



NEWSLETTER

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

An international association of judges, counselors, court evaluators, mediators, and lawyers

Volume 5, Number 1
Winter, 1986

Co-Editors, Stanley N. Cohen
Ann Milne

AFCC GOES TO BOSTON . . .

The Copley Plaza Hotel, The Grande Dame of Boston, will serve as the site for AFCC's 1986 annual meeting May 21-24, 1986. The theme Creating New Partnerships in Serving Families, will serve as the stimulus for AFCC's presentation of a new montage narrated by Attorney Thomas Bishop, "Chaos in the Court - The Dysfunctional Family." Presentations and workshops will feature a range of topics including provocative issues such as gay parenting, cults and religions, step parent/grandparent visitation, dispute resolution alternatives, family finances, intra and extra-family disputes and court sponsored public education programs. Presenters include Dr. Dorothy Huntington, Professors Robert Mnookin, Frank Sander and Jay Folberg, Doctors

Robert Weiss, Craig Everett, Jessica Pearson, Isolina Ricci and Gay Kitson, and Hugh McIsaac and Ann Milne. Register early on the enclosed registration coupon.

AND LONDON

AFCC's Boston conference theme, Creating New Partnerships in Serving Families will set the stage for a post conference educational trip to London to exchange program ideas with Family Court personnel and others interested in the field of domestic relations. Our successful exchange with New Zealand and Australian colleagues has spurred our enthusiasm for this program with

our "Partners" across the Atlantic, the National Family Conciliation Council. Four participants will leave Boston on Saturday, May 24, 1986 and arrive in London Sunday, May 25th. The two day program, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 27-28 will provide an opportunity to formally and informally share program ideas and practices. Although tour package costs have not been finalized, it is anticipated that airfare, lodging, and ground transportation can be arranged for \$700 for the week. Optional extensions and excursions can be arranged. To receive more information about this inexpensive educational (tax deductible) and travel opportunity, contact Bob Tompkins, 28 Grand Street, Hartford, CT 06106 (203) 566-8187.

Vermont Conference Precedes Boston

The Role of Mediation in Divorce Proceedings - A Comparative Perspective will be the theme of a conference sponsored by the Vermont Law School Dispute Resolution Project and the New York University Law School May 19-20, 1986 at the Radisson Hotel in Burlington, Vermont. This conference immediately precedes AFCC's annual meeting. A discounted dual registration of \$160 is available for those attending both meetings. This Trans-Atlantic conference will include participants from the United Kingdom, Canada and the U.S. Further information may be obtained from conference coordinator John P. McCrory, Vermont Law School, P.O. Box 96, Chelsea Street, South Royalton, VT 05068, (802) 763-8303.

Development Fund Established

The Board of Directors of AFCC has approved the establishment of a Development Fund to receive donations from AFCC members and others. The Development Fund will assist in securing grants and funds from foundations and other contributors for AFCC's expanded activities including providing technical assistance to courts who lack the ability to financially contract for these services. All donations will be dedicated toward raising further revenue for these activities and are tax deductible.

The AFCC Newsletter is published four times a year in January, April, July and October. News items should be sent by the 15th of the month preceding publication to Newsletter Editor, Ann L. Milne, 314 E. Mifflin Street, Madison, WI 53703, (608) 251-0604.

REMINDER

AFCC Dues statements were mailed December 1985 and are due by February 1, 1986. If you have not received your statement or your address, phone or title have changed, please contact the Executive Director's Office, c/o OHSU, Department of Psychiatry, Gaines Hall, Rm. 149, 3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Road, Portland, OR 97201, (503) 220 5651.

