



FOUNDED IN 1963

AFCC NEWS

ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONCILIATION COURTS

Volume 27, Number 2

Spring 2008



AFCC and NCJFCJ Domestic Violence and Family Courts Project Report Online

*Special Issue of Family Court
Review in July 2008*

The Report from the AFCC and NCJFCJ Wing-spread Conference on Domestic Violence and Family Courts can be accessed on the Task Forces and Initiatives page on AFCC's Web site at www.afccnet.org/about/task_forces.asp. Written by conference reporters, Professors Nancy Ver Steegh and Clare Dalton, the Report addresses critical tensions raised by the growing awareness that not all uses of violence in intimate relationships are the same.

The Report will be the centerpiece of a special issue of *Family Court Review* in July 2008. The issue will feature articles co-authored by writers from the domestic violence advocacy and family courts community. The special issue will also address topics including terminology, differentiated approaches to parenting plans, screening and cultural issues. AFCC will be hosting a plenary session and an advanced three-hour workshop on the topic at its 45th Annual Conference, May 28-31, 2008 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Albuquerque Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

AFCC's *Eighth International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations*, September 25-27, 2008 in Albuquerque, New Mexico will feature outstanding networking, pre-conference institutes, and more than twenty workshops for experienced evaluators and those who are just starting out. The *Symposium*, only offered in alternate years, will take

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**ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY
AND CONCILIATION COURTS**

AFCC is an interdisciplinary and international association of professionals dedicated to the resolution of family conflict.

Mission

To improve the lives of children and families through the resolution of family conflict.

Vision

A justice system in which all professionals work collaboratively through education, support and access to services to achieve the best possible outcome for children and families.

Values

- Collaboration and respect among professions and disciplines
- Learning through inquiry, discussion and debate
- Innovation in addressing the needs of families and children in conflict
- Empowering families to resolve conflict and make decisions about their future

Views expressed in the AFCC News are those of individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of AFCC.

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Editor

David Vigliotta
editor@afccnet.org

Published by AFCC
6525 Grand Teton Plaza
Madison, WI 53719
Tel: 608.664.3750
Fax: 608.664.3751
Email: afcc@afccnet.org
Web: www.afccnet.org

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Half page	\$300	\$450
Quarter page	\$150	\$250

President's Message

Are we there yet?

Last month the Fee family loaded up the van, left their home in Northeast Indiana and headed to Florida for spring break. I admit I was somewhat worried about how my wife Amy and I would manage the 20-plus hour drive with a teenager, a pre-teen and a toddler, each crying out in turn, "Are we there yet?" I am happy to report our survival and sound mental health, all largely due to a DVD entertainment system. So as the miles clicked by and the ear-budded heads of my children bobbed silently in my rear-view mirror, I had the opportunity to consider the distance AFCC has traveled during the time I have had the honor of serving as your President.

First, however, a word about perspective. By the end of fiscal year 2008-09, AFCC will be concluding a five-year strategic plan that was created as a roadmap to guide AFCC's direction. The distance AFCC has traveled this past year was made possible only by the mileage of past AFCC Board members and Presidents who have preceded the current Board. So to my predecessors in leadership, I say thank you for gassing up the AFCC vehicle, maintaining it in such fine fashion and bringing us so far along our way.

So where did AFCC go this past year? Well, collaborations with other organizations have certainly continued and blossomed. The groundbreaking work of the Wingspread Conference on Domestic Violence and Family Courts is now published and has been endorsed by the governing authority of both founding organizations, the AFCC and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). The Family Law Education Reform Project, which holds the promise of restructuring the education of generations of family lawyers, has moved into curriculum development and will be piloted in at least one U.S. law school next fall.

In Vancouver, AFCC will host a second think tank of the Child Welfare Decision-Making Collaborative in collaboration with organizations including the NCJFCJ and the National Center for State Courts. The Indiana University conference that I wrote about in my last column planted the seeds for future collaborations. Discussions among AFCC and other professionals that occurred at that conference will be the subject of a future *Family Court Review* edition. I was proud that so many of this select group were AFCC members.

Growth is certainly the most notable milestone. New chapters are starting in Ontario and Minnesota. There are now nearly 3,500 AFCC members from 20 countries with our Canadian membership up 78% in the last 12 months.

As of early April, more than 860 people had registered for our Annual Conference in Vancouver, indicating a second consecutive record attendance and another possible sellout.

When and if this period of growth will plateau is anyone's guess. Certainly, continued growth raises questions for the future. These are questions that our organization can and will address.

AFCC is well-equipped to answer these and other questions as we move ahead. We recently completed a member survey that yielded valuable data about the value of our services to our members. Next year, we will take this feedback into a new strategic planning process. At that time, we will also assimilate the perspective of professionals from outside our organization. Then, the Board will create a new five-year strategic plan. (Oh, and while we are on the subject of a new strategic plan, did I mention that, by objective criteria, AFCC accomplished virtually all of the goals and objectives we set forth for ourselves in our old strategic plan?)

Strategic plans are not very exciting. They ask not, "Are we there yet?" but where is "there" and "What do we need to do to get there?" In truth, they are hard work. Architecturally, they are foundations, not pinnacles. I have been fortunate as President to chair a talented Board focused on achieving the goals of our strategic plan.

So, "Are we there yet?" Well, recognizing that "there" will change as we accomplish goals and move forward, we are certainly in a very good place. If having the respect and collaboration of peer organizations is any indication, if sponsoring successful projects that are of value to the field is worthwhile, if sustaining unprecedented growth in Chapters, members and conference registrants means anything and if accomplishing virtually all the objectives of a five-year strategic plan is important, then emphatically I say, "Yes, we have arrived."

