Overview

The Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) seeks an editor-in-chief 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 is included in the legal databases of Westlaw and Lexis. It is cited regularly in court decisions 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. Wiley-Blackwell serves as *FCR*’s publisher.

AFCC seeks to appoint an editor-in-chief who will work with *FCR*’s managing editor and law student staff based at Hofstra University School of Law. *FCR* also has a social science editor who is an expert in areas relating to social science research, family courts and family law. The social science editor oversees the peer review process for social science submissions in collaboration with the managing editor.

The editor-in-chief facilitates the overall review process and oversees the selection of articles with primarily legal content. The editor-in-chief also has final authority and responsibility for the content of FCR. The managing editor, based at Hofstra University School of Law, is responsible for managing the day to day process of publishing *FCR* and supervises the Hofstra law student staff.

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 the 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, described 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 Advisory 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/topics 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.

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.

The process of publishing the journal is supervised by a managing editor who is based at the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University. The managing editor is affiliated with Hofstra University’s Center for Children, Families and the Law. The managing editor supervises the work of the Hofstra Law student staff which includes editing and cite checking articles selected for publication. In addition, the managing editor is responsible for supervising the creation of student notes on topics of interest to student authors. Approximately two such student notes are published in each issue of FCR. They are edited by the Hofstra law faculty and the Hofstra law student staff.

**Responsibilities of FCR’s Editor-in-chief**

The editor-in-chief is appointed by the AFCC Board of Directors on the recommendation of the AFCC Executive Committee. Board action is required to renew or terminate any contractual arrangement. The editor is paid an annual stipend.

The editor-in-chief is responsible for the content of FCR and collaborates with the managing editor regarding administration and management of the FCR editorial process and the process of preparing student notes. The editor-in-chief 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, peer review processes and the role of the social science editor.
However, the editor is expected to maintain open lines of communication and collaborate with the AFCC Executive Director. The AFCC Executive Director oversees issues related to managerial, operational, financial and administrative matters related to the AFCC contract with Wiley-Blackwell.

The selected editor-in-chief and AFCC will enter into a written agreement that includes the following principles:

- collaborating with the social science editor for social science on editorial policy, the peer review process and article selection
- commissioning special issues of FCR on relevant topics and identifying editors and potential authors for articles for such special issues in collaboration with the special issue editors
- establishing and maintaining high standards for the 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
- collaborating with the managing editor in managing the publication process for FCR and identifying, managing, training and supervising the work of FCR’s law student staff
- collaborating with the Hofstra law faculty who supervise law student notes published in FCR
- planning and chairing the editorial board meeting every year at the AFCC annual conference.
- writing brief editorial notes for each issue
- ensuring that the managing editor presents FCR to the publisher on time and that each volume is within the page limits set by the publisher and AFCC;

EDITOR 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
- an understanding of the process of publishing an academic journal
- desire and ability to work with a law student staff, an editorial team and an editorial board
- organizational ability, energy, creativity, initiative and a collaborative approach
- 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 will you use to attract special issue editors, quality manuscripts and potential authors?
   i. Describe how you envision the relationship between the editor and the editorial advisory board.
   j. Describe how you envision the relationship between the editor-in-chief, the social science editor and the managing editor.
   k. Describe your leadership experience and leadership styles.

2. Curriculum vitae, publications list and list of presentations at professional conferences.

3. Three professional references.

PLEASE SUBMIT THE ABOVE MATERIALS ELECTRONICALLY TO psalem@afccnet.org BY February 1, 2016.