



NEWSLETTER

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

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

Volume 17, Number 3
Summer 1998

Southeast Regional Conference, October 29–31, 1998

Family Dispute Resolution Continuum Headlines AFCC's Orlando Agenda

Leading experts on dispute resolution, including representatives from the major dispute resolution organizations, headline an impressive list of presenters who will explore **The Family Dispute Resolution Continuum** at AFCC's Southeast Regional Conference and Board of Directors Meeting, October 29–31, 1998 at the Grosvenor Resort in Orlando, Florida. The Grosvenor is located on Disney property, within walking distance of Disney Village Marketplace and Pleasure Island, and a quick, complimentary shuttle ride to major Disney attractions.

Conference sessions will address a wide range of dispute resolution processes, including parent education, mediation, collaborative law, child protection/dependency mediation, custody evaluations, judicial decision making, settlement conferencing and much, much more.

The program kicks off on Thursday, October 29 with a selection of full or half day pre-conference institutes, including:

- **Advanced Applications in Custody Evaluations**
- **Mediation in Child Protection/Dependency Cases**
- **Child Development: Understanding the Issues and Responding to the Interests**
- **Parental Access Programs: The Future is Now**
- **Judicial Settlement Conferencing: How To's and What For's**
- **Strategies for Serving as Guardians ad Litem: Ethical and Practical Dilemmas**

Thursday's opening night plenary session, *The Family Dispute Resolution Continuum: From Education to Adjudication*, will be an interactive debate about the growing number of services on the family dispute resolution continuum. Presenters include Joan Kelly, Executive Director of the Northern California Mediation Center; Maurice Jay Kutner, Chair, American Bar Association Section of Family Law;

C. Eileen Pruett, Coordinator of Dispute Resolution Programs, The Ohio Supreme Court; and Hon. Susan Snow, Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois.

Friday's plenary session examines the development of the field from the perspectives of representatives of the leading dispute resolution organizations. Presenters will include Christie Coates, AFCC President; Margery Baker, President of the National Institute for Dispute Resolution; Pamela Enslen, Chair, American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution; Sally Ganong Pope, President, Academy of Family Mediators; Sharon Press, First Vice President, Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution; and B. Stephen Toben, Program Manager, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

Conference workshops will feature dispute resolution processes for divorce, child custody and child abuse and neglect cases, including:

- **Child Protection/Dependency Mediation: Qualifications, Standards and Special Issues**
- **Family Group Conferencing Comes to Hawaii: The Ohana Conference**
- **He Said/She Said: Managing Allegations of Parental Alienation**
- **The Art and Craft of Judging**
- **The Ethical Dilemmas of Hybrid Processes: Purity or Purée?**
- **Toward a Model of Child Custody Mediation with Latinos**
- **Effective Dispute Resolution in the Litigation Process**

Child Protection/Dependency Mediation Roundtable, Part II

Based on the enormous success of the Child Protection/Dependency Mediation Roundtable discussion at AFCC's 1998 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., the Mediation Committee will be sponsoring a follow-up meeting at the Southeast Regional Conference. This is an opportunity

for those who are interested in obtaining and sharing information, networking with others in the field and learning about AFCC's commitment to this growing field of practice. All are welcome to attend.

Disney Attractions

The Grosvenor is located just a few steps away from the shops and restaurants of **Disney Village Marketplace** and the exciting nightlife of **Pleasure Island**. Complimentary shuttle service is available to the new **Disney Animal Kingdom**, **The Magic Kingdom**, **Epcot**, **MGM Studios** and other Disney attractions.

AFCC has arranged for special tickets for conference delegates. Special Multi-Day Park-Hopper Tickets allow you to move between **Disney's Animal Kingdom**, **Epcot**, **Disney-MGM** and the **Magic Kingdom** all on the same day and at a reduced rate! Also available to conference delegates are "after 2:00pm" tickets for Epcot and Disney-MGM and "after 4:00pm tickets" to Epcot and 25% off of tickets to Pleasure Island. You must have a special conference registration coupon to purchase these discount tickets.

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AFCC NEWSLETTER

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AFCC Newsletter Editor

Peter Salem

Published by AFCC
329 W. Wilson Street
Madison, WI 53703
Tel: (608) 251-4001
Fax: (608) 251-2231
E-mail: afcc@afccnet.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Christie Coates, Boulder, Colorado

Early in my legal career when I first heard someone mention the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, I dismissed the organization as having nothing to do with me. I was a lawyer and mediator in a state that has neither family nor conciliation courts. What could AFCC offer me? Little did I know the impact that AFCC would have on my life.

I have two people to thank for getting me involved in AFCC: Byrnece Gluckstern and Linda Hahn. Byrnece was a custody evaluator and mediator in one of the few courts in Colorado that had court staff providing those services. A longtime supporter of AFCC, she had served on the Board and as chair of the International Committee for years. Deciding that Colorado needed an AFCC regional meeting, she enlisted the support of Linda Hahn, then AFCC regional chair, and began recruiting professionals from Boulder and Denver to put on a conference for an organization very few of us in Colorado had ever heard of. We had a small, yet lively, conference which hooked me on AFCC and the message that it had for families and professionals. However, Byrnece wasn't through with me. She put my name in for the Board and I was nominated. I, who had been to only one AFCC event! When I attended my first annual meeting and Board meeting in San Diego, I knew no one but Byrnece. But Linda Hahn (bless her little Texas heart) introduced me to everyone and made a point of including me in meals and evening events. Through her efforts to welcome me to the AFCC "family," I have met some of my best friends and many colleagues from around the world. Thank you, Byrnece Gluckstern, for opening my professional world to AFCC and thank you, Linda Hahn for generously and graciously welcoming me into the family. Linda, now a past president of AFCC has been my AFCC mentor, and I'm grateful for her continuing advice and support.

The AFCC philosophy grabbed me from my first introduction and resonated with my personal philosophy as a family lawyer and mediator. AFCC promotes the humane

treatment of people going through our legal system – respect for the individual and concern for children – and encourages positive change in our family court system. A lot of us have at times felt alone in our professional practices—"voices crying in the wilderness"—but AFCC has been and will be there to support and encourage us. That's one reason the Board has initiated the "AFCC—Kids Count on Us" Resource Development Campaign. We know that there are thousands of professionals toiling in their court system who have never heard of AFCC or at least think it is not relevant to them. We want to reach our colleagues with the good news about AFCC and learn what they're doing in their spheres of influence. We also want to have the resources to fund more projects that will directly help families and professionals.

