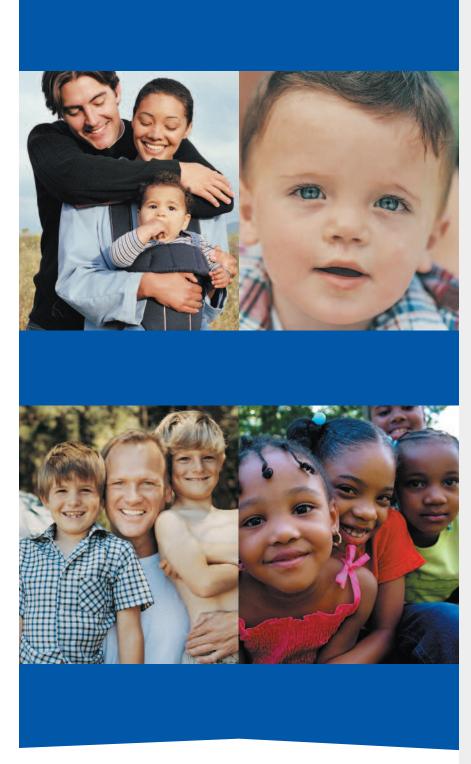


# AFCC NEWS

**FOUNDED IN 1963** 

## **ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONCILIATION COURTS**

Volume 27, Number 3 Summer 2008



## www.afccnet.org

# Symposium and Congress Ready to Shine in Albuquerque

Make plans now to join your colleagues in Albuquerque, New Mexico for AFCC's *Eighth International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations*, September 25-27, 2008 and *Eighth International Congress on Parent Education and Access Programs*, September 26-27, 2008. The conferences take place at the Albuquerque Marriott, located in the heart of uptown Albuquerque and overlooking the Sandia Mountains. AFCC has secured a special room rate of \$122 per night for a single or double room.

## The Anatomy of a Child Custody Evaluation

The *Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations* features three plenary sessions moderated by Hon. R. John Harper that will examine the infinite number of pieces that make up the puzzle of the evaluation process.

The *Symposium* will open with *Deconstructing the Evaluation Process: What Exactly Are we Doing?* with Linda Cavallero, Ph.D., Michael Gottlieb, Ph.D. and Hon. Nan Nash. The expert panel will unravel the many components of the evaluation process.

continued on page 8

# New Orleans 2009 Save the Dates! AFCC 46th Annual Conference

Children, Courts and Custody: Back to the Future or Full Steam Ahead?

May 27-30, 2009 Sheraton New Orleans

Call for Presenters on page 15



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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## **AFCC News**

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## AFCC News Advertising

Full page	\$425	\$600
Half page	\$300	\$450
Quarter page	\$150	\$250

# President's Message

We are living in times of enormous uncertainty. War, unstable economies and political turmoil appear to be rampant. Here in the United States, we have an upcoming presidential election which, no matter what the outcome, will have an enormous impact. We are still learning about social networking and the Internet and their impact on families, relationships and the workplace. Much like the uncertainty we often find in the families we serve, and those families' own uncertainty about their lives, we can never be guite sure what lies around the next corner.

One place that I look for uncertainty reduction in my

The real
strength of this
organization is
you, our
members, and
our collective
shared
experiences
that help us
manage our
respective
practices and
jobs...

professional life is AFCC. Of course the "place" that is AFCC is not a physical place. It includes conferences in various cities, emails, listservs, conference calls, newsletters and on occasion, opportunities to connect face-to-face with other members in my own community. But whatever the form of my connection with AFCC, I have found that it helps me to effectively deal with the uncertainties that I must address in my professional life. When I encounter new challenges in my work, I invariably find another AFCC member who has either experienced it before or can help me to better understand it.

The real strength of this organization is you, our members, and our collective shared experiences that help us manage our respective practices and jobs as custody evaluators, mediators, judges,

lawyers, researchers, educators, parenting coordinators, counselors and administrators. It is not only that collective knowledge, but our willingness—almost insistence—on sharing our ideas with one another that makes AFCC a special "place" to be.

As AFCC membership continues to grow, the collective knowledge-base increases, there are more resources on which to draw and membership becomes more valuable. We now have nearly 3,600 members; and our membership outside of the U.S. is at an all-time high. The list of organizations with whom we are collaborating is growing every year. And the number of Chapters continues to increase. All of this growth brings new members, new ideas and new innovations.

As AFCC conferences grow larger, more and more members have been provided the opportunity to share and

to learn from one another. We recognize that for various reasons, not everyone can participate in AFCC annual conferences. In order to increase access, we have dramatically increased the number of scholarships in the last five years and registration fee increases have been nominal.



**Robin M. Deutsch** AFCC President Boston, Massachusetts

login to the Member Center of the AFCC Web site and listen to conference plenary sessions at a And ideas experience and knowle

Additionally, you can always

to conference plenary sessions at no additional charge. And, ideas, experience and knowledge is shared through our more economical fall conferences and training programs, publications, the *AFCC NEWS*, *AFCC eNEWS* and our outstanding journal, *Family Court Review*. We are beginning to explore new places to engage members, including blogs, more listservs or even social networking opportunities.

The truth is that we are uncertain about how AFCC will move forward. But we will move forward. We are committed to continuing to bring members the practices, programs and research that will enable you to achieve professional excellence. And we are committed to find new ways to engage members and help you to share your ideas with one another.

Those of you who attended the 45th Annual Conference in Vancouver participated in our biggest conference ever and the excitement, especially among newcomers, was palpable. The AFCC Board and staff are committed to creating that level of success in everything that we do. Of that you can be certain.

# Family Court Review Online Moves to Wiley InterScience

Electronic access to Family Court Review has moved from Blackwell Synergy to Wiley InterScience, due to the merger of Wiley-Blackwell's online journal systems. AFCC members will continue to access Family Court Review directly through the Member Center of the AFCC Web site. Any pages you have bookmarked will be redirected to the relevant page on Wiley InterScience.

More member discounts! AFCC members will now receive a 20% discount on most Wiley books, which includes the Wiley-Blackwell and Jossey-Bass imprints, and more. All books are available for purchase at www.wiley.com. AFCC members must enter the discount code "SOC01" when completing an order. If you have any questions, please contact AFCC at afcc@afccnet.org or (608) 664-3750.