Yet, I am excited by the possibilities for the future. President Elect Dr. Robin Deutsch, will bring her own special dynamic leadership to the challenges that lie ahead on her road. As always, our very excellent Executive Director, Peter Salem, and his incredible staff will be there every step of the way. Thank you, Peter, and all of you, for supporting my journey as President. It has been a marvelous trip.



Hon. William C. Fee
AFCC President
Angola, Indiana

Message from the Executive Director



Peter Salem
AFCC Executive Director
Madison, Wisconsin

"The future is here. It's just not very evenly distributed."
— Science fiction writer
William Gibson

One advantage of being the parent of a 17 year old is that my many flaws are called to my attention on a regular basis. My attire, my jokes, the groceries I buy—all are fair game for my son Daniel's critique. All of these sins pale in comparison, however, to my greatest inadequacy: lack of sophistication in matters related to technology.

Now, I am the first to admit that I'm not the most tech savvy person. I wrote my master's thesis on a Smith Corona and am still more comfortable editing with a pen than the markup function of MS Word. But I don't function in the dark ages. I travel with a nifty lightweight laptop and check email obsessively on a newer model smart phone.

Some of my perceived inadequacy is rooted in a cultural divide. Daniel is Mac and I—not to mention

AFCC—am PC. That alone is incomprehensible to my son. I often feel as though I am living in one of those commercials where the hip Mac character constantly gets the best of the geeky Bill Gates look-alike. And although I get a bit tired of hearing about my myriad shortcomings on this front, this critique isn't quite as easy to gloss

over as the ever so thoughtful criticisms about my career choice or my car. I think it's because he is right.

Not so much about the Mac/PC thing (admittedly, he may have a point there too), but about my limited understanding of, and failure to use, the incredible power of the Internet. Does this sound familiar to you? If you are like the majority of AFCC members, it should. Because the online member survey we conducted earlier this year suggests that our members spend little time using, and place relatively little value on, our Web-based benefits. It will also probably come as no surprise to you that 80% of our members are over the age of 45. Not so hard to connect the dots here, is it?

This demographic is consistent with AFCC's history and indeed, the majority of membership associations lack a

significant number of younger members. AFCC members have always been more experienced and advanced level (i.e., older) professionals, so there is no reason to think we will not continue to attract members as they "age in" to the organization. But to do so, we will need to look at things differently. We will need to look at the world through our children's eyes, or perhaps more accurately, through the tips of their fingers that seem forever glued to their laptops.

For years, we have communicated with one another in much the same way. Sure, computers, email and the Internet have changed the way we do business, but the fundamentals are basically the same. Conferences are face-to-face because we believe that learning and networking are much better that way. Committees work from a distance via telephonic conference calls. Newsletters and journals are written, edited and produced and then mailed, as a polished product to members, who read them and set them aside.

But that's not how Daniel and his generation do things. He reads and researches constantly, but is rarely seen with a magazine or book (school books are the exception). He "talks" to his friends all the time, but rarely picks up the phone. He often hangs out with his friends from summer camp, even though most of them live 1,000 miles away. He isn't a shut in. He is active in school and extracurricular activities and is very social. But he is all these things even when he is in his bedroom with the door shut.

And when I asked Daniel what AFCC needed to think about in order to be prepared for our next generation of members, he talked mostly about opportunities to engage and participate with others online. He didn't mention "belonging" in the conventional (i.e., dues paying) sense; nothing was said about member benefits that one could actually touch such as a journal or newsletter; or getting on a plane and going to a conference.

We are in a new era of what being an association means and, in fact, what it means to associate. Some of you are already engaging in the new, more interactive ways. You participate in online seminars. Or you review a book or hotel online, or join a listserv or comment on a blog. Others are not there and some may never get there. But AFCC must get there if we are going to continue to thrive.

The rub is that we are not yet exactly sure where "there" is. Clearly, we will have to think carefully about our business model, just as those in the print publishing and music recording industries are doing continuously. But please don't worry; we have no plans to eliminate print products or face-to-face conferences or trainings. The nature of our work seems to demand human interaction and, importantly, we have yet to figure out how to develop a virtual hospitality suite on the AFCC Web site!

In the coming year the AFCC Board will be working on a strategic planning initiative that will provide an

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MEMBER PROFILE

AFCC Member, Jenn McIntosh, Ph.D.

Jenn McIntosh is an AFCC member from North Carlton, Victoria, Australia. She is a clinical child psychologist, family therapist and research consultant. She is the Clinical and Research Director of Family Transitions, a child and family psychology and mediation practice in Melbourne, and holds adjunct positions as Associate Professor at La Trobe University and Senior Lecturer at the University of Melbourne. Jenn serves on the Editorial Board of the Family Court Review and will be a plenary presenter at AFCC's 45th Annual Conference, May 28-31, 2008 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

How did you become interested in studying the impact of divorce on children?

I had been researching high-risk child protection issues, when I took a side step into a study of supervised contact centers. I devoted a year of weekends observing children of extreme conflict divorce, studying what helped their security with the visiting parent to recover after traumatic, usually violent parental separations. From the corners of those contact centers where I sat, a strong interest grew to better understand these children's needs and build interventions that might prevent some of the damage that I saw. Around that time, I heard AFCC member Jan Johnston give an incredible, insightful lecture on the topic, a tour de force, which sealed my interest in divorce research. Finally, watching my nephew deal with a messy separation continues to motivate me at the deepest level.

How do you juggle being a researcher, clinician, teacher and trainer?

Having my own clinical dilemmas to grapple with continually informs the research questions I want to ask, and keeps my training and supervision of others honest. It's an important juggle and when I get it right, each part of my work benefits from the other aspects.

What area of your work do you enjoy the most?

Writing crosses them all and is the most satisfying part of my work. I enjoy making complex assessments, data or theoretical ideas user friendly and accessible to multiple professions.

Can you briefly explain your research into child responsive and child inclusive models of intervention?