Part of the process of creating our Development Campaign was to come up with a short "sound bite" that expresses the spirit of AFCC. Prior to arriving at "AFCC—Kids Count on Us," the Executive and Development Committees had some fun brainstorming short statements directed at the different professions within AFCC: for instance, to lawyers—"Feel like you've lost your soul? Regain it with AFCC," or to mental health professionals—"Feeling nuttier than your clients? AFCC is therapeutic." However, Larry Lehner, our AFCC Treasurer, suggested a phrase that I have adopted as my own *raison d'être* for AFCC: "AFCC—Holding the Hope."

As court personnel, lawyers, judges, custody evaluators, parent educators, mediators, therapists, Guardians *ad litem*, Court Appointed Special Advocates and others, we truly do hold the hope for our clients. Mother Theresa, in speaking of AIDS patients said, "we want to create hope for the person . . . we must give hope, always hope." Family members can't see past the darkness of today. We as professionals shine the lantern on a vision of life after the court process is over.

We also "hold the hope" for ourselves. The burnout rate is high in our lines of work. AFCC members support each other and help turn pessimism into optimism. "Hope is like a walk in the country; there was never a road, but when many people walk on it, the road comes into being" (Lin Yutang). As we walk that road together in and out of AFCC, ideas are shared, innovations occur and the road of change is created.

I have witnessed many changes in the last decade in my mediation, arbitration and legal practices. Child abuse and neglect, high conflict families, alcohol and drug abuse and domestic violence are just a few of the challenges we now face on a daily basis. In response, a growing number of dispute resolution processes have been developed, demonstrating a significant effort by our courts and related service providers to meet the complex needs of today's family. Many of these initiatives are local or regional efforts; others span the globe.

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AFCC President, Christie Coates

A FCC could not have a President who better exemplifies the organization than Christie Coates of Boulder, Colorado. She has an interdisciplinary background in law, psychology, sociology and counseling and when it comes to co-parenting, Christie has truly been there and done that.

A self-proclaimed "oil brat" Christie was born in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, home of Phillips Petroleum. At age 10 her father was transferred and the family moved to Pasadena, Texas. After graduating from South Houston High School, Christie was awarded a Phillips scholarship to attend Houston Baptist University where she double majored in psychology and sociology. While in college she met and married her first husband, Russ Thompson. After graduating and teaching ninth grade English for a year, Christie enrolled in graduate school at the University of Houston to study counseling. Shortly after graduation, Christie's son Jason was born.

Christie went to work as Executive Director for the Houston Organization for Parent Education, which offered classes in child-birth and parenting skills. There, Christie started the first support group for single mothers in Houston. "There really wasn't anything like it at the time," Christie recalls. "People were still referring to broken homes and there was no way for single parents to learn how to co-parent after separation." At about the same time, her own marriage was ending.

Christie worked hard to make sure that Jason had plenty of time with his father and she began a new job as Director of Education for Planned Parenthood of Houston.

One day, while attending a Renaissance Fair in Houston she came across a man selling rocks, minerals and fossils at a booth. "I've always collected nice rocks, so I asked him if he knew of any good books on rocks," Christie recalls. "He said, 'you don't need a book, date a geologist.'" So she did, and after a whirlwind romance, Christie married Howard Gordon, a geologist who was working in the oil industry.

Shortly thereafter, Howard was transferred to Colorado. Christie, Howard and Jason moved to Boulder, as did Jason's father. "Russ moved to be near Jason and to keep the parenting arrangement working. It was very important to both of us. We were able to make it work because we both agreed to put our issues aside when we were dealing with Jason."

In a new location and a new marriage, Christie decided it was a good time for a career shift. "I wanted to get my doctorate in psychology, but I kept meeting all of these unemployed psychologists. I was a volunteer giving tours of the Boulder Justice Center to school children and I saw what the lawyers were doing and thought, 'I can do that.' So I decided to go to law school and practice family law."

After graduating from law school, Christie opened a solo practice and dove head first into her work, building her practice and volunteering in the legal community. Her efforts were recognized and in 1986 she was named Outstanding Young Lawyer by both the Boulder and Colorado Bar Associations. At the same time, Christie was developing an interest in mediation. She completed an internship with CDR Associates, a prominent

mediation organization, and began mediating and conducting training for CDR.

Christie's work is now almost exclusively dispute resolution. In addition to mediation, she does med-arb, arbitration, parenting coordination and serves as a special master. She teaches divorce mediation at the University of Denver and supervises a child protection/dependency mediation pilot project and a low income divorce and child custody mediation program for the City of Boulder's Community Mediation Service. In 1996 Christie was recognized as Mediator of the Year by the Colorado Council of Mediators and Mediation Organizations. She was also recognized by Voices of Children of Boulder County (CASA program) for her legal services to children.

When she isn't attending to her practice or working on AFCC projects, Christie enjoys reading mysteries or sitting on her deck with Howard, sipping a glass of wine and listening to *Prairie Home Companion*. She also sings in the church choir, takes occasional voice lessons and recently performed a blues set at a Boulder coffee house.

In her work with separated and divorcing parents Christie remains optimistic based on her own experience with Jason, who has become a published comic book artist. "It worked out for us with Jason so I know that co-parenting is possible," she said. "There are a lot of crummy things about divorce and it causes kids a lot of pain, but I know that parents can improve their children's chances of coming out whole by finding a way to put their negative feelings for one another aside."



The Mediation Committee Wants You!

Mediation committee co-chairs Jan Shaw and Rosemary Vasquez have been communicating by e-mail, fax and phone about this year's exciting possibilities. Heading the list is responding to the phenomenal interest in Child Protection/Dependency Mediation. The roundtable meeting held at AFCC's 35th Anniversary Conference in Washington, D.C. attracted a tremendous response with many participants continuing to communicate with Jan about their ideas, questions and requests for more information.

