

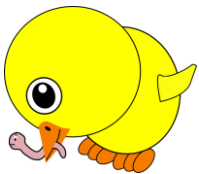


ASSOCIATION OF
FAMILY AND
CONCILIATION COURTS



eNEWS

AFCC 52nd Annual Conference
Children in the Court System:
Different Doors, Different Responses, Different Outcomes
May 27-30, 2015, Hilton New Orleans Riverside



Register Before March 7 to Save

Now is the time to make your plans to attend this year's annual conference. Register and make sure your payment is received by March 7 to take advantage of early registration discounts. AFCC members can save up to \$175 by registering early. Not yet an AFCC member? Join with your registration—save \$10 on your first year's membership AND register at the discounted member rate!

[Register online](#)

[More information](#)

Apply for a Conference Scholarship by March 1

Conference scholarships are available to assist recipients with the cost of conference attendance. Scholarships include registration for a pre-conference institute, the conference, attendee meals, networking functions, and a certificate of attendance. A limited number of stipends to help recipients offset the cost of travel and lodging will be awarded. The deadline to apply is March 1, 2015.

[Apply for a Scholarship](#)

Book Your Room at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside

The Hilton New Orleans Riverside is a prime downtown location, near shopping, tourist sites, restaurants, and entertainment. The special rate for AFCC conference registrants is \$178/night single or double occupancy. All rooms are subject to availability and early reservations

MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER
VOL. 10 NO. 2
FEBRUARY 2015

AFCC Conferences



AFCC 52nd Annual Conference

May 27–30, 2015

*Children in the Court System:
Different Doors, Different
Responses, Different Outcomes*
Hilton New Orleans Riverside
New Orleans, Louisiana

[Program Brochure, Online
Registration](#)

**Special Thanks to 52nd
Annual Conference Diamond
Sponsor**

OurFamilyWizard.com

are encouraged to ensure a room at this rate—the room block is 90% sold and is very likely to sell out.

[Book online](#)



Things to Do in New Orleans

Your free time will fill up quickly. Visit www.neworleanscvb.com and www.neworleansonline.com for suggestions of what to do and see, an events calendar, and coupons.

Support AFCC by Donating to the Silent Auction

The AFCC Silent Auction is a fun opportunity to support the organization's special projects and initiatives like the Shared Parenting Think Tank and the Domestic Violence in Child Custody Evaluations Task Force. The auction is held on Friday evening at the annual conference. Donate an item and/or attend the auction and bid! You do not need to attend the conference to donate. Past auction items include vacations, jewelry, sports memorabilia, fashion accessories, electronics, collectibles, books and much more. It's a fun time to relax and socialize before the annual banquet.

[Donate an item](#)

Ten Tips to Save Money Using Your Parenting Coordinator

Annette Burns, JD, Phoenix, Arizona

A PC is assigned to your case and you've paid a substantial amount of money to get started with that person. Between you and the other parent, you have brought somewhere between two and ten issues to the PC. How can you save some money, get the most out of your parenting coordinator, and get those issues resolved?

[Read more](#)

Basic and Advanced PC Trainings in Chicago—March 2015

There is still time to register for these two excellent training opportunities. *Nuts and Bolts of Parenting Coordination: Helping High*



AFCC-AAML Conference

October 1–3, 2015
Capital Hilton
Washington, DC

AFCC Regional Conference

November 5–7, 2015
Hyatt Regency Columbus
Columbus, Ohio

[Call for Proposals](#)

AFCC 53rd Annual Conference

June 1–4, 2016
Sheraton Seattle Hotel
Seattle, Washington

AFCC 12th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

November 3–5, 2016
Sheraton Atlanta
Atlanta, Georgia

AFCC 54th Annual Conference

May 31–June 3, 2017
Sheraton Boston Hotel
Boston, Massachusetts

AFCC Training Programs



Conflict Parents Resolve Disputes, with Mindy F. Mitnick, EdM, MA, March 9-10, 2015, and *When Nuts are Loose and Bolts Don't Fit: Advanced Practices in Parenting Coordination*, with Arnold T. Shienvold, PhD, March 11-12, 2015. Psychologists, counselors, attorneys, and social workers can earn up to 24 hours of continuing education. The trainings will be held at Loyola University Chicago, located just blocks off Michigan Avenue, near shopping, attractions and restaurants. For those attending from out-of-town, look for deals on air travel to Midway and O'Hare Airports. Loyola is an easy and inexpensive train ride from either airport.