I had the privilege of putting together the current edition of the *Family Court Review* on child inclusion and my research is outlined there for those interested. In a nutshell, I have been exploring the impacts of assessing children's emotional responses to parental conflict and

discussing this with their parents in therapeutic conversations within the mediation process. In court and community settings, we have found short to medium direct effects on parental acrimony, cooperation and emotional availability, and tertiary effects on children's emotional well-being. We are currently following up our main sample of families, four years after mediation, and wait with baited breath to see what effects have washed away and what longer term differences might remain in families' post separation adjustment.

What are the major developments in the mediation models that comprise your research?

I suppose my mediation epitaph will read, "she included children." I have worked hard over a decade to integrate early child inclusive mediation ideas with what we now know about restoring attachment security and gaining therapeutic leverage with parents in conflict. It's a complex intervention, which can be very powerful.

What are the greatest challenges in the field of family mediation?

There is a strong need for better knowledge and application of developmental theory, especially the nature and importance of children's early psycho-emotional development. I attribute most of my new grey hair to those moments when I read mediation agreements or lawyer driven settlements clearly shaped by adults' sense of entitlement and devoid of developmental insight.

What area of research do you see yourself conducting ten years from now?

I would like to drill down on the developmental sequelae for pre-schoolers and infants of various parenting



Jenn McIntosh
North Carlton, VIC,
Australia

*AFCC is a living,
breathing network of
people, responsive
to members,
empirically
grounded and
multidisciplinary.*

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Connecticut Judicial Branch Honored for Innovation

The Family Civil Intake Screen Project of the Connecticut Court Support Services (CSSD) Division has been selected as a top 50 program in the Kennedy School Innovations in American Government Awards Program out of more than 1,000 applicants nationwide. The project is spearheaded by the Connecticut Judicial Branch, CSSD Family Services Unit under the leadership of Stephen Grant, Director. CSSD collaborated with AFCC Project Team members Peter Salem, Robin Deutsch, Janet Johnston and Andy Schepard to develop the research-based screening instrument and with Project Team member

Marsha Kline Pruett who is now conducting an evaluation of the project. The Family Civil Intake Screen has been utilized statewide by the Family Services staff since 2005.

Established in 1985 at Harvard Kennedy School by the Ford Foundation, the Innovations in American Government Awards Program is designed to improve government practice by honoring effective government initiatives and encouraging the dissemination of such best practices across the country. Over its 20 year history, the Innovations in American Government Program has honored 181 federal, state and local government agencies.

African Women Join Hands Against Violence

by **Evelyn Neaman**

Law Courts Education Society, Vancouver, BC

Domestic violence causes more deaths and disability among women age 15-44 worldwide than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents and war combined. It has been called the greatest violation of human rights in our world today. In Canada, the cost of violence against women is more than \$4 billion a year.

Nowhere are women and girls more at risk of violence in their own homes or from a family member than in African countries like South Africa and Ethiopia. The numbers are shocking—in Ethiopia more than 60% of women report having suffered physical violence at the hands of a male partner.

In 2008 the Law Courts Education Society, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, created a film documenting their partnership with the courageous organizations working to transform the justice system and end domestic violence in South Africa and Ethiopia.

In the film, we glimpse the devastation of domestic violence through eyes of a young South African mother struggling to make a life for herself and children, and an Ethiopian school girl abducted by her brother-in-law on her way to school. Traditionally, in Ethiopia, abduction has been an accepted way of procuring a bride.

We see how complex forces, including civil war, globalization, colonialism, famine and poverty combine with age-old cultural practices to create a culture of violence in which women and girls—the poorest of the poor—are the ultimate victims. And yet while many African women are the victims of an oppressive system, some have managed to become powerful agents of change. We meet the impassioned young women leading organizations in Ethiopia and South Africa that are transforming the justice system from the inside out.

This spring, the Law Courts Education Society is very fortunate to have the honour of hosting two of the women

leading this transformation; Mahdere Paulos, Executive Director of the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association and Tsidi Kambula, a prosecutor with the National Prosecuting Authority. The Society will be organizing a public screening of the documentary in Vancouver, May 28; Halifax, June 5; Ottawa, June 10; and Toronto, (tba). Additional community events will be hosted in four Canadian cities May 27-June 10. For more information on events near you, please view the Web site www.itstime.org, email itstime@lawcourtsed.ca or contact Evelyn Neaman at (604) 660-3259.

AFCC will be hosting a screening of the documentary at the workshop, Behind Closed Doors: Domestic Violence in South Africa and Ethiopia, featuring panellists Mahdere Paulos and Tsidi Kambula, at its 45th Annual Conference, May 28-31, 2008 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

New Orleans 2009

AFCC 46th Annual Conference

SAVE THE DATES!

May 27-30, 2009

AFCC Focused Evaluations Task Force Update

by Phil Bushard, D.P.A.

*Co-chair, AFCC Task Force on Focused Evaluations,
Reno, Nevada*

AFCC is continuing its strong leadership in the field with a Task Force on Focused Evaluations commissioned by AFCC President Hon. Bill Fee and the AFCC Board of Directors. Co-chaired by Linda Cavallero and Phil Bushard, the task force is working to establish Guidelines for Brief Focused Assessments.

The term custody evaluation in family court is straightforward and likely to be understood by practitioners of all disciplines. AFCC's interdisciplinary membership respects the place that evaluations have in the continuum of dispute resolution processes. Judges and attorneys value the opinions of mental health professionals in court, and mental health professionals make a unique contribution to the adversary process. The AFCC Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluation (2006) makes a substantial contribution to the practice of child custody evaluation and defining comprehensive evaluations.

On the flip side, the terms limited evaluation, focused assessment or brief custody evaluation in family court is likely to be surrounded by controversy. Although practiced by many practitioners and constructed under a broad spectrum of court services programs, there is little uniformity about what constitutes a brief assessment and when it is applicable in court situations.