## MEMBER PROFILE

# AFCC President, Robin M. Deutsch, Ph.D.

Upon meeting Robin Deutsch one is immediately engaged by her presence, although she does at times seem to present a contradiction in terms. An impeccable dresser, Robin seems the epitome of an urban sophisticate; at the same time, she truly radiates the Midwestern warmth of someone who grew up in Green Bay, Wisconsin, who enjoys quiet time in her garden and kayaking on the Charles River, which runs through the backyard of her home outside of Boston.

No question, Robin is not easy to pigeonhole. She was born in Indianapolis and when she was nine months old her father took a job in Green Bay. "My parents went ahead and I stayed with my grandmother in Chicago while my mother set up the new home. I suspect that is when my interest in attachment began!"

Robin was the oldest of six in seven and a half years and grew up rooting for the home team. "I was a Packer fan," she said, somewhat resigned. "There was not much else to do. I couldn't wait to get out."

Robin began college at Northwestern University as one of a small handful of classmates to attend college outside of Wisconsin, but she felt that campus was too conservative and transferred to the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "I felt more politically connected there," she said.

Robin thrived in her new environment. She studied sociology and anthropology and worked part-time while earning her bachelor's degree. Following a politically active undergraduate career, she moved to Seattle. "I wanted to get out of the Midwest, so I looked at a map of the U.S. and picked Seattle," she said. "My first job was at a diner where you could get a seven course meal for \$1.99. I ended up working as a respiratory therapy technician at Harbor View Hospital, the model for *Grey's Anatomy*."

Robin ultimately returned to Green Bay and earned her teaching certificate at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay after which she taught elementary school for three years. She worked in an alternative school, "...where the kids were having trouble learning and could not read; they were distracted and would tell me that they were up all night listening to their parents fight, and that no one got up in the morning to give them breakfast. That's when I decided to go to graduate school and work with children."

She moved back to Madison and married her former high school sweetheart. There, Robin earned an M.S. in Counseling and Guidance after which she started a K-12 gifted and talented program in Stoughton, WI.

She returned for her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology and there she met another graduate student named Vivienne Roseby, who would go on, with Janet Johnston, to co-author the book *In the Name of the Child*, a best seller among AFCC members. The two graduate students developed.

oped a school-based intervention for children whose parents had divorced and piloted it in 12 schools, providing the data for both dissertations.

A year into her doctoral program, Robin's daughter Emma was born, followed by Sam three years later. Shortly thereafter, Ph.D. in hand, Robin and her family moved to Boston where she began an internship at Judge Baker Children's Center and Children's Hospital.

Robin's supervisor, Ken Herman (an AFCC member who passed away in 2004), started the Children and the Law Program affiliated with the Law and Psychiatry Program at Massachusetts General Hospital, where Robin has worked in a variety of roles, including co-director, director of forensic services and director of training, conducting custody evaluations and serving as a Guardian ad litem. Robin proudly points to the more than forty post-doctoral fellows and residents she has supervised at Mass. General since 1992 and their contributions to the field.

In addition to her work at Mass. General, Robin maintains a private practice involving psychotherapy with children, families and couples, parenting coordination, training and consultation to lawyers and couples, and mediation. She is also co-author of the book Seven Things Your Teenager Won't Tell You (And How to Talk About Them Anyway) and has been active with the American Psychological Association, including serving as chair of its Ethics Committee.

Robin's life with AFCC began in 1996 when former President Arline Rotman recruited her to present at a regional conference in Boston. Since then, she has served in a variety of roles, including President of the Massachusetts Chapter and as a member of the AFCC Task Force that developed Guidelines for Parenting Coordination.

Outside of work, Robin maintains a busy life and enjoys kayaking, reading, gardening and travel. Her children are now out of the nest. Emma now works in human resources consulting in Boston. Sam is currently tripping through North America after his graduation from college this spring.

As President of AFCC, Robin will add travel to her agenda and be busier still. "If I didn't have my day job," she notes, "I'd almost be able to do all of the things I want to accomplish."

# Message from the Executive Director



**Peter Salem**AFCC Executive Director
Madison, Wisconsin

If AFCC possesses a single attribute that makes us unique, it is that we are truly interdisciplinary. AFCC members also hail from many different parts of the globe. Generally, these differences are a blessing for AFCC, as the exchange of ideas among members takes on additional layers and is that much more rewarding. Different people also have different backgrounds, experiences, priorities and preferences. For a small organization with a volunteer Board and seven-member staff,

the sheer number of priorities and preferences can present a daunting challenge.

According to Google, it was apparently the 15th century poet John Lydgate (not Abraham Lincoln) who said, "You can please all of the people some of the time, you can please some of the people all of the time, but you can't please all of the people all of the time." We recognize the wisdom of these words, but we cannot to seem help ourselves. So AFCC surveyed the membership earlier this year to learn, among other things, what pleased you and what didn't.

- Twenty-seven percent of members responded. The good news for AFCC is that overall you are pleased with your association. A whopping 72% of you are "very satisfied" with your membership; another 19% "satisfied," and fewer than 2% "not very satisfied."
- You appreciate the administrative staff, with a 4.6
  rating on a 5 point scale regarding responsiveness,
  courtesy and professionalism, competence, problem
  solving ability and accessibility.
- Members overwhelmingly joined and renewed membership in order to keep abreast of current issues in the field. Conferences, networking and receiving Family Court Review were additional reasons.
- The AFCC attribute ranked most important by members was multi-disciplinary perspective; this was followed in order by program related information; research; professional standards and guidelines; special projects; international perspective; and conference scholarship program.
- Members believed that the cost of dues and conferences were a good value compared with other organizations (4.07 and 4.09 respectively on a 5 point scale), and that AFCC provides information and train-

ing needed to enhance professional competence and success (4.36).

 Not surprisingly, of AFCC programs, products and services, those valued most by users were Annual Conference (4.41) and the Family Court Review (4.36) while electronic benefits such as the Web site (3.58), online conference audio (1.99), membership directory (2.45) and the AFCC eNEWS (3.24) were not valued as highly.

