



# NEWSLETTER

**Association of Family and Conciliation Courts**

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

Volume 12, Number 1/2  
Winter/Spring 1993

Editors: Ann L. Milne  
Peter C. Salem

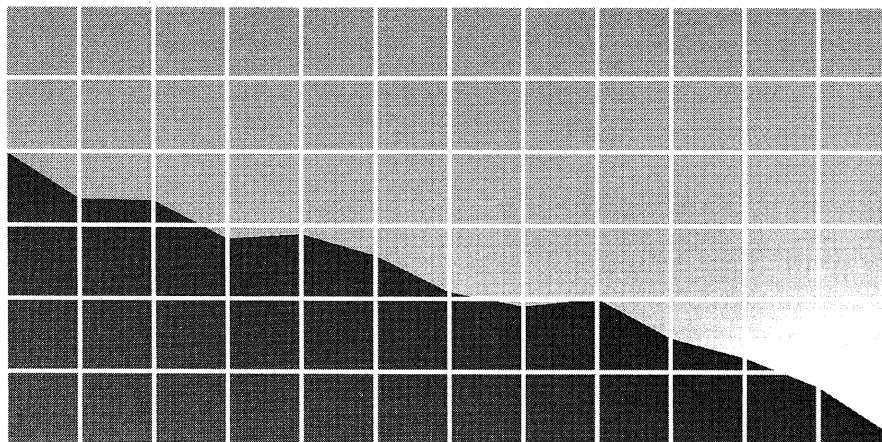
## *AFCC Celebrates 30 Years*

### 30th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

May 11-15, 1993

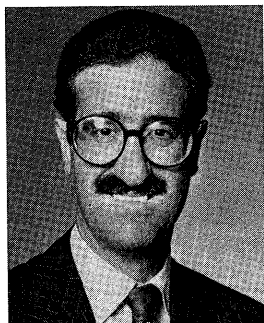
New Orleans, Louisiana

The Economic Impact of Divorce



Co-Sponsored by  
American Bar Association Family Law Section  
and  
National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges

## Featured Presenters



**Robert Mnookin, LLB**  
Director  
Stanford Center on Conflict  
and Negotiation



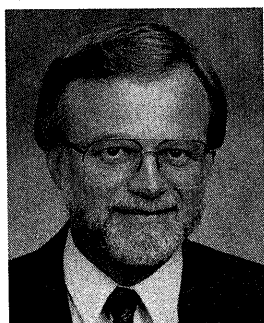
**Gay Kitson, Ph.D.**  
Author  
*Portrait of Divorce—Adjustment  
to Marital Breakdown*



**Marsha Garrison, JD**  
Brooklyn Law School



**Sylvia Ann Hewlett, Ph.D.**  
Author  
*When the Bough Breaks—The  
Cost of Neglecting Our Children*



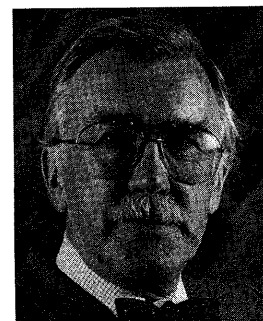
**Richard Lucas, Ph.D.**  
Author & Clinical  
Psychologist  
*The Winning Edge: Advanced  
Communication and Persuasion  
Techniques for Lawyers*



**Richard Warshack, Ph.D.**  
Author & Educator  
*The Custody Revolution:  
The Father Factor and the  
Motherhood Mystique*



**Terry Arendell, Ph.D.**  
Author and Educator  
*Fathers After Divorce  
Mothers and Divorce: Legal  
Economic and Social Dilemmas*



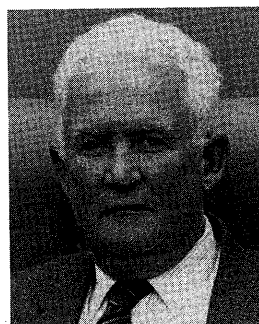
**John Haynes, Ph.D.**  
Author and Trainer  
*Divorce Mediation*



**Robert Williams**  
President  
Policy Studies, Inc.



**Justice Claire L'Heureux Dube**  
Supreme Court of Canada



**Hon. Alastair Nicholson**  
Chief of Justice  
Family Court of Australia



**Leslie Ann Morgan**  
Author and Educator  
*After Marriage Ends: Economic  
Consequences for Mid-Life  
Women*

# Of Special Interest...

## SPECIAL INSTITUTES

**MAY 11-12, 1993**  
**8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**

### **Mediation Training with John Haynes, Ph.D.**

*Co-sponsored by AFCC, Loyola Law School and  
Family Mediation Council of Louisiana*

**MAY 12, 1993 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**

### **The Latest for Lawyers on Child Custody, Child Support, Spousal Maintenance, Pensions and Tax Consequences**

*Featuring:*

Marshall Wolf, Chair, ABA Family Law Section  
Lynne Z. Gold-Biken, Vice Chair, ABA Family Law Section  
James Podell, Vice Chair, ABA Family Law Section  
Richard Podell, Past Chair, ABA Family Law Section

*Co-sponsored by AFCC and ABA Family Law Section*

### **Case Management and Settlement Skills for Judges**

- Case Management Systems & Styles
- Settlement Conference Techniques
- Overview of Mediation
- Interactive Presentations

*Featuring:*

Hon. Susan Snow, Cook County Circuit Court  
Hon. Anne Kass, Albuquerque, New Mexico  
Hon. R. James Williams, Nova Scotia  
Richard McConomy, JD, Montreal  
Joel Shawn, JD, San Francisco  
Thomas A. Bishop, JD, New London, CT

### **Child Custody Evaluations: The Crucial Elements**

*Featuring:*

Pamela Langelier, Ph.D.; Barbara Chisholm, MSW;  
and a panel of other experts on the following  
topics:

- The Five "W"'s of Custody Evaluations:  
For Whom, By Whom, What, Why & When
- Critical Elements of an Evaluation
- Working With Children—Interview, Observation,  
Home Visits, Testing & Collateral Contacts
- Report Writing—Organization, Content, Language  
& Format
- Assessing Parental Capacity & Parent / Child Bonding
- Avoiding Pitfalls in Private Practice Evaluations
- Special Issues—Gay / Lesbian Parenting,  
Domestic Violence & Sexual Abuse
- The Inter-play Between Attorneys & Evaluators
- Ethical Considerations

### **Developing and Tailoring Court Services for the 90's**

*Featuring:*

Margaret Shaw, JD; Phil Bushard, DPA;  
Hugh McIsaac, MSW; Linda Hahn, MSW;  
Hon. Benjamin Mackoff and other experts on:

- Establishing a Program
- Legislative Authority
- Relationship with Bench & Bar
- Funding & Sizing the Service
- Staff & Personnel Issues
- Delivery of Services
- Program Evaluation

*Sponsored by the National Institute  
for Dispute Resolution*

**MAY 13 & 14, 1993 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

### **Advanced Mediation Training with Bernie Mayer, ACSW; Margaret Shaw, JD & Christine Coates, JD.**

## Of Special Note



### Hotel Information

The Fairmont Hotel is located in the heart of New Orleans Hospitality. The French Quarter, Jackson Square, The French Market, St. Louis Cathedral, and restaurants and music galore are within a few blocks of the hotel. The Fairmont Hotel is the Grand Dame of hotels in the Deep South with 732 luxuriously appointed guestrooms and suites, heated pool, lighted tennis courts and fine dining. AFCC conference rates of \$89 single or double and one bedroom suites at \$125 will be honored three days before and after the conference. Reservations may be made by calling the hotel reservation number 1-800-527-4727 or (504) 529-7111 by April 12, 1993.