An important component of the task force was to gather information about similarities and differences in practices

using brief or focused evaluation models in different locales and settings. Initial meetings identified the many challenges facing the task force, including how to define "limited assessments." The following questions were constructed to guide the initiatives of the task force with its goal to establish Guidelines for Brief Focused Assessments.

- Does every legal question require a comprehensive custody evaluation?
- Can the typical family afford a comprehensive evaluation?
- Are mental health professionals compromised by performing evaluations within a less-than comprehensive model?
- What are judges to do with complicated disputes and limited resources?
- Is it possible that mental health professionals can contribute information gathered through hybrid assessment practices?

An online survey was conducted in the fall of 2007 to collect information on current practices of custody evaluators. The task force presented preliminary finding from the survey at the AFCC and NCJFCJ Regional Training Conference, September 27-29, 2007 in Columbus, Ohio. A total of 296 family court professionals (AFCC members and non-members) participated in the survey. Sixty percent of the respondents have conducted more than 100 evaluations in their career, 24% conducted between

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Albuquerque

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place at the Albuquerque Marriott nestled along the Sandia Mountains in the heart of Albuquerque.

Congress on Parenting Education and Access Programs

AFCC's *Eighth International Congress on Parent Education and Access Programs* will take place September 26-27, 2008. For the first time, AFCC will hold both the *Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations* and the *Congress on Parent Education* simultaneously. Watch the *AFCC eNEWS* and www.afccnet.org for the latest information on both programs.

The Albuquerque Marriott

Both the *Symposium* and *Congress* will take place at the Albuquerque Marriott. The Marriott is located steps away from shopping, theatres, restaurants and minutes from the Albuquerque Sunport, historic Old Town and

the Sandia Peak Tram. The hotel has just completed a multi-million dollar renovation with complete room transformations and is offering AFCC the special room rate of \$122 per night. For more information, contact AFCC at afcc@afccnet.org or (608) 664-3750.

Start Planning Now

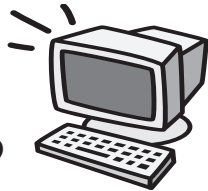
Albuquerque is the largest city in New Mexico and hosts 310 days of sunshine each year. The city straddles the Rio Grande and is nestled along the magnificent Sandia Mountains.

Albuquerque Convention & Visitors Bureau
www.itsatrip.org

Official City Web Site
www.cabq.gov

Member Benefits for the Next Generation

Maximize Your Online AFCC Membership



Create Your Online Member Account: Go to www.afccnet.org and click "Create a Password" to create your online account and gain access to AFCC's Member Center where you will find valuable member benefits described below.

Family Court Review Online: Open 24 hours/7 days a week, your personal online library of *Family Court Review (FCR)* is available at your fingertips dating back to the first issue published in 1963. Like Google, *FCR Online* features a search tab to easily find topics of your choice.

Online Member Directory: An easy-to-use online rolodex of nearly 3,500 interdisciplinary and international colleagues to exchange ideas and referrals. Search by member's name, city, state or country.

AFCC eNEWS: Make sure we have your email so you receive AFCC's bi-monthly e-newsletter, *AFCC eNEWS*, which features interdisciplinary topics on new programs, services, international news, research and more.

Online Conference Audio: Loaded with plenary sessions and select workshops dating back to AFCC's 41st Annual Conference in 2004. Listen at home, at work or download onto your iPod.

Parenting Coordination Network: Group email list to share techniques, referrals and learn from leading experts in this challenging and emerging field.

If you have any questions about AFCC member benefits, contact us at afcc@afccnet.org or (608) 664-3750.

AFCC Trainings in Chicago

AFCC is offering two outstanding training programs in June for professionals who work with high-conflict families at the Loyola Law Center in Chicago, Illinois.

Robin M. Deutsch, Ph.D. will present *Advanced Issues in Child Custody: Abuse, Alienation and Other Challenges*, June 23-24, 2008 and Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D., will present *Parenting Coordination: Helping High Conflict Parents Resolve Disputes*, June 25-26, 2008.

A block of rooms has been secured at the Seneca Hotel & Suites, just a block from Michigan Avenue in Chicago's Magnificent Mile district. The hotel is less than a five minute walk from the Loyola Law Center. For reservations, call (800) 800-6261 and ask for the special rate of \$184/single or \$214/double per night. Lodging is also available on-campus at Baumhart Hall, directly across the street from the Law Center. One person per bedroom is \$119 per night and two people per bedroom is \$89 per person per night. For more information, call Griselda Sanchez at (313) 915-6481.

Each training program is eligible for 13 CE hours for psychologists and both trainings are pending approval by the Illinois MCLE Board for 12 CLE credits. Please view the program brochure for more information at www.afccnet.org/training or contact AFCC at afcc@afccnet.org or (608) 664-3750.

Executive Director's Message

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opportunity to explore the exciting possibilities that exist for AFCC's future. Your responses to the member survey will be very helpful in that regard. And who knows? Perhaps sometime soon, instead of a newsletter column, we'll be exchanging comments on our blog. For now, if you have any thoughts on all of this I would welcome them via email at psalem@afccnet.org. Or, if you insist, you can fax or even mail your ideas to me at the AFCC office. And by the way, if anyone knows of a good tech support person in Madison, Wisconsin, please let me know. Daniel is going to college soon.

Child Welfare Report Online

The Report of the Child Welfare Decision-Making Collaborative that AFCC hosted immediately prior to the AFCC and NCJFCJ Regional Training Conference, September 25-26, 2007 in Columbus, Ohio is available on the AFCC Web site at www.afccnet.org/about/task_forces.asp. The Report entitled, *Conflict Resolution in Child Welfare: Collecting the Wisdom of 25 Years of Experience* was prepared by Joan Kathol and Bernie Mayer.