The numbers tell us a lot and they are helpful and often affirming. But they do not tell the entire story. The survey presented opportunities for comments. After reading them, I can report that we do not please all of the people all of the time. I wish I could respond to all comments. I've chosen just a few.

The cost disparity for mental health professionals vs. attorneys has always been a major problem. Attorneys make twice what we do, yet we have to pay the same costs to attend these conferences.

Money always presents challenges. Some attorneys are well paid while others earn much less working in court and legal aid settings. Some mental health professionals have lucrative practices; some have worked for many years in courts services without a meaningful raise. There are those who travel further and at greater expense to attend conferences. The potential disparities are endless and unfortunately there is no fair and administratively manageable way to level the cost relative to ability to pay. AFCC costs (health insurance, printing, conference expenses) increase every year. A single cup of coffee and muffin at the Vancouver conference cost over \$10. But dues have not increased since 2001(!); member conference fees increase less than one half percent annually; and conference scholarships have increased 300% in the last five years. We will continue to address the delicate balance by attempting to provide the highest quality at a reasonable cost, treat members fairly and pay the bills.

AFCC provides some of the best training, thinking and leadership in the field. I really appreciate the multi-disciplinary membership and dialogue. The only "disappointment" is the often unspoken, but none the less prevalent bias that court-based services are not as 'good' as privately provided services.

This one hurts. I formerly worked in family court services as have many AFCC leaders, and we know how difficult and important the work is; with fewer resources and increasing caseloads it gets harder every day. We also hear from those who are frustrated with negative

continued on page 13

## **Annual Conference Draws Record Turnout**

AFCC set a new attendance record as more than 1,000 participants traveled from 24 countries to attend AFCC's 45th Annual Conference, May 28-31, 2008 in Vancouver, B.C. The conference featured more than 450 delegates from Canada and 190 presenters from Australia, Canada, Ethiopia, Israel, New Zealand, South Africa, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and the United States. AFCC would like to thank its conference sponsor Complete Equity Markets, Inc. for their generous support in helping make this conference a huge success.

## **Plenary Session Audio Online for Listening**

Four outstanding plenary sessions highlighted the conference. The audio recordings are available at the Member Center of the AFCC Web site for download at www.afccnet.org/members/.

Domestic Violence, Differentiation and Family Court: Tensions, Terminology and Collaboration presented by Clare Dalton, Joan B. Kelly, Nancy Ver Steegh and moderator Hon. Emile R. Kruzick, explored preliminary outcomes from the AFCC and NCJFCJ Domestic Violence and Family Courts Project.

Domestic Violence in Separating Families: Debates and Dilemmas in Developing Appropriate Parenting Plans featured expert panelists Nicholas Bala, Peter G. Jaffe, Janet R. Johnston and Jennifer McIntosh.

Fitting The Forum to the Family: The Evolution of Family Dispute Resolution presented by Julie Macfarlane, Jerry McHale and moderator Woody Mosten, examined the changes and challenges in dispute resolution practice in the private and public sector.

Fitting the Forum to the Family: Meeting the Needs of Families in a Changing World featured Hon. Anita Josey-Herring, Richard Craig, Sujata Warrier and Hayne Wai, who presented new ideas and perspectives for administrators, direct service providers and others who work with the public.

AFCC's audio provider, Digital Conference Providers, Inc., is offering free preview clips of each conference session in MP3 format on its Web site. All sessions can be purchased individually or as a complete set at www.dcprovidersonline.com/afcc/.

### **Thank You**

Special thanks to members of the AFCC Conference Committee in helping make this conference a success: Co-chairs Hon. Denise McColley and Arnie Shienvold, Wendy Bryans, Christie Coates, Hon. George Czutrin, Hon. Graham Mullane, Irene Robertson and Robert Simon. Thanks to conference shepherds Ernie Sanchez, Nancy Baker, Robin Ballard, Shannon Bentley, Ilene Fletcher, Rhonda Lucineo, Myrna Murdoch, Rebecca Stahl, Jacquie Tarasoff and Jeanne White.

AFCC offers its gratitude to the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges for their support in

providing faculty and other collaborating organizations: American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution, American Bar Association Section of Family Law, Association for Conflict Resolution, BC Law Courts Education Society, BC Ministry of Attorney General, Canadian Bar Association Section of Family Law, Family Justice Services Division, Family Mediation Canada, International Academy of Collaborative Professionals, National Association of Counsel for Children and National Institute for Trial Advocacy.

Many thanks to the BC Family Justice Service Division, especially Jerry McHale and Irene Robertson, for their support in funding 90 people to attend the conference. AFCC also thanks Canada's National Judicial Institute for their support in funding more than 60 judges and faculty for the conference.

## **AFCC Thanks Sponsor and Exhibitors**

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## **AFCC Annual Awards Presented**

AFCC members were honored for their accomplishments at the AFCC 45th Annual Conference Awards Luncheon, May 29, 2008 in Vancouver, B.C.

## John E. VanDuzer Distinguished Service Award

## Hon. Denise McColley, Napoleon, Ohio

Hon. Denise McColley was honored with the John E. VanDuzer Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions and achievements by members of AFCC. Judge McColley is a longtime AFCC member and served with distinction as AFCC President in 2001-2002. During this time she appointed the AFCC Task Force on Parenting Coordination to gather information about the new professional role, which spearheaded the creation of the AFCC Guidelines for Parenting Coordination. Judge McColley has served numerous years as Co-chair for the AFCC Conference Program Committee. Conference participants will often see Judge McColley volunteering and organizing AFCC's Hospitality Suite and AFCC's Annual Silent Auction. When she is not volunteering with AFCC, she serves as judge of the Henry County Domestic Relations Court in Napoleon, Ohio.

## **Stanley Cohen Distinguished Research Award**

## Nicholas Bala, LL.M., Kingston, Ontario

Professor Nicholas Bala of Queen's University Faculty of Law was awarded the Stanley Cohen Distinguished Research Award. The award is presented with a \$400 check, which Professor Bala immediately donated to AFCC's Resource Development Fund. Professor Bala has written or co-authored 12 books and over 90 articles and book chapters and co-authored Custody Disputes Involving Allegations of Domestic Violence: Toward a Differentiated Approach to Parenting Plans in the July 2008 Family Court Review.