[Register online and more information](#)

Call for Proposals and Save the Date

AFCC Regional Conference

Do You Hear What I Hear? Listening to the Voice of the Child

November 5-7, 2015

Hyatt Regency Columbus

AFCC is accepting proposals for 90-minute training workshops on the complex issues related to separation, divorce and co-parenting, including: relocation, domestic violence, special needs children, same-sex parenting, abuse allegations, and the child's voice. Workshop proposals should combine a focus on research and theory with skill development to incorporate into practice. The deadline to submit a proposal is May 15, 2015. The program brochure will be available in July.

[More information](#)

In Memoriam

Doneldon M. Dennis, Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota

Doneldon Dennis, a longtime AFCC member and supporter, passed away peacefully at his home on January 28, 2015. A loving and caring husband, stepfather and grandfather, Doneldon is survived by his wife, Joan Miller; stepchildren: Eric and Neil Ober, David Kane and Diane Boettcher; five grandchildren; and his brother, Kenneth Dennis. For many years, Doneldon was a clinical psychologist for Hennepin County. After retirement, he enjoyed spending time with his family, friends and his dog, Sir Barney Barksalot. He also enjoyed his hobbies and volunteer activities. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to the AFCC Scholarship Fund. A scholarship will be awarded in his name.

[Read more](#)

AFCC Scholarship Fund

A heartfelt thank you to the members who have already donated to

Nuts and Bolts of Parenting Coordination: Helping High Conflict Parents Resolve Disputes

Mindy F. Mitnick, EdM, MA
March 9–10, 2015
Loyola University Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

[More information](#)

When Nuts are Loose and Bolts Don't Fit: Advanced Practices in Parenting Coordination

Arnold T. Shienvold, PhD
March 11–12, 2015
Loyola University Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

[More information](#)

AFCC Chapter Annual Conferences

Washington Chapter Annual Conference

Shared Parenting

Predicaments:

Washington's Policy and Practice Concerns

March 7, 2015

Washington Athletic Club

Seattle, Washington

[More information](#)

Massachusetts Chapter Annual Conference

Parenting Plans and Shared Custody:

Recent Research and

Implications for Family Law Professionals

March 27, 2015

Conference Center at Waltham Woods

Waltham, Massachusetts

[More information](#)

Ohio Chapter Annual Conference

Same Sex Parenting

April 8, 2015

Thomas J. Moyer Ohio Judicial Center

this appeal cycle. Your generosity will provide access to new research, interdisciplinary networking and the countless benefits of AFCC conference attendance for colleagues who would otherwise not be able to attend. Presently, we are \$4,000 short of our goal, which equates to almost seven scholarships to the annual conference. Your contribution in any amount will help more professionals attend the AFCC conferences!

[Donate today](#)

[Thank you to 2014-2015 contributors](#)

Chapter News

Congratulations to **Michael Aaron**, Tucson, Arizona, the new president of the Arizona Chapter.

Opportunities to learn and connect with colleagues in your area abound! Check the [Chapter Events](#) page of the AFCC website for a listing of the many chapter conferences happening this year. Visit individual chapter websites for even more opportunities—lunch and learns, meetings and speakers.

Member News

Thomas Tuft, Maplewood, Minnesota, was featured in a [news story](#) on Ramsey County's Volunteer Mediation Program. A group of 80 lawyers and psychologists make up the roster for the program, which takes income-qualified family law cases for no compensation. Mr. Tuft's office coordinates the program, which he helped create four years ago.

Staff News

Nicole Ellickson, AFCC Meeting Manager, earned her Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) credential. The CMP was launched by the Convention Industry Council (CIC) in 1985 to enhance the knowledge and performance of meeting professionals, promote the status and credibility of the meeting profession and advance uniform standards of practice.

Support AFCC When You Shop on Amazon

You can give to AFCC with every purchase you make through [Smile.Amazon.com](#) at no cost to you or AFCC. You'll find the same prices, selection, and convenience as Amazon.com, with an added benefit—Amazon gives 0.5% of the purchase price to AFCC. Click [here](#) to select AFCC as your nonprofit organization of choice or log in at [Smile.Amazon.com](#) with your existing Amazon account, then search for and select "Association of Family and Conciliation Courts."