AFCC will host a second think tank of the Child Welfare Decision-Making Collaborative at its 45th Annual Conference, May 28-31, 2008 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Top Ten Tips for New Parenting Coordinators

AFCC featured a new section in the February 2008 issue of the *AFCC eNEWS* entitled, Ask the Experts. Due to the popular response from the section, we are republishing it in the *AFCC NEWS*. Make sure AFCC has your email address to ensure you receive AFCC's bi-monthly e-newsletter, *AFCC eNEWS*. Send an email to afcc@afccnet.org and request to receive the *AFCC eNEWS* today.

Q: What is the best advice veteran parenting coordinators have for those who are new to this emerging field of practice? *AFCC eNEWS* asked AFCC members and experienced parenting coordinators Christie Coates, Robin Deutsch, Barbara Jo Fidler, Joan B. Kelly, Arnie Shienvold and Matt Sullivan.

1. Avoid Burnout

Don't let your caseload of parenting coordination (PC) cases exceed half of your overall caseload. Take regular vacations making sure that you are not available during those periods.

2. Never Accept a PC Case without a Court Order or Consent Agreement

Always try to have input into the contents of the Stipulation and/or Order before issuance or signing.

3. Payment

Get as much of a retainer as the parties can pay up front and bill against it for your work. The beginning of a case is very time intensive. Keep a client "trust account" to hold unused retainer moneys, so that you don't get caught taking a loan to reimburse clients.

4. Boundaries, Boundaries, Boundaries

Set up the communication structure immediately. Set time limits on your sessions and stick to them. Remind yourself that the clients own the problems.

5. Document, Document, Document

Document all of your work carefully and completely.

6. Screening

Screen for domestic violence (intimate partner violence) and power imbalances.

7. Calendar

Have the parents transpose the words of the parenting plan/order for parenting time (usual and holiday) into calendar form for at least 6 months, preferably for one year, in the early stage of the work and quickly address any scheduling conflicts, ambiguities, loopholes at the outset to preempt nth hour conflicts, "crises."

8. Conference Call Service

Get a reliable, affordable conference call service to facilitate conference calls in your work.

9. Hybrid ADR Process (remember, it's efficient!)

Parenting coordination is a hybrid ADR process, not therapy, advocacy or evaluation. Take advantage of all the functions as appropriate: assessment, education, coordination, conflict management, mediation, arbitration. Also, make a clear distinction for the clients when you begin to arbitrate a conflict and are making a decision.

10. Networking

Have a mentor or at least a few other professionals to consult with about parenting coordination cases. It will save your sanity. Join the AFCC Parenting Coordination Network (group email networking list for AFCC members to connect with each other, ask questions and share techniques) for stimulating discussions at www.afccnet.org.

Do you have a question that you would like answered by an AFCC expert? Let us know and your question could be answered in the next *AFCC eNEWS*. Send your questions to editor@afccnet.org.



Timely and Relevant . . .

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JanisPublications.com



Member Profile

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plans and parenting styles post divorce. I want to see the precision and scope of attachment research applied to the divorce field.

What important lessons can those working in family courts in other countries learn from our Australian colleagues?

Australians have acquired hard earned experience with large scale reform of our out-dated family law structures. We have been through an incredible decade of transformation, with significant reforms to legislation and practice. Some changes came before the evidence was really there, so we anxiously wait to see what real difference this revolution will make to children and parents. Other lessons? Well, we're also adept at picking a good wine.

What lessons have you brought home to Australia from colleagues in other parts of the world?

Aside from Bob Emery teaching me how to pick a good whiskey, I continue to be inspired professionally by my overseas colleagues. I admire the empirical rigor and the quality of review and debate that goes on in the United States, and like the honesty and depth inquiry of many United Kingdom researchers.

What is your first memory of AFCC?

Seattle (AFCC's 42nd Annual Conference, May 18-21, 2005)! Big, fun, welcoming, rigorous, long plane trips... Very worthwhile.

What do you like most about AFCC?

The connections with others, the *Family Court Review* and Peter Salem's sense of humor.

What is the difference between AFCC and other organizations that you associate with?

AFCC is a living, breathing network of people, responsive to members, empirically grounded and multidisciplinary. There is a strong sense of camaraderie and generosity, as people join together to share the complexity of this work. And it's fun.

What is the favorite part of your work?

Enabling a "psychological truce" between warring parents, motivated by a new understanding of their shared

role in creating a healthier pathway for their child. The favorite part of my research is when SPSSX (our statistical program) churns through our data and shoots back some thought provoking findings, that I can make sense of!

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

The very simple things. Favorite down time activities involve long family bush walks with our dogs, baking, teaching my daughter how to rollerblade, playing piano with my son, gardening, good wine, good friends and laughter.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

That my kids are interesting and lovely people. Forward gazing a little, one of my proudest accomplishments would be to facilitate an AFCC conference in Australia!

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AFCC Members Write On

Mark Armstrong and Annette Burns, AFCC members from Phoenix, Arizona, have written *Arizona Family Law Rules Handbook, 2007-2008 ed.*, published by Thomson/West. This publication is designed to provide Arizona practitioners and litigants with a convenient and up-to-date resource that collects the relevant body of procedural case law interpreting both the new Rules of Family Law Procedure and the closely related civil rules.

Rachel Birnbaum, Barbara Jo Fidler and Katherine Kavassalis, AFCC members from Ontario, have written *Child Custody Assessments: A resource guide for legal and mental health professionals*. Published by Thomson Carswell, the book deals with the practical aspects of child custody and access assessments in the context of the empirical and social science literature and the authors' decades of collective practice experiences.