### **Irwin Cantor Innovative Program Award**

## FIRST 5 and Santa Clara County Family Court Services

FIRST 5 and the Santa Clara County Family Court Services were presented the Irwin Cantor Innovative Program Award. The partnership is a comprehensive collaboration between a domestic relations Court and a publicly funded grantor dedicated to improving the lives of young children. The programs connect families to resources, which address the issues that bring families to court. An article on the program is featured on page 9.

#### **President's Award**

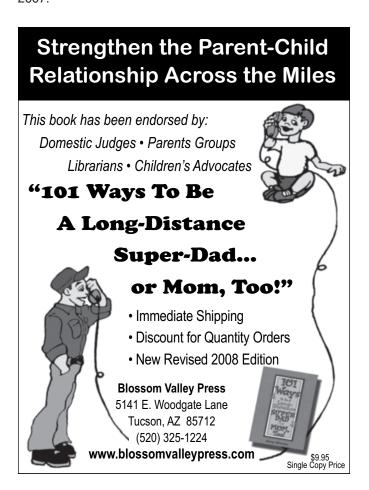
## Nancy Ver Steegh, J.D., M.S.W., St. Paul, Minnesota

Hon. Bill Fee presented the AFCC President's Award to Professor Nancy Ver Steegh for her exemplary service to AFCC. Professor Ver Steegh has been an instrumental force behind the AFCC and NCJFCJ Domestic Violence and Family Courts Project. She served as co-reporter of the project and co-authored the Report from the Wingspread Conference on Domestic Violence and Family Courts, which is the centerpiece of the July 2008 Family Court Review. Professor Ver Steegh served as a guest coeditor of the same issue. She was elected to the AFCC Board of Directors in 2006 and is an Editorial Board member of the Family Court Review.

## **Meyer Elkin Award**

Robert F. Kelly, Ph.D. and Sarah H. Ramsey, J.D., Syracuse, New York; and Allan E. Barsky, Ph.D., Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

The Meyer Elkin Award for the most outstanding article published in the *Family Court Review* recognized two winning articles for 2007. The award was presented to Dr. Robert F. Kelly and Sarah Ramsey for their article, *Assessing and Communicating Social Science Information in Family and Child Judicial Settings: Standards for Judges and Allied Professionals* published in January 2007; and Dr. Allan Barsky for his article, *Mediative Evaluation: The Pros and Perils of Blending Roles* published in October 2007.



## Albuquerque

Continued from page 1

The second plenary, *The Pieces of the Evaluation Puzzle: Do They Always Fit?* will examine some of the more controversial components of the evaluation process and explore whether and how they fit together. Presenters include Linda Cavallero, Ph.D., David Medoff, Ph.D. and Hon. Deborah Davis Walker.

The Child Custody Consultant: Helpful Shepherd or a Wolf in Sheep's Clothing? Addressing Ethical and Practical Concerns will close the conference with Renee Lehr, J.D., Ph.D., Dianna Gould-Saltman, J.D. and H.D. Kirkpatrick, Ph.D. The session will address the benefits and concerns that coaching the client brings to the evaluation table.

The *Symposium* also features four pre-symposium institutes and 24 workshops for advanced evaluators or those just starting out. More than 25 new presenters will join AFCC for this exciting conference.

## **Congress Features Domestic Violence and Parent Education**

The Congress on Parent Education and Access Programs will bring together a vibrant group of parent educators and opens with Domestic Violence and Differentiation: The Impact on Parent Education Programs featuring Nancy Ver Steegh, J.D., M.S.W. Respondents include Cori Erickson, M.S. and Arnold Swartz, LCSW, and Robert M. Smith, J.D. will serve as moderator. The session will examine differentiation of domestic violence, the work of the AFCC and NCJFCJ Domestic Violence and Family Courts Project and much more.

Stripped Down or Fully Loaded: Can Courts Deliver Parenting Programs that Change the Impact of Divorce on Children? will close the conference and features Irwin Sandler, Ph.D. and Sarah Jones, Ph.D. The session will examine the challenges of implementing effective parent education programs in a court setting.

Congress workshops include techniques to expand your practice, new ways of teaching, educating parents online, high conflict families and more. The Congress also features "Show and Tell," which invites participants to share their program materials and stories in a casual networking environment.

## **Networking Opportunities**

For the first time, AFCC will hold the *Symposium* and *Congress* simultaneously, maximizing networking opportunities for both audiences. Attendees will meet together for the Friday Luncheon and share access to refreshment breaks, Exhibitor Forum and AFCC Hospitality Suite.

On Saturday, September 27, participants are invited to register for a roundtrip tour with Destination Southwest to historic Santa Fe. Located one hour north of Albuquerque, the guided tour will depart the Albuquerque Marriott at 12:30pm and return at 5:30pm. The registration form is available on the Conference's page of the AFCC Web site at www.afccnet.org.

#### **Accommodations**

The Albuquerque Marriott on Louisiana Boulevard is steps away from shopping, theatres, restaurants and minutes from Historic Old Town and the Sandia Peak Tram. The AFCC block of rooms will be released to the public for general sale on September 1, 2008 and the hotel may be sold out before that date, *so please make your reservations early*. Reservations can be made by calling the Albuquerque Marriott at (505) 881-6800 or Marriott Reservations at (800) 334-2086. Reservations can be made online at www.marriott.com/abqnm; participants must enter the group code "AFCAFCA" to receive the special discounted rate.

The program brochure, online registration and more is available at www.afccnet.org. For further information, please contact AFCC at afcc@afccnet.org or (608) 664-3750.

#### Do you know Albuquerque?

Albuquerque is one of the oldest cities in the U.S., boasting 310 days of sunshine per year. Framed by breathtaking desert mountains, this Southwestern melting pot of Spanish, Mexican, Navajo and Pueblo influences is immersed with rich culture and heritage. The Albuquerque Marriott offers a front row seat at the city's best attractions and entertainment. A list of top things to do in Albuquerque featuring the world's longest aerial tram ride to hot air balloon rides, can be found on the Conferences page on the AFCC Web site at www.afccnet.org.



