



NEWSLETTER

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

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

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Co-editors: Stanley N. Cohen
Ann Milne

Hawaii Family Court Hosts AFCC

Family and Conciliation Courts - All Things to All People? was the theme of AFCC'S 24th annual conference held in Honolulu May 19-22, 1987. The luxurious accommodations of the Ala Moana Hotel with private lanais, freshwater swimming pool and four restaurants provided a restful setting for the full agenda of conference activities.

The conference focused on a variety of family conflicts and the courts' responses to these complex social issues. According to Judge Betty M. Vitousek, Senior Judge of the First Circuit Family Court of Hawaii, "Family life is changing and interrelated family problems are becoming more complex."

Panels and workshops were presented on sexual abuse allegations in custody matters; the impact of mediation on courts, culture and law; standards for custody evaluations; the child as witness; the social worker as

witness; domestic violence; and enforcement of child support and visitation. A special judges' forum focused on current issues.

L.A. Court hosts pre-conference seminar

The Los Angeles Superior Court presented a pre-conference seminar on Friday, May 15, 1987 for individuals wishing a stop-over on the way to Honolulu. The seminar provided participants with a firsthand view of the Los Angeles Family Court and Court Services. Presentations by judicial and court personnel included an overview of mediation and evaluation procedures and the use of reference judges and community outreach programs. This was a great opportunity to learn about the Los Angeles Court and to meet the individuals who have helped to shape this landmark system.

Illinois conference on court-ordered mediation

The Mediation Council of Illinois sponsored a state conference on court-ordered divorce mediation April 3-4, 1987. Approximately 80 judges, attorneys, and mediators met in Bloomington, Illinois, to explore the issues affecting court-ordered mediation. Dr. Linda Girdner spoke on the merging of legal and mental health practices within a mediation framework. A panel of mediators and attorneys

from Champaign, Cook and McLean counties responded. Judges from four court-ordered mediation programs discussed the development of their programs and improvements in the practice. The conference also provided an opportunity for public and private mediators to begin to establish a network between themselves and with judges and attorneys.

California Judicial Council holds first training

Over 200 California court mediators and evaluators and judges representing over 40 judicial districts attended the first training conference sponsored by the new Judicial Council and Coordinator of Family Court Services, Dr. Isolina Ricci. Dr. Ricci assumed her new position as Coordinator in December, 1986.

Featured conference presenters included Dr. Constance Ahrons and Dr. Sandra Baker. Dr. Ahrons spoke on how to evaluate research and Dr. Baker spoke on the components of child abuse. Workshop topics included enmeshment and hostility, child stealing, domestic violence, interviewing and evaluating children, transferring clinical skills to court services and living arrangements for children. Hugh McIsaac closed the conference with a retrospective look at court services in California. Extensive materials suitable for desk reference were prepared for the participants and audio tapes are available for each county. The standing room only program received rave reviews from those attending and portends other exciting training programs for California court personnel.

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.

Membership Notes

Dr. Isolina Ricci's new title and position were inadvertently omitted from the last issue of the Newsletter. Dr. Ricci was named California's State Coordinator of the Family Court Services program of the Judicial Council of California. The office will assist counties and courts in implementing mandated mediation services; develop and maintain a uniform, statewide statistical reporting system for family law cases; provide ongoing training and educational programs for family court personnel and establish and administer a grant program for research, study and demonstration projects in specified family law areas.

Bill Callahan, formerly a mediator with the Connecticut Family Division, has taken a similar position with the Conciliation Court in Phoenix, AZ.

Clarence Cramer, Director of Conciliation Services of Pinal County, Arizona recently provided a day of child custody mediation training for the Marion County (Indianapolis) Domestic Relations Counseling Bureau.

Mary Duryee, Jan Shaw and Murray Bloom, respective Directors of the Alameda County, Orange County and San Diego County Family Court Services, submitted a proposal to the Judicial Council to implement a Counselor Exchange Program in California. Counselors would spend from two days to two weeks at a host court. The program would provide for an exchange of information between courts; develop a better understanding of the similarities and differences of each court; improve counselor skills; decrease stress and increase staff morale.

Dorothy Huntington, Ph.D. was the recipient of the first annual Joseph W. Drown Memorial Award at the statewide meeting of the California Association of Family and Conciliation Courts in Monterey. Dr. Huntington has worked with children and families for over 30 years including having served as a consultant to the staff of the White House Conference on Children. She was a featured presenter at AFCC's May 1986 meeting.

Ann Milne, private practice Madison, Wis. presented a day and a half workshop on mediation in Ottawa, Canada. The workshop was sponsored by the Ottawa Region of the Ontario Association for Family Mediation. She also addressed a group of law students studying under Professor Julien Payne at the University of Ottawa.

