Mark your calendar for May 30-June 2, 2007 as AFCC returns to Washington, D.C. for its 44th Annual Conference. The conference will take place at the Capital Hilton in downtown Washington, D.C. and features an opening night performance by renowned musical political satirists, the Capitol Steps. The conference theme is *Children of Separation and Divorce: The Politics of Policy, Practice and Parenting* and AFCC expects more than 700 professionals from across the globe to attend. AFCC is pleased to announce UpToParents.org as the Platinum Sponsor, Complete Equity Markets, Inc. as the Networking Sponsor and the OurFamilyWizard Web site as the Gold Sponsor.

**Featured Presenters and Workshops**

More than 150 presenters will address the latest skills, techniques and innovations in family law, dispute resolution, mental health and more. Featured presenters include Professor Arthur Miller, Harvard Law School;

**Atlanta Conference Plenary Session Audio Online**

Plenary sessions from AFCC’s *Seventh International Symposium and Congress* in Atlanta, Georgia are available for free download for AFCC members. To access these sessions, log on to the AFCC Member Center and click “AFCC Conference Audio.” If you were unable to attend the conferences, all sessions can be purchased individually or as a complete set online through Digital Conference Providers, Inc., at www.dcporder.com/afcc/.

www.afccnet.org
AFCC News

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AFCC News Advertising

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AFCC News

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

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AFCC News Fall 2006

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President’s Message

It is my great pleasure to provide two important welcomes. First, I am pleased to welcome Colorado as AFCC’s newest Provisional Chapter. Congratulations to everyone who worked tirelessly to make this happen. In addition to our newest chapter in Colorado, AFCC has chapters in Arizona, California, Florida, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, and Texas. We are looking forward to welcoming more chapters in the near future.

Second, it is my great pleasure to welcome former AFCC President Leslye Hunter as Chapter Services and Development Consultant. Beginning on November 1, 2006, Leslye has been working with AFCC on a half-time basis from her office in Florence, Kentucky. She will be working to help strengthen AFCC Chapters and serve as a conduit between chapters and the AFCC Administrative Office in Madison, Wisconsin.

Leslye previously served as co-chair of the AFCC Membership Committee and as a member of the AFCC Chapter Task Force. It is a wonderful opportunity for AFCC to benefit from Leslye’s energy, talent and wisdom. It is also a perfect match for our chapters to be able to work with a dedicated and experienced professional who possesses a thorough understanding of AFCC, local membership issues, and the complexities of chapter issues and formation. A perfect win-win situation for all!

Being from a state with an AFCC Chapter, I have been fortunate to have participated as a member of the AFCC Massachusetts Chapter. Personally, belonging to the Massachusetts Chapter has been and continues to be an important part of my involvement in AFCC.

While most locales have numerous legal, mental health and dispute resolution organizations, AFCC Chapters provide something unique: opportunities for local, ongoing interdisciplinary networking, mentoring and collaboration around educational programs, current research and innovative programming. Often, our chapters draw from the innovative work being done by the AFCC parent organization or other AFCC Chapters. So whether it is through brown bag lunches, round table discussions or more formal training opportunities, chapters are able to access the incredible resources of an international association to provide for their members at the local level.

For those who wish to become more involved in AFCC, chapters offer a great opportunity to get started. Chapter service is often a springboard to committee and Board service in the parent organization. The Massachusetts Chapter offered me my first leadership opportunity, first as a member the Board of Directors and then as Chapter Treasurer. Ultimately, my service to the parent organization would parallel my work with the chapter, as I joined the Board and subsequently served as AFCC Treasurer. Presently, nearly one-third of the Board members of the AFCC parent organization got their start on the Board of a chapter and most remain active locally, further maintaining the connection between the global and local perspectives.

If this sounds like an advertisement for AFCC Chapters, well, it is! AFCC Immediate Past President Hon. Hugh Starnes (also former Florida Chapter President) is fond of paraphrasing someone from my neck of the woods, the late Tip O’Neill, when he says, “all family law is local.” What I think Hugh means is that we can travel the world going to conferences, networking with colleagues, making presentations and so on. But if we are to fulfill AFCC’s mission of improving the lives of children and families, we are going to have to put what we learn into practice at home.

Everyone does not have the resources to attend AFCC conferences and training programs and everyone cannot be a member of AFCC (even though we think that they should be!). But AFCC Chapters make our work accessible. Chapters bring the AFCC mission to our communities; our law firms; our courthouses; mental health agencies; mediation services; our law and graduate schools; and our training programs. But most importantly, AFCC Chapters bring our very important work to the families and children we serve.

Happy holidays to all!
Pamela Cardullo Ortiz is an AFCC Member from Chestertown, Maryland. She is the Executive Director of the Department of Family Administration with the Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts. She served on the AFCC Court Services Task Force from 2003-2005.

How did you first learn about AFCC?
I had the opportunity to attend the AFCC 37th Annual Conference in New Orleans, May 2000. No other organization so powerfully convenes judges, court professionals and service providers into one entity focused on family court reform. Over the years I have had the good fortune to build what was formerly a department of one into an 11-member team. I recommend AFCC conference attendance for all new staff as an excellent orientation to what family court reform is all about.