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# FIRST 5 and Santa Clara County FCS Partner to Connect Families to Resources

#### by Lilly Grenz

Director of Family Court Services, Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara

FIRST 5 began its historic collaboration with Santa Clara County Family Court Services (FCS) in 2002. Hon. Dolores Carr, Sandy Clark and Steve Baron of the Santa Clara County Family Court saw a gap in services and approached FIRST 5 with a vision to meet the goals of the organization to support children and families. The two organizations went on to develop, implement and sustain a nationally unprecedented partnership, which includes a domestic relations court, a governmental commission and community-based organizations. The goals were to enhance early child development and to address the needs of high-risk children and families involved in child custody litigation.

Santa Clara County has a population of 1.7 million: 34% are Latino, 26% Asian, 32% white, 2 % African American and 6% multi-ethnic. The county has the highest income in California but 26% of its citizens live below the poverty level. Approximately 1,300 families with a child under the age of six are served each year by FCS.

FIRST 5 and FCS conducted a survey of families in the family court and reviewed data provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts of California. The organizations found 51% of the 1,300 families surveyed were experiencing physical or sexual abuse, child maltreatment, substance abuse or domestic violence. Children were often caught in the middle of their parents' disputes. About 20% of the families applied for a domestic violence restraining order. In the Family Court's Domestic Violence calendar, more than one-third of the parents did not speak English; over two-thirds of domestic violence perpetrators were involved in the criminal justice system for spousal abuse and/or child endangerment, and 98% of these parents represented themselves.

FIRST 5 has awarded grants totaling almost \$5 million to develop programs for families in the court system.
FIRST 5 programs connect families to resources, which address the issues that bring families to court. Such issues include those described above (child maltreatment, domestic violence and substance abuse), as well as extreme conflict, mental health needs, child health care and supervised visitation. Best practice knowledge about family court clients is being disseminated through the ongoing collaboration between FCS and large county service organizations, such as social services, mental health and community-based organizations.

FCS has managed the grants with a primary focus on direct services to the families in the court. However, the approach is to share the grants with other Court divisions

such as the Domestic Violence Criminal Court and Unified Court because of the great need. Recurring problems affect many families in the various divisions and many crossover cases between Family Courts and other court divisions that affect families exist.

In addition to funding services throughout the community, FIRST 5 placed six multilingual and multicultural staff in the court setting. Through these workers and with the funding, parents of children under the age of six,



were connected to and received services such as:

- Family Drug Treatment Court (second drug court in a Family Court in the U.S.);
- Parenting workshops and counseling programs specifically developed for high conflict or domestic violence;
- Supervised visitation;
- Attorneys representing both sides in domestic violence cases (first in a Family Court in the U.S.); and
- Health, dental, educational and mental health care through a county-wide system of care.

An outcome study of the partnership was conducted by Harder & Company, a California-based research and analysis organization in 2005. It found that 7% of the families who received FIRST 5 services re-filed in court compared to 41% of the control group; 31% of FIRST 5 families filed restraining orders compared to 69% of the control group; emergency custody assessments occurred for 11% of FIRST 5 families compared to 39% of the control group; and the Court ordered custody assessments for 12% of the FIRST 5 group compared to 20% of the control group.

AFCC members are invited to replicate this endeavor. The experience and success serve as a foundation to persuade other courts, governmental and private organizations to model this program. To learn more about this partnership, please contact Lilly Grenz at lgrenz@scscourt.org or Melanie Daraio at melanie@first5kids.org.

## RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

# **Annual Appeal Record**

AFCC's Resource Development Committee would like to thank AFCC members for their generous donations in response to this year's record-breaking Annual Appeal. Nearly \$26,000 was raised to support AFCC's scholarship and outreach programs. The increase in donations has enabled the committee to designate scholarships to more professionals including international participants, graduate students, professionals in the conference host community, chapter members and court services professionals.

## **Nearly 100 Scholarships Awarded**

AFCC has awarded nearly 100 conference scholar-ships since the program was introduced in 2001-02. A record thirty scholarships were awarded in 2007-08 (five to the Regional Training Conference in Columbus and 25 to the 45th Annual Conference in Vancouver). Eighty-five applications were received for the 2008 Annual Conference in Vancouver, twenty more than the previous year and forty more than two years ago. AFCC received applications from as far as Nepal, United Arab Emirates, Nigeria, Australia, England and Japan.

## **AFCC Chapter News**

# Congratulations to AFCC's Newest Chartered Chapter in Colorado

The AFCC Colorado Chapter was granted the status of a fully chartered Chapter at the AFCC Board meeting, May 28, 2008, in Vancouver. Its Coordinating Committee, led by Shelley Bresnick, who became the Chapter's first President, successfully completed all the steps to move from a provisional Chapter (granted in 2006). The Chapter gathered enough interested members, incorporated and filed for tax-exempt status, wrote and adopted Bylaws, had an election and produced a successful inaugural event in March 2007.

The Colorado Chapter will host its fourth and final series of half-day conferences, *Judicial Response to Assessment, Representation and Intervention Issues*, September 12, 2008 at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. The Colorado Chapter would like to thank Shelley Bresnick for her outstanding service, enthusiasm and guidance as President. The Chapter is looking forward to continuing to flourish under its new President Hon. Randall Arp.

# AFCC Welcomes Chapters in Minnesota and Ontario

AFCC is pleased to welcome its newest Chapters in Minnesota and Ontario. The AFCC Board of Directors voted to approve each Chapter's application for provisional status at its Board meeting on May 28, 2008. Minnesota Coordinating Committee members include: Gary Debele and Nancy Zalusky Berg (Co-chairs), Beth Harrington, Hon. Tanya Manrique, Geri Napuck, Hon. Rosanne

Nathanson, Kelly Semler and Kit Thomas. Ontario Coordinating Committee members include: Patti Cross and Hon. Craig Perkins (Co-chairs), Hon. Harvey Brownstone, Tom Fagan, Barbara Fidler, Dan Goldberg, Deborah Moskovitch and Jan Schloss.