The Clarion Hotel will also be offering guest rooms to AFCC conference participants. The Clarion is located within walking distance (5 blocks) of the Fairmont Hotel at 1500 Canal Street. Room rate \$79 single or double. Reservations may be made by calling the hotel reservation number, 1-800-824-3359 or (504) 522-4500.



### Airline Information

Corporate Travel Consultants has been selected as AFCC's official travel agency and can assist you with all of your travel arrangements on the carrier of your choice. Contact them at (800) 323-0088. Delta Airline is offering conference participants a special 40% reduction off coach class and 5% off the lowest promotional fare where applicable. Reservations made through Corporate Travel assist AFCC in defraying some of our conference expenses. We appreciate your patronage.

### Continuing Legal Education Credit and Continuing Education Credit

CLE and CEU credits for lawyers, psychologists and marriage and family therapists have been pre-applied for from Louisiana and Texas. Conference accreditation has also been sought from the Academy of Family Mediators (AFM) and the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). Registrants may apply to the respective boards for credit. Written verification of attendance will be provided for a \$10 service fee.

### Taste of the Town

Our New Orleans hosts will be available to accompany AFCC conference participants to various restaurants on Thursday evening, May 13, 1993. Restaurant menus will be on display at the AFCC Registration Desk. Participants must sign up at the Registration Desk by noon on Thursday, May 13, 1993. Dining will be dutch treat.

### Brunch at Brennans

A trip to New Orleans would not be complete without Brunch at Brennans. Join us for a grand finale get together at Brennans - \$30.00 including tax and tip.

### Room Sharing

If you are in search of a roommate, check the space provided on the registration form. This list will be provided to those who request a copy. Please note your gender and whether you are a smoker or non-smoker. Roommates are responsible for contacting each other and making hotel reservations.

### Family Mediation Council of Louisiana, Inc. Openhouse

The Family Mediation Council of Louisiana will be hosting an open house reception for members, prospective members and invited guests on Thursday, May 13, 1993 from 5:30-7:00pm. Check the Registration Desk for room assignment.

## *Anniversary Fund*

*AFCC's Executive Committee has approved the establishment of an Anniversary Fund to commemorate 30 years of service to families and individuals. Donations to the fund are tax deductible and will be used to offset the expenses of the opening night video "The BIG PICTURE—The Economic Impact of Divorce" at the New Orleans conference and to help fund other AFCC pamphlets and publications.*

*Much has been said and written this past year about the state of the family. This video will be a tribute to the families that we serve and will highlight the need to invest in "The Economy of Human Resources".*

*Please help us reach our goal of \$10,000 by sending your contributions to:*

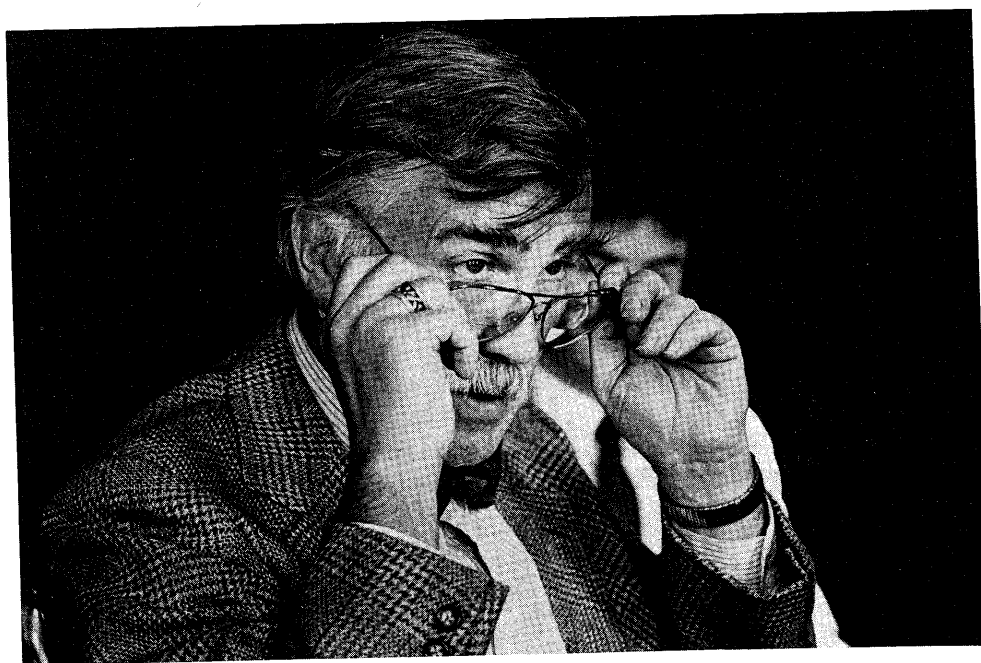
*AFCC  
329 W. Wilson St.  
Madison, WI 53703*

### *AFCC 30th Anniversary Commemorative T-Shirts*



*These multicolored commemorative T-shirts were designed by AFCC's Office Manager, Victoria Metz. The T-shirts are colorfast silkscreened on black 50/50 cotton polyester fabric. Quantities are limited. Special price \$15 each. Available S, M, L, XL.*

## AFCC to Distribute John Haynes Videos



**D**r. John Haynes, one of the leaders of the divorce mediation profession, has agreed to make his series of mediation videotapes available through AFCC. The videos will be available from AFCC later this spring. These tapes show how one of the world's most distinguished divorce mediators handles difficult situations including mediating with recovering alcoholics, overcoming mediator bias, working with a powerful, competitive couple and dealing with a parent moving out of town.

Videotapes to be available include:

- ☐ **Michael and Debbie:**  
*A Powerful, Competitive Couple*  
This popular video illustrates Dr. Haynes managing the conflict between two parents in dispute about "the other woman" and time-sharing with the children.
- ☐ **Neville and Cheryl: The Odd Child Out**  
This mediation shows Dr. Haynes dealing with issues of mediator bias with two parents embroiled in conflict over two children — a daughter they both want to live with them, and a son who is almost "invisible" in the family.
- ☐ **Norman and Terri: Who Makes the Decisions Here**  
This couple has been involved in a long struggle over their daughter. They have developed a folder containing a variety of professional evaluations and commentaries on the family. Dr. Haynes helps this couple focus on future parenting rather than past disputes.

☐ **Boyd and Sheryl:**

*A Family Recovering From Alcohol*

This mediation raises several questions for mediators: Can you mediate with recovering alcoholics? At what point does a mediator *not* take a case? At what point of impairment does mediation not work? This video is designed to stimulate discussion on issues related to policy and practice.

☐ **Pat and Tom: Moving 100 Miles Apart**

In this mediation Dr. Haynes demonstrates how to mediate with conflict that arises as one spouse decides to move out of town. Dr. Haynes illustrates how to deal with multiple definitions of the dispute, issues left over from the marriage and other underlying issues.

Each video will include a **Viewer's Guide**, a **Trainer's Guide** and an **Annotated Transcript** prepared by Dr. Haynes. Each video and accompanying materials may be purchased from AFCC for \$150 each or the series of five videos for \$600. These videos will be available for viewing at AFCC's Video Forum during the 30th Anniversary Conference in New Orleans May 12-15, 1993. Dr. Haynes will be conducting a two day divorce mediation training program on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 11-12, 1993.