The momentum from the Washington, D.C. meeting is spreading to Florida. AFCC has scheduled a second Child Protection/Dependency Mediation Roundtable during the Southeast Regional Conference in Orlando. The newest edition of the **Directory of Child Protection/Dependency Mediation Programs** will be available. In

addition, the mediation committee is sponsoring a pre-conference institute and a workshop on child protection/dependency mediation.

Looking to the year ahead, AFCC will be planning two regional colloquia on Child Protection/Dependency Mediation in the spring and fall of 1999. The Mediation Committee will also be considering other new issues including discussion on the wide variety of models and innovations in family mediation.

Join us! The Mediation Committee is committed to doing great things. How? With you, your ideas and a few hours of your time. The committee will be meeting during the Southeast Regional Conference. The time and place will be posted by the registration desk. We hope that you will be able to join us. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Jan Shaw by e-mail at jsrivrat@aol.com or by telephone at (714) 935-6459.

CONVERSATION CORNER

Sharon Press, Florida Dispute Resolution Center



Sharon Press, J.D., is director of the Florida Dispute Resolution Center, a joint program of the Florida Supreme Court and the Florida State University College of Law, that oversees court related

mediation activity in Florida. She has served as director since 1991 and was associate director from 1988-91. Ms. Press teaches mediation at Florida State University College of Law, serves as a mediator for the Tallahassee Neighborhood Justice Center and is First Vice President of the Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution (SPIDR). In 1997 she received the Center for Public Resources Institute for Dispute Resolution Special Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Field and the Future of Dispute Resolution. Ms. Press also serves as stage manager for Laughing Stock Political Cabaret and was recognized as Volunteer of the Year for the Arts in Tallahassee. Born and raised on Long Island, New York, Ms. Press attended George Washington University where she earned a B.A. in international relations and a law degree. In May of 1998 she married Barry Kantowitz. She serves as AFCC liaison to SPIDR.

AFCC: When you entered law school did you ever envision spending your entire career in the dispute resolution field?

Sharon Press: Yes and no. I studied international relations as an undergraduate and seriously considered a career in international diplomacy, which is not that far removed from dispute resolution. While I was in school I became active in the residence hall system, first as an assistant then as director. They had wonderful in-service training which focused on many conflict resolution skills. I found that to be one of the most rewarding and educational activities in my time at the university, including law school. I had thought about going to law school and when I was offered a scholarship I enrolled, but with the intent of continuing to work in the residence hall system. While in law school I worked in the mediation clinic and I knew by the time I graduated that dispute resolution was what I wanted to do.

AFCC: What has surprised you most in your 12 years in the dispute resolution field?

SP: Probably the growth and institutionalization of mediation, which I believe has eclipsed most other dispute resolution alternatives. It has occurred on such an enormous level. Ten years ago we would never have believed that this office

would have a mailing list of 10,000 people and that nearly half of them would be certified mediators. The number of mediators, the number of cases being mediated and the fact that mediation has become part of commonly used language in Florida is impressive. It really wasn't all that long ago that it was only 20 people getting together to try to promote the use of mediation.

AFCC: To what do you attribute this growth and institutionalization?

SP: I think it is a tribute to the people who have been doing the work over all these years, especially those who began working in the field 20 to 30 years ago. That, and the power of the mediation process itself.

AFCC: Florida has always been on the front lines when it comes to certification of mediators and regulating mediation practice. Has your state been a guinea pig for the rest of the field?

SP: We have been a guinea pig. One of the things that makes me proud is the great courage Florida's leaders have demonstrated by trying new things and not being afraid to get it wrong or to be stymied by fear. What makes me even more proud is that there has been a serious commitment to constant review and revision of the experience. That's why I believe it is okay not to be afraid to go forward. If we did not have the ability to review and revise our work, it would be irresponsible to simply leap.

AFCC: Does it feel like the rest of the country is catching up to Florida?

SP: I don't know that I'd say catching up. That implies we are out in front on everything, which is not true. I think people and institutions in other parts of the country are doing important things as well and we welcome the partnership of new ideas. I believe that Florida has inspired other entities to try new ways of development. But I don't see us as being so far ahead that we have nothing to learn from anyone else.

AFCC: Have there been any negative aspects in your experience?

SP: When dealing with a court system, one must be prepared for fairly slow and deliberate movement. When I look at the program as a whole I see that we have made great strides over the years. However each individual component has seemed very slow to happen. Probably the biggest challenge has been reconciling institutionalization with preservation of a flexible process, which is what mediation is.

AFCC: You work with mediators ranging from some of the most renowned experts in the field to school children and neighborhood justice center volunteers. Some would argue that there are enormous differences in the skill level and sophistica-

tion of these mediators. Others contend that the basic process is all that counts. What is your view?

SP: This is probably the area where my thinking has evolved the most since I came to Florida. I used to think that mediation was mediation and that any mediator could mediate anything. I no longer believe that to be true. While I do not believe that there are enormous differences in skill level or sophistication, I do believe that mediation has evolved such that there may be special process skills and certain credibility that individuals attain based on other experience and training. In divorce mediation the parties bring to the table so many unique issues—power and control, for example—that it is not appropriate for someone who has not thought through those issues in that context to mediate. Another example has to do with the language of personal injury disputes. In these cases, the parties typically speak the language and they should not have to educate the mediator. If they are on the same page, the mediator should be as well. Having said that, it is not my belief that paper degrees and credentials are accurate indicators of mediator proficiency.

AFCC: How should proficiency be measured?

SP: Ideally, I would like to see objective performance-based standards developed by those in the mediation field. In the absence of such standards, I believe that a court system must have some objective criteria to hang its hat on. In Florida, that means that mediators for some programs are required to have a specific degree or professional credentials. We also have very specific training standards. However, we make it clear that the parties are encouraged to choose their own mediator and it does not have to be someone certified by the court. In fact, the rules provide parties with up to ten days from the order of referral to agree on a mediator of their choice. In the event they can't agree I think the court has an obligation to provide parties with a list of mediators who have met some basic criteria. Any institution that requires someone to participate in mediation should assist them in finding and selecting a mediator if they are unable to do so themselves.

AFCC: Are we ever going to get to that objective measure of what makes a proficient mediator?