## **New Jersey**

The AFCC New Jersey Chapter held its Annual Meeting, June 18, 2008 at the Woodbridge Hotel and Conference Center in Iselin. AFCC Board member Marsha Kline Pruett was the keynote speaker. Forty-five members and guests were in attendance. At the request of New Jersey Superior Court Judge Thomas Zampino, a committee has been formed to develop a model court order for parenting coordinators in Essex County. The Chapter's roundtable on parenting coordination continues to meet once every six weeks. For more information on the roundtable, please contact Marcy Pasternak at marpastern@aol.com or (908) 769-7949.

## Texas

The AFCC Texas Chapter held its second Board of Directors meeting of the year, June 13, 2008, in Austin, Texas. As a result of the AFCC Chapter Council meeting at AFCC's 45th Annual Conference in Vancouver, a committee was formed to research the feasibility of obtaining liability insurance for Board members. The Chapter's Eighth Annual Conference, *The Full Spectrum of Domestic Violence: What You Don't Know Can Hurt You*, October 3-4, 2008, will take place for the first time at the South Texas College of Law in Houston.

# AFCC eNEWS Now Distributed Monthly

The AFCC eNEWS began monthly publication in July 2008. Formerly distributed bi-monthly, the AFCC eNEWS is AFCC's electronic newsletter that features practice tips, research updates, international news, and announcements on AFCC conferences, programs and initiatives.

Are you receiving the AFCC eNEWS? If you think AFCC has your email address but you are not receiving the AFCC eNEWS, it may be because you use spam filters to protect your inbox. If this is the case, please take a moment and add AFCC's email address (afcc@afccnet.org) to your email address book or spam software whitelist. This will help ensure that you receive emails from AFCC. To change your email address, login to the AFCC Member Center at www.afccnet.org and click "Update Your Email." If you have any questions, please contact AFCC at afcc@afccnet.org or (608) 664-3750.

## 5th World Congress Call for Presenters Online

The 5th World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights is accepting proposals for its conference, August 23-26, 2009, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The deadline for proposals is October 1, 2008. The Call for Presenters is posted on the World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights Web site at www.lawrights.asn.au/.

## **AFCC Members Write On**

William A. Eddy, AFCC member from Scottsdale, Arizona has written *It's All Your Fault* published by Janis Publications, Inc. This book is geared to the average person who is or might become a target of blame for a high-conflict person. It contains twelve practical tips for anyone in a dispute in their workplace, neighborhood, family or other difficult situation.

Mary Louise Mesquita, AFCC member from Boston, Massachusetts has written *Divorce Management: A Survival Guide*. The guide includes information about the psychological aspects of divorce, formal rules of engagement, telling your children, communication, negotiation, stress management, mediation, collaborative practice, transition, closure and transformation.

Sarah H. Ramsey, AFCC member from Syracuse, New York has co-authored *Children and the Law in a Nutshell, Third Edition* with Douglas E. Abrams. Published by Thomson/West, the authors have devoted chapters to the meaning of parent, abuse and neglect, the foster care system, adoption, medical decision making, support and other financial responsibilities, protective legislation and delinquency.

Nancy Ver Steegh, AFCC member from St. Paul, Minnesota has co-authored *Work of the Family Lawyer, Second Edition* with Robert E. Oliphant. Published by Aspen Publishers, the casebook offers succinct and accessible coverage of family law that encourages the development of skills used in practice. The second edition expands coverage of non-adversarial processes and new professional roles and includes hypothetical problems that relate chapter topics to a variety of family structures.

## **AFCC Member News**

Forrest S. Mosten, AFCC member from Los Angeles, California delivered the commencement speech at his alma mater, the University of California-Riverside in June. The address entitled, *Taking a Peacemaker Pledge: Why? And What Does it Mean?*, can be found at www.chass.ucr.edu/conference/Mosten/ and clicking the "Annual Lecture" link.

Jessica Pearson, AFCC member from Denver, Colorado was honored with the Jefferson Award for co-founding A+ Angels, a group of adult mentors who are paired with struggling students at East High School in Denver. The award was founded in 1972 by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and others for the purpose of recognizing individuals who better their communities through volunteer service, exemplifying the ideals of Thomas Jefferson.

Robert M. Smith, AFCC member from Windsor, Colorado received the annual Boulder Interdisciplinary Committee on Child Custody Community Service Award on May 7, 2008, which goes to an attorney or mental health professional who has given services back to the community in an extraordinary way. The recipient is one who goes above and beyond the call of duty to serve the children of the area in regard to custodial issues.

Nancy Ver Steegh, AFCC member from St. Paul, Minnesota has been named Vice Dean for Academic Programs at William Mitchell College of Law effective August 1, 2008. Additionally, Nancy's Family Law Prof Blog, which she co-edits with Professor Barbara Glesner Fines, University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School, has been ranked among the "50 Most Influential Law Faculty Blogs" for 2007. The Family Law Prof Blog can be accessed at http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/family\_law/.

## **AFCC Gift Memberships Online**



A great way to support the mission of AFCC is to give a gift membership to others! Available online only, gift memberships are only \$130 and come with all AFCC member benefits including print and electronic subscriptions to

Family Court Review, access to the AFCC online Member Center and discounts to AFCC conferences and trainings. Gift memberships must be paid by the donor and are not renewable. Gift memberships can be purchased at www.afccnet.org/membership/join today.asp and clicking the "Give a Colleague a Gift Membership to AFCC" link.

## **Tenth Annual Silent Auction a Resounding Success**

AFCC's Tenth Annual Silent Auction at the 45th Annual Conference in Vancouver, B.C., raised nearly \$12,000 to support AFCC special projects and initiatives.

The auction featured unique items from around the world including vacation getaways to Nova Scotia, Tahoe, Vancouver and Albuquerque. Other popular items included an autographed Jack Lemmon movie script, a King Kong photo signed by Fay Wray, a hand woven Turkish Kilm, a Green Bay Packers autographed football and original artwork and jewelry.

Proceeds from the auction are earmarked towards AFCC's special projects and initiatives to support children and families struggling with separation and divorce. This year the funds raised will be used to support projects including the AFCC and NCJFCJ Domestic Violence and Family Courts Project, Focused Evaluations Task Force and Court-Involved Therapists Task Force.