Frank E. A. Sander, Bussey Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and Director of the Dispute Resolution Program, was appointed the chair of the ABA's Standing Committee on Dispute Resolution. The Committee was established in 1976 as a Special Committee of the ABA. The ABA approved a change in Committee status in August 1986 noting "ABA's commitment to support the dispute resolution field." Professor Sander was a keynote presenter at AFCC's annual meeting in Boston in May 1986.

The San Diego County Courthouse now has a children's waiting room, staffed by volunteers who have been trained and supervised by a paid coordinator. The San Diego Superior Court has also published a brochure for Rules, Procedures and Client Preparation. The brochures are available for purchase in bulk quantities by attorneys. Information is included on scheduling appointments, preparing for appointments and court rules. Courts considering remodeling plans may wish to talk with Murray Bloom, Director San Diego Family Court Services. Brochure information may also be obtained from Mr. Bloom, 220 W. Broadway, San Diego, CA 94109 (415) 433-5050.

Phoenix court seeks applicants

The Maricopa County Conciliation Services (Phoenix, AZ) is soliciting resumes and letters of interest regarding future openings for counselor positions. These positions provide conciliation counseling and mediation of custody/visitation disputes. Current starting annual salary is \$25,459. Send materials to: Dr. Russell Schoeneman, Director, Conciliation Services, 201 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, AZ 85003.

Where does the money go?

Membership dues are due for 1987. To date we have received 541 individual and 51 institutional memberships. AFCC's 1987 annual income and expense budget of \$118,000 is largely dependent upon revenue from memberships. This money is then used for printing and distribution of the Conciliation Courts Review, the Newsletter, pamphlets, support of committees, the Executive Director's and secretary's salaries and office expenses including phone, postage and supplies.

Send check or money order in US funds to:

AFCC
c/o OHSU
Department of Psychiatry
3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Rd.
Portland, Oregon 97201

Individual: \$60/year
Institutional: \$120/year
Student: \$20/year
Life: \$600 (may be paid in two installments)

AFCC now has 20 mgbts.

The purchase of a new Macintosh Plus computer was authorized by the Board of Directors last December. The Mac Plus with harddisk capacity of 10,000 pgs. is now on line and contains all of AFCC's membership lists and financial information. The computer can generate mail lists, identify groups of members by professional background and location, print out dues statements and invoices and lay out letterhead and publications, including this Newsletter. The MacPlus will speed up responses to requests for information and help us better serve our membership.



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 Relation (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 Cassett: Rental-\$40/5 days; Purchase-\$100.

PUBLICATIONS

Guidelines for Court-Connected Child Custody Evaluation: A procedural guide for custody evaluators. Developed by AFCC Committee on Custody Evaluation, this booklet provides a much needed practical format that can be used easily by evaluators charged with the responsibility of preparing custody evaluation reports for use by domestic relations courts. (\$3.00).

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 \$27.50. AFCC has a limited number available for purchase @ a 10% discount. (\$24.75).

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.

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 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.

Guide For Stepparents: 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			
Guidelines for Court-Connected Child Custody Evaluations	\$3.00	_____	_____
Joint Custody and Shared Parenting / Folberg	24.75	_____	_____
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	_____	_____
"Guide for Stepparents"	.20	_____	_____
"Twenty Questions Divorcing Parents Ask About Their Children"	.20	_____	_____
"Joint Custody: A New Way of Being Related"	.20	_____	_____
"Is Mediation for Us"	.20	_____	_____

POSTAGE IS INCLUDED IF ORDERS ARE PREPAID

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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

Member Profiles

Susan Snow-Ruffolo

Susan Snow-Ruffolo has been an Associate Judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County, (Chicago) Illinois since 1981. She has been in the Domestic Relations Division for the past five years. Before beginning her legal career, Susan taught Russian and English to high school students. She practiced law with her father (her grandfather was also an attorney) for eight years. Susan enjoys meeting with students and talking with them about the law and court procedures. Her courtroom is a favorite stop for students touring the Cook County Courthouse. Susan's teaching interests have also been put to good use at Illinois Judicial conferences.

Susan's professional contributions have not gone unnoticed. She was presented the Crystal Heart Award in August 1986 by the Chicago Cubs Wives for Family Rescue for her work against domestic violence. She was first recipient of the Golden Gavel Award, presented by the Chicago Bar Association to recognize distinctive service by a judge on the bench less than five years. The award has only been given once since. In 1982, Susan was named one of ten outstanding young citizens of Chicago by the Chicago Junior Association of Commerce and Industry.