Ellie Izzo and Vicki Carpel Miller, AFCC members from Scottsdale, Arizona, have written *Day After Day the Price We Pay: Managing Your Second Hand Shock; and The Second-Hand Shock Workbook*, published by Janis Publications. This book and companion workbook on vicarious trauma, an occupational hazard for anyone in the helping professions, provides an understanding of the problem

and a unique process to effectively address your "Second-Hand Shock."

Randi Scalise Johnson, AFCC member from Walnut Creek, California, has written *A New Cinderella Tale for Children of Divorce*. Published by Telemark House, the book is a fictional story for separating and divorcing parents to read with their children. The book features pictures and includes a questions and answers guide in the back of the book for parents.

Joanna Bunker Rohrbaugh, AFCC member from Cambridge, Massachusetts, has written *A Comprehensive Guide to Child Custody Evaluations: Mental Health and Legal Perspectives*. Published by Springer, the interdisciplinary book covers three essential areas in the evaluation process: up-to-date legal issues, psychological findings and forensic procedures.

Where to find it? AFCC's Online Member Bookstore! More than 100 books written or edited exclusively by AFCC members are available on AFCC's Web site. Go to www.afccnet.org/shopping/ and click "Online Bookstore."

Have you written a book? We want to let others know about new books in the field by AFCC members. Please send information to Dave Vigliotta, Editor, *AFCC NEWS*, at editor@afccnet.org.

AFCC Member News

Carol Bertz, AFCC member from Chattanooga, Tennessee was elected to Chattanooga's District 6 City Council Seat. Carol is the Chief Executive Officer of Private Dispute Resolution Services, LLC, a mediation services and training organization headquartered in Chattanooga.

Hon. Dennis Duggan, AFCC member from Albany, New York was named Family Court Judge of the Year by the New York State Family Court Judges Association at their annual meeting held in Saratoga, New York, October 10-12, 2007. Judge Duggan was also honored in October by the New York State Chapter of the Supervised Visitation Network in appreciation for his support and recognition of the need and importance of supervised visitation services to both the court and families.

Hon. Linda Fidnick, AFCC member from Amherst, Massachusetts was appointed judge of the Hampshire County Probate and Family Court. Judge Fidnick is immediate Past President of the AFCC Massachusetts Chapter.

Perri Mayes, AFCC member from Milwaukee, Wisconsin was appointed Executive Director of the Collaborative Family Law Council of Wisconsin. Perri is a mediator in private practice and an adjunct instructor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Carl D. Schneider, AFCC member from Bethesda, Maryland, was married December 27, 2007 to his long-term partner and co-mediator, Sharon Pickett. Carl is the Director of Mediation Matters. Sharon was the editor of the *ACResolution* magazine for its first seven years. The wedding was especially meaningful for the couple since Sharon was diagnosed with stage IV cancer this past September.

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AFCC Minnesota Chapter Ready for Takeoff

by Gary A. Debele

*Chair, AFCC Minnesota Coordinating Committee,
Minneapolis, Minnesota*

Minnesota AFCC members are moving ahead with the goal of creating an AFCC Minnesota Chapter. The latest results from the online member directory on AFCC's Web site indicates that the state hosts 88 AFCC members. The majority of these members support the creation of a state chapter.

AFCC members in Minnesota have organized a Coordinating Committee and are preparing the necessary paperwork for the creation of a chapter. A launch event took place at the Continuing Education and Conference Center at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus, April 25, 2008, to coincide with the Minnesota Interdisciplinary Committee on Divorce (MICOD) Annual Training. The reception occurred after a full-day workshop with

AFCC member Isolina Ricci, Ph.D., author, *Mom's House, Dad's House*.

MICOD's Annual Training has historically attracted interdisciplinary attendees including family lawyers, judicial officers, mental health professionals, guardians ad litem and alternative dispute resolution professionals—a fitting match for AFCC. The members of MICOD support using this training as the AFCC Minnesota Chapter launch event and strongly endorse the creation of a Chapter. Members of the Coordinating Committee will be speaking to attendees throughout the day on the mission of AFCC and why a creating a state Chapter would be such an enormous benefit to the state. An information booth with AFCC member applications will be available. The Minnesota Coordinating Committee is very excited about this endeavor and is pleased with the way the project has been received by AFCC members throughout the state.

The Birth of an Ontario AFCC

by Patti Cross

Co-chair, AFCC Ontario Organizing Committee, Toronto, Ontario

Although there are many, many AFCC members in Canada, a Chapter of the association in Canada has not yet been realized. This began to change last fall.

A dedicated team of people interested in an Ontario Chapter began to toil in September 2007 to build such a Chapter. And, did they toil! People such as Barbara Fidler, Jan Schloss and Deborah Moskovitch met so regularly to organize a launch event that I could not keep track of their meetings! Their energy was incredibly infectious. All the members of the Organizing Committee worked diligently and generously to bring AFCC to Ontario. Soon, a date of January 24, 2008 was chosen for a launch event. The University of Toronto's Law School generously donated space and speakers were hand-picked.

Volunteers created a Web site, sent out invitations to people who might be interested in an Ontario AFCC and asked them to RSVP on the Web site. About a month before the event, Justice George Czutrin started emailing me on a daily basis to ask how many responses had been received. In total, there were four. I began to sweat.

It seemed impossible that no one would show up. People were regularly contacting us to let us know that they were interested. Our speakers were of the highest calibre—Professor Julie Macfarlane of the University of Windsor's Law School and featured presenter at AFCC's 45th Annual Conference in Vancouver, BC, Justice George Czutrin, Lorraine Martin and Martha McCarthy. We even had entertainment—family lawyer and jazz diva, Barbara Gordon.

Law firms Andrew Feldstein & Associates, Epstein and Cole, and Smith Family Law Group generously agreed to sponsor the event. Surely, we would get at least fifty people!