Our office encourages courts to participate and, over the years, many Maryland courts have sent teams to participate in AFCC events.

What benefits has AFCC provided for your state?
Maryland has benefited from the AFCC trainings offered in partnership with the University of Baltimore Center for Families, Children and the Courts. They have provided an excellent opportunity to educate court and service professionals on innovative practices in family law.

What does your current position entail?
Our department has administrative and budgetary responsibility for Maryland’s Circuit Court Family Divisions and Family Services Programs. Our staff works with the Maryland Judiciary to develop policies and initiatives to improve the management of domestic and juvenile cases, and to improve the courts’ ability to serve the needs of the families and children who come before it. We manage grants to each jurisdiction to support their family division or family services program. We also manage grants to enhance access for litigants to the family justice system and administer funding for the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs in Maryland. Our department includes our state’s Foster Care Court Improvement Project, which focuses on improving the court’s role in the child welfare system. Other key personnel focus on juvenile justice and domestic violence issues. In addition to grants management work, we host trainings and conferences, produce resource materials, evaluate court and court-related programs, develop policies and pursue legislative changes, when necessary, to further the goals of family court reform in Maryland.

If you could further your education, what would you pursue?
If I had nothing but time and plenty of energy, I would resume my education to pursue a Ph.D. in statistics. I think few attorneys appreciate or understand research. In the world of family law, through our partnership with social scientists, we have begun to understand the need for evidence-based research to support court-based programs serving families. I would love to be able to say that all programs we fund, administer and, perhaps, order people to participate in have research to support their efficacy. Research conceived by and conducted by attorneys is often less than rigorous. I would love to combine my knowledge of family law with a real understanding of research design. But that is definitely something for another life as the current one is full.

What do you do in real life?
What real life is depends on your perspective. I have, over the years, performed often as a musician and songwriter. My husband and I met on a stage and performed with an acoustic band for many years. A frequent audience member said to me one day, “I saw you the other day near the courthouse and you looked like a ‘real person’.” I think it was the suit. I prefer to think that my real life begins when I trade the suit for a pair of jeans and an apron or my gardening clogs. I have two fantastic and amazing kids named Sofia and Daniel, whose lives are expanding at exactly the rate mine is contracting and these days I am usually found managing the after-school shuttle, living musically through them and occasionally futzing around in the garden. I am also involved in my community, a great small town on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, where I serve as a volunteer on the Planning Commission.
AFCC to Establish Library Collections in Developing Nations

AFCC is partnering with the Asia Foundation’s Books for Asia Program to establish collections of family law, dispute resolution, mental health and social science research publications in developing nations.

AFCC members have published thousands of books and journal articles over the 43-year life of the association. Unfortunately, these publications can be cost-prohibitive for our colleagues in developing nations, making this valuable information virtually unattainable. In order to help, AFCC and the Asia Foundation are collaborating to share the expertise of AFCC’s members at the following libraries:

- Ateneo de Manila University School of Law, Philippines
- Kathmandu School of Law, Nepal
- Lahore High Court Bar Library, Pakistan
- Colombo Law Library, Sri Lanka
- Ulaanbaatar Metropolitan Library Law Reading Room, Mongolia

If you have written or edited a book, AFCC is asking you to help by contributing up to five copies of your book to this project. If you do not have copies available, perhaps you would be willing to ask your publisher to make a contribution.

AFCC is donating a full set of its publications to each library and we hope you join us. The Asia Foundation will collect the books and deliver them to the libraries. The Books for Asia program has distributed books, software and other educational materials throughout Asia for nearly half a century.

If you have not written a book but would like to participate in the project you can donate undamaged related books or recent volumes of related journals that are no longer of use to you. Please ship all books to the Asia Foundation’s warehouse at the following address:

Books for Asia
Attn: AFCC Law Collections
2490 Verna Court
San Leandro, CA 94577

It is important that all book donations have the “Attn: AFCC Law Collections” address line to be identified as part of the project. If you have any questions or are interested in making a donation, please contact David Vigliotta, AFCC Marketing and Development Manager, at (608) 664-3750 or dvigliotta@afccnet.org. All donors will be recognized in the Asia Foundation’s annual report and in the AFCC NEWS.

Donations must be received at the Asia Foundation’s warehouse by December 31, 2006. More information on the Books for Asia program can be found at www.asiafoundation.org/Books/overview.html.

Nearly 80 books collected so far!

Special thanks to the following AFCC members who have agreed to donate their books to the Asia Foundation’s Books for Asia Program.