SP: I believe we will. I think that the field is moving toward performance-based standards and that it is now accepted that this is where we need to be. That wasn't the case five or ten years ago. I don't know how long it will take to get there, but there is good work being done and I am hopeful that we will get there soon.

Coming from AFCC in 1999

Vancouver, British Columbia, June 2-5, 1999

36th Annual Conference Looks at Families, Court and Communities: Collaboration for the 21st Century

The Westin Bayshore Hotel in Vancouver, British Columbia will be the site of AFCC's 36th Annual Conference, **Families, Courts and Communities: Collaboration for the 21st Century**. AFCC has received early commitments from Craig Keilburger, featured presenter at the Second World Congress Youth Forum, and Jonah Edelman, Executive Director of Stand For Children and a featured presenter at AFCC's 35th Annual Conference.

The Westin Bayshore is nestled on the water's edge and next door to thousand-acre Stanley Park. The hotel offers stunning views of the mountains, city and harbor. The hotel's marina offers half-day fishing trips and evening dinner cruises.

If you are interested in presenting at the conference, please see the Call for Presenters on page 9 of this newsletter. Watch the *AFCC Newsletter* or contact AFCC at the address below for more information.

AFCC

**329 W. Wilson Street
Madison, WI 53703
Phone: (608) 251-4001
Fax: (608) 251-2231
E-mail: afcc@afccnet.org**



Second World Congress Awards Children's Fund Grants

Hon. Alastair Nicholson, Chair of the Second World Congress on Family Law and the Rights of Children and Youth, has announced that the Children's Fund, established by the Second World Congress, will provide funding to support the efforts of five organizations. The organizations will share more than \$50,000 generated by the proceeds from the Second World Congress. Grants will be awarded to:

Stand For Children, a grassroots child advocacy organization that sponsors the annual Stand For Children Day and Cyber-Stand For Children Day to raise awareness about children's issues. The 1998 Stand For Children Day included more than 1,200 individual events involving over 500,000 people throughout the U.S. Executive Director Jonah Edelman was a featured speaker at AFCC's 35th Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

Free the Children is a network of children helping children at the local, national and international level. The organization is based on the premise that children all over the world have a basic right to full intellectual, physical and emotional development, including a right to education and protection from abuse and exploitation. Founded in 1995 by Craig Keilburger at the age of twelve, Free the Children is now an international organization with chapters in more than twenty countries.

AFCC to Sponsor Child Protection/Dependency Mediation Colloquia in 1999

The AFCC Executive Committee has approved a proposal from the Mediation Committee to sponsor two regional colloquia on the topic of Child Protection/Dependency Mediation. The colloquia are scheduled for the spring and fall of 1999 and will take place in California and Ohio, respectively. The colloquia will provide opportunities for participants to showcase innovative programs, exchange information, participate in work groups, network and address the many questions and issues emerging as this growing area of practice continues to develop.

Mediation in child protection/dependency cases began more than a decade ago, however its use has been limited to a handful of jurisdictions, including AFCC member-courts in Connecticut and California. Recently, interest in this practice has grown dramatically as evidenced by attendance of more than 100 participants at AFCC's 1996 Institute on Child Protection/Dependency Mediation in Boston, MA. AFCC's **Directory of Child Protection/Dependency Mediation Programs** features nearly three dozen programs and is receiving information about new programs every week. Court improvement projects nationwide are looking to develop mediation programs.

AFCC's roundtable discussion in Washington, D.C. demonstrated the enormous interest and commitment of AFCC members to child protection/dependency mediation. AFCC is firm in its commitment to support this interest and to promote good practice, create opportunities for the exchange of new ideas and serve as a conduit for information through AFCC conferences, newsletters, journals and other publications. For more information contact AFCC at (608) 251-4001.

Kids' Turn helps children and their parents learn how to deal with the problems and challenges created by separation and divorce. Since 1989, Kids Turn has helped parents and children focus on improving the family environment, allowing children to thrive and grow in a safe and healthy manner. Parents are taught techniques to better communicate with each other and their children. Children get needed support and encouragement from their peers and from trained and caring adults.

Coleman Advocates for Children has been nationally recognized for working to empower youth and parents to become advocates on their own behalf and is responsible for significant policy changes as well as the greater involvement of parents and youth in the democratic process. Coleman Advocates' work includes research and reporting on policy and report cards on public officials and programs.

International Children's Art Museum produces exhibits, educational programs and publications to broaden viewers' perspectives on art and world culture through display of children's art and writing. Paintbrush Diplomacy, a program of the International Children's Art Museum, will offer more than 10,000 children around the world the opportunity to exchange art and writing.

AFCC Officers Elected

The Board of Directors elected AFCC Officers for 1998-99 at the 35th Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Dr. Carole Brown, Principle Director of Counseling of the Family Court of Australia, joined the Executive Committee as Vice President.

1998-99 Executive Committee

President

Ms. Christine Coates
Boulder, Colorado

President-Elect

Dr. Philip Bushard
Reno, Nevada

Vice President

Hon. Arline Rotman
Worcester, Massachusetts

Vice President

Hon. Denise McColley
Napoleon, Ohio

Vice President

Dr. Carole Brown
Sydney, Australia

Treasurer

Dr. Larry Lehner
Oakland, California

Secretary

Hon. George Czutrin
Hamilton, Ontario

Past-President

Hon. Alastair Nicholson
Melbourne, Australia

New Board Members

The following members of the Board of Directors were elected at the membership meeting of AFCC's 35th Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.:

Hon. Linda Dessau, Melbourne Australia
Ms. Mary Ferriter, Boston, Massachusetts
Ms. Jane Grafton, Vancouver,
British Columbia

Mr. David Hodges, Seattle, Washington
Dr. Janet Johnston, Menlo Park, California
Mr. Stephen Katz, Bannockburn, Illinois
Hon. Emile Kruzick, Orange, Ontario
Hon. Toru Matsuda,

Odawara-shi Kanagawa, Japan

Hon. Sondra Miller, White Plains,
New York

Hon. Linda Motheral, Houston, Texas
Mr. Tomiyuki Ogawa, Hiroshima, Japan
Ms. C. Eileen Pruett, Columbus, Ohio

The following Board members have been elected to serve a second three-year term:

Dr. Gregory Firestone, Tampa, Florida
Ms. Michele MacFarlane, Toledo, Ohio
Hon. Anne C. Dranginis, Litchfield,
Connecticut
Mr. Doneldon Dennis, Minneapolis,
Minnesota

Mr. Daniel Hamoline, Saskatoon,
Saskatchewan

Hon. Robert Page, Camden, New Jersey
Dr. Frederic Mitchell, Tucson, Arizona
Dr. Sanford Braver, Phoenix, Arizona
Dr. James Campbell, Madison, Wisconsin

Linda Hahn Completes Term on AFCC Executive Committee

AFCC thanks Linda Hahn, District Court Administrator of Dallas County, Texas, who has completed her term on the Executive Committee. Ms. Hahn made her mark on the association with extraordinary dedication to AFCC, an unfailing commitment to children and families and a healthy dose of her own special brand of Texas charm and hospitality.