The day arrived. I didn't sleep the night before. We had been experiencing extreme weather conditions in Toronto and I worried that we would have the storm of the century that day. We had all this food. What if no one showed up?

The event started at 5:30pm I started to relax at 5:00pm when streams and streams of people poured into the law school. Suddenly there was Chief Justice Annemarie Bonkalo and Associate Chief Justice Peter Griffiths of the Ontario Court of Justice. And splashed across the room were prominent lawyers, psychologists, judges, mediators, social workers and academics—truly an AFCC multidisciplinary event! Justice Emile Kruzick of the Superior Court of Justice was a brilliant master of ceremonies who read letters of congratulations from Ontario Attorney General Chris Bentley, Ontario Court of Appeal Chief Justice Warren Winkler and Superior Court of Justice Chief Justice Heather Smith. Our speakers were mesmerizing and we could have sat through ten sets of Barbara's beautiful voice.

In total, we had close to two hundred people show up. Many individuals who had not been members of AFCC signed up that evening. Many told us that they were looking forward to a Chapter and what it can bring to Ontario. We had been successful.

I have so many people to thank but I have already gone over my word limit for this article. So let me just say, thank you everyone; the success of the launch event couldn't have happened without you.

AFCC Chapter News

Arizona

The AFCC Arizona Chapter hosted its 27th Annual Conference in Sedona, February 8-10, 2008 with well-received programs and speakers. Featured presenters included Alex Caldwell on MMPI-II issues and Bill Eddy on personality disorders and their effect on child abuse and domestic violence cases. The conference concluded on Sunday morning with a popular two-hour ethics workshops on mediation, law and mental health. The Arizona Chapter co-sponsored the December 2007 Maricopa County Mental Health Orientation with the Maricopa County Superior Court, educating more than 90 parenting coordinators and mental health professionals about work in the court system and updates on family-related research.

California

The AFCC California Chapter's Annual Conference, February 8-10, 2008 in Santa Monica, was a huge success. Approximately 200 professionals were in attendance, which far exceeds the number of participants from the last Chapter conference in Southern California in 2006. The Call for Presenters for next year's Annual Conference, February 6-8, 2009 at the Mark Hopkins Hotel is available on the Chapter's Web site at www.afcc-ca.org. The deadline for proposals is June 1, 2008. The California Chapter also recently hired a part-time administrator.

Colorado

The AFCC Colorado Chapter held its second in a series of four critical discussions on April 4, 2008 on the *Perspectives of Family Court Assessments and Alternative Models: An Exploration of Evaluation, Representation and Intervention in Contested Divorce Cases*. The half-day conference, *Parental Delegation of Authority: An Analysis of the Utility of PC's and DM's* held at the University of Denver, featured local presenters Christie Coates, Kathryn Beck, Dinsmore Tuttle and Betsy Duvall. The third half-day conference, *the Adversarial Quagmire*, will be held on June 6, 2008 at the University of Denver and will explore the role of the attorney in high conflict divorce cases, problems in the adversarial system and the limits of representation under the Colorado revised Rules of Professional Conduct.

Missouri

The AFCC Missouri Chapter held its Annual Conference, March 6-7, 2008 in St. Louis. The conference was a big

success with more than 130 professionals in attendance and featured guest speaker Marsha Kline Pruett. Preparations are underway in St. Louis and Kansas City for upcoming trademark Missouri Chapter Lunch and Learns. The St. Louis Lunch and Learn, May 14, 2008, features the topic, *Parents' Personality Disorders: Parenting Plan Considerations*, with speakers Rosalyn Schultz and Marjorie Carter. The Kansas City Lunch and Learn, June 4, 2008, features the topic, *Autism 101*, with speakers Robin Russell and Karen Horn of the Autism Alliance of Greater Kansas City. A Parenting Coordination Task Force, sponsored by the Chapter, is making great strides in promoting the passage of parenting coordination legislation in the state. House Bill 2118 on parenting coordination is currently before the Missouri Special Committee on Family Services.

New Jersey

The AFCC New Jersey Chapter will hold its annual dinner meeting on June 18, 2008, from 5pm – 9pm, at the Sheraton at Woodbridge Place in Iselin. Marsha Kline Pruett will be the keynote speaker on a program entitled, *Living Arrangements for Young Children: Who decides what is developmentally appropriate?* For more information, please contact Program Chair Lorraine LaConti at LaConti@aol.com. The New Jersey Chapter Parenting Coordination Roundtable meets once every six weeks under the leadership of Marcy Pasternak. The group continues to monitor the New Jersey pilot program on parenting coordination. The group is developing protocols for research studies seeking feedback from both parents and parenting coordinators.

Texas

The AFCC Texas Chapter welcomed two new Board members for 2008 at its Board of Directors meeting on February 8, 2008. Patricia Barrett of Houston is serving as Treasurer and Stephanie J. Hall of The Woodlands, is At-Large Director. Planning for the Chapter's Eighth Annual Conference, October 3-4, 2008 at the South Texas College of Law in Houston is well underway. The conference theme is *The Full Spectrum of Domestic Violence: What You Don't Know Can Hurt You*, and features keynote speaker, Bruce D. Perry, Senior Fellow, ChildTrauma Academy. This year's conference will explore new and emerging legal, judicial, mental health and dispute resolution interventions, special services, and models of care for children and their parents affected by domestic violence.

First Ever Standards of Practice for Lawyers in Civil Protection Order Cases Released

by **Rebecca Henry, Esq.**

Senior Staff Attorney, ABA Commission on Domestic Violence, Washington, DC

At its Annual Meeting in August 2007, the American Bar Association adopted its *Standards of Practice for Lawyers Representing Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking in Civil Protection Order Cases*. These standards raise awareness of the need for high quality legal representation for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

Every year in the United States, approximately 1.5 million women are assaulted by their intimate partner. Access to legal services is identified as one of the most effective tools for victims to become safe; however, survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking are frequently unable to access the remedies provided to them by the justice system.