Constance Ahrons
Jane Appell
Nicholas Bala
Allan E. Barsky
G. Andrew Benjamin
Susan M. Boyan
Robin M. Deutsch
Leslie Drozd
Robert E. Emery
James R. Flens
Jay Folberg
Larry Fong
Richard J. Gelles
Jonathan W. Gould
Gregg Herman
Carolyn Harris Johnson
Kathryn Kuehnle
Barbara Landau
Ann L. Milne
Forrest S. Mosten
Diane Neumann
Allison Quattrochi
Isolina Ricci
Peter Salem
Andrew Schepard
Philip Stahl
Ann Marie Termini
Jeffrey P. Wittmann

Win a Free Membership!
Keep Your Email Address Up-to-Date

If AFCC has your email address, you are eligible for a free AFCC membership. During the first week of January 2007, a drawing will be held among all members with emails in our membership database. The winner will receive their next year’s membership free!

Please log on to the Member Center on the AFCC Web site and click “Update Your Email” to double check if your email is listed and accurate. To update or provide a new email address, enter the email address and click the submit button.

If your email does not need to be updated, you do not need to do anything. All members that have previously provided their email addresses will be included in the drawing. AFCC will not distribute or publicize your email address beyond listing it on the AFCC Membership Directory, available only to AFCC members. The winner will be announced in the next issue of AFCC NEWS.
The Kids First Program for Parents in High Conflict

by Jed French, Esq. and Susan Wiggin, LMSW
The Kids First Center
Portland, Maine

The Kids First Center, located in Portland, Maine, is a private non-profit agency whose mission is helping parents successfully co-parent after separation and divorce. The organization offers a wide variety of programs for parents, children, and professionals who work with separating and or divorcing families.

In 2003 the Center started the Kids First Program for Parents in High Conflict. The program is based on the collective knowledge, experience and expertise of the program creators’ ideas taken from a variety of programs presented at AFCC’s Fifth International Congress on Parent Education and Access Programs in Tucson, Arizona, in November 2002.

The program is predicated on the belief that children do best when their parents are able to work together on their behalf, focusing on the needs of their children rather than their own behaviors. The parents who find themselves in “high conflict” separation, divorce and post-divorce litigation need assistance learning and applying effective tools to do just that.

The process begins when a judge or family magistrate recognizes that the parents’ conflict is adversely affecting their children and orders the parents to attend the nine-week course. The judge speaks to the class at court about research outcomes for children in highly conflicted separated and divorced families, his/her professional experience hearing these cases and his/her personal and professional views regarding parents who allow strangers to make decisions regarding the children they profess to love. The judge then challenges the parents to regain their responsibility to become the parents their children need them to be.

The remainder of the first session takes place at the Center where the facilitators set the tone for the program. The expectations for completing the program in good faith are outlined and homework is given. The parents then introduce themselves and their co-parenting partner and thank their child’s other parent for coming. This is an extremely awkward task for most of the participants; it is common for parents in this group to not have spoken to each other in years. The process of desensitizing them to hearing each other’s voices, sharing the same space and being in a safe and neutral setting begins.

During weeks two through eight, the group meets once a week for three hours. The group eats dinner together, with seating assigned by their children’s pictures as place markers. From here they share the “good stuff,” a term and idea coined by Jeffery Zimmerman and Elizabeth Thayer to describe positive comments about the children. This process keeps the focus on the children and is typically captivating as each of the parents get to know the children involved. They begin to see their co-parenting partner through the eyes of the group members and the process of remembering what they respected and admired about their co-parenting partner starts to take shape.

From the dinner table, the group spends the majority of the middle sessions learning and employing the conflict resolution model taught in the Kids First four-hour co-parenting program (a pre-requisite for attending this group). This is done in the “hot-seat.” Here each co-parenting partnership is taught the tools to resolve conflict and agree upon a solution. Initially, the partnerships have to be pushed to volunteer, but in the end they are asking for the opportunity to again sit in the hot-seat and work out their problems.

Success is difficult to measure and the outcomes are not always superior. Personality disorders and the highly emotional and financial cost of the judicial battle zone are difficult for some parents to set aside during the program; however with the co-facilitator and support of the entire group, there are always stories of success for the children and their parents.

Jed French and Susan Wiggin will be presenting on the Kids First Program at AFCC’s 44th Annual Conference, May 30-June 2, 2007 in Washington, D.C. For more information on the Kids First Center and the Kids First Program for Parents in High Conflict, please visit www.kidsfirstcenter.org.

Correction

The summer issue of the AFCC NEWS printed an article on the 2006 AFCC award winners and inadvertently omitted the Meyer Elkin Award. AFCC regrets the omission. The award was presented at AFCC’s 43rd Annual Conference Awards Luncheon, June 1, 2006 in Tampa Bay, Florida.

Meyer Elkin Award Winners
Timothy M. Tippins, J.D., Albany, New York, Jeffrey P. Wittmann, Ph.D., Albany, New York and Nicholas Bala, LL.M., Kingston, Ontario

The Meyer Elkin Award for the outstanding article published in the Family Court Review (FCR) was presented to Timothy M. Tippins, Jeffrey P. Wittmann and Nicholas Bala for their articles debating child custody evaluation recommendations.

Mr. Tippins and Dr. Wittmann were honored for their article, Empirical and Ethical Problems with Custody Recommendations: A Call for Clinical Humility and Judicial Vigilance, published in April 2005.