San Diego Conference Honors Meyer Elkin

AFCC's winter meeting, in cooperation with Southwood Psychiatric Centers, was held December 12-14, 1985 at Vacation Village. A pre-conference workshop for judges on judicial alternatives to domestic litigation was moderated by Unified Family Court Judge John VanDuzer. Dr. Joan Kelly and panelists Judge Thomas Murphy, Judge Anthony Joseph, Ann Milne and Attorney Marge Wagner addressed the conference theme, "Children, Divorce and Society - Reflections on the System." Other panels discussed emerging practices and issues in family dispute resolution, children in court, child abuse and protection, narcissistic/borderline couples, custody evaluations, mediation training, techniques for empowerment in mediation,

parental kidnapping, interface between private mediation and the courts and an international view of the courts. A special thank you is sent to Murray Bloom and the Conference Committee for their warm hospitality. Audio cassettes may be ordered from Audio/Video Cassette Recording, 1958 Sunset Cliffs Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92109, (619) 223-2638.

A highlight of the conference was the awards luncheon honoring past-president and Conciliation Courts Review Editor, Meyer Elkin. Judge Norman Fenton presented Mr. Elkin and his wife, Ruth, with a plaque noting his contributions to families. The inscription is printed here as a tribute to Mr. Elkin as a founding member of AFCC.

Special Leadership and Humanitarian Award TO HON. MEYER ELKIN

"In grateful appreciation and recognition for his creative leadership and pioneering contributions for over twenty years in helping to preserve and strengthen the American family through his foresight and vision, including the creation and development of Court-connected Marriage and Family Counseling and Mediation Services.

A sensitive, kind and gentle giant of a man who has dedicated his life to helping others ease their pain and to give them hope."

Executive and Board Meeting Highlights

The Executive Committee of AFCC met at Patrick Phear's summer home on Martha's Vineyard October 25-27, 1985. Past President, Jay Folberg, served as chair and summarized the meeting for the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee is charged with reviewing policy and goals of the organization and decision making between Board meetings. Although our membership has grown to include members beyond those who work directly for the court, it was the consensus of the Executive Committee that court connected services provide the nexus of the organization. This focus does not preclude the growing body of individuals who provide supportive services for the court and to families. The expansion of the role of the Executive Director to a half time position has allowed AFCC to further expand its activities. It was the consensus of the Executive Committee that further expansion requires an increase in our revenue base which may not be met solely by an increase in membership and membership dues. Consequently, it was the Executive Committee's recommendation that the Executive Director focus on fundraising activities through the exploration of increased donations, grants and technical assistance and for the Board of Directors and the committees of the Board to take on more active roles. AFCC's first Vice President, Hugh McIsaac, will serve as coordinator of committees and assist in monitoring and providing support for committee activities.

The Budget and Financial Reports presented the choice between a deficit and a balanced budget. In order for AFCC to continue at its present level of activity, AFCC will have to increase revenue. Films, publications and technical assistance have provided significant financial support for the Association. Additional fundraising will be directed toward donations, foundations, grants and technical assistance. A Development Fund has been established to accept tax deductible donations.

The Membership Committee, chaired by Lee Parker, set forth a plan of action to increase membership in 1986. This aggressive membership drive requires the support of existing members with recruitment efforts. The Membership Committee is asking each member to recruit at least one new member.

The Conference Committee, co-chaired by Jeanne Ames and Russ Schoeneman, has completed a comprehensive conference manual and procedural outline for seeking and accepting conference invitations. Invitations to host an AFCC conference may be directed to the committee. Invitations have been accepted and approved by the Board for the following locations: May 1986 - Boston; December 1986 - Ft. Lauderdale; May 1987 - Honolulu, (with a possible post conference trip to China); December 1987 - Las Vegas; May 1988 (25th Anniversary) - Los Angeles.

The Conciliation Courts Review will be indexed by publications Chairperson, Phil Bushard. The index will provide a comprehensive listing of all articles beginning with Volume 1, published in 1963 and will facilitate citations and dissemination of articles. Mr. Bushard has also proposed that a Directory of Conciliation and Family Courts be added to our publications.