# AFCC Celebrates 30 Years



*AFCC's members are celebrating 30 years  
of interdisciplinary commitment to court services  
and the constructive resolution of family discord.*

## ***The Beginning***

**T**he *California Conciliation Courts Quarterly*, Volume 1, No. 1 was published in March, 1963 and formally proclaimed itself the first publication to promote the interchange of ideas between California's Conciliation Courts. Judge Roger Alton Pfaff, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Los Angeles, noted that

California has become a model for conciliation services as a part of the judicial function for other states to emulate and each year we find jurisdictions creating such services. It may well be that in the not too distant future this little publication may have a wider dissemination with similar courts in other states.

How true! AFCC now includes over 1,200 members from across the United States, Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia, Germany, Denmark, Israel, Japan, South Africa and the Virgin Islands.

## ***First AFCC Conference***

**T**he first AFCC conference was held on Saturday, September 7, 1963 in Los Angeles where conciliation counselors and judges from six counties gathered to talk shop well into the evening. And who appears on that initial roster? AFCC's former Executive Director, Stanley Cohen and Former Review Editor Meyer Elkin!

The December, 1963 issue of the *California Conciliation Courts Quarterly* indicates that interest in court-connected services was beginning to spread beyond California. Idaho, Oregon, Michigan, Arizona, Montana and Manitoba, Canada as well as several other Canadian provinces were also looking into establishing court services.

By 1964, the conference had grown to a two day event with ninety participants and included a \$10 registration fee and a cocktail party and dinner. Out-of-state colleagues were invited to attend. The emphasis of the program continued to be on the role of the court as a provider of short-term marriage counseling services and the use of husband-wife agreements to resolve marital disputes and effect a reconciliation. The use of trial separation agreements as a way to effect a reconciliation was presented as a novel, albeit controversial, technique.

By 1965, bylaws and a constitution had been drafted and "California" was dropped from the title to become "The Conference of Conciliation Courts" in recognition that the organization had now become interstate and international.

## ***First Out-of-State Conference***

**F**ive years after a handfull of court staff attended that first conference in Los Angeles, the Conference of Conciliation Courts held its first out-of-state conference in Phoenix, Arizona, May, 1967. The conference theme was "Compatibility or Combatibility: A Profile Study in Marriage and Divorce."

Reconciliation of marital disputes continued to be the focus of conferences and the quarterly *Review* through the 1960's. "Blueprint for a Successful Marriage", developed by the Los Angeles Conciliation Court, was offered to other courts for their use. The Conference went on record encouraging California Governor Ronald Reagan to continue the Blue Ribbon Commission on the Family and "to begin a concerted assault on the high incidence of divorce in our society and its tragic consequences."

## More Than Reconciliation

The December 1969 issue of the *Conciliation Courts Review* introduced a new concept to the movement with an editorial by Meyer Elkin on "A Conciliation Court is More Than a Reconciliation Court." Other articles focused on the role of the attorney in divorce, visitation guidelines and one article, written by a prominent California judge, Hon. Byron Lindsey, questioned whether we were expecting too much of marriage.

Membership dues had increased to \$15 and the organization's fund balance was a hefty \$983. Committees were established to focus on legislation, professional standards, publications and membership. A 1968 survey of all 50 states and the District of Columbia indicated that 19 states had some form of court-connected counseling services.

By the early 1970's conferences had been held in Detroit, Michigan and in Honolulu, Hawaii. Court services were beginning to turn their attention to helping couples end their marriages "with a greater sense of dignity and self-worth and with less trauma to themselves and the children." The *Review* had grown from 13 pages to 45 pages and reflected the change in court services featuring articles on child custody, family assessments, the lawyer's role in family law, the judge's role in family law, student internship programs and the use of para-professionals in conciliation courts.

Ten years after its inception, the Conference of Conciliation Courts had members in 15 states, several provinces in Canada and 34 members on its Board of Directors. The annual conference was held in Chicago with the theme "Alternatives to Divorce." Regional conferences were initiated. The *Review* focused on trial marriages, the effects of divorce on children, the appointment of guardians ad litem in divorce cases, the dangers of do-it-yourself dissolution and family courts. Court-connected counseling had been re-defined from marital reconciliation to helping couples "reach mutually acceptable agreements regarding custody/visitation matters, based on a better understanding of their difficulties."

## The 1970's

Throughout the 1970's, the Conference of Conciliation Courts took on an increasingly more interdisciplinary and international look. Conferences featured presenters from Canada, New Zealand and Australia and *Review* articles featured contributions from judges, lawyers, academics, clergy and behavioral scientists. In 1976, the Conference of Conciliation Courts changed its name to "The Association of Family Conciliation Courts". What to call the organization became an annual topic at Board of Directors' meetings.

In 1978, The Association of Family Conciliation Courts held its annual conference in Vancouver, British Columbia. The printed program was bilingual. The concepts of "family self-determination" and "mediation" were discussed. Gender issues, although not termed as such, were gathering momentum. The Divorce Experience Program, a didactic orientation program for divorcing parents and their children, was introduced. Divorce was being framed as a grief process.

## The 1980's

By 1980, the Association had grown to 900 members, the Executive Committee to 9 members and the Board of Directors had increased to 49 members. The annual meeting was held in Anchorage, Alaska. The camaraderie of the Association was evidenced by pre-conference and post-conference trips, called junkets by some, networking by others and educational exchanges by the pure at heart.

The Association had become a business in addition to a professional organization. Executive Directors Frank Bailey, Jay Folberg and Laurence Hyde led the organization through budgets, bylaws and bureaucracy. The central office moved from California to Portland and to Ft. Lauderdale while being chartered in Illinois.





The Association's finances, while always a topic of concern, had grown well beyond its earlier beginnings. Membership dues were now \$50 for individuals, \$100 for institutional members and \$15 for students. The Board approved a budget of \$51,000 and the organization now included 11 committees.

Pamphlets and publications such as "Parents Are Forever" and "Guide for Stepparents" were now being offered for sale by the Association. Stanley Cohen, Director of Research and Technical Assistance, reported that the Association had secured a grant for \$108,000 to produce a film on family violence. Additionally, the Children's Bureau of HEW awarded a research grant, to be directed by Dr. Jessica Pearson, to study the effects of mediation on custody and visitation disputes.

### ***Branching Out***

The Association began to network with other organizations including the International Union of Family Organizations (IUFO), the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists.

The annual May meetings were supplemented by mid-winter meetings. Regional conferences and chapters were discussed. Pre-conference institutes became a regular conference feature. Institutes were held on mediation, step-parenting and sexual relationships. The Mediation Committee hosted several national symposiums on "Standards of Practice for Family and Divorce Mediators" and produced model guidelines for practice.

### ***Mediation***

Court-connected reconciliation counseling, while still offered in a few courts, was a thing of the past. The future lay in other areas. Joint custody, mediation, domestic violence and stepfamilies were now center stage. The legislation boom had begun and it was moving in a strong wave from California across the United States. Mandatory mediation and joint custody were hot topics.

Divorcing individuals were becoming a constituency. Fathers were organizing groups to speak to their parenting needs and interests and mothers were drawing attention to the economics of divorce, the feminization of poverty and child support arrearages. The Association's conferences featured family members recounting their divorce and custody disputes and the resolution of these disputes through mediation. The children captured the attention of conference attendees as they spoke of their feelings about joint custody.

In 1982, just prior to its 20th anniversary, the Association of Conciliation Courts changed its name to "The Association of Family & Conciliation Courts." The term "conciliation" was unfamiliar to many members by this time and seemed to present a confusing image to those that the Association was trying to attract as members.

Meyer Elkin continued to edit the *Review* and in the 20th Anniversary issue he noted the ripple effect of the Association on the field of divorce. His eloquent editorials continued to capture the commitment of AFCC members.