Mr. Bala was honored for his article, Tippins and Wittmann Asked the Wrong Question: Evaluators May Not be “Experts,” But They Can Express Best Interests Opinions, published in October 2005.

To read these articles in their entirety, AFCC members can access them online by logging on to the Member Center of the AFCC Web site and clicking “Family Court Review.”
Seventh International Symposium and Congress Light up Atlanta

More than 280 participants joined AFCC in Atlanta to attend AFCC’s Seventh International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations and nearly 80 colleagues attended AFCC’s Seventh International Congress on Parent Education and Access Programs.

The Symposium was highlighted by three plenary sessions:

• Are AFCC’s Model Standards a Help or Hindrance? kicked off the Symposium and featured presenters Mary Connell, Dianna Gould-Saltman, David Martindale and moderator Arnie Shienvold.

• Are Full Child Custody Evaluations a Realistic Option? examined the challenge of doing comprehensive child custody evaluations and featured AFCC President Elect Hon. Bill Fee, Clarence Cramer, Samuel Ferrara, Nancy Olesen and moderator Arnie Shienvold.

• To Recommend or Not to Recommend? Is that the Question? closed the Symposium by continuing a heated debate covered in the Family Court Review (April 2005 and October 2005) on whether or not evaluators should make recommendations. Nicholas Bala, Lorraine Martin, Timothy Tippins and Jeffrey Wittmann discussed the ultimate question.

The Congress featured two outstanding plenary sessions. Kathy Clark opened the conference with Children of Separation and Divorce: The Latest Research, featuring the latest research as reported at the first International Conference on Children and Divorce held in July 2006 in Norwich, UK. The closing plenary, Parenting after Divorce in the 21st Century: The Role of Technology, examined the role of technology for separating and divorcing parents and was presented by Charlie Asher, Laura Backen Jones and Jai Kissoon.

AFCC members are invited to log on to the Member Center of the AFCC Web site and download the plenary session audio for both conferences.

AFCC would like to thank the Program Committee: Leslye Hunter, Robin Deutsch, Hon. Denise McColley, Marsha Kline Pruett, Arnie Shienvold, Robert Simon and Bob Smith. Special thanks to Symposium shepherds Chris Jones, Desiree Pidlipchak, Rick Rosenthal, Renee Saltzman and Marilyn Schiller, and to Congress shepherds Les Herold and Rick Rosenthal.

AFCC Thanks Sponsors and Exhibitors

AFCC’s Congress on Parent Education and Access Programs was sponsored by Families First and the TransParenting Program. Exhibitors at the Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations included:

• Active Parenting Publishers
• Barnes & Noble
• Kidbridge Corporation
• Merz Consulting
• National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
• OurFamilyWizard Web site
• Parental Alienation Awareness
• Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration

Columbus Selected for 2007 AFCC Regional Training Conference

Mark your calendar for AFCC’s Regional Training Conference, September 27-29, 2007, in Columbus, Ohio. AFCC is collaborating with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges on this conference, which will offer program tracks for judges, mediators, lawyers, custody evaluators and parenting coordinators.

The conference will take place at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Columbus, which is offering participants the special rate of $131 per night for a single or double room. Look for updates in the AFCC eNEWS and on the AFCC Web site at www.afccnet.org.

In Memoriam

James W. Stafford, AFCC member from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, died at his home on September 6, 2006, after a courageous battle with cancer. Jim was retired from Fond du Lac County as director of family court services. He was also employed as a family court counselor for Calumet County. Memorial donations may be sent to the Experimental Aircraft Association Development, P.O. Box 3086, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54903 for a scholarship endowment established in Jim’s name.
Implementing the New York Matrimonial Commission Report

by Rebecca Miller
Associate Editor, Hofstra Law Review, Hofstra University
School of Law, Hempstead, NY

AFCC members Sharon B. Press, J.D., Robert E. Emery, Ph.D., Marsha Kline Pruett, Ph.D. and Hon. Leonard Edwards (ret.) presented recommendations on implementing the NY Matrimonial Commission report at a symposium in Manhattan. Improving Justice for Children of Divorce and Separation was co-sponsored by Hofstra University and Pace University on October 6, 2006. The 32-member Matrimonial Commission was established in January 2004 to examine New York's divorce and custody processes and to recommend changes in order to reduce the negative impacts of divorce and separation on children and families.

The Commission's report details the Commission's 20-month project and proposes both short and long term solutions, including legislative changes, rule changes, uniform processes and cultural changes. The 70-page report includes detailed information on various issues that may arise in divorce proceedings and provides recommendations to improve each step of the process. Some of the major topics discussed during the symposium include early screening of cases to determine the appropriate path of services needed and suggestions for incorporating alternative dispute resolution processes into proceedings.