The Custody Evaluation Committee forwarded the draft of Guidelines for Court Connected Child Custody Evaluations to the Executive Committee for final review. The Guide was prepared by Philip Bushard, Jocelyn Gifford, Kathleen Jeffords, Beverly Morgan Sandoz, Karen Raiford and Ellen Rudd Scott. This guide will be a helpful resource to court services in providing comprehensive custody evaluations.

The Technical Assistance Committee, Co-chaired by Patrick Phear and Sarah Feeney, continues to work with courts who request assistance in establishing and improving services. AFCC members who are interested in serving as faculty for TA programs should forward a resume and outline of areas of expertise to Patrick Phear 264 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02116 (617) 267 3590.

The Board approved the contract with Stanley Cohen as Executive Director for 1986. The election of members to the Board of Directors will take place during AFCC's 1986 meeting. Members interested in serving on the Board should forward a resume to Nominations Committee Chair Gerald Lecovin, #300 896 Cambie Street, Vancouver, BC Canada V6B27P, (604) 687-1721.

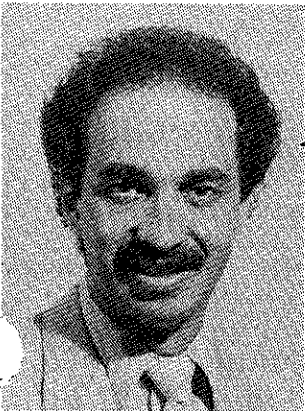
MEMBER PROFILE



Linda Hahn

Linda Hahn attended her first AFCC conference this past December and enjoyed the opportunity to meet fellow professionals who share her work interests. She has been employed as a Family Court Counselor, providing custody evaluation and mediation services for the past nine years with the Dallas Family Court Services. She has written a brochure on "Tips for Good Visits" which is distributed free of charge to clients and other professionals. Linda and a colleague, Sue O'Hara, serve as the unofficial speaker's bureau for

Family Court Services on such topics as "Causes of Divorce" and "Helping Your Child Cope with Divorce." For the past two years, Linda has served as the Chair of the Professional Development Committee for the Dallas Association of Marriage and Family Therapists. Together with her husband of 22 years, she is able to pursue her interest in problem prevention for families by leading marriage enrichment programs through the church. We're pleased you were able to join us in San Diego and look forward to seeing you and your co-workers at future conferences!



Donald Strangio

Donald Strangio knows what family is all about. Don grew up in the central valley of California in an Italian family with six children and assorted aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents. Don received his master's degree in counseling psychology in 1976 from UC-Santa Barbara and expects to receive his doctorate this May from the University of San Francisco. He's been employed in the mental health field for the past ten years. Don began providing child custody mediation in 1981 when mediation became mandatory in California. In 1984 he was hired as Coordinator of Family Court Services for the Superior Court of Stanislaus County. He and his staff handle 50-60 custody mediations each month. Don has attended several AFCC meetings and participated in AFCC's post conference tour to New Zealand and Australia. Don's research and dissertation should be of great interest to AFCC members. He's looking at characteristics of over 200 parents associated with and antecedent to successful mediation, parents who seek and obtain custody, types of custody arrangements and the ability to reach agreement without litigation. We hope you'll share your findings with us in the near future.

Conference Registration

Complete form and make check payable to 1986 Annual Conference, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. Mail to: Anthony J. Salius, Director, Family Division - Superior Court, 28 Grand Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Registration Fees: \$125.00 (if received prior to March 1, 1986)
 \$150.00 (if received after March 1, 1986)
 \$65.00 Spouse or Guest
 \$65.00 Student (with photocopy of current ID)

Please print or type:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State/Province _____ County _____ Zip _____

Affiliation: _____

No. of Persons _____ Phone: _____ Amount Enclosed _____

HOTEL REGISTRATION

Should you desire direct billing, a written request must be forwarded to the Credit Manager 30 days in advance of your arrival.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET --
 MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE
 TO THE COPLEY PLAZA, COPLEY SQUARE, BOSTON
 PLEASE DO NOT SEND CURRENCY.