### ***Cast a Pebble in the Pond***

Let all of us, in our own unique way, recommit ourselves to the search for the pebbles of change that can be cast into the social pond. Let us create a divorce process that recycles divorce pain into new patterns of personal and familial growth which, in turn, will also strengthen our entire society. Let us protect our children from the unnecessary hazards of the divorce experience so that they, like their parents, can be strengthened by divorce rather than defeated by it. And let us never forget that if the lights go out in our children's eyes, be they children of divorce or any other children, we will all live in darkness.

### ***Canadian President***

By 1983, AFCC had elected its first Canadian President, Judge John Van Duzer from Hamilton, Ontario. The Association's conference was held in Toronto. AFCC conferences had become major events by this time, demanding hundreds of hours of volunteer time and effort and generating significant revenue and membership for AFCC. Conferences were now five day events, including pre-conference institutes, committee meetings and board meetings in addition to plenary sessions and multiple workshops. Conference programs were becoming more participatory and more elaborate, such as AFCC's divorce montage which was presented in 1983 at the mid-year conference in Williamsburg, VA.

Conference presenters were coming from within the Association as well as from without and included Supreme Court Justices, bar association presidents, authors, university faculty, sociologists, and even TV and newspaper personalities such as Ann Landers and Bonnie Franklin.

The friendships and kinships between members continued to grow as members kept in touch between conferences, corresponded, authored articles and books together, traveled together, shared family events and laughed and grieved together.

## Newsletter

A quarterly Newsletter, edited by Executive Director Stanley Cohen and AFCC member Ann Milne, joined the *Conciliation Courts Review*. The budget had increased to \$63,000 and AFCC's pamphlets and publications expanded to include video tapes on custody resolution counseling and divorce.

By 1986, AFCC's budget was approaching six figures and membership had increased to nearly 900 members. Conferences were being planned two to three years in advance and Board meetings took up approximately 6 hours of each conference. There seemed to be a lot of business!

The issues of the 80's continued to be mediation, joint custody, domestic violence and motherhood and fatherhood. Divorce adjustment programs were increasing in popularity. The SAID Syndrome (Sexual Allegations in Divorce) was the current hot topic and abuse seemed to be everywhere—child abuse, drug abuse, alcohol abuse and sexual abuse. Conference workshops were attempting to attend to the personal needs of court workers with presentations on job stress and burn-out.

Court-connected programs were feeling the strains of the economy and AFCC membership leveled off. Custody evaluations, having been relegated to somewhat of an inferior status with the advent of mediation, were re-emerging as custody disputes were becoming more complex and family dysfunction seemed to be more pervasive.

## The 25th Anniversary

The 25 year mark in AFCC's history was significant. AFCC returned to Los Angeles for its annual conference. The conference theme "Helping Children and Families—The Best of AFCC" set the stage as participants re-visited conference presenters and family member participants from 10 years before.

We bid adieu to Meyer Elkin as Editor of the *Review* and turned over the editorship to Stanley

Cohen and Hugh McIsaac. It seemed significant that two were chosen to replace one. The Editorial Board increased from eight members to 38 members from around the world and the *Review* was now over 80 pages in length. The production of the *Review* had become a major production since its inception as a 13 page journal 25 years before.

## The Last Five Years

Over the ensuing five years, we have seen more changes as AFCC continues to grow and stay the same. Sage Publications became the publisher of the *Review*; Stanley Cohen retired as Executive Director; Ann Milne, a 20 year AFCC member became Executive Director; membership increased to 1,200; revenue and expenditures doubled; new chapters were added; regional conferences were offered; technical assistance and training opportunities challenged us; grants eluded us and finally came our way and we attempted to focus on AFCC's future through our long range planning efforts.

## 30 Years Later

Who could have imagined that 30 years later, the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts would have become an international organization of kindred spirits united by the same goals and purposes as those individuals that first gathered in 1963? AFCC has become an interprofessional and an international advocate for court services, family law and families.

AFCC had become a change agent. But somethings never change. AFCC is still an organization of people dedicated to humanizing the divorce process, easing the pain and helping families to use the divorce experience as an opportunity for growth rather than defeat.

*We will celebrate this legacy in New Orleans and we hope that you will join us for the celebration. . . and for the future.*



# To Promote the Best Interest of the Child— An Old Concern: A New Effort

Submitted by Hon. Mary Ann Becker,  
Waukesha, WI

*This is the first of a series of articles by members of the Interdisciplinary Project to Promote the Best Interest of the Child, an outgrowth of the American Bar Association/Ripon College Conference on Family Law and the Best Interest of the Child. This column examines the initiation of the project.*

In 1988, this writer was chair of the American Bar Association Family Law Section (ABA/FLS) Committee on Alimony, Maintenance and Child Support. The committee was examining the link, if any, between no-fault divorce and the escalating numbers of children being reared in homes with income below the poverty line. The discussion produced some provocative questions which the lawyers felt inadequate to answer from their discipline alone:

- ☐ Whether the best interest of the child can be served by divorce when the current living environment is a two-parent home which meets their recognized needs for food, shelter and clothing;
- ☐ Whether a troubled parental situation in an intact family was more or less damaging to a minor child than divorce;
- ☐ Whether family life is necessary to the development of a whole child;

- ☐ Whether a child's developmental needs could/should supersede parental legal rights and, if so, to what degree.

The committee concluded that before promoting legislative solutions to child-related judicial proceedings, it should examine what other professional disciplines have determined the developmental needs of the child to be.

The ABA/FLS, chaired by Attorney Richard Podell, Milwaukee, WI endorsed the formulation of a *de facto* committee to study the issue and to present its findings at a conference. By Autumn, 1989, Wisconsin's Ripon College joined the study effort and agreed to host the conference on the campus April 11-14, 1991.

The *de facto* committee was determined and dedicated. Ripon College faculty member, Dr. Robert Hannaford, and Academic Dean Douglas Northrup were not lawyers, but academicians. Their participation increased the depth and diversity of experience of the *de facto* committee. Their participation also highlighted the language differences between the legal and non-legal contingents.

Each group needed to educate the other before they could examine the best interest standard together. The educators recognized the need for flexibility of the best interest standard but were amazed to learn that there were not uniform national standards for its application. Standards might be different even in contiguous states.

Why? Do children's needs change with relocation from Illinois to Wisconsin? Should parenting responsibility be re-determined at a state line? Who determines the relevant factors to influence child custody and on what basis? Where was the statutory definition of the developmental needs of the child including a child's moral developmental needs?

The lawyers learned that existing legislative factors might not reflect the child's actual needs, such as parental rights to raise children might conflict with the child's developmental needs, if judges interpreted children's needs as children's rights.

The questions raised were expansive and the few answers complex. The committee agreed that the "law" was the way to effect the best interest of the child and that the discussion must be enlarged to extend beyond children in divorce in order to identify the needs of a child. A retreat to basics, you ask? Yes, came the answer, and about time. The committee proposed a mission statement which represented the determination of the committee that limiting an effort to a part of the problem produces limited, if not skewed results; that the needs of the child are multiple; and that the best interests of the child are as dynamic as the society in which s/he lives.



# AFCC's Buckeye Barrister: Ohio Member Denise McColley

Board Member Denise McColley hails from Napoleon, Ohio, just outside of Toledo, where she somehow finds time for family, work and gearing up Ohio for AFCC's 1993 Northcentral Regional Conference in October. As a partner in Lanke-nau, Wesche & McColley, Denise has an active practice in family law, serving as a mediator, guardian ad litem and advocate. She is a devoted member of AFCC, attends national and regional conferences, and was elected to the Board of Directors at last year's San Diego conference.