AFCC thanks the following volunteers for their work in making this year's Silent Auction a huge success: Dick Altman, Jaelyn Blue, Annette Burns, Mary Ferriter, Hon. Emile and Josie Kruzick, Hon. Denise McColley, Hon. Graham Mullane, Bob Smith and emcee Hon. John Harper. A very special thanks to all of those who contributed items to this year's event.

## Individuals:

Steve Abel and Paula Davis Dick Altman Peter Boshier **Emily Brown** 

Wendy Bryans Pamela Callahan Linda Cavellero

Andrea and Bob Clark George Czutrin

**Doneldon Dennis** Robin Deutsch

Bill Fee

Mary Ferriter Linda Fidnick

Larry Fong Siri Gottlieb

Jonathan Gould

Bill Howe Leslye Hunter Jake Keneen Emile Kruzick Debra Kulak

Drew Lamden **David Martindale** Denise McColley

Woody Mosten

Graham Mullane Georgene Pomplun Eileen Pruett

Marsha Kline Pruett Isolina Ricci

Arline Rotman

Peter Salem Andy Schepard

**Bob Smith** 

Phil Stahl

Hugh and Judy Starnes

Kathy Townsend Candi Walker James R. Williams

Donna Ziegler

## **Organizations:**

5th World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights

32 Books

Albuquerque Marriott Association for Conflict

Resolution

AFCC Arizona Chapter AFCC California Chapter

AFCC Colorado Chapter

**AFCC Massachusetts** Chapter

AFCC Missouri Chapter AFCC New Jersey Chapter AFCC New York Chapter

**AFCC Texas Chapter** 

American Girl

Canadian Tourism Commission

Capilano Suspension Bridge Carousel Theatre

Complete Equity Markets, Inc.

**Destination Halifax** 

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Garden

Family Mediation Canada Green Bay Packers

Harbour Cruises & Events IMAX Theatre at Canada Place

Janet Marie Studios Mediate.com

Milwaukee Brewers

Mt. Seymour National Council of Juvenile

and Family Court Judges

Novica

Pacific National Exhibition Pacific Palisades Hotel

Phish

Poi Dog Pondering Prince of Whales

Roundy's Supermarkets Seguoia Grill & Restaurant Sheraton Denver Hotel

Sheraton New Orleans Hotel

Sony Electronics

Telus World of Science

The Listel Hotel Think Ink and Design

Tourism Vancouver Vancouver Whitecaps FC

Washington Nationals

Wegner, LLP

Westin Bayshore Resort

Wiley-Blackwell

## **AFCC Board of Directors for 2008-2009**

AFCC is pleased to welcome Hon. Peter Boshier, Wellington, New Zealand and Hon. Linda Fidnick, Leverett, Massachusetts to the Board of Directors with terms beginning July 1, 2008. A special thanks to Hon. William Fee for his leadership and commitment to AFCC while serving as President. Bill will continue to serve as Past President and as Chair of the AFCC Nominating Committee.

## AFCC Thanks Mary Ferriter and Janet Walker

AFCC thanks Mary Ferriter, J.D., from Boston, Massachusetts and Emeritus Prof. Janet Walker from Newcastle upon Tyne, England, who have completed their service on the Board of Directors. Mary and Janet each served on the AFCC Board for more than a decade. AFCC would like to thank them for their outstanding service and contribution to the association.

#### **President**

Robin M. Deutsch, Ph.D. Boston, MA

#### **President Elect**

Hon. Emile R. Kruzick Orangeville, ON, Canada

#### **Vice President**

Robert M. Smith, J.D. Windsor, CO

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Linda B. Fieldstone, M.Ed. Miami. FL

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#### **Past President**

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Annette T. Burns, J.D. Phoenix. AZ

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Cori Erickson, M.S. Sheridan, WY

Hon. Linda S. Fidnick Leverett. MA

Dianna Gould-Saltman, J.D. Los Angeles, CA

Hon. Graham R. Mullane Newcastle, NSW, Australia

Marsha Kline Pruett, Ph.D., M.S.L. Northampton, MA

Arnold T. Shienvold, Ph.D. Harrisburg, PA

Philip M. Stahl, Ph.D. Queen Creek, AZ

Hon. Hugh E. Starnes Fort Myers, FL

Nancy Ver Steegh, J.D., M.S.W. St. Paul. MN

## From the Executive Director

Continued from page 5

comments about lawyers. It does not seem to be a majority of members, but I hope we can all extend to one another the type of openness and understanding we bring to our work with families.

Journal seems less than adequate. Conferences [are] not always relevant to my needs. Information for professional competence appears to be best obtained elsewhere.

Ouch. But it serves as a reminder that no matter how well we think we are doing, we must continue to work to do better. It may be that sometimes the fit just isn't right, but rest assured we are constantly striving to improve.

Dawn is very helpful. Can she come work for us?

No.

Best professional organization on the planet!!

Some AFCC members possess extraordinary insight!

This is a long survey, but I am sure it is valuable information to you.

Yes, it is long, but the feedback is very important for our strategic planning process. So thank you all, so much, to those who found the time to participate.

# AFCC Task Force on Court-Involved Therapists

AFCC President Robin M. Deutsch has appointed a Task Force on Court-Involved Therapists. Although court-ordered and court-related therapy is widespread, little has been published to provide guidance on this practice to therapists, judges, lawyers and others who work in and with family court. The charge of the task force is to gather and assess the existing information about this role and develop a document, such as guidelines or best practices, in order to better inform professionals and the public. The task force is Cochaired by Hon. Linda Fidnick and Matthew Sullivan, and its members include: Lyn Greenberg (Reporter), Christopher Barrows, Paul Berman, Hon. John Harper, Hon. Anita Josey-Herring, Mindy Mitnick and Hon. Gail Perlman.

## AFCC Hosts Second Think Tank on Child Welfare Decision Making

The Child Welfare Collaborative Decision Making Network held its second think tank in conjunction with AFCC's 45th Annual Conference, May 28-31, 2008 in Vancouver, B.C. The project is a collaborative effort supported by AFCC, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), the Werner Institute for Negotiation and Dispute Resolution at Creighton University, and the National Center for State Courts. Many attendees from the first think tank, which took place immediately prior to the AFCC and NCJFCJ Regional Conference in Columbus, Ohio on September 27-29, 2007, returned and were joined by members of several national organizations and participants from the U.S., Canada and New Zealand.