**Association of Family and Conciliation Courts
 Twenty-Third Annual Conference
 May 21-24, 1986**

NAME _____ COMPANY _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY/STATE/ZIP _____ PHONE () _____
 SHARING ROOM WITH _____ Please indicate if room will be shared by a third adult; (over age 18) if so an additional charge will prevail.

Reservations are considered tentative and subject to cancellation seven days prior to arrival, unless guaranteed by one night's advance deposit, American Express card, Diners Club card, or Carte Blanche card.

Card # _____ Expiration date _____

I understand that I am liable for one night's room and tax which will be deducted from my deposit, or billed through my credit card in the event that I do not arrive on the date indicated, or cancel 48 hours prior to arrival. A code number is required for verification of cancellation.

Signature _____

No. of Rooms	Please circle preferred rate below:			
	Accommodations	Standard	Superior	Deluxe
_____	SINGLE (One Person)	\$85.00	\$ 98.00	\$114.00
_____	DOUBLE (Two Persons)	\$99.00	\$114.00	\$129.00
_____	SUITE (1 Bedroom)		\$200.00	

Arrival Date _____
 Departure Date _____
 Number of Nights _____
 (Checkout by 1:00 p.m.) (Check-in at 3:00 p.m.)
 RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
 April 23, 1986

If rate requested is not available, nearest available rate will be assigned.
 All rooms subject to 9.7% tax. All Rates Are Net Rates.
 TOLL FREE: 800-225-7654 TELEX: 951858



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 617-267-5300

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

March 2-4, 1986

**National Association for Court Management
Mid-year Meeting**

Las Vegas, NY

Contact: Director for Secretariat Services,
National Center for State Courts

State Courts

300 Newport Avenue

Williamsburg, VA 23187

(804) 253-2000

March 2-5, 1986

Child Support in the Courts

Denver, CO

Contact: Institute for Court Management
Suite 402

1331 17th Street

Denver, CO 80202

(303) 534-3063

March 6-9, 1986

Second Annual Parenting Symposium

Sponsored by the Family Resource Coalition
and the International Society for Research
in Parenting

Philadelphia, PA

Contact: Parenting Symposium

P.O. Box 1344

Oak Brook, IL 60522

March 15-16, 1986

**Training in Step-Family Therapy with
Emily and John Visher**

Newport Beach, CA

Contact: Step Family Assn. of America

California State Division

20902 S. Brookhurst, Suite 107

Huntington Beach, CA 92646

(714) 964-3030

March 18-21, 1986

**Child Welfare League of America Children
'86 National Conference Washington, D.C.**

Contact: CWLA Center for Governmental
Affairs

440 First Street, N.W., Suite 520

Washington, D.C. 20001

(202) 638-CWLA

March 22-24, 1986

**Family Law Procedures Institute and Family
Court Services**

Holiday Inn, Monterey, CA

Contact: Hugh McIsaac

Room 241, 111 N. Hill Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

(213) 974-5524

April 7-9, 1986

Celebrate the Family

University Park, PA

Contact: Pennsylvania State University

306 Agricultural Administration Building

University Park, PA 16802

April 7-11, 1986

**Mental Health Research: Significance for
Clinical Practice & Social Policy**

63rd Annual Meeting

American Orthopsychiatric Association

Chicago Hyatt Regency

Contact: American Orthopsychiatric Assn.