Staying busy is nothing new for Denise. Although she always intended to be an attorney, Denise took a brief detour, earning a B.S. in education, marrying her high school sweetheart, Mike, and earning her M.Ed. from Bowling Green State University and teaching elementary school. After completing her master's degree, Denise was unable to resist the urge to continue her education so she packed up and headed to Columbus and The Ohio State University. During the week she was a law student while weekends were devoted to a commuter marriage. After graduation, Denise returned home to Napoleon to practice law. "I like being in a small town," she says, "I really feel like what I do here can make a difference." One of her many accomplishments was working with an interdisciplinary team to start *The Center for Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Inc.*, an agency which provides services for sexual abuse victims, families and perpetrators in four counties. Denise notes, "Too many times

we work so hard on a project and don't see the results. But we continue to see the impact of this effort and it is gratifying."

Denise is active in a number of professional organizations in addition to AFCC. She is President of the Henry County Bar Association, serves on the Family Law and Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee of the Ohio Bar Association and provides training in mediation and family law ethics for the Ohio Continuing Legal Education Institute and for the American Arbitration Association.

Given all of the activity in Denise's professional life, it is not surprising that during her off hours she enjoys more sedate activities like reading, cooking and taking walks. Denise points out, however, that it's not always easy to find the time considering that her home life includes ten year old Patrick, eight year old Robert, and six year old Cara, and all of their activities.

In addition to everything else, Denise is spearheading the drive to bring AFCC to Toledo next fall. "I enjoy AFCC activities because the people are terrific and the interdisciplinary approach closely resembles my practice. We're looking forward to having everyone come to Toledo." Denise is quick to note the important contributions of conference co-planners Hon. Ken Rohrs, Beth Kerns, Ron Rimelspach and Michele MacFarlane. She promises us a wonderful conference with interesting workshops and the opportunity to learn about some of the many exciting activities in and around Toledo.



## Member News

**Linda Kerr**, Director of the Pima County Conciliation Court in Tucson, AZ was married this past Spring. Her husband is employed on a NASA project. Linda and her colleagues in Tucson will be hosting AFCC's SW Regional Conference and Board Meeting in the Fall of 1994.

**Hugh McIsaac**, former Director of the Los Angeles County Conciliation Court, had a very short retirement. Hugh and his wife, Slovka, have moved to Portland, Oregon where Hugh has been hired as the Director of the Multnomah County Family Court Services, replacing Jim Dudley who retired this past year.

**Miriam Shearing** was recently elected to the Nevada Supreme Court. Judge

Shearing was the first woman to serve on the District Court Bench in Nevada and the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court. Congratulations to you!

**Phil Stahl** met the woman 'everyone' has been trying to fix him up with while he was attending AFCC's conference in Baltimore. 'Everyone' was right. Phil and his fiancée, Ruth, are engaged and will be married in August. Their romance is still long distance at this time, but they recently got together in Chicago and had lunch with Hon. Susan Snow to tell her of AFCC's achievement. Our best wishes, Phil and Ruth. We look forward to seeing the two of you in New Orleans.

### Dues Are Due

Second dues notices have now been sent to all members who have not paid membership dues for 1993. Please remit your dues as soon as possible and save us the cost of having to send a reminder notice. Tax deductible contributions may be enclosed with your dues and will help AFCC to expand our services and reach new members. This is also a good time to sign up a new member or to give a gift membership.

**Individual:** \$95/yr

**Institutional:** \$180/yr  
(provides 3 copies of Review, Newsletter, etc.)

**Student:** \$30/yr

**Life:** \$600  
(may be paid in two installments)

#### CA Chapter Dues

*Individual:* \$25/yr  
*Institutional:* \$50/yr  
*Student:* \$5/yr

#### AZ Chapter Dues

*Individual:* \$20/yr  
*Institutional:* \$40/yr

#### KS Chapter Dues

*Individual:* \$25/yr  
*Institutional:* \$50/yr

Remit in US funds to:  
**AFCC**  
329 W. Wilson St.  
Madison, WI 53703

### The Child Centered Assessment: An Innovation in Mediation

*Submitted by Bonnie Sacia,  
Family Court Counseling Services,  
LaCrosse, WI.*

One year after Family Court Counseling Services (FCCS) in LaCrosse, Wisconsin opened its doors, director Mary Geske received a telephone call from a local psychologist. He stated that he was beginning to treat children whose parents had reached agreement on child placement and although the parents generally found the agreements to be satisfactory, the children were experiencing problems.

This disconcerting news led to a series of meetings between mediators and therapists to consider the problem. The central issue involved information. In some situations, parents made decisions based on limited or inaccurate information about the needs of their children. Therapists repeatedly saw insufficient attention to issues such as bonding/attachment, child development, impact of separation, impact of parental conflict, and children's feelings of responsibility for the conflict or separation.

Mediation provides parents with an opportunity to manage their differences in a cooperative manner. Professional wisdom and common sense suggest that reduction of parental conflict (i.e., as achieved through a mediated agreement) will have a positive impact on children. Most mediators agree that an agreement which stands the test of time helps not only to reduce conflict, but is grounded in reliable information. Thus, mediation starts with the premise that parents are best qualified to make decisions about their children because they have reliable information. Simply stated, parents know their children best. Or do they?

It was decided that a **Child Centered Assessment**, to be used exclusively as a part of the mediation process, might help increase parents' understanding of their children's needs and lead to more effective decisions. Dr. Kip Zirkel a LaCrosse psychologist, developed the **Child Centered Assessment** format.

#### *Step 1:*

The mediator presents parents with the Child Centered Assessment Option.

#### *Step 2:*

Parents select an evaluator from a list provided by the mediator.

#### *Step 3:*

The evaluator meets with the parents (either jointly or separately) for background information and meets with the children from one to three sessions.

#### *Step 4:*

The evaluator requests that parents sign releases so collateral contacts can be made with schools, counselors, etc.

#### *Step 5:*

The assessment is presented by the evaluator to the parents in a joint mediation session. After the information is shared, the mediator and evaluator engage in a question and answer process.

#### *Step 6:*

The parents continue to meet with the mediator, without the evaluator, and use the information to reach a mediated agreement.

Several points must be stressed. First, the **Child Centered Assessment** is strictly an option. It is not offered to all parents. To date, five percent of parents participate. Those best suited are parents who voice concerns about the behavior of their children and/or parents who are highly conflicted and unable to focus on the needs of their children.

Because the **Child Centered Assessment** is a part of the mediation process, it is confidential unless both parents agree, in writing, to allow information to be used in future court proceedings. This has several advantages. FCCS staff have found that parents focus more on their children instead of on their respective positions. Therapists are more receptive to assisting families if they believe it is unlikely that their work will be used to escalate the conflict in a courtroom setting. The evaluator offers child-specific information which allows the mediator to maintain neutrality and to focus on the task of assisting the parents to incorporate the information into their decision making process.

The **Child Centered Assessment** does add to the cost of mediation as parents are responsible for paying the evaluator. In some cases, health insurance and Medical Assistance can be used to cover the cost of the evaluation portion.

To date there has been no evaluation of this process other than measuring the number of parents who reach an agreement, which is 70% at this writing. While the option appears helpful to families, obtaining additional data is a necessary next step.

For further information contact: Family Court Counseling Service, 1707 Main St., LaCrosse, WI 54601 (608) 785-6162.

### Dallas County Family Court Services to Implement Co-Mediation Pilot Project

*Reprinted from The Texas Mediator, the newsletter of the Texas Association of Mediators*

The courts have effectively used Dallas Family Court Services for custody and access disputes and Dispute Mediation Services and private practice mediators for financial and other disputes.