AFCC also thanks the following members who have completed their service on the AFCC Board of Directors:

Mr. Joel Bankes, Washington, D.C.
Hon. James Cawood, Annapolis, Maryland
Ms. Betty Lindquist, Lake Bluff, Illinois
Dr. Margaret Marshall, Phoenix, Arizona
Ms. Diana Preice, Wethersfield, CT
Ms. Suzie Thorn, San Francisco, California

AFCC Annual Awards Presented at Annual Conference

★ Distinguished Service Award

Hugh McIsaac,
former *Review Editor*
and former AFCC President

Hugh McIsaac was honored for his significant contributions to the field of family law and to AFCC. Mr. McIsaac was instrumental in the development of legislation in California, where he served as Director of the Los Angeles County Conciliation Court, and in Oregon as Director of Multnomah County Division of Family Services. He was Chair of AFCC's 25th Anniversary Conference in 1988 and of the Northwest Regional Conference in 1995. Mr. McIsaac was President of AFCC and until this year, Editor of the *Family and Conciliation Courts Review*.

★ Stanley Cohen Distinguished Research Award

Nancy Thoennes and Jessica Pearson,
Center for Policy Research

Dr. Nancy Thoennes, Associate Director of the Center for Policy Research, accepted the Stanley Cohen Distinguished Research Award on behalf of CPR. Founded in 1980 by Dr. Jessica Pearson, CPR has conducted important research on mediation,

parental access programs, child protection/dependency mediation, mediation and domestic violence and other areas of interest to those working with family courts. Drs. Pearson and Thoennes have collaborated on an ongoing basis with AFCC and they are regular presenters at AFCC conferences.

★ Irwin Cantor Innovative Program Award

Hon. Thomas J. Moyer, Chief Justice,
The Supreme Court of Ohio

Hon. Thomas J. Moyer, Chief Justice of The Supreme Court of Ohio, accepted the Irwin Cantor Innovative Program Award on behalf of the extensive mediation, education and dispute resolution programs throughout the state of Ohio, supported by the Supreme Court.



★ President's Award

Suzie Thorn, Co-Chair,
AFCC International Committee

Hon. Alastair Nicholson, Immediate Past President, presented the President's Award to Ms. Suzie Thorn in recognition of her extraordinary efforts as Chair of the Second World Congress Fund Raising Committee, her personal financial contributions to the World Congress, her service as Co-Chair of AFCC's International Committee and her longtime contributions to AFCC. Ms. Thorn also serves as the AFCC liaison to the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

★ Special Recognition

Ann L. Milne, AFCC Executive Director

Hon. Alastair Nicholson, AFCC Immediate Past-President, presented AFCC Executive Director Ann L. Milne with a special award in recognition of her outstanding efforts. Prior to becoming Executive Director in 1989, Ms. Milne served on AFCC's Executive Committee for ten years and as Chair of the Mediation Committee from 1979-1989. She has been an AFCC member since 1972.

AFCC Committee Chairs 1998-1999

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH

Linda K. Girdner, Ph.D.

941 Fall Ridge Way
Gambrells, MD 21054

P: (410) 672-5050

Janet Johnston, Ph.D.

Dept. of Administration of Justice
1 Washington Square

San Jose, CA 95192-0050

P: (650) 366-3234

F: (650) 366-3234

E-mail: johnston@email.sjsu.edu

AWARDS

Linda Hahn, M.S.

600 Commerce St., Suite 7-134
Dallas, TX 75202-4652

P: (214) 653-6034

F: (214) 653-7202

E-mail: lhahn@admin.dallas.usa.com

CHAPTER

Clarence Cramer

Pinal County Conciliation Court

119 W. Central Ave.

Coolidge, AZ 85228

P: (520) 723-3077

F: (520) 868-7354

E-mail: cccramer@juno.com

CHILD SUPPORT

Hon. Joseph Kay

570 Bourke St.

Melbourne, Victoria 3000

Australia

P: 3 9 604 2940

F: 3 9 642 1138

Hon. Frances Rothschild

Los Angeles County Superior Court

111 N. Hill, Rm. 318, Dept. 28

Los Angeles, CA 90012

P: (213) 974-5633

F: (213) 617-7176

CONFERENCE PLANNING

Michele MacFarlane

Lucas County Domestic Relations Court

429 N. Michigan St.

Toledo, OH 43624

P: (419) 213-6800

F: (419) 213-6838

Hon. Denise McColley

Henry County Court of Common Pleas

Courthouse, Box 70

Napoleon, OH 43545

P: (419) 592-5926

F: (419) 599-0803

E-mail: mccolley@bright.net

CUSTODY EVALUATIONS

E. Robert LaCrosse, Ph.D.

155 S. Madison, Suite 303

Denver, CO 80209

P: (303) 320-5375

F: (303) 394-9081

Philip Stahl, Ph.D.

Bay Tree Psychology Associates

11740 Dublin Blvd., Suite 206

Dublin, CA 94506

P: (925) 828-7660

F: (925) 828-8238

E-mail: pstahl@earthlink.net

DEVELOPMENT

R. John Harper, LL.B.

810-25 Main St. W.

Hamilton, ON L8P 1H1

Canada

P: (905) 522-3517

F: (905) 522-3555

E-mail: johnh@netinc.ca

DIVERSITY

Daniel L. Hamoline, BA, M.S.W., LL.B.