Nearly 200 attendees participated in the symposium, including judges, lawyers, forensic experts, professors, interns and law students. Commission Chair Judge Sondra Miller provided an overview of the key recommendations. A discussion of the empirical data relating to the needs of children of divorce and separation followed, along with presentations from representatives of California, Connecticut and Florida, states that have implemented programs similar to those recommended in the Commission report.

The symposium included a session on overcoming resistance and obstacles to implementing changes in matrimonial and custody cases, which also included ideas and recommendations from professionals in other states. During the afternoon session, the attendees split into small group sections to discuss the concerns, benefits and methods of implementing early screening and alternative dispute resolution. Finally, the small groups came back together and discussed these recommendations as a whole.

More information on the Matrimonial Commission, including a link to the Commission’s report, can be found on the New York State Unified Court System’s Web site at www.courts.state.ny.us/ip/matrimonial-commission/.
AFCC Member News


R. John Harper, AFCC member from Ontario, Canada was appointed judge of the Family Branch of the Superior Court of Justice for the province of Ontario. Justice Harper is a former Board member of AFCC and popular presenter at AFCC conferences. He has served as Chair of the AFCC Development Committee and is the emcee of AFCC’s Silent Auctions.

Megan Hunter, AFCC member from Phoenix, Arizona was married on August 12, 2006 in San Diego, California to Paul Williams. After seven years working at the Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Office of the Courts, Megan launched Family Law Solutions, LLC in July 2006 in Scottsdale. Family Law Solutions focuses on professional and public education in all aspects of family law on a national scale.

Joy Lyngar (nee Ashton), AFCC member from Reno, Nevada, was married on September 17, 2006 in Reno to Edwin Lyngar. Joy is the Director of the Juvenile and Family Law Department of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Forrest S. Mosten, AFCC member from Los Angeles, California was honored by the Southern California Mediation Association’s (SCMA) Public Mediation Initiative with the Forrest S. Mosten Conflict Prevention Library. The SCMA dedicated the library in his name for his vision of providing books, films, practice guides and other resource materials to empower people to help themselves in resolving disputes and avoiding conflict in their lives. The Library is to be housed in a renovated Reading Room of the Los Angeles County Law Library.

Jennifer Rosato, AFCC member from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was appointed Acting Dean and Professor of Law at Drexel University College of Law in Philadelphia. Professor Rosato joins Drexel from Brooklyn Law School, where she served as Associate Dean as well as Co-Director of the Center for Health, Science and Public Policy. She served on the Steering Committee of the Family Law Education Reform Project.

AFCC Members Elected to IACP Office

Rita Pollak, J.D., AFCC member from Brookline, Massachusetts was elected to serve as President of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP) in 2007. Rita continues the tradition of AFCC members to serve as President of IACP, joining Susan Hansen, J.D. (2006), Norma Levine Trusch, J.D. (2004-2005), Pauline Tesler (2003) and founding co-chairs, Pauline Tesler and Peggy Thompson (1999-2002).

Nancy Cameron, Q.C., AFCC member from Vancouver, Canada was elected to serve as Secretary of IACP in 2007. Nancy is a family law practitioner, whose practice includes collaborative law and mediation. She is one of the founders of the Vancouver Collaborative Separation and Divorce Group and is co-chair of that group.

ACR Awards AFCC Members

Arnie Shienvold, Ph.D., AFCC Board member from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, was awarded the John Haynes Distinguished Mediator Award at the Association for Conflict Resolution’s (ACR) Sixth Annual Conference, October 25-28, 2006, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The award is presented annually to a prominent and internationally recognized leader in mediation. The award was created in 2001 with the inception of ACR and each recipient has also been a member of AFCC. Arnie follows AFCC members Nina R. Meierding, J.D. (2005), Zena Zumeta, J.D. (2004), Barbara Landau, Ph.D. (2003), Donald Saposnek, Ph.D. (2002) and Larry Fong, Ph.D. (2001), as the Haynes Award recipient.

Nina Meierding, J.D., AFCC member from Ventura, California, was awarded ACR’s Presidential Award for her outstanding volunteer service to ACR. Nina will be presenting at AFCC’s 44th Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. and is a former President of the Academy of Family Mediators.

AFCC Members Write On

Jane Appell, AFCC member from Concord, Massachusetts has written Divorce Doesn’t Have to Be That Way: A Handbook for the Helping Professional. Published by Impact Publishers, this book offers a comprehensive guide to divorce counseling for therapists and is packed with intervention procedures for all key elements of the divorce counseling process, from decision to legal issues.

Mary A. Connell, AFCC member from Fort Worth, Texas, has co-authored Ethical Practice in Forensic Psychology: A Systematic Model for Decision Making. The co-authors are Shane S. Bush and Robert L. Denney and the book is published by the American Psychological Association. The authors present and apply a practical, ethical decision-making model to timely case vignettes in civil, criminal, and child-family law to demonstrate how to approach the ethical challenges faced in forensic psychology.
AFCC Chapter News

AFCC Welcomes Colorado Chapter
AFCC is pleased to welcome its newest chapter: Colorado! The AFCC Board of Directors voted to approve Colorado’s application for provisional status at its meeting on October 21, 2006. Colorado Coordinating Committee members include: Shelley Bresnick (Chair), Randy Mustain-Wood (Vice-chair), Magistrate Zoe Cole, Hon. Kathy Delgado, Jennifer Feingold, Jack Gardner, Steve Gimpel and Michele Tipple.