However, the need for comprehensive services for clients with complex multi-issue disputes was identified. Meetings with Dallas ADR Coordinator, Debbie Andrews, resulted in a proposal for a six month pilot project that will include the use of co-mediation teams that pair an attorney-mediator with a mental health-mediator or financial mediator. Training has been planned for mediators interested in participating. Several judges have indicated a preliminary interest and the proposal is nearing readiness for formal presentation to the courts. AFCC member Lynelle Yingling is developing a research design. Mediators must meet Texas Association of Mediators (TAM) membership requirements to qualify for participation in the project.

The potential benefits of the project include fewer trials, satisfactory resolution of complex divorce issues, interdisciplinary cross training, training and experience in co-mediation, an opportunity to expand professional services for mediators and informative research for the mediation community.

Contributing to the development of the project are TAM members Debbie Andrews, Herb Cooke, Suzanne, Duvall, Kay Elliott, Martha Garber, Linda Hahn, Don Hancock, Gary Kirkpatrick, Anthony Picchioni and Lynelle Yingling.



### Cross-Cultural Conciliation: Translating the Issues

*Submitted by Alison Taylor, M.A., LPC  
Clackamas County, Oregon, Family Court*

*Court-connected services attempt to meet the needs of all members of society and address the issues raised by cross-cultural families. The following is an example of the conciliation of such a case. All names are fictitious.*

Debbie and Jose had been living together for one year. They have a one year old daughter. Debbie has a five year old son from a previous relationship. His father has not been actively involved. Jose works full time in landscaping and Debbie stays home with the children.

Jose and Debbie met in a bar. She was jealous of any time Jose spent away from her and was very suspicious of his activities with friends. She was ambivalent about Mexicans, despite the fact that she had actively sought out Jose. Jose felt committed to Debbie and intended to marry her but he sometimes had doubts about whether she would be a good wife. They had a number of verbal fights and Jose had recently hit Debbie, scaring them both.

Debbie had almost daily contact with her mother and sister. Jose's mother had never met Debbie, but knew about their daughter. Debbie described Jose as an adequate father but said he was short-tempered with her son who was, admittedly, often out of control. Jose said he liked her son but didn't feel Debbie allowed him to be a parent to him. He loved their daughter but believed that it was primarily the woman's place to care for the children.

Debbie requested conciliation services and asked if Court Services could find a translator as Jose spoke little English. A bailiff who often translates for the Circuit Court volunteered her services. Prior to seeing the clients, the conciliator met with the bailiff to explain the work of Family Court Services.

This case would present challenges to any conciliator even without the cross-cultural and language issues. Debbie and Jose had never discussed Jose's relationship with her son or his role as a parent. The lack of commitment to the relationship was a major issue as was Jose's belief in the Catholic church's teaching about marriage, although he was not actively involved in the church. The escalation of conflict and violence in the home were very important issues.

Debbie and Jose were affected by their different communication styles and role expectations. They were socially isolated due to language differences. Other problems included a lack of assimilation, each partner's extended family, expectations

about parent-child relationships, views about the meaning of marriage, social activities, including Sundays, when Jose wanted to play soccer and relax with others at a big family dinner and Debbie wanted to hang around the house in her robe.

The translator sat next to the conciliator so that while Jose was speaking he could maintain eye contact with the conciliator. The conciliator was able to observe his body language and inflection. The translator was not needed during individual sessions with Debbie.

Fact-gathering seemed slow and the conciliator had to be extremely clear with any information provided. Interventions were difficult, although the rapport was maintained through the translation. At the conclusion of each session, Jose and Debbie were asked how the process was working for them. They each reported that the translation, though somewhat cumbersome, was necessary and helpful.

The translator and conciliator spent half an hour together prior to and after the session planning and reviewing what had happened, examining the issues and discussing where the translation had seemed inadequate. The translator also discussed her own emotional response. The case brought up issues in her family which she was able to confront without letting them spill into the sessions.

The female gender of both the translator and the conciliator affected the ability to question Jose, who was culturally inhibited and not used to discussing personal issues with two female strangers.

Jose and Debbie agreed to marry if Debbie would make an active effort to bring Jose's mother to Oregon for the wedding. Many issues remained unresolved, including parenting, communication and their sexual relationship. They did reach agree-

ments about how to deal with their anger in non-violent, non-destructive ways. Debbie made it clear that she would leave if there were any other physical confrontations. Jose agreed. Debbie was given information about the women's shelter and Jose was told that hitting is illegal and unacceptable in this country.

Debbie confronted her cultural ambivalence and the couple agreed to go to a nearby Hispanic church to make wedding arrangements and establish friendships with others. They agreed that Jose could rejoin an Hispanic soccer team and that Debbie would attempt to make friends with the other women and children instead of feeling abandoned or asking Jose to give up his Sunday enjoyment. They were encouraged to continue counseling.

The conciliator concluded that cultural issues are transpersonal. Individuals are often unaware that cultural issues are operating because they are part of their world view. While special issues exist, the conciliator must attend to the issues that all couples face: communication, intimacy, role definition, life stage differences, parenting issues and outside influences.

While this conciliation was not complete, it helped Debbie and Jose understand the issues and reach some agreements. This case would have been difficult under any circumstances. The added challenge was to translate not only Jose's and Debbie's words and intentions to one another, but their cultural expectations as well.

### Did You Know?

China, population 1.1 billion, will have 100,000 lawyers by the year 2000, up from just 50,000 today. The U.S., population 253 million has 750,000 lawyers.





# Supervising Visitation: An Emerging Profession

*This ongoing column on Supervised Visitation Programs is written by Tim Ballew, MSW, Manager, Family Dissolution Program, Family Connection Center, 222 South Downey Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46219, (317) 353-2607.*

In recent years it has become increasingly common for courts to be confronted with allegations that children are placed at risk when they spend time with a dysfunctional parent or grandparent. Many times these allegations are well founded and have been substantiated through sources such as local child protective services and police departments. At other times, courts are asked to intervene when such allegations are still subject to an ongoing investigation. To provide for protection of a child's physical and emotional safety, it is sometimes necessary to arrange for contact with a parent to take place in a supervised setting.

In the past, access to professional, supervised visitation services has been extremely limited. A number of alternative supervision resources have historically been used. These have included relatives and friends, church members and clergy, child protection workers, law enforcement personnel and counselors and mediators.

Each of these resources has its limitations. Often parents are unable to identify a family member or friend who will be neutral. Clergy or church members may be unprepared for the voracity and longevity of these disputes. As a result, some withdraw their services. The oppressive caseloads of child protection workers is well documented. Law enforcement personnel may be able to provide physical protection but often lack the skills necessary to offer emotional safety. Counselors may be best suited to the task but the financial cost can be prohibitive.

As a specialized service, the field of supervised visitation is new, having developed within the past ten years. There are a number of different supervised visitation models and the debate over which is most appropriate is just now beginning. However, most professional supervised visitation services offer courts and their client families the following:

- ☐ Extensive experience with a litigious client population and the issues they bring to visitation.
- ☐ Lower fees than others with commensurate experience.
- ☐ Neutrality with respect to the parents' conflict and a focus on the needs of the children during visitation.
- ☐ Ability and willingness to handle any security concerns which may arise.

- ☐ Documentation about visitation in a clear and consistent fashion and an understanding of the court's need for reports and testimony.