Fifth Ave. Counselling Mediation & Arbitration

215-728 Spadina Crescent East

Saskatoon, SK S7K 4H7

Canada

P: (306) 653-2599

F: (306) 653-2523

Carolyn Wah, J.D.

R.R. 4, Box 190

Patterson, NY 12563-9804

P: (914) 878-7921

F: (914) 878-2060

INTERNATIONAL

Joe Piotrowski

Family Court of Australia

25 Grenfell St.

Adelaide, SA 5000 Australia

P: 8 8205 2659

F: 8 8205 2699

Suzie S. Thorn, J.D.

Schapiro Thorn, Inc.

1242 Market St.

San Francisco, CA 94102

P: (415) 431-5772

F: (415) 552-3942

JUDICIARY

Hon. Linda Dessau

Family Court of Australia

GPO Box 9991

Melbourne, Victoria 3001 Australia

P: 3 9 604 2938

F: 3 9 642 1138

Hon. Fred Newton

Coconino County Superior Court

100 E. Birch, Division 2

Flagstaff, AZ 86001

P: (520) 779-6598

F: (520) 214- 0164

LAWYERS

Donald S. Eisenberg, J.D.

Stettner, Eisenberg & Morris

1433 E. Alosta Ave.

Glendora, CA 91740-3747

P: (818) 914-2791

F: (818) 914-3946

Doreen Graziano, J.D.

120 Corcoran St.

Old Forge, PA 18158

P: (717) 451-1860

F: (717) 451-1870

MEDIATION

Jan Shaw, M.S.

Mediation & Investigative Services

P. O. Box 14169

Orange, CA 92863

P: (714) 935-6459

F: (714) 935-6545

E-mail: jshaw@superior.co.orange.ca.us

Rosemary Vasquez, LCSW

Alameda County Superior Court

Family Court Services

1221 Oak St., Suite 260

Oakland, CA 94612

P: (510) 272-6030

F: (510) 272-6023

E-mail: rvasquez@sct.mail.co.alameda.ca.us

MEMBERSHIP

Phil Bushard, DPA

Family Mediation Program

1 S. Sierra St., 3rd Floor

Reno, NV 89501

P: (702) 328-3556

F: (702) 328-3548

E-mail: pbushard@mail.co.washoe.nv.us

LaDeana Gamble, M.S.W.

601 N. Pecos Rd.

Las Vegas, NV 89101

P: (702) 455-4186

F: (702) 455-2158

E-mail: gamble@co.clark.nv.us

NOMINATIONS

Robert Tompkins

Family Division Administration

225 Spring St., 4th Flr.

Wethersfield, CT 06109

P: (860) 529-9655

F: (860) 529-9828

E-mail: robert.tompkins@po.state.ct.us

PARENT EDUCATION

Samuel Ferrara, J.D.

Bee, Eisman & Ready

170 Old Country Rd.

Mineola, NY 11501-4307

P: (516) 746-5599

F: (516) 746-1045

Orysia Z. Kostiuik, BA, BSW

Child Support Resource Center

213 Notre Dame Ave., Room 901

Winnipeg, MB R3B 1N3

Canada

P: (204) 945-8215

F: (204) 948-2142

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Robert Tompkins, M.A.

Family Division Administration

225 Spring St., 4th Floor

Wethersfield, CT 06109

P: (860) 529-9655

F: (860) 529-9828

E-mail: robert.tompkins@po.state.ct.us

PUBLICATIONS

Doneldon Dennis

Hennepin County Family Court Services

A-503 Government Ctr.

Minneapolis, MN 55487-0053

P: (612) 348-3614

F: (612) 348-6332

E-mail: doneldon.dennis@co.hennepin.mn.us

PD&TA Thanks AFCC Trainers

AFCC's Professional Development and Technical Assistance Division (PD&TA) has expanded training services beyond mediation training provided by staff. In 1998 the PD&TA Division has sponsored five training programs featuring AFCC members as trainers.

To make this possible, many AFCC members have volunteered their services this year as trainers. For their valuable contribution to AFCC and to the family dispute resolution field, AFCC thanks the following members for providing training on behalf of the PD&TA Division.

• **Marilou Giovannucci and Pamela McAvay**, Connecticut Superior Court, for providing training in *Child Protection/*

Dependency Mediation for the Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

• **Robin Deutsch**, Children and the Law Program, Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, for providing training on *The Impact of High Conflict Divorce on Children* to the Family Division of the Connecticut Superior Court.

• **Philip Stahl**, Co-chair of the AFCC Custody Evaluation Committee, for providing training for Alternative Solutions, Las Vegas, Nevada and the AFCC/University of Wisconsin 1998 Family Courts and Services Summer Institute in *Conducting Child Custody Evaluations*

• **Gregory Firestone**, University of South Florida Mediation Institute and AFCC Board member, for providing training in *Mediating Child Protection/Dependency Cases* for the AFCC/University of Wisconsin 1998 Family Courts and Services Summer Institute.

AFCC staff continues to offer training in mediation, advanced mediation and mediation and domestic abuse. If you are interested in contracting with AFCC for training in any of the above-mentioned areas please contact Peter Salem, AFCC Associate Director at (608) 251-4001 or e-mail: <psalem@afccnet.org>

AFCC Kids Count Club Membership Increases—Have You Joined Yet?

The opportunity remains open for AFCC members to join the **Kids Count Club** by contributing to AFCC's Resource Development Fund. We have raised nearly half of our \$35,000 goal for the 1998-1999 Anniversary Fund.

Contributors of the Month

AFCC is pleased to announce a three-way tie for the contributor of the month award.

• The AFCC Arizona Chapter, became a Gold Member of the Kids Count Club with a \$500 donation.

• The AFCC California Chapter has pledged \$10 for every registrant at it's Chapter Conference, January 24-25, 1999 in Sonoma, California. For registration information, contact Chris Emley at (415) 392-1991.

• The Los Angeles Conciliation Court passed the hat to staff members and made a \$300 contribution, becoming a Silver Member of the Kids Count Club.

AFCC thanks the contributors of the month for their creativity in finding ways to support the Kids Count Club. If your organization, office staff or group is interested in making a contribution, please use the contribution card below.

AFCC also thanks the following new donors for their generosity.