19 W. 44th Street, Suite 1616

New York, NY 10036

(212) 354-5770

April 17-19, 1986

**American Judges Association Mid-year
Meeting**

Dallas, TX

Contact: Director of Secretariat Services

National Center for State Courts

300 Newport Avenue

Williamsburg, VA 23187

(804) 253-2000

April 26-29, 1986

Divorce Mediation Training Basic Workshop

Contact: Dr. Carl Schneider

Divorce Mediation Institute, Suite 111

1580 N. Northwest Highway

Park Ridge, IL 60068

(312) 696-6023

May 19-20, 1986

**The Role of Mediation in Divorce
Proceedings - A Comparative Prosp.**

Trans Atlantic Mediation Conference

Vermont Law School Dispute Resolution

Project & NY Univ. Law School Dispute

Resolution Assistance Center

Burlington, VT

Contact: John McCrory

Vermont Law School

P.O. Box 96, Chelsea Street

South Royalton, VT 05068

(802) 763-8303

May 21-24, 1986

**AFCC Annual Meeting Creating New
Partnerships in Serving Families**

Copley Plaza Hotel,

Boston Contact: Tim Salius

28 Grand Street

Hartford, CT 06106

(203) 566-8187

May 27-28, 1986

AFCC's Post-Conference London Exchar

Contact: Bob Tompkins

London Conference Coordinator

28 Grand Street

Hartford, CT 06106

(203) 566-8187

June 3-8, 1986

**Peace Making & Conflict Resolution as a
Social Movement: Power, Justice and
Institution Building**

National Conference on Peace Making and

Conflict Resolution

Regency Hotel,

Denver, CO

Contact: Janet Rifkin

127 Hasbrook Hall

University of Massachusetts

Amherst, MA 01003

(413) 545-2462

October 23-26, 1986

**American Association of Marriage and
Family Therapists**



Association of Family and Conciliation Courts • Publication Order Form

Films/Video Tapes

Custody Resolution Counseling: Designed for training counselors in mediation techniques for family disputes concerning custody and visitation. Color, 45 minutes. Rental-\$40/5 days; Purchase-\$130.

A Family Affair: Designed to inform judges and other professionals of the legal remedies and implications regarding child abuse. This film is a gold medal winner. New York International Film and Television Festival (1982), First Prize winner, American Film Festival (1982) in its category. Gold Medal, National Council Family Relations (1983). Available in 16 mm or video cassette through VISUCOM Productions, Inc., 1255 Veterans Blvd., Redwood City, CA 94063. Rental-\$60/3 days; Purchase-\$450.

You're Still Mom and Dad: A sensitive portrayal of the issues of Joint Custody. Designed for parents, professionals, and others who wish to understand and implement this post-divorce parenting plan. Color, 38 minutes. Video Cassette: Rental-\$40/5 days; Purchase-\$100.

From This Day Forward: Three successfully mediated couples from a variety of backgrounds participate in an intensely personal discussion about their expectations, anxieties, resentments and misconceptions about divorce mediation. Each couple examines its past relationship, their modification during mediation and the rearranged parental relationship with their children.

For use in mediation orientation for clients and mediation training for family therapists, judges, lawyers and social workers. Previewed at the 1984 AFCC mid-Winter conference - Scottsdale. Color, 31 minutes; various video-tape formats. Available through Dr. Robert Klein, 120 Vassar SE, Suite 1-B, Albuquerque, NM., 87106. (505) 268-0022.

Publications

Joint Custody and Shared Parenting: Edited by Jay Folberg, Past President AFCC and Professor of Law at Lewis and Clark College, this book provides the reader with a compilation of writings that cut across the disciplines of law, social work, family therapy, and psychology. It presents a balanced debate on a sometimes volatile and difficult issue. The book's interdisciplinary approach enables judges, social workers and family therapists to benefit from its material. Royalty proceeds have been donated to AFCC by Jay Folberg. This book ordinarily is \$25. AFCC has a limited number available for purchase @ a 10% discount (\$22.50).

Guidelines for Establishing a Court Connected Counseling Service: A manual written for courts and individuals with helpful information regarding how to establish a court connected counseling service. \$2.00.

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, 300 York Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55101, (800)328-1452.