Specialized supervised visitation services have developed to fill a void created by increasingly complex family structures, stresses and conflicts. Members of the Supervised Visitation Network (SVN) look forward to working with other professionals involved in helping family members resolve their visitation disputes. For more information concerning SVN and supervised visitation services in your area or the development of such services, please contact your regional representative:

## East

Andrea Lamertson  
c/o Bergen County  
Division of Family Guidance  
Court Plaza South  
21 Main St., Room 110 West  
Hackensack, NJ 07601  
(201) 646-3741

## Central

Garth Mintun, ACSW  
c/o Visiting Nurse Service, Inc.  
950 N. Illinois St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 236-0445

## West

Joanne Karolzak  
c/o Casa de los Ninos  
347 E. Speedway Blvd.  
Tucson, AZ 85705  
(602) 792-6393

## International

Rachele Dabraio, MSW, CSE  
c/o Ministry of the Attorney General  
Policy Development Division  
720 Bay St. 7th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario, M5G 2K1 CANADA  
(416) 326-2481



## Parent Education Program to Begin in Rhode Island

*Submitted by Susan McCalmont, Assistant Administrator for Policy and Planning, Supreme Court of Rhode Island*

Rhode Island's Family Court, in conjunction with St. Mary's Home for Children, is finalizing plans for a pilot divorce orientation program entitled *Divided Yet United*. The pilot program is the result of collaboration between St. Mary's staff and a planning committee of judges, attorneys, psychologists and members of the court's Family Services Unit. The project is funded by a \$10,000 grant from the Rhode Island Department of Education's Child and Family Trust Fund.

The program will be educational in nature and modeled after the Cobb County, Georgia parent education program. It will consist of two, 2-1/2 hour evening sessions. The focus of the sessions will be on reduc-

ing the negative impact of divorce on children and promoting constructive, healthy, post-divorce relationships. Topics will include the emotional, financial and legal impact of divorce, children's reaction to divorce, developmental needs of children, helping children cope with changes in the family and pitfalls to avoid. The format will include lecture, videotape, group discussion and role playing. Referrals will be provided to St. Mary's by the Family Court. The court is urging lawyers to make direct referrals to the program and attorneys are being encouraged to sit in and observe. The goal is to create a permanent, mandatory divorce orientation program which will be followed by the establishment of a mediation program. For further information contact: Susan McCalmont, Rhode Island Supreme Court, Rm. 705, 250 Benefit St., Providence, RI 02903 (401) 277-2500.

# Mediation Standards Conference in Los Angeles

Submitted by Hugh McIsaac  
Multnomah County Oregon  
Division of Family Services.

The Los Angeles County Superior Court and the Southern California Mediation Association sponsored a program on "Mediation Standards for Court-connected Mediation Programs" at the Los Angeles County Superior Court on Saturday, March 20th. The conference planning committee is co-chaired by Hugh McIsaac, former director of the Los Angeles Family Court Services, and Barbara Flicker, former director of the Institute for Judicial Administration.

The purpose of the program was to review the proposed National Standards developed by an interdisciplinary committee under the leadership of Margaret Shaw, Linda Singer and Edna Povich. Tim Salius, Director of the Family Division of the Connecticut Superior Court, and Hugh McIsaac, new Director of Multnomah County, Division of Family Services, represented AFCC on this two-year project. These standards stress the need for confidentiality in the mediation process and the importance of using professional mediators who are trained and compensated for their work.

The program was heavily interactive involving academics, judges, mediators and attorneys concerned about court-connected mediation programs. The keynote address was given by Justice Norman Epstein of the California Appellate Court and Chair of the State's Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution.

The conference planning committee hopes to establish a dialogue around the proposed standards. Of particular concern to committee members has been the proliferation of mediation programs which appear to focus on case processing and court efficiency rather than mediation as a long term solution to difficult and complex problems. Committee members feel that there is a need for a better understanding of mediation, what it can do and what mediation should not attempt to do. Committee members believe that mediation must not be used as a means of coercion, nor should it be used to substitute harmonious outcomes for those which are fair and just. Mediation must assist parties in creating settlements that are fair and just.

A complete copy of the proposed standards will be published in the April 1993 issue of the *Family and Conciliation Courts Review*. For further information, contact the Southern California Mediation Association at (213) 896-6536.

## National Conference on Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution May 27-June 1, 1993 Portland, OR

The sixth conference of the National Conference on Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution (NCPCR) will be held at the Portland Hilton May 27-June 1, 1993. The conference will explore the challenge and the potential of diversity and ask how peace and justice can be created and sustained in a world where difference is inevitable.

Conference fees prior to May 1 are \$270 for the conference and institutes and after May 1 increase to \$320. A copy of the program may be obtained from: NCPCR, George Mason University, 4400 University Dr., Fairfax, VA 22030 (703) 993-3635.

## IUFO Conference in Vienna

The International Union of Family Organizations invites AFCC members to attend a working conference of the Commission on Marriage and Interpersonal Relations to be hosted by the Institut für Ehe und Familie, May 6-9, 1993 in Vienna, Austria. Two keynote papers will be presented. Professor Wilfred Dumon, sociologist at the University of Leuven, Belgium, will discuss how social change affects family patterns and the reciprocal effects of family change on society. Dr. Renate Riedler-Singer, Vienna psychologist, will address the same topic from her experience as a psychotherapist. The conference fee of \$285 US double and \$520 US single includes the conference registration fee, accommodation and all meals. For further information contact: Byrnece Gluckstern, 2009 W. Littleton Blvd., Littleton, CO 80120, (303) 730-7227.

## Job Announcement

Woodbury College, Montpelier, VT is seeking a Director of its Mediation Program—a unique, year-long training program combining theory and practice. Responsibilities include program leadership, development, teaching, mentoring and advising. Candidates need to have a thorough understanding of the mediation process, outstanding communication skills, and the leadership and organizational skills necessary to promote the program. Apply with a resume and cover letter to the Search Committee, Woodbury College, 660 Elm Street, Montpelier, VT 05602 (802) 229-0516.





# Thank You, Dallas Family Court Services

The AFCC Newsletter has a special *thank you* for **Linda Hahn, Pat Ross, Cheryl Portele and Nina Jean Barrett** of Dallas, Texas Family Court Services for their excellent series of articles on using games with children in the custody evaluation process. The FCS office has received numerous requests for the sentence completion form from the Fall 1992 article. For those interested, contact: Family Court Services, George Allen Courts Bldg., 600 Commerce St., Suite 7-176, Dallas, Texas, 75202-4606. (214) 653-7674.

For further information on other assessment games and tools:

## CHILDREN'S APPRECIATION TEST

Leopold Bellak, MA, MD  
Sonya Sorel Bellak  
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P.O. Box 83  
Larchmont, NY 10538

## DEALING WITH FEELINGS— A CARD GAME

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Childsworld Childs Play  
Center for Applied Psychology  
441 N. Fifth Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19123  
(800) 962-1141

## FEELINGS IN HAND PLAYING CARDS

Marilyn R. Deak, PhD  
Psychological Development Services  
P.O. Box 136  
Claymont, Delaware 19703-0136

## THE FAMILY RELATIONS TEST

Eva Bene, PhD and  
James Anthony, MD, BSC, DPM  
NFER Publishing Company Ltd.  
Darville House  
2 Oxford Rd. East, Blocks SL41 DF  
Windsor, England

## INSTRUCTO FAMILY FACE PUPPETS

Black & Anglo  
The Instructo Company  
Paoli, Pennsylvania 19301

## MICHIGAN PICTURE TEST

Science Research Assoc., Inc.  
259 E. Erie St.  
Chicago, IL 60611

## THE STORY TELLING CARD GAME and THE TALKING FEELING DOING GAME

Richard A. Gardner, MD  
Al Lowenhein  
Creative Therapeutics  
155 Country Road  
Cresskill, New Jersey 07626-0317

## UNGAME

The UnGame Company  
1440 So. State College Blvd., Bldg. 2-D  
Anaheim, California 92806

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, 329 W. Wilson St. Madison, WI 53703, (608) 251-4001.