Arizona
The AFCC Arizona Chapter kicked off its year-long training program, Basic Skills for Mental Health Professionals in Family Court, on September 22, 2006. The program consists of five different trainings scheduled throughout the year that take place in Phoenix, Arizona. The first training featured David McPhee, Ph.D. on the topic, “Overview of Mental Health Professionals in Family Court.” Other training topics include “Reading the Law: Organization of the Courts in Arizona,” “Psychological Testing,” “Assessing Parental Competence” and “Writing Effective Parenting Plans.”

The Arizona Chapter will host its Annual Conference, Arizona Rolls out the Red Carpet, February 2-4, 2007 in Sedona, Arizona featuring Dr. Richard Warshak, author of Divorce Poison.

California
The AFCC California Chapter’s Annual Conference, Cutting-Edge Issues: Multi-Disciplinary Dilemmas and Solutions, will take place February 9-11, 2007 at the historic Mark Hopkins Hotel in San Francisco, California. Featured presenters include, Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D., Janet Johnston, Ph.D. and Professor Martin Guggenheim. For more information, please view the chapter’s Web site at www.afcc-ca.org.

Florida
The AFCC Florida Chapter Parenting Coordination Taskforce has been meeting monthly to develop practice standards for parenting coordinators and court-based parenting coordination programs. Chapter President Dr. Debra Carter is currently facilitating the discussion along with Linda Fieldstone. The Florida Chapter is acting as a parenting coordination clearinghouse for the State of Florida to assist existing parenting coordination programs and to encourage development of new programs. The Taskforce collected all the administrative orders and forms that are being used in Florida. This information can be accessed on the chapter’s Web site at www.flafcc.org.

On September 8, 2006 the Florida Organizational Collaborative Initiative (FOCI) held a retreat in Tampa that was facilitated by Dr. Gregory Firestone and Hon. Hugh Starnes. Eleven organizations were represented and a complete report on the meeting is available on the chapter’s Web site. The AFCC Florida Chapter will host its Annual Conference, November 2-3, 2007, at the Wyndham Orlando Resort in Orlando, Florida.

Massachusetts
The AFCC Massachusetts Chapter has embarked on a two-year commitment to develop an understanding of the needs of never-married parents and their children in the context of family litigation. The number of cases involving never-married parents in Massachusetts increases each year. In some counties the number of cases filed by never-married parents exceeds the number of divorce cases. The Massachusetts Chapter is considering the special needs of these families in the contexts of parent education, alternate dispute resolution, status in the court system, social science research and legal issues. Massachusetts Chapter members will present a workshop on its Never-Married Parents Initiative at AFCC’s 44th Annual Conference, May 30-June 2, 2007 in Washington, D.C.

Missouri
The AFCC Missouri Chapter named Larry V. Swall as the chapter’s President at its Board meeting on October 10, 2006. Andrea Clark completed her term as chapter President and AFCC thanks her for her contribution to the association. On January 17, 2007, the Chapter will continue its Lunch and Learn series in St. Louis with a panel discussion on Internet Pornography: When is Enough too Much? Presenters include Rosalyn Schultz, Ph.D., Cary Mogerman, J.D. and Hon. Douglas Beach, Associate Circuit Court of St. Louis County.

New York
The AFCC New York Chapter Annual Conference, The Matrimonial Commission Recommendations and Their Implications, took place December 1, 2006 in Manhattan at the City Bar Association of New York. Professor Martin Guggenheim, author of What’s Wrong with Children’s Rights, Peter Salem, AFCC Executive Director, and Professor Andrew Schepard, Director, Center for Children and the Law, Hofstra University Law School, presented the keynote address. New York Chapter President Hon. W. Dennis Duggan returned from Belfast, Ireland where he presented at the XVII World Congress of the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates. The conference featured attendees from six continents and fifty nations.

Texas
The AFCC Texas Chapter hosted its Annual Conference, Surviving the Breakup: Helping Children and Parents Cope with Divorce, September 22-23, 2006 in Dallas, Texas. The conference featured popular AFCC presenters, Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D. and Chet Muklewicz, Ed.D. Prior to the conference the chapter held its board meeting and approved an AFCC Texas Chapter co-sponsored professional discussion group in partnership with Cooperative Parenting Solutions. The group will focus on parenting coordination issues in the Houston region of the state. The Texas Chapter will host next year’s Annual Conference in Austin, Texas, October 5-6, 2007.
AFCC Award Nominations

AFCC is seeking nominees for the following awards to be presented at AFCC’s 44th Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., May 30-June 2, 2007.

**John E. VanDuzer Distinguished Service Award:** Recognizes outstanding contributions and/or achievements by members of AFCC.