Divorce and Family Mediation: History, Review, Future Considerations: A monograph, published in the December, 1982 issue Conciliation Courts Review. This 45 page article presents a well researched history of the development of mediation in the field of divorce. \$2.00 each. Orders of ten or more, \$1.50 each.

Divorce Mediation Final Report: The findings of this AFCC sponsored project is now available in a bound volume. The project was under the direction of Dr. Jessica Pearson. The findings are presented in eleven extensive reports and is an important contribution to the field. Copies are available for \$25.00 by contacting Dr. Jessica Pearson, 1720 Emerson Street, Denver, CO 80218; (303) 837-1555.

Pamphlets

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.

An Important Message to Step Parents: This pamphlet provides guidelines that will assist the blended family in working together.

Joint Custody: A New Way of Being Related: This brochure provides guidelines for parents considering joint custody of their children and suggestions for what to include in a joint custody agreement.

Twenty Questions Divorcing Parents Ask About Their Children: This brochure answers 20 of the most commonly asked questions about how to help children adjust to divorce, such as "How can parents prepare children for divorce?" and "What kinds of things are especially damaging to children?"

Is Mediation for Us: This brochure has been developed to provide basic information about the use of mediation in resolving family conflict. Presented in a clear and concise manner, this pamphlet describes the mediation process to the potential consumer.

THE FOLLOWING MATERIAL IS AVAILABLE DIRECTLY THROUGH AFCC

	<u>Cost @</u>	<u>Total Number</u>	<u>Price</u>
Video Tapes			
Custody Resolution Counseling: Rental-\$40/5 days Purchase-\$130		_____	_____
You're Still Mom and Dad: Rental-\$40/5 days Purchase-\$100		_____	_____

Publications

Joint Custody and Shared Parenting/Folberg	\$22.50	_____	_____
Guidelines for Establishing Court-Connected Conciliation and Mediation Services	2.00	_____	_____
Divorce and Family Mediation: History, Review and Future/Brown	2.00	_____	_____
1984 AFCC Annual Conference Syllabus (Denver)	8.00	_____	_____
1984 AFCC Mid-winter Conference Syllabus (Scottsdale)	8.00	_____	_____

Pamphlets

"Parents are Forever"	\$.20	_____	_____
"An Important Message to Step Parents"	.20	_____	_____
"Twenty Questions Divorcing Parents Ask About Their Children"	.20	_____	_____
"Joint Custody: A New Way of Being Related"	.20	_____	_____
"Is Mediation for Us"	.20	_____	_____

(Pamphlet Orders over 1,000 -- \$.15 each)

POSTAGE INCLUDED IF ORDERS ARE PREPAID

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____

 PHONE _____

Checks payable in U.S. funds to:
 ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND
 CONCILIATION COURTS
 c/o OHSU, Dept. of Psychiatry
 Gaines Hall, Room 149
 3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road
 Portland, OR 97201
 (503) 220-5651

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Florida - The Governor's Commission on Child Support in its final report dated September 30, 1985 recommended that mediation be required as a first step in contested divorce, separation and support proceedings in which issues of custody, visitation or child support are raised by pleadings or petitions before or after final judgment and before parties are allowed to proceed with litigation. Whenever feasible, mediation is to be performed by a team of two persons, one having knowledge of relevant law and one having knowledge of the social and behavioral aspects of familial dissolution. It was recommended that filing fees for civil law suits be increased to provide for county mediation programs. Additional recommendations included removing the children from the adversarial process and if such removal is impossible, that they receive the protection of the court through the appointment of a trained guardian ad litem.

The Legislative Study Commission on Alternative Dispute Resolution has attempted to develop standards for all mediators and arbitrators in Florida. AFCC Past President Judge Frank Orlando co-chairs the Mediation Committee of the Florida Bar Family Law Section. He has been instrumental in providing draft language directed for referring disputed civil actions to a court mediator, procedures for scheduling and conducting mediation and quali-

fications for mediators. The draft received the approval of the Executive Council of the Florida Bar Family Law Sector. The draft includes language which holds confidential all verbal and written communications. These communications are deemed inadmissible in any subsequent legal proceeding and the mediator may not be called to testify except upon agreement by the parties. The chief judge of each judicial circuit shall appoint the mediators from a list of persons meeting a set of standards to be established by the Supreme Court.