# Impact of Visitation Enforcement Programs Studied

The impact of visitation enforcement programs on child access and child support received mixed reviews according to a study conducted by Dr. Jessica Pearson and Jean Anhalt of The Center for Policy Research (CPR) in Denver. "The study reveals the vexing nature of access disputes and confirms the complex interconnection between child support and visitation problems, especially in usual, maternal custody situations."

Pearson and Anhalt conducted a national survey of AFCC members to help in the selection of five visitation enforcement programs for intensive study. The sites chosen were the Visitation Intake Program in Wayne County, Michigan; Expedited Visitation Services in Maricopa County, Arizona; the Support and Visitation Enforcement Program of Lee County, Florida; Court Services in Wyandotte County, Kansas, and the Pre-Contemptors/Contemptors Group in Los Angeles, California.

Programs used various methods to address visitation problems including expedited complaint procedures, supervised

visitation, warning letters, telephone monitoring of visitation, mediation and group education. The program evaluation included visits to each program, observation of the intervention and interviews with key staff including relevant legal and judicial personnel. Telephone interviews were conducted with a sample of parents from various programs.

Pearson and Anhalt found that most cases involved "traditional" custody arrangements (maternal residential custody with conventional visitation orders) and child support arrearages. Most cases had long histories of litigation over access and support matters. While nonresidential parents tended to complain that access was simply not permitted, residential parents cited problems including safety, parental conflict and failure to exercise visitation. A high percentage of cases involved serious allegations of substance abuse, domestic violence and child abuse.

Prior to participating in a visitation enforcement program, many disputants had court orders calling for "reasonable visitation". Specification of these orders was

the most common outcome of the visitation enforcement program. Punitive remedies, such as changes in orders, make-up time, fines, jail, etc., were rarely invoked.

There was no change in the reported regularity of visitation following program participation. While half of those fathers who had rare or no visitation improved the situation, about half of the fathers reporting regular visitation experienced diminished contact following participation.

Child support payments improved modestly following program participation but there was little agreement between mothers and fathers about child support payment. Participation in the program did decrease the rate of relitigation of access issues but the rate of litigation over child support did not change.

Copies of **The Visitation Enforcement Program: Impact on Child Access and Child Support** are available from the Center for Policy Research at 1720 Emerson St., Denver, Colorado 80218 (303) 837-1555.

# VIDEO COMMITTEE SURVEY

The AFCC Video Committee is interested in meeting membership needs. Please take a few moments to complete this brief survey and return it to: AFCC Conference Desk or return it to AFCC Video Committee, c/o Peter Salem, 329 W. Wilson, Madison, WI 53703.

1. Have you every purchased an AFCC videotape?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (skip to question 3)
- ☐ Don't know (skip to question 4)

2. Which videotape(s) did you buy?

---

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2a. How do you use this tape (check all that apply)?

- ☐ Group orientation
- ☐ With individual clients
- ☐ Training
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why have you *not* purchased an AFCC video?

- ☐ Have no use for videotape in my practice.
- ☐ Do not have the equipment to show videotapes.
- ☐ Copied the tape I wanted from someone else.
- ☐ AFCC videotapes are too expensive.
- ☐ No AFCC tape currently meets my needs.
- ☐ Quality is not as high as other available tapes.
- ☐ Preferred another videotape (please identify below).
- ☐ Other

If you use a videotape other than one distributed by AFCC, what is the name of the tape?

---

4. What type of video would be most useful to you?

- ☐ "How to" videos which demonstrate, e.g., interviewing techniques, mediation, etc.
- ☐ Educational (what topic?) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Promotional (what topic?) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please feel free to attach additional comments. Thank you for your participation.

# New Orleans Conference

## Registration Form

Please print or type

This form may be duplicated. Please submit one form per person.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First M.I. Last (As you wish it to appear on Badge)

Title/Profession \_\_\_\_\_  
(As you wish it to appear on Badge)

Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
(As you wish it to appear on Badge)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Is this your 1st AFCC Conference? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to be listed for a roommate? \_\_\_\_\_

M F Smoker Non-smoker

Do you have any special needs? Meals? Access, etc?

### Workshop Choices (Choose one per time slot)

1-8 \_\_\_\_\_

9-16 \_\_\_\_\_

17-27 \_\_\_\_\_

28-33 \_\_\_\_\_

### Special Institutes

☐ John Haynes 2 Day Mediation Training \$250

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for Judges \$95

☐ The Latest for Lawyers \$75

☐ Custody Evaluations \$75

☐ Court Services for the 90's \$75

☐ 4 Hour Advanced Mediation Training \$75

### Conference Registration

☐ **AFCC Member** \$225. Full conference. (Includes all food functions and amenities)

☐ **Non-Member** \$250. Full conference.

☐ **New Member Special** \$300. Full conference and AFCC Membership. (Applied to new 1993 memberships only. Regular membership \$95/yr)

☐ **Spouses and Guests** \$100. (Includes all food functions)

☐ **Students** \$100. Student ID must accompany Registration. (Conference attendance only, does not include food functions)

☐ **Banquet Only** \$45.

☐ **Brunch at Brennans** \$30

☐ **Special AFCC T-shirt, Mardi Gras Mask** \$15  
S M L XL

☐ **Special AFCC T-shirt, Sax Player** \$15  
S M L XL

☐ **CLE or CEU Attendance Verification** \$10

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Send To: AFCC

329 W. Wilson Street

Madison, WI 53703

(608) 251-4001

FAX (608) 251-2231

## Upcoming Events

April 12-17, 1993  
April 29-30, 1993  
May 13-14, 1993  
June 24-25, 1993

Affairs: Getting the Message  
Emily Brown, LCSW  
Contact: Key Bridge Therapy &  
Mediation Center  
1925 N. Lynn St., Suite 700  
Arlington, VA 22209  
(703) 528-3900

May 3-7, 1993

Divorce Mediation Training  
with Carl Schneider and Zena Zumeta  
Chicago, IL  
Contact: (800) 852-1432

May 13-16, 1993

June 24-27, 1993  
Mediation Training  
Contact: John Lemmon  
(510) 547-8089

May 12-15, 1993

New Orleans  
1993 AFCC Annual Conference  
Contact: Tim Salius  
Family Division Superior Court  
28 Grand Street  
Hartford, CT 06106  
(203) 566-7973

May 20-23, 1993

June 17-20, 1993  
June 25-27, 1993  
July 15-18, 1993

August 19-22, 1993  
September 16-19, 1993  
October 1-3, 1993  
October 16-18, 1993  
October 21-24, 1993  
November 11-14, 1993  
December 15-19, 1993  
Family Mediation Training  
Gary Kirkpatrick  
Contact: (214) 528-2830  
or 1-800-888-8609

June 14-18, 1993

October 11-15, 1993  
Divorce Mediation Training  
Contact: CDR Associates  
100 Arapahoe Ave. Suite 12  
Boulder, Colorado 80302  
(303) 442-7367

October 7-9, 1993

AFCC Northcentral Regional Conference  
Toledo, OH  
Contact: Denise McColley  
105 W. Main St.  
Napoleon, OH 43545  
(419) 592-0010

May, 11-14, 1994

AFCC Annual Conference  
Maui, Hawaii  
Contact: Hon. Douglas McNish  
2145 Main Street  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
(808) 572-9642

Fall, 1994

Tucson, AZ  
Contact: Frances Bernfeld  
Conciliation Court  
Great American Twr.  
32 N. Stone, Suite 1704  
Tucson, AZ 85701  
(602) 740-5590

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## 30th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Economic Impact  
of Divorce

May 11-15, 1993

New Orleans, Louisiana