Away from work, Susan loves to travel. She's been to Russia several times and participated in AFCC's New Zealand and London post conference trips and she's saving her money for AFCC's trip to China in 1988. Susan spends her free time playing softball, racketball and iceskating. She also loves to fish and enjoys oil painting and needle-work.

Chicago is very fortunate to have a woman like Susan on the Bench. AFCC is lucky too. Susan has been an active member of the Board of Directors and is co-chair of the Judiciary Committee. We look forward to her continued leadership, her bright future and her good company in China!



Julien Payne

Divorce in Canada just isn't the same since Professor Julien Payne moved to Canada from England in 1960. Professor Payne has been an influential force in the reform of divorce law and practice for the past 25 years. In 1966 he prepared an extensive brief and presented oral argument to the Special Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons. Many of his recommendations were implemented in the Divorce Act of 1968. From 1972-1975 Julien served as Director of the Family Law Project of the Law Reform Commission of Canada. His paper on "A Conceptual Analysis of Unified Family Courts" laid the foundation for no-fault divorce in Canada and for the establishment of Unified Family Courts in several pilot jurisdictions. Unified Family Courts now offer exclusive jurisdiction over all family law matters and provide support services, such as conciliation and assessment, to help families resolve disputes without protracted litigation. More recently, Julien served as a consultant to the Federal Department of Justice. His contributions toward the enforcement of custody and maintenance orders are reflected in the Divorce Act of 1985. In addition to his work for law reform agencies and governmental

departments, Julien's extensive writings are frequently cited by the Bench and Bar. His edition of *Power on Divorce* (1964) has been acknowledged as the "practitioner's bible".

Currently, Julien continues to be a member of the Law faculty at the University of Ottawa. His advocacy of conciliation, mediation and arbitration processes have left a distinguished mark on Canadian legal theory and practice.

Legislative News

California—Passage of SB 1310 would provide \$7.7 million retroactive supplemental funding for mandated services, including mandatory mediation. Where fees are not sufficient to fund mandated services, the state will be required to provide supplemental funding.

Wisconsin— The Assembly Judiciary Committee approved AB205 providing mandatory mediation for contested custody and visitation disputes. The bill requires counties to either establish a family court counseling office or to contract with one or more public or private entities for mediation services. Mediators would be required to have a Masters degree in a behavioral science and 40 hours of mediation training. The bill creates a mediator-mediation parties privilege in the evidence code. Under this bill, the court may also award joint custody where only one party requests it only if it makes specified findings including that there are no existing conditions which would substantially interfere with the exercise of joint legal custody and that the parties will be able to cooperate in the future decision-making required under joint legal custody.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

To: Judges, attorneys, mental health professionals, academicians and researchers

In 1988 the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts will be celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary as an international and inter-disciplinary organization intimately concerned with the judicial, legal, mental health and legislative aspects of Family Law:

Many AFCC members and others have made great contributions to Family Law and to the understanding of families in the divorce process. The organization has been marked by an openness to new approaches about how to best deal with families in the process of divorce and at the same time meet the best interests of the children involved.

It is in the tradition of gathering knowledge about families and the Court process that this call for papers is being made. The selected papers will be included in the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Volume to be distributed at the AFCC Conference in Los Angeles in May 1988. The program committee is negotiating for additional publication in relevant journals, and some authors may be asked to present their paper at the Conference.

Previously unpublished papers are requested in the following areas:

1. Judicial concerns in Family Law,
2. Concerns of legal practitioners,
3. Mental health issues as related to Family Law cases,
4. Mediation and evaluation in the Courts,
5. Legislative issues
6. Development and organization of conciliation, mediation and evaluation programs.

Submit papers to: Karen Raiford, MSW; Los Angeles Superior Court; 111 N. Hill Street, Room 228; Los Angeles, CA 90012; (213) 974-5544.

Subject proposals should be submitted by 7/1/87 and should include a resume and list of prior publications, if any. Deadline for submission of completed papers is 9/1/87

China plans progress

John Kydd, Board member from Seattle, has been corresponding with the International Law Department of the Ministry of Justice of China regarding plans for AFCC's post-conference trip in May, 1988. A great deal of work has been done to tailor make this trip for AFCC members. "Beware of the claims of other supposed look-alikes!" Detailed information should be avail-

able in the next Newsletter. It has been suggested that each country prepare several case examples of domestic disputes to serve as subjects for our discussions. If you would like to contribute a clinical example please contact Dr. Leonore Levit, Cook County Family Court Services, 1901 Daley Center, Chicago, IL 60602, (312) 443-7914.

