Wiley Online Library (Wiley Blackwell serves as *FCR*’s publisher). In 2013, there were 3,665 institutions that purchased licenses to Wiley journals that included access to *FCR* and 5,217 institutions in developing countries with access to *FCR* at low or no cost via philanthropic initiatives. *FCR* is also included in the legal databases of Westlaw and Lexis. It is cited regularly in court decisions, including those of the United States Supreme Court, and has influenced court rules and legislation on family law policy and practice. *FCR* publishes practice guidelines developed by AFCC interdisciplinary task forces, as well as symposium issues based on themes developed jointly with AFCC.

AFCC seeks to appoint a new editor who will maintain *FCR*’s current organization, in which a law school faculty member serves as editor in chief and the editor-in-chief’s law school serves as its sponsoring institution. *FCR* also has an associate editor for social science who is an expert in areas relating to family courts and family law. The editor-in-chief supervises a law student staff which performs editorial work on the articles in the journal and researches and writes student notes, some of which are published in the journal. The editor-in-chief commissions special issues of *FCR* and coordinates the review process of submitted articles by the editorial advisory board.

The five-year term of the new editor will begin in July 2016. Editorial responsibilities in collaboration with the current *FCR* Editor will, however, begin in June 2015 following the AFCC Annual Conference to ensure a smooth transition.

The preliminary application process is described below. Preliminary materials are due by January 31, 2015. The search committee anticipates interviewing finalists immediately prior to the AFCC Annual Conference on May 27, 2015, in New Orleans and making the selection of a new editor shortly thereafter.
More detail on *FCR*, the responsibilities of the editor-in-chief, and the application process follow below.

**Journal Description**

*FCR*’s articles and special issues are concerned with all aspects of family law, family courts and the resolution of family disputes. *FCR* has historically placed an emphasis on publication of articles that advance practice innovations in family court including mediation, parent education, child custody evaluations, and parent coordination. Many of *FCR*’s special issues, noted above, originate in projects to improve practice or reports whose focus is identified jointly with AFCC. These special issues are often derived from input of the FCR Editorial Board, which meets yearly at the AFCC Annual conference.

As an interdisciplinary journal, *FCR* publishes contributions from the fields of law, court administration, mental health, medicine, the behavioral and social sciences, dispute resolution, education, public policy and other disciplines concerned with the welfare of children and families who come into contact with the family law system and/or family conflict. Types of articles published include thoughtful perspectives on the family court system, empirical research with clear implications for policy and practice, legal articles, articles that merge law and social science and descriptive articles of practice innovations. International perspectives on these topics are strongly encouraged and regularly published. In addition, *FCR* regularly publishes law student notes on topics of interest to student authors, which are edited by the editor-in-chief and student editors.

*FCR* publishes article submissions that are reviewed for publication suitability and quality by the editorial advisory board. Special issues are edited by guest editors who solicit and edit the work of interdisciplinary authors on topics such as family law education reform, family court reform, collaborative law, unbundled legal services, domestic violence, alienated children in divorce and separation, foster care reform, school discipline policies, attachment theory in family law, and parenting after divorce and separation.

**Responsibilities of *FCR*’s Editor**

The editor is appointed by the AFCC Board of Directors on the recommendation of the AFCC search committee. Board action is required to renew or to terminate any contractual arrangement.

The editor is responsible for the content of *FCR* and administration and management of its editorial process. The editor ensures that the content of *FCR* supports the mission of AFCC and meets the needs of AFCC members and *FCR* subscribers. The editor functions autonomously from the AFCC Board and Executive Director and makes decisions about what articles are published in *FCR*, journal staffing and management, peer review processes and the role of the associate editor.

However, the editor is expected to maintain open lines of communication and collaborate with the AFCC Executive Director. The editor reports to the AFCC Executive Director.
regarding issues related to managerial, operational, financial and administrative matters related to the AFCC contract with Wiley Blackwell.

The selected editor, the editor’s sponsoring institution and AFCC, will enter into a written agreement to adhere to the following principles:

- overseeing the work of the associate editor for social science;
- commissioning special issues of *FCR* on relevant topics and identifying editors and potential authors for articles for special issues in collaboration with the special issue editors;
- establishing and maintaining high standards for articles published in *FCR*;
- selecting and training a qualified editorial board representing the diversity of disciplines that publish in *FCR*;
- ensuring that submitted manuscripts receive fair and timely reviews by qualified reviewers;
- identifying, managing, training and supervising the work of *FCR*’s law student staff;
- supervising student notes published in *FCR*;
- writing brief editorial notes for each issue; and
- ensuring that each issue of *FCR* is presented to the publisher on time and that each volume is within the page limits set by the publisher and AFCC.

**Editorial Office Organization**

**AFCC** will provide:

- an editorial stipend;
- a travel stipend to attend the editorial board meeting at the AFCC Annual Conference; and
- facilities for the annual meeting of the *FCR* Editorial Board at the AFCC Annual Conference.

**Sponsoring Institution** will provide:

- appropriate release time to the editor from normal duties in each of the five years of the editorial term, as negotiated by the editor and the host institution;
- administrative and material support for the selection process of the law student staff for a sufficient number of staff members to produce a high quality journal;
- appropriate academic credit for the law student staff of *FCR*; and
- office space, equipment, technical support etc. for the editor and the law student staff.

**Wiley Blackwell Publishing** will provide:

- production for *FCR*;
order fulfillment;
marketing for FCR;
a journal website for access to online journals; and
copy editing services.

QUALIFICATIONS

• tenured or tenure equivalent professor at a law school;
• record of publication and teaching emphasizing family law and family courts
• commitment to the mission of AFCC and its membership;
• current membership in AFCC;
• knowledge and understanding of interdisciplinary approaches to advancing the field of family law and family courts;
• interest in the process of managing and publishing an academic journal, with experience preferred;
• desire and ability to work with and supervise a law student staff and an editorial board;
• organizational ability, energy, creativity and initiative; and
• respect for interdisciplinary collaboration and a track record of working across disciplines.

PRELIMINARY APPLICATION SUPPORTING MATERIALS

1. Please submit a letter of application addressing:
   a. Why are you interested in becoming the editor of FCR?
   b. What are your qualifications and assets as potential editor of FCR?
   c. What do you expect to achieve in your term as editor?
   d. How will your work as editor support the mission of AFCC?
   e. What do you view as FCR’s strengths and how do you intend to preserve and build on them?
   f. What do you view as FCR’s weaknesses and what changes would you make to address them?
   g. What topics would you like to see FCR provide more attention to in the future?
   h. What strategies would you use to attract special issue editors, quality manuscripts and potential authors?
   i. Describe how you envision the relationship working between the editor and the associate editor for social science.
   j. Describe how you envision the relationship between the editor and the editorial advisory board.
   k. Describe how you would supervise the law student staff.
   l. Describe your leadership experience and leadership styles.

2. Curriculum vitae, publications list and list of presentations at professional conferences.
3. Three letters of reference addressing your qualifications as editor.

4. Documentation of institutional support from your law school for your service as editor as described above.

PLEASE SUBMIT THE ABOVE MATERIALS ELECTRONICALLY TO BY JANUARY 31, 2015 TO psalem@afccnet.org