Columbus, Ohio

[More information](#)

Alberta Chapter Annual Conference

Professionals at the Crossroads: Helping Families and Children Access the Legal System

April 9–10, 2015

Providence Renewal Centre
Edmonton, Alberta

[More information](#)

Missouri Chapter Annual Conference

Reducing Conflict through Teaching Effective Co-Parenting Skills and Techniques

April 9 –10, 2015

St. Louis City Center Hotel
St. Louis, Missouri

[More information](#)

Oregon Chapter Annual Conference

The Rising Tides of Shared Parenting

April 10, 2015

The Grotto Conference Center
Portland, Oregon

[More information](#)

Colorado Chapter Annual Conference

Use and Misuse of Experts

April 10, 2015

Marriott Denver-Skyline Room
Denver, Colorado

[More information](#)

Australia Chapter Annual Conference

Building Bridges:

A Multidisciplinary Approach to Family Law

August 14–15, 2015

Sydney Shangri La Hotel
Sydney, Australia

[More information](#)

Ontario Chapter Annual Conference

From Risk to Resilience:

Family Court Review Special Issues

Three exciting special issues are scheduled for this year:

The January issue, *Re-igniting the Relocation Debate* is available online and members have received their print copies. The April issue, titled *Unmarried Parents and Parenting Disputes* will be guest edited by Jessica Pearson. The July issue, *Peacemaking in Family Law* will be guest edited by Forrest (Woody) Mosten.

[Access Family Court Review](#)

Attention Students: Family Law Writing Competition

Hofstra Law and AFCC are sponsoring the Seventh Annual Family Law Writing Competition, in cooperation with the editorial staff of *Family Court Review*. Submissions will be accepted from graduate students and must be the work of one person, except articles written jointly by a law student and mental health, social science or other relevant graduate student. The winner will receive a \$500 cash prize, possible publication in *FCR*, a certificate of recognition, a letter to the dean of their school, a one-year student membership to AFCC, or a complimentary registration to the AFCC 52nd Annual Conference in New Orleans. Up to two honorable mention recipients will receive a \$250 cash prize, certificate of recognition, possible publication in *FCR*, and letter to the dean of their school. **Submissions must be received by April 15, 2015.**

[More information and submission instructions](#)

Awards Nomination Deadline Approaching

The deadline to nominate a colleague or program for an AFCC award is March 15. Awards will be presented at a ceremony Wednesday evening, May 27 at the Annual Conference. Nomination instructions are available on the individual award's page.

- The [John E. VanDuzer Distinguished Service Award](#) recognizes outstanding contributions and/or achievements by AFCC members;
- The [Stanley Cohen Research Award](#), sponsored by the Oregon Family Institute, recognizes outstanding research and/or achievements in the field of family and divorce. AFCC membership is not a requirement for this award; and
- The [Irwin Cantor Innovative Program Award](#) recognizes innovation in court-connected or court-related programs created by AFCC members.

Publication of the Month

Essays from the Family Court Review, ADR: Mediation and Beyond

Exploring Better Outcomes for Children

October 23, 2015

Toronto Reference Library,
Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario

[More information](#)

Join AFCC

Are you a member?

[Join](#) or [Renew](#)

AFCC offers member benefits that promote excellence in the field of family law and in your practice. [Read more about member benefits.](#)

Ask the Experts

Is there a topic you would like to see covered by an AFCC Ask the Experts piece?

[Suggest a topic](#)

AFCC Chapters

Network and share your interdisciplinary view of family court matters on the local level. There are currently chapters in the following states, provinces, and country:

Australia

Alberta

Arizona

California

Colorado

Connecticut

Florida

Illinois

Indiana

Louisiana

Maryland

Massachusetts

Minnesota

Missouri

New Jersey

New York

This volume of the *Essays from the Family Court Review* provides perspectives on the evolution and maturation of mediation in family law cases—moving beyond mediation to a range of family dispute resolution processes. Andrea Clark, Grace Hawkins and Larry Swall edited this volume and wrote an introduction, giving context for the selected articles. AFCC members save 15% on AFCC publications.

[Order online](#)

Family Law in the News

Clare's Law: 1,300 Domestic Abuse Disclosures Made

Courtesy of BBC News

A scheme allowing people to find out if their partner has a history of domestic violence has been used more than 1,300 times in less than a year. Clare's Law—named after Clare Wood, who was murdered by her ex-boyfriend in 2009—came into force across England and Wales in March 2014.

[Read more](#)

Economists Find Rare Empirical Evidence of Love in Unique Marriage Survey

H. Brevy Cannon, Courtesy of UVA Today

Economists are not famed for their romantic insights. But a new study by two University of Virginia economists, Leora Friedberg and Steven Stern, has found quantitative evidence of love—something very few economic studies ever have claimed—in married couples' answers to two penetrating questions about the quality of their marriage, combined with their divorce rates six years later.

[Read more](#)

Ohio
Ontario
Oregon
Texas
Washington
Wisconsin

[Add an AFCC Chapter to your membership](#)

AFCC Networks

New Zealand

The opinions expressed in articles published or linked to in the *AFCC eNEWS* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the positions of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts.