Gold Members (\$500-\$2,999)
AFCC Arizona Chapter

Silver Members (\$250-\$499)
Andrew Schepard
Los Angeles Conciliation Court

Bronze Members (\$100-\$249)
Hon. William Fee
Hon. Lawrence Kaplan
Robert Tompkins

Kids Count Club Members

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Christine M. Campisi
Susan Carlin-Finch
Bonnie Carter
Mary Ferriter
Marcia Halperin
Mary Alice Hildebrandt
Niki Hoffmann
Sherrie Kibler
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Lily Ko Lee
Margaret Little
Linda Louie
Orysia Kostiuk
David Kuroda
Donna Maria O'Conner
C. Eileen Pruett
Pat Ross
Tim Salius
Nancy Satenberg
Kathryn S. Sexton
Marlene Valter



AFCC-KIDS COUNT ON US

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Call for Presenters

AFCC 36th Annual Conference

Families, Courts and Communities: Collaboration for the 21st Century

Westin Bayshore Hotel • Vancouver, British Columbia
June 2-5, 1999

Attend AFCC's annual conference to explore the evolution of family courts in the 21st century. What will be the role of courts, community agencies and service providers? Are public-private partnerships the wave of the future? Can services for divorce, custody, abuse, neglect, dependency, permanency planning, domestic violence and child support all be housed in a single building? This conference, in Vancouver, British Columbia, one of North America's most beautiful settings, will examine the challenges of the next century.

AFCC is accepting proposals for 90-minute workshop sessions on topics including, but not limited to, those listed below.

- Bridging the Gap Between Courts and Communities
- Developing a Continuum of Services
- Mediation in Child Protection/Dependency Cases
- Parent Education
- Meeting the Needs of Culturally Diverse Communities
- Mediation
- Innovations in Service Delivery Systems
- Ethical Issues for the 21st Century
- Child Custody Evaluations
- Working with Diverse Family Forms
- Advances in Litigation and Adjudication
- Parental Access

If you are interested in presenting a workshop, please submit a one paragraph abstract, behavioral objectives, an outline for your session and a resume to AFCC, 329 W. Wilson Street, Madison, WI 53703. Fax: (608) 251-2231. All proposals must be received by December 1, 1998.

AFCC Member News

Linda Girdner, AFCC member from Maryland has resigned as Director of Research at the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law to begin a master's program in family therapy at the University of Maryland. In addition, she was married to Janford Andre Hof in August and recently moved to a new home with Jan, his son Devon and Spunky the dog. Linda can now be reached 941 Fall Ridge Way, Gambrill, MD, 21054. Phone: 410-672-5050.

Gregg M. Herman, AFCC member from Milwaukee, Wisconsin is serving as President of the Milwaukee Bar Association. Gregg is past chair of the State Bar of Wisconsin Family Law Section and President-Elect of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

David Hodges, AFCC Board member from Seattle, Washington, was honored as the Professional of the Year by the Washington State Bar Association's Family Law Section. The award is presented to a professional who has made significant contributions to the practice of family law in Washington.

Stephen H. Katz, AFCC Board Member from Bannockburn, Illinois, has left the law firm of Schiller, DuCanto & Fleck to start up the firm of Katz, Goldstein & Warren. The firm's address is Bannockburn Lake Office Plaza, 2201 Waukegan Rd., Suite S-100, Bannockburn, Illinois, 60015. Phone: (847) 317-9500; Fax: (847) 317-0286.

Debbie Kulak, AFCC member from Hartford, Connecticut, was promoted to Supervisor of the Hartford Family Services Office. Debbie served as Lead Family Relations Counselor from 1994-97 and as Family Relations Counselor from 1984-1994.

Teresa F. Parnell, AFCC member from Altamonte Springs, and **Deborah Day**, AFCC member from Winter Park, Florida recently edited and authored the book *Munchhausen by Proxy Syndrome: Misunderstood Child Abuse*. The book, published by Sage Publications, provides a multi-disciplinary look at child abuse. Dr. Parnell has also opened a private practice and can be reached at 435 Douglas Ave., Suite 1505 B, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714. Phone: (407) 862-2722; Fax: (407) 862-2737.

Diana Preice, AFCC Board member from Connecticut has resigned as Manager of Family Services of the Family Division, Connecticut Superior Court and from the AFCC Board of Directors to move to California with her new husband, Mark Boyer. A staff member of the Family Division for the past twenty years, Diana can now be reached at 1004 Michelangelo Drive, Sunnysvale, CA 94087.

Hon. Susan Snow, former AFCC President from Bridgeview, IL, hosted the grand opening of the Cook County Unified Family Court Pilot Project on August 26, 1998. Hon. Donald P. O'Connell, Chief Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County participated in the ceremony. Representatives from Children and Family Services, domestic violence programs and family law attorneys who collaborated on the development of the project were in attendance. Judge Snow has worked for three years on the development of the Unified Family Court Pilot Project, which now includes case management services, a newly established family court services office and a new facility.

Upcoming Events

September 25-26, 1998—San Ramon, CA
Working With High Conflict Families of Divorce
Contact: Dr. Philip Stahl
(925) 828-7660

**September 28–October 2, 1998
Lexington, KY**
Basic Divorce Mediation Training
Contact: Mediation Training & Consultation
Institute
(800) 535-1155

October 13-17, 1998—Corte Madera, CA
Divorce Mediation
Contact: Northern California Mediation Center
(415) 927-1422

**October 23-25 and October 30-
November 1, 1998—Phoenix, AZ**
Basic Family Mediation Training
Contact: Clarence Cramer
(602) 545-9048

**October 28-31, 1999,
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan**
Family Mediation Canada Annual Conference
Contact: FMC
(519) 836-7750

October 29-31, 1998—Orlando, FL
AFCC Southeast Regional Conference
The Family Dispute Resolution Continuum
Contact: AFCC
(608) 251-4001

November 2-6, 1998—Chicago, IL
Basic Divorce Mediation Training
Contact: Mediation Training &
Consultation Institute
(800) 535-1155

November 4-6, 1998—Madison, WI
Seventh Annual Conference on
Emerging Issues in Mediation
Contact: Professor James Campbell
(608) 262-2352

November 5, 1998—Corte Madera, CA
Child Development Research and Concepts
Contact: Northern California Mediation Center
(415) 927-1422