Massachusetts - Section 23C, Chapter 233 of the General Laws was approved by both houses of the Legislature and approved by the Governor on October 1, 1985 providing for confidentiality of communications during mediation. A mediator is defined as a person "not a party to a dispute who enters into a written agreement with the parties to assist them in resolving their disputes and has completed at least thirty hours of training in mediation and who either has four years of professional experience as a mediator or is accountable to a dispute resolution organization which has been in existence for at least three years or one who has been appointed to mediate by a judicial or governmental body."

Illinois - Senate Bill 749 was approved by the Legislature to be

effective January 1, 1986. The act provides for securing the "maximum involvement and cooperation of both parents regarding the physical, mental and emotional well-being of the children during and after litigation." The court shall consider an award of joint custody upon the application of either or both parents or upon its own motion pursuant to a Joint Parenting Agreement or Joint Parenting Order. The agreement shall specify each parent's powers, rights and responsibility for the personal care of the child and for major decisions such as education, health care, and religious training and shall specify a procedure by which proposed changes, disputes and alleged breaches may be mediated or otherwise resolved.

Oklahoma - House Bill 1552, effective November 1, 1985, establishes a "Dispute Resolution Revolving Fund" for the Supreme Court to disseminate to applicants for dispute resolution. Monies will be secured through the use of docket and user fees. An additional two dollars will be assessed for filing civil claims and an initiation fee of five dollars will be charged upon the request for mediation services. A representative fifteen member Dispute Resolution Advisory Board will be appointed by the Supreme Court to assist with the development of rules and regulations and future legislation concerning this act.

Miscellaneous Notes

Unified Family Court Judge John VanDuzer of Hamilton, Ontario Canada married Joan Wansborough on September 13, 1985. Judge and Mrs. VanDuzer attended AFCC's San Diego meeting, providing many of us with an opportunity to give them our best wishes.

AFCC Treasurer Thomas Bishop spent three weeks in China this fall with 20 other attorneys from the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers hosted by the Chinese Ministry of Justice. The group met with officials from the Ministry of Justice, and with China's Chief Family Planning Officer and attended a divorce trial in the Peoples' Court for the Chang Tong District of Shanghai. Mediation permeates Chinese society from domestic to community relations. There are approximately 500,000 divorces granted annually and most couples are not represented by legal counsel as there are only 20,000 lawyers in

China. Scarcity of lawyers does not account for this. Rather, mediation committees, comprised primarily of neighborhood volunteers, resolve most disputes. Mediation Committee members not only assist with the resolution of disputes but also follow up with disputants to assure that agreements are being carried out.

AFCC members Tim Salius, Patrick Phear, Margaret Shaw, Chris Moore, Eileen Shaevel, and Jay Folberg participated in the Thirteenth Annual SPIDR conference held in Boston in October.

Judge Frank Hennessey, Isolina Ricci and Stanley Cohen joined Salius and Phear in a pre conference workshop on court-connected services at the AAMFT conference in New York in October.

Ten staff members from the Philadelphia court service received mediation training from Tim Salius and Patrick Phear. The training was organized by AFCC Board member Judge Edward Rosenberg.

Publications

Confidentiality in Mediation: A Practitioner's Guide is a collection of articles, sample program policies and forms, legal opinions, and briefs, motions and orders on confidentiality. These articles help to explain dimensions of the issue and possible long run solutions, while the legal documents can be of immediate practical use as models for urgent court filings, 320 pp., \$18.50.