The group discussed a mission statement, composition and expansion of the core group, strategic and event planning, creating partnerships, affiliations and sponsorships, research and data collection, education and training. Two special guests presented at the think tank. Jerry McHale, Assistant Deputy Minster of Attorney General, a key leader in dispute resolution and justice transformation in BC, gave

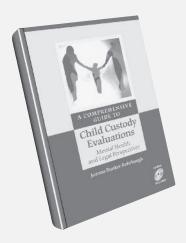
an enthusiastic presentation about the value of conflict resolution. Natasha Mallal, a graduate co-op student with the Dispute Resolution Office, BC Ministry of the Attorney General, presented research on youth involvement and participation in child protection mediations.

The group also shared ideas on how to collaborate with the American Bar Association's Commission on Youth at Risk with involving and empowering youth in the conflict resolution processes. Howard Davidson, director of the ABA Center on Children and the Law and Andrew Schepard, Professor of Law at Hofstra University School of Law, both members of the Youth at Risk Commission, led the discussion.

Project Co-chairs are Marilou Giovannucci and Karen Largent. Julie Macfarlane served as facilitator for the group. A report from the second think tank is forthcoming. The report from the first think tank can be viewed on the Task Forces and Initiatives page on the AFCC Web site at www.afccnet.org/about/task\_forces.asp.



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Joanna Bunker Rohrbaugh, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

# A Comprehensive Guide to Child Custody Evaluations: Mental Health and Legal Perspectives

#### From the reviews

- ... If you are involved in any aspect of child custody cases, as a lawyer, mental health professional, judge or litigant, Dr. Rohrbaugh's book contains everything that you will ever need to understand and conduct a child custody evaluation ... . As a family lawyer with over 25 years of experience, I give this book the highest recommendation.
- ► Linda Fidnick, J.D., Past President, Massachusetts Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts
- ... is true to its title. This book will be found on the desks of an interdisciplinary group of judges, lawyers, mental health professionals and court personnel. ▶ Robin M. Deutsch, Ph.D., Director of Forensic Services, Children and the Law Program, Department of Psychiatry, Massachusetts General Hospital

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## Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

## **CALL FOR PRESENTERS**

**AFCC 46th Annual Conference** 

Children, Courts and Custody:
Back to the Future or Full Steam Ahead?

# NEW ORLEANS

Sheraton New Orleans
(Just steps from the French Quarter!)
May 27-30, 2009

Conventional wisdom says that mediated settlements, collaborative relationships and cooperative co-parenting most effectively meet the needs of restructuring families and produce the best and healthiest long-term outcomes for children. In recent years, however, new research and practice along with clinical feedback have raised questions and doubts about these ideas. Does 50/50 parenting provide the best outcome? Is mediation the preferred dispute resolution process? Are parenting coordination and collaborative law new, or simply recasting existing professional roles? Join us in New Orleans as we re-examine the lessons we've learned from our predecessors and explore the new challenges for our courts and legal systems.

Submit your proposal by the October 6, 2008 deadline. You may pick one of the broad topics below or submit a proposal on any idea related to the conference theme:

Parenting Coordination
Mediation
Evidence-Based Programs
Collaborative Law
Developing Practice Skills
Children in Dispute Resolution
Interventions for High Conflict Families
The Changing Role of the Lawyer
Advanced Practice Skills
Child Abuse and Neglect

Domestic Violence
Custody Evaluations
Innovative Court-Based Programs
Challenges for Low Income Families
Unified Family Courts
Research on Children of Divorce
New Roles for Professionals
Cultural Competence
Judicial Interventions
Financial Issues for Divorcing Parents

PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE AN EMAIL CONFIRMING RECEIPT OF YOUR PROPOSAL WITHIN ONE WEEK OF SUBMISSION, CONTACT AFCC BY TELEPHONE AT (608) 664-3750.

AFCC is accepting proposals for *ninety-minute workshop sessions* including, but not limited to, the topics listed above. To submit a workshop proposal, please send the following information: (1) an abstract of 200 words or less describing your proposed workshop; (2) a one-page outline of your proposed workshop; (3) three learning objectives that will be addressed by your proposed workshop; (4) complete contact information for all proposed presenters; (5) resumes for all proposed presenters; (6) the name of the person who will be coordinating your workshop; and (7) contact information for two professional references. *Maximum of four presenters per workshop.* 

Please note that the deadline for proposals is October 6, 2008. AFCC is unable to guarantee consideration of incomplete proposals or those submitted after the deadline. AFCC offers a reduced registration fee for conference presenters and is unable to reimburse for travel and related expenses. Electronic submissions via email are strongly preferred; however you may also mail your proposal to AFCC, Conference Proposal, 6525 Grand Teton Plaza, Madison, WI 53719. Phone: (608) 664-3750; Fax: (608) 664-3751; Email: afcc3@afccnet.org (Word or WordPerfect attachment only please).

# **Upcoming AFCC Conferences and Trainings**

## **AFCC Conferences**

## 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 47th Annual Conference**

June 2-5, 2010 Sheraton Denver Denver, Colorado

## **AFCC Training Programs**

## Parenting Coordination: Intensive Interventions for High Conflict Shared Parenting

Matthew J. Sullivan, Ph.D. October 23-24, 2008 Kansas City, Missouri

# Parenting Coordination: Working with High Conflict Families

Christine A. Coates, M.Ed., J.D. December 8-9, 2008
Baltimore, Maryland

## Fathers Parent Differently Than Mothers: Implications for Children and Families Before, During or After Divorce

Marsha Kline Pruett, Ph.D., M.S.L. December 10-11, 2008 Baltimore, Maryland

## **AFCC Chapter Conferences**

## Texas Chapter Annual Conference

October 3-4, 2008 South Texas College of Law Houston, Texas

## Arizona Chapter Annual Conference

January 30-February 1, 2009 Hilton Sedona Resort and Spa Sedona, Arizona

## California Chapter Annual Conference

February 6-8, 2009 The Mark Hopkins Hotel on Nob Hill San Francisco, California

# Florida Chapter Annual Conference

February 27-28, 2009 Renaissance Hotel/International Mall Tampa, Florida

## www.afccnet.org