Readers are welcomed and encouraged to forward this e-newsletter to interested colleagues.

[About the AFCC eNEWS](#)

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editor@afccnet.org



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ASSOCIATION OF
FAMILY AND
CONCILIATION COURTS



eNEWS

VOL.10 ISSUE 2

Ten Tips to Save Money Using Your Parenting Coordinator

Annette Burns, JD, Phoenix, Arizona

A PC is assigned to your case and you've paid a substantial amount of money to get started with that person. Between you and the other parent, you have brought somewhere between two and ten issues to the PC. How can you save some money *and* get the most out of your parenting coordinator to get those issues resolved?

1. Pick your battles. Just as you do with your children, decide if an issue is really something to fight about. Have a serious conversation with yourself about whether you want to spend money and time arguing over an hour of parenting time here or there. There's nothing wrong with first raising an issue with the PC, discussing it a bit, and then saying, "Never mind, let's remove that one from the list."

2. Determine if your position is logical and reasonable. If your position is that the other parent should do 100% of the driving for the children 100% of the time, ask yourself: is that logical? Is it reasonable to think that a PC and, later, a judge will have one parent do all of the driving? Is it logical that the judge will give one parent every Christmas Day with the children and deprive the other parent of ever having a Christmas Day?

3. Make sure the fight isn't costing you more than the issue. Although parenting coordinators don't usually handle financial things, some issues creep into money matters. If the parents are arguing about whether Johnny's baseball glove is at Mom's or Dad's house and who failed to get the glove to the practice field, involving the PC in those discussions will easily cost more than the glove (or tennis shoes, or school book). Asking the PC to get involved in issues of clothing left at the other parent's house will eat up money even more quickly. This is a variation of "pick your battles." Determine whether it's cheaper to buy a second school book or pair of shoes, rather than spend the money on the PC.

4. Use trusted friends to discuss the things above. Don't pick a friend or family member who will agree with you on everything. Choose someone whose opinion you trust and who you would consult with about an important decision like changing

neighborhoods or jobs. Choose someone who has stayed neutral between you and the other parent. Bounce your ideas off of that person: is this a battle I should continue? Is my position logical and reasonable? Ask for real, truthful feedback.

5. Communicate with the other parent about the issue at hand in brief informative emails, or with brief questions about the issue. BRIEF is the key component here. If the other parent asks for something that infuriates you, go ahead and write your scathing, outraged, three-page response—but don't send it to the PC or the other parent. Send it to yourself, or that trusted friend, or even your mother, but keep it in your small circle. Sending it only to the PC is an option, but it's an option that will probably cost you money. After writing the full outraged response, sit down (a few hours or a day later) and edit it down to: "I don't agree to give up my parenting time on Fathers' Day this year," and stop. Saying more isn't helpful and will cost you money.

6. If you can't stop yourself from writing and sending the long, drawn-out emails that re-hash what happened last Easter and state what an inconsiderate bum the other parent is, **then carefully review the bills you receive from the PC.** Make a point of adding up how much those emails cost you. If you realize that sending those emails cost you as much as a two-day admission to Disneyland, or enough to have your car repaired, or enough to pay for a nice children's birthday party, it may give you incentive to change your behavior.

7. Read your parenting plan and all court orders that might cover the issue. An amazing number of parenting coordination clients simply haven't read their court orders. Getting the PC involved means that you are paying someone to read your documents to you. If the issue is where the children will be for Thanksgiving this year, you need to find and read every court document that might mention Thanksgiving. These documents could be your parenting plan (sometimes called a joint custody agreement or joint legal decision-making agreement), or it could be in an order issued directly by the court. Read everything, thoroughly, before involving the PC.

8. Make sure your parenting coordinator has all your court orders and parenting plans. If you've been back to court several times, there may be several orders or modifications or a single order that mentions only one issue, like summer vacations. Organize all your parenting plans and orders and list them by date for the parenting coordinator to make sure they have everything. The court does not usually provide the parenting coordinator with everything, and having the PC track down multiple orders is an unnecessary expense.

9. Create a calendar. If the issues between you and the other parent involve a certain period of time, such as summer vacation, or the weeks from mid-November through the re-start of school in January, create a calendar showing who the children are with each

of those days. That's what your PC is going to have to do, eventually, and if you start with one, it simplifies the process and may even end it. Pull up Google Calendar, or your own calendaring program, and fill in your understanding of the schedule for the weeks in question, including all exchange days and times, and list all holidays and special days. Then propose that specific calendar to the other parent and ask, "Do you agree with this? If you don't, tell me what parts you don't agree with."