Divorce Your Lawyer by Sylvia Mandelbaum and Moshe Koenig is based on the Mandelbaum Mediation Method and tells how troubled persons in marital dilemmas were, through mediation, able to regain their strength and self esteem as they reconstructed their lives for a more peaceful and productive future. Available from GEFEN Publishing House, P.O. Box 6056, Jerusalem, Israel, \$7.95/copy plus \$.75 handling charge/copy.

Innovative Programs Grow in Number

The Payne County Family Practice, Inc., of Stillwater, Oklahoma is promoting a new twist in the resolution of visitation disputes. Approximately ten disputes per month are resolved through the use of "advocacy mediation." After separate interviews with each parent, a counselor attends the mediation sessions serving as the "child's advocate." The advocate acts as an advisory negotiator to assist parents in customizing their own visitation schedule.

A new Domestic Relations Mediation Program became part of the District of Columbia's Superior Court Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Program. Begun in November 1985, mediation is available at no charge to domestic relations litigants involved in custody, visitation, support, and property division disputes. Thirty volunteer mediators were chosen from over 150 applicants. They received seven days of training from the Center for Community Justice and have now mediated over thirty cases. Further information may be obtained from Ms. Eleanor Nace, Room 306, Building A, D.C. Superior Court, 515 5th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001, (202) 879-2891.

Connecticut Special Act 84-74 provided legislative approval for a pilot project to mediate child support, property and financial issues. The two judicial districts of Fairfield/Bridgeport and Litchfield, representing metropolitan and rural communities, were chosen for the project. Begun in March, 1985, the project received over 200 referrals within three

months. Approximately 75% of cases are settled in an average of 2-3 two hour sessions. Mediators employed by the court received forty hours of training and mediate in teams of two. Worksheets and child support guidelines, approved by the bench and bar, assist the parties in determining budgets and disposable income.

The Los Angeles Conciliation Court sponsors a Custody Option Seminar the first Wednesday of each month. Approximately twenty families attend each seminar and listen to other parents describe their shared parenting arrangements and view the film "You're Still Mom and Dad," available through AFCC.

The Superior Court of Alameda County and the Alameda County Bar Association began the Family Law Lecture Series in October 1985. According to Court Director, Mary Duryee, over 150 mental health professionals, lawyers, judges and others attend the monthly lecture series. Featured speakers have included Judith Wallerstein, Ph.D. and Leonore Weitzman, Ph.D. The 1986 series will include lectures and panels on child development, joint custody, child stealing and child abuse in divorce. Dorothy Huntington, Ph.D. and Joan Kelly, Ph.D. will be among the guest presenters. The series is supported by participant donations. The sponsors hope to be able to videotape future presentations. Further information may be obtained from Mary Duryee, Director Family Court Services Alameda County, 1221 Oak St., Oakland, CA 94602 (415) 874-6284.

Opening

Director Conciliation Court, Pima County (Tucson), Arizona. Ph.D. Masters Degree + 5 years marriage and family counseling experience with specialty in custody evaluation and mediation. Salary: \$34,000-45,000. For application information and job description: Presiding Judge, Domestic Relations, 110 W. Longren, Room 680, Tucson, AZ.

Arizona Receives Chapter Charter

AFCC is pleased to announce that Arizona has become AFCC's second state chapter. Arizona was granted affiliate chapter status in May 1984. The chapter was granted full chapter status during the San Diego Board meeting. Under the leadership of Judges Irwin Carter, Robert Gottsfeld, Sylvan Brown, Conciliation Court staff and chapter president, Phil Esplin, Arizona now publishes a chapter newsletter and holds regular membership meetings. Chapter dues have been set at \$20/year. Arizona AFCC members may contact Pat Ferguson, Conciliation Court, 201 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, AZ 85003, (602) 262-3296 for further information.

The Oregon Health Sciences University
Association of Family and Conciliation Courts
Department of Psychiatry
Gaines Hall, Room 149
3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Road
Portland, Oregon 97201

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