**Stanley Cohen Research Award:** Recognizes outstanding research and/or research achievements in the field of family and divorce.

**Irwin Cantor Innovative Program Award:** Recognizes innovation in court-connected or court-related programs. Nominations for this award should be for programs, not individuals.

If you would like to nominate someone for one of the above awards, email your nomination to David Vigliotta, AFCC Marketing and Development Manager, at dvigliotta@afccnet.org. Please specify the award for which you are submitting a nomination. Include your name, address and telephone number along with the same information for the nominee. Please include a brief statement of no more than 600 words as to why you believe the nominee is a good candidate for the award. The nomination deadline is March 15, 2007.

Electronic submissions in Word or WordPerfect are preferred. For further information on award criteria and nominating instructions, please visit the “Awards Committee” page on the AFCC Web site at www.afccnet.org.

AFCC Board of Directors Nominations

The AFCC Nominating Committee is seeking the names of individuals to serve on the AFCC Board of Directors. Recommended individuals must be AFCC members and have an interest and knowledge of AFCC and its work.

Nominations must be received by January 15, 2007, in order to be considered by the committee prior to election at AFCC’s 44th Annual Conference, May 30-June 2, 2007 in Washington, D.C.

If you or another member you know is interested in serving on the AFCC Board of Directors, please forward name, contact information, resume and letter of intent to:

Hon. Hugh E. Starnes
Chair, Nominating Committee
c/o AFCC
6525 Grand Teton Plaza
Madison, WI 53719
Fax: (608) 664-3751
Email: afcc@afccnet.org

Earn AFCC Dollars Today!

Did you know AFCC members can earn AFCC dollars to spend on conference registrations, membership renewals or publications? Each time you recruit a colleague to join AFCC and you are named as the referral source, you earn TEN AFCC DOLLARS! In order to qualify, they must be first-time members of AFCC. Each time your name is given as the referral source, your membership file will be noted and at the beginning of each calendar year you will receive a credit from AFCC.

You can earn up to $150 AFCC dollars each year, enough for a free AFCC membership! Here are a few ways to get started:

• Ask us for membership brochures (we’ll mail them to you).

• Write your name in the application referral space and hand them to colleagues explaining why you find your membership valuable.

• Send an email to colleagues and refer them to AFCC’s Web site (www.afccnet.org) where they can join online. Make sure you tell them to provide your name in the referral box.

Don’t forget to tell your colleagues about all the benefits and resources AFCC provides to help facilitate the important work you do, such as print and online access to *Family Court Review* (beginning with the first issue published in 1963), AFCC’s online membership directory, the *AFCC NEWS* and *AFCC eNEWS*, referrals and assistance from the AFCC staff and much more.

Call the AFCC office (608) 664-3750 or email us at afcc@afccnet.org to request membership brochures now, and start earning AFCC dollars today!
**Annual Appeal Update**

**Donate Online!**

AFCC members can now contribute online to this year’s Annual Appeal to support the AFCC Resource Development Fund at www.afccnet.org/about/committees.asp and clicking the “Resource Development Committee” link. Log on today and help AFCC continue to expand the conference scholarship program and the Innovation Mini-Grant Program. One hundred percent of the donations go directly to the Resource Development Fund to support AFCC’s outreach programs.

Donations can also be mailed to the AFCC office by completing and mailing the donation card below. All contributions will be highlighted in the AFCC NEWS and at AFCC’s 44th Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. For more information, please contact David Vigliotta, AFCC Marketing and Development Manager, at dvigliotta@afccnet.org or (608) 664-3750.

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**2007 Innovation Mini-Grant Announced**

As a result of last year’s successful Annual Appeal, the Resource Development Committee is pleased to continue the Innovation Mini-Grant Program by providing a $5,000 grant to a public agency to train employees and/or contract providers to conduct issue-focused evaluations.

The purpose of the Mini-Grant is to help turn an innovative idea into an effective program, which can then be replicated in other communities. A new theme is selected each year and the amount and number of grants will be determined based on the success of AFCC’s Annual Appeal.

The Innovation Mini-Grant application and guidelines will be posted on the AFCC Web site at www.afccnet.org in January.

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**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. If you have not yet contributed, please consider making a contribution today!

**Diamond ($1,000-$4,999)**
Doneldon Dennis
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Arnie Shienvold

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Dianna Gould-Saltman
Andrew Schepard
Robert M. Smith

**Gold ($250-$499)**
Phil Bushard
Robert Simon

**Silver ($100-$249)**
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Dick Altman
Jeffrey Arden
Wendy Bryans
Linda Cavallero

Ellen Craine
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Linda Fieldstone
Gregory Firestone
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**Resource Development Fund**

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- **Diamond ($1,000-$4,999)** $___________
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NEW! Donate online at www.afccnet.org

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AFCC Chapter Services and Development Consultant

Former AFCC President Leslye Hunter has joined AFCC as Chapter Services and Development Consultant. Leslye served as AFCC President in 2004-2005 and on the Board of Directors since 2001. She was local chair for the 2000 Annual Conference in New Orleans and Co-chair of the AFCC Membership Committee. Leslye has always been involved and interested in local membership and in 2000, she served on AFCC’s Chapter Task Force. She will be working with Chapter leadership to streamline and enhance the relationship between Chapters and the parent organization, as well as to help identify and train new leadership in both existing and newly forming Chapters.