November 6, 1998—Corte Madera, CA
Fundamentals of Family Law
Contact: Northern California Mediation Center
(415) 927-1422

November 9-13, 1999—Boulder, CO
Divorce and Child Custody Mediation
Contact: CDR Associates
(800) 633-4283

November 12-14, 1998—Los Angeles, CA
Advanced Family Mediation
Contact: Forrest Mosten
(310) 441-1454

November 20, 1998—San Ramon, CA
Ethical and Domestic Violence Issues
in Family Law
Contact: Dr. Philip Stahl
(925) 828-7660

January 21-23, 1999—Los Angeles, CA
Masters Level Mediation Training
Contact: Forrest Mosten
(310) 441-1454

January 24-25, 1999—Sonoma, CA
AFCC California Chapter Conference
Contact: Christopher Emley
(415) 392-1991

February 3-7, 1999—Eugene, OR
Basic Mediation Training
Contact: The Mediation Center
(541) 345-1456

February 12-14, 1999—Prescott, AZ
AFCC Arizona Chapter Conference
Contact: Sharon Douglas
(520) 740-3625

International Conference on Child Access Services

The First International Conference on Child Access Services will be held in Paris, France, November 4-7, 1998. With an opening dinner at the Eiffel Tower, the conference will bring together providers of supervised visitation, judges, court personnel, family law attorneys, mediators, mental health professionals and researchers from more than a dozen countries including Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, England, Germany, Israel, Italy, Switzerland, New Zealand and the United States. Presentations will cover a broad range of topics including the psychological characteristics of children referred to child access centers, cross-cultural comparison of program services, guidelines for practice, relationships with the court system, the meaning of these service for family systems and outcome research.

Presenters will include Janet Johnston, Joanne Karolzak, Jessica Pearson, and Rob Straus from the U.S., Jane Grafton and Rachel Dabroia from Canada; Mavis Maclean and Adrian James from England; Benoit Bastard, Jacques Commaille and Irene Thery from France; and Judy Harrison from Australia.

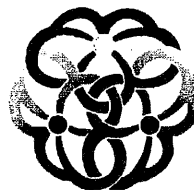
The conference will include plenary sessions, small workshops and plenty of networking time. Simultaneous French-English translation will be provided for plenary sessions and many workshops. The conference is sponsored by the Australian and New Zealand Association of Children's Contact Centers, the Foundation de France, the French Ministry of Justice, the Supervised Visitation Network and the Working Group for Comparative Studies of the Legal Profession.

Registration fee is 1300 French francs (approximately \$220 US). For further information or to receive registration materials, please contact:

U.S.A. Joanne Karolzak, Casa de los Ninos, 1101 N. 4th Ave., Tucson, AZ 85705; Tel: (520) 624-5400; Fax (520) 623-2443; e-mail: Joannek@demottbs.com

Canada: Jane Grafton, Greater Vancouver Supervision, 17031 Zero Ave., Surrey, BC V4P 2Y3
Tel: (604) 488-0301; Fax: (604) 488-0124;
e-mail: DUCHESSLJ@aol.com

Australia: Lucy Morgan, 41 Robinson St., Dandenong 3175 Victoria
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e-mail: Joannek@demottbs.com
Tel: (33 1) 40 62 65 70; Fax: (33 1) 47 05 35 55;
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President's Message

(Continued from page 2)

The continuum of dispute resolution processes has fascinated me since my introduction to mediation 16 years ago in law school. As I began practicing family law and mediating, I realized that the "one-size fits all" ADR process does not work for families. I have been seeking and experimenting with various combinations of processes or new ways of practicing, trying to match the process with the clients. Through AFCC, I have learned about the myriad of programs and processes that my colleagues around the world are developing and using. We now have many dispute resolution processes that have been developed to meet the needs of the adults and children: parent education, collaborative law, mediation, custody evaluation, structured settlement conferencing, special masters, parenting coordination, litigation, adjudication and more. In the child protection/dependency area, mediation, facilitated decision making, Ohana conferencing and evaluations represent a few of the existing dispute resolution mechanisms.

As practitioners, the development of creative new processes provides us with the opportunity to better serve adults and children, but these processes are accompanied by numerous practical and ethical challenges. If we are to excel as practitioners, we must learn from one another about these exciting new initiatives and take a hard look

at the challenges inherent in such rapid and significant changes in the field.

I am very excited about our Southeast Regional Conference in Orlando, Florida because it will truly showcase the innovative ideas, programs and processes that our members and others are using and provide an opportunity for dialogue and exchange of ideas. The "hope" for us as professionals, and for our clients, is in this professional creativity that strives to constantly change and generate services to match individual families' needs. I expect to go home with many new ideas for my own practice and to get my batteries recharged. You won't want to miss this conference! Please come say "hi" to me (or as we said growing up in Texas—"hey") and let me welcome you personally into our hopeful, resourceful, and ever inventive AFCC family. AFCC needs you—and you need AFCC!

Orlando Agenda

(Continued from page 1)

Make Your Reservation at the Grosvenor Today!

Call early to assure a reservation at the Grosvenor Resort, the site of AFCC's Southeast Regional Conference. The Grosvenor has lighted tennis courts, two heated swimming pools, a children's pool

and playground and is convenient to Orlando's many championship golf courses.

All delegates are responsible for making their own lodging arrangements. AFCC has reserved a block of rooms at the special conference rate of \$115 per night, single or double room. The block of rooms will be released to the public for general sale on September 26, 1998. **All room reservations are subject to availability so please make your reservations early.** The conference rate is available from Saturday, October 24 through Tuesday, November 3. Be certain to mention that you are with AFCC to assure the \$115 rate. Contact the Grosvenor at (800) 624-4109 or (407) 828-4444. Guaranteed reservations may be canceled without penalty up to five days prior to the date of arrival.

Thanks to Florida's Cooperating Organizations

AFCC would like to thank the Florida Dispute Resolution Center, the University of South Florida Mediation Institute and the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute for their support of the Southeast Regional Conference.

Further Information

To obtain a conference brochure or further information, contact AFCC, 329 W. Wilson St., Madison, WI 53703. Phone: (608) 251-4001; Fax: (608) 251-2231; E-mail: <afcc@afccnet.org>.

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