The *Standards* recommend that lawyers become knowledgeable about the dynamics of domestic violence and its intersection with sexual assault and stalking before undertaking representation of a victim in a protection order case. Other considerations addressed include understand-

ing the role culture, language, immigration status, age and/or disability of the victim may play in effective representation of diverse clients, ensuring effective communication between the lawyer and client, and being able to identify the potential need for interpreters.

The ABA Commission on Domestic Violence developed the *Standards* in partnership with the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, the National Center for the Prosecution of Violence Against Women of the National District Attorneys Association and the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. After adoption by the ABA policymaking body, they were published in October, to coordinate with Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The *Standards* were then distributed to some 700 lawyers on the front lines of the fight to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking: lawyers at legal aid offices, pro bono legal services and individual lawyers who represent victims.

Copies of the *Standards of Practice* are available in hardcopy and Braille by emailing abacdvt@staff.abanet.org. They are also available electronically on the commission's Web site at www.abanet.org/domviol/pubs.html.

New Name, New Sites for Leader in Court ADR

On February 1, 2008 the Center for Analysis of Alternative Dispute Resolution Systems (CAADRS) changed its name and introduced expanded online services that will enhance the Chicago non-profit's capacity for court ADR information.

CAADRS is now Resolution Systems Institute (RSI), with a new online home at **www.AboutRSI.org**. The name change better reflects the range of services the organization provides, which includes program development, monitoring and evaluation of programs, research, and information dissemination through the Court ADR Resource Center.

RSI launched a completely renovated version of its Court ADR Resource Center at www.CourtADR.org. Originally launched in 2001 on the CAADRS Web site, the Resource Center has become the most comprehensive and respected court ADR information source available. The new site offers new content, new resources and easier navigation including:

- The Court ADR Pocket Guide, which provides a targeted introduction to the use of ADR by courts;
- The Court ADR Instruction Manual, which offers a set of detailed guidelines and models for courts on creating, evaluating and improving ADR programs;
- The Research Library, which includes a searchable, annotated database of nearly 3,000 ADR-related resources, as well as resource guides specifically tailored to meet the needs of judges, court administrators, neutrals, and others involved in court ADR; and
- The Illinois Court ADR Sourcebook, which brings together a comprehensive collection of information on ADR services offered by the state and federal courts in Illinois.

AFCC Thanks Contributors

AFCC's Resource Development Committee would like to thank AFCC members for their generous donations in response to this year's Annual Appeal. More than \$24,000 has been raised so far to support AFCC's Scholarship and

Outreach Programs. If you have not yet contributed to this year's fund, you can mail your donation payable to AFCC or donate online at www.afccnet.org/about/resource_committee.asp.

Special thanks to Key Club contributor Hugh and Judy Starnes, and Diamond contributors the AFCC Arizona Chapter, Annette Burns, Doneldon Dennis, Mary Ferriter, Arline Rotman, Peter Salem and the Suzie S. Thorn Family Foundation.

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Task Force on Focused Evaluations

Continued from page 7

26-100 evaluations and 16% conducted less than 25 evaluations. Ninety-two percent reported there is a cause to differentiate between comprehensive and brief or focused evaluation models. Furthermore, 65% thought the profession should adopt "focused" as the descriptive word to describe brief evaluations. The final results of the survey are available on the AFCC Web site at www.afccnet.org/about/task_forces.asp and by clicking the "Focused Evaluations Task Force" link.

The responses from the survey also assisted the task force in developing the following description for focused evaluations. "A brief focused assessment is limited to evaluating a specific, narrowly defined set of referral questions. In order for an evaluator to conduct a brief

focused assessment, a judicial order specifying the request including a well defined set of questions relevant to the resolution of a legal dispute is needed."

A draft Guidelines for Brief Focused Assessments document is currently in progress. The task force is soliciting sample court orders appointing evaluators in limited assessments and descriptions of limited assessment programs. If you would like to contribute your expertise in this area, please email Phil Bushard at Phil.Bushard@washocourts.us. The task force seeks to complement the Model Standards of Practice with this work.

Members of the Task Force on Focused Evaluations will be presenting the Guidelines for Brief Focused Assessments at AFCC's Eighth International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations, September 25-27, 2008 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



Upcoming AFCC Trainings and Conferences

AFCC Trainings

Advanced Issues in Child Custody: Abuse, Alienation and other Challenges

Presenter: Robin Deutsch, Ph.D.
June 23-24, 2008
Loyola Law Center
Chicago, Illinois
www.afccnet.org

Parenting Coordination: Helping High Conflict Parents Resolve Dispute

Presenter: Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D.
June 25-26, 2008
Loyola Law Center
Chicago, Illinois
www.afccnet.org

AFCC Conferences

AFCC 45th Annual Conference

May 28-31, 2008
Westin Bayshore Resort
Vancouver, BC, Canada
www.afccnet.org

AFCC Eighth International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

September 25-27, 2008
Albuquerque Marriott
Albuquerque, New Mexico

AFCC Eighth International Congress on Parent Education and Access Programs

September 26-27, 2008
Albuquerque Marriott
Albuquerque, New Mexico

AFCC 46th Annual Conference

May 27-30, 2009
Sheraton New Orleans
New Orleans, Louisiana

AFCC Chapter Conferences

Texas Chapter Annual Conference

October 3-4, 2008
South Texas College of Law
Houston, Texas
www.texasafcc.org

California Chapter Annual Conference

February 6-8, 2009
The Mark Hopkins Hotel
on Nob Hill
San Francisco, California
www.afcc-ca.org

Florida Chapter Annual Conference

February 27-28, 2009
Renaissance Hotel/
International Mall
Tampa, Florida
www.flafcc.org

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