10. If the calendar and exchange of emails does not resolve the issue without the PC's help, then organize everything for the PC. Telling the PC "My position is stated in all the earlier emails" is an expensive statement, because now the PC has to go through many emails to find your position. That is done at your cost. To reduce that cost, briefly re-state your position in one organized email. If the issue involves a long period of time, use a calendar to re-state your position. Refer the PC to the specific dates of the emails and court orders and the specific sections of a parenting plan that should be reviewed by the PC in making this decision. The more specific you are, with page and paragraph numbers, the less time your PC will spend looking for information.

Annette Burns has practiced law in Arizona since 1984, specializing in family law, and focusing on acting as mediator, arbitrator, family law master and parenting coordinator in family law cases. Her background and experience includes over 28 years of client representation in divorces, property valuations and divisions, and actions involving spousal maintenance, child custody and parenting time, paternity, and child support. Since 1994, she has been a certified family law specialist in Arizona. Annette is a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML), and is a board member and secretary of the AFCC Board of Directors. This piece was originally published January 14, 2015, as [Nine Tips to Save Money Using Your Parenting Coordinator](#) on her blog www.heyannette.com.

The Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University and the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts present the seventh annual Family Law Writing Competition



Hofstra Law and the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) are sponsoring the seventh annual Family Law Writing Competition. The competition is run in cooperation with the editorial staff of the *Family Court Review*, which is the academic and research journal of the AFCC. The *Family Court Review* is an interdisciplinary and international journal published quarterly by Blackwell Publishing and in cooperation with the Center for Children, Families, and the Law at Hofstra Law. The *Family Court Review* contributes to and facilitates discourse among the judicial, legal, mediation, mental health and social services communities.

Topics for Submission

The subject of entries may be within any area of family law, although topics that focus on international or interdisciplinary subjects of family law are especially encouraged. Articles should concentrate on a current legal issue and must have a strong foundation in legal research. Use of interdisciplinary sources may also be appropriate for many topics.

Some potential topics include: international adoption, use of mental health experts in divorce, domestic violence in same-sex partnerships, third party visitation rights, and mediating in child protective cases – or create your own!

Entries will be judged on the quality of legal analysis, originality, depth or research, timeliness, creativity and format. The *Family Court Review's* editors and a subcommittee of editorial board members will evaluate all articles.

Authorship

Submissions must be the work of one person. No joint authorships will be accepted, except articles written jointly by a law student and mental health, social science or other relevant graduate student. Submissions must be originally argued and researched legal papers. Hofstra Law students are ineligible to participate. Law students can be from any country. Advice and input from professors, judges and professionals in the field is allowed, but the author must research and write the entire article. Entries cannot be more than 25 double-spaced pages in length. Articles must be in Times New Roman, 12-point font, with 1-inch margins. Authors from the United States must comply with *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation, 19th Edition*. Authors from outside the United States must conform to the relevant legal-citation format commonly used in that country and must indicate the citation format used.

AWARDS

First Prize

- \$500 Cash prize courtesy of the Center for Children, Families and the Law at Hofstra Law
- Certificate of recognition as first-place winner
- Consideration for publication of the article in the *Family Court Review*
- Letter to the dean of the student's law school
- One-year complimentary AFCC student membership, including a one-year subscription to the *Family Court Review*

OR

- Complimentary conference registration to AFCC's 52nd Annual Conference, held May 27-30, 2015, in New Orleans" (Does not include hotel, transportation and food")

Honorable Mention (Up to two)

- \$250 cash prize courtesy of the Center for Children, Families and the Law at Hofstra Law
- Certificate of recognition as the honorable-mention winner
- Consideration for publication of the article in the *Family Court Review*
- Letter to the dean of the student's law school

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SUBMISSION PROCESS

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All submissions must be emailed as a Microsoft Word or PDF document to the *Family Court Review* at fcr@hofstra.edu. Hard copies are not permissible.

DUE DATE

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Submissions must be received by April 15, 2015. The winner will be notified no later than May 30, 2015.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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If you have questions, please contact the Managing Editor of the *Family Court Review* at fcr@hofstra.edu.

RELEVANT LINKS

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Association of Family and Conciliation Court• (AFCC): www.afccnet.org
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Hofstra Law's Center for Children, Families and the Law: law.hofstra.edu/CenterForChildren
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Hofstra Law's L.L.M. Program in Family Law: law.hofstra.edu/LLMFamilyLaw
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FamilyCourtReview: law.hofstra.edu/FCR
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