New Board Member

Dianna Gould-Saltman, J.D. has been appointed by AFCC President Mary Ferriter to the AFCC Board of Directors. Dianna will replace Leslye Hunter who resigned to become AFCC Consultant for Chapter Services and Development. Dianna is a family law attorney in private practice in Los Angeles. She has been an AFCC member since 1992, is a frequent conference presenter and was a member of the AFCC Task Force on Model Standards for Child Custody Evaluations. AFCC is pleased to welcome Dianna to the Board of Directors.

New Custody Rules in Illinois

The Illinois Supreme Court announced it has adopted a new set of rules to help ensure that child custody proceedings are handled expeditiously, competently and with great emphasis on the “best interest of the child.” Child Custody Proceedings, Article IX, of the Illinois Supreme Court Rules, was adopted February 10, 2006, most of which became effective July 1, 2006. Some rules (including the mediation provisions) will go into effect January 1, 2007.

The rules require that attorneys who are appointed in child custody and adoption cases meet certain minimum requirements, including attendance in relevant continuing legal education courses. They also mandate education courses for judges who may be called upon to hear custody cases.

Additionally, the court is looking to expedite cases through the use of mediation. The rule calls for referral to mediation in all cases covered under Article IX involving custody and visitation issues, with waiver from mediation when the court determines an impediment exists. Under this rule, each circuit is required to adopt rules to govern mediation for these cases, which must address mandatory training and qualifications for mediators, and standards to determine which child custody and visitation issues should be referred to mediation and the time for referral.

The rules grew out of the continuing work of the Special Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Child Custody Issues, which was established in January 2002 to study child custody, parental termination and adoption issues, and to formulate methods to expedite and improve the administration of justice in such cases.

Article IX can be accessed at www.state.il.us/court/SupremeCourt/Rules/.
44TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

May 30-June 2, 2007
The Capital Hilton
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Children of Separation and Divorce:
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Featuring an opening night performance by
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AFCC is the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts—an interdisciplinary and international association of professionals dedicated to the resolution of family conflict. AFCC and its members have influenced the practice of family law, mediation, custody evaluation and parent education more than those of any other organization.

The AFCC Annual Conference brings together the best and brightest innovators, thinkers and reformers. You will network, share ideas, and interact with experts that work with children and families including judges, mediators, lawyers, parenting coordinators, custody evaluators, researchers and more.

Why Attend This Conference?
• AFCC Annual Conferences offer the best interdisciplinary networking and collaboration anywhere!
• More than 150 presenters and 60 conference sessions on the latest topics that impact children and families of separation and divorce.
• Continuing education credits available for practitioners of all disciplines.

“If you can only attend one conference a year, the AFCC Annual Conference is one that you absolutely should not miss.”
Susan Berg, Family Court Manager
Fifth Judicial Circuit, Tavares, Florida

Featured Presenters:
• Professor Arthur Miller, Harvard Law School
• Dr. Robert Emery, author, The Truth About Children & Divorce
• Professor Steven H. Hobbs, University of Alabama School of Law
• Dr. Elizabeth Marquardt, author, Between Two Worlds
• Hon. Peter Boshier, Principal Family Court Judge, New Zealand
• Dr. Ron Mincy, Columbia University
• Dr. Robin Deutsch, Massachusetts General Hospital
• Nina Meierding, Mediation Center for Family Law
• Dr. Joan B. Kelly, Corte Madera, CA
• Dr. Janet Johnston, San Jose State University

Preliminary Topics:
• Custody Evaluation Report Writing
• Dependency Mediation
• Parenting Coordination
• Collaborative Law
• Domestic Violence
• Divorce Mediation Skills
• Ethics in Family Law
• International Child Abduction
• Parenting in Military Families
• Same-sex Parenting

For further information on AFCC and AFCC’s 44th Annual Conference, please view the AFCC Web site at www.afccnet.org, email us at afcc@afccnet.org or call (608) 664-3750.

Conference Program available in January 2007
## Upcoming AFCC Conferences and Trainings

### AFCC Trainings

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<tr>
<td>Parenting Coordination: Helping High Conflict Parents Resolve Disputes</td>
<td>March 27-28, 2007</td>
<td>Loyola University New Orleans, Louisiana</td>
<td><a href="http://www.afccnet.org">www.afccnet.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>AFCC Regional Training Conference</td>
<td>September 27-29, 2007</td>
<td>Hyatt Regency, Columbus, Ohio</td>
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<td>Missouri AFCC Annual Chapter Conference</td>
<td>March 8-9, 2007</td>
<td>Crowne Plaza St. Louis Airport, St. Louis, Missouri</td>
<td><a href="http://www.afccnet.org">www.afccnet.org</a></td>
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