

# AFCC NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 21, NUMBER 3

An association of family, court and community professionals

SUMMER 2002

## Custody Evaluation Symposium Focuses on Child Sexual Abuse and Family Violence

AFCC's Fifth International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations will take place November 7-9, 2002 at the Westward Look Resort in Tucson Arizona. The theme of the Symposium is "Addressing Allegations of Abuse: The Delicate Balance Between Evaluation and Protection." This year's program will continue the Symposium tradition of using the three plenary sessions for an in-depth examination of issues of interest to custody evaluators, judicial officers, lawyers, mediators, parenting coordinators and others who work with families in conflict.

Symposium plenary sessions will focus on the challenges raised by allegations of family violence and child maltreatment. A case study approach will be used to examine two dominant approaches to child custody evaluations. Presenters will discuss the trauma centered approach, which focuses on examination of allegations of maltreatment or family violence prior to assessment of any other allegations in the evaluation. This approach argues that there is no more important task than protecting the child and that evaluators must immediately recommend protective measures when there is any chance the child is at risk. The traditional model of custody evaluation will also be discussed. This outlook suggests that an evaluator must obtain all possible sources of information before making recommendations to the court about the welfare of a child.

AFCC will present an interdisciplinary panel of leading experts to address these contrasting approaches to a custody evaluation. Presenters will examine strategies for early intervention, case management and options for intervention and resolution. The panel will include:

- **Kathryn Kuehnle, Ph.D.**, author, *Assessing Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse*, Tampa, Florida
- **Toby Kleinman, J.D.**, Adler & Kleinman, Brunswick, New Jersey
- **Hon. Susan Snow (ret.)**, former AFCC President, Palo Hills, Illinois
- **Jonathan Gould, Ph.D.**, moderator, author, *Conducting Scientifically Crafted Child Custody Evaluations*

The Symposium program will also feature 20 workshops and four full-day Pre-symposium institutes.

**Core skills workshops** are designed for practitioners who are new to the field or looking to brush up on their skills. These workshops include:

- Improving Your Interviews with Children
- Interviewing Adults
- Effective Use of Collateral Sources
- The Science and Art of Parent-Child Observation

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## Access Programs Highlight Parent Education Congress

AFCC's Fifth International Congress on Parent Education and Access Programs gets a new twist this year as several parental access programs will highlight the conference agenda. The Congress takes place November 10-12, 2002 at the Westward Look Resort in Tucson, Arizona.

The widespread growth of parental access programs throughout the United States is in large part due to funding made available through the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement. This year's Congress will highlight several of these programs including:

- Supervised Visitation in Domestic Violence Cases
- Access Programs for Never-Married Parents
- Connecticut's Comprehensive Approach to Parental Access

A special workshop for those interested in access programs will also be presented by Deborah Pontisso, Advocacy Relations Specialist, Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, Washington, D.C.

This year's program will feature plenary sessions addressing critical issues for those working with separating and divorcing families. The opening night presentation on **Working with High Conflict Families** will feature Janet R. Johnston, Ph.D., co-author, *In the Name of the Child*, San Jose State University; Jack Arbuthnot, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Ohio University; Linda Louie, M.S.W., Division Chief, Family Court Services, Los Angeles, California; and Hon. Nanette M. Warner, Presiding Family Law Judge, Pima County Superior Court, Tucson, Arizona.

The Monday morning plenary session will feature some of the nation's leading experts on Prevention Programs and will examine the role these programs play in the legal system. This session will focus on effective use of Prevention Programs as well as the

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## AFCC NEWSLETTER

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### Editor

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The AFCC Newsletter is a publication of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. The newsletter is published four times a year. Deadlines for news items and advertising are March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1. Advertising copy must be camera ready and payment made in U.S. funds.

### Advertising Rates:

Full page (7 1/2" x 10") . . . . . \$400

Half page (7 1/2" x 4 7/8") . . . . . \$300

Quarter page (3 5/8" x 4 7/8") . . . . . \$175

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Jan Shaw  
Orange, California

Two months ago I took office as your President and not a dull moment have I had since then! We "hit the streets running" because of our need to establish a new administrative structure after ending our long time contract with Ann Milne and her company Ann L. Milne & Associates. Peter Salem, formerly Associate Director, was named by the Board of Directors in June to assume the role of Acting Executive Director, while beginning a nationwide recruitment for an Executive Director. Former AFCC President Arline Rotman was named to head the Human Resources committee, a new committee formed to conduct the Executive Director search and to explore, research, and make recommendations to the Board of Directors on a myriad of personnel policies, practices and procedures and an employee benefits package. Judge Rotman and her committee, Bill Howe, Leslye Hunter, Denise McColley, and Larry Lehner are hardworking and focused on their important tasks. AFCC Office Manager Dawn Holmes and Program Associate Chris Shanahan remain on staff and together with Peter they have done an outstanding job of bringing operational stability to AFCC's headquarters during this dramatic shift in our business model. We are on course to have the Board of Directors hire our next Executive Director at our November meeting.

On behalf of AFCC, thank you for attending our 39th Annual Conference in Waikoloa, Hawaii in June. Conference evaluations indicate that attendees both enjoyed the conference location and the program! AFCC's reputation for putting together a strong program at a great location remains intact thanks to Michele MacFarlane, Conference Committee chair and her committee, Ann Milne, Peter Salem, our many expert presenters and the AFCC staff. If you haven't done so already, please mark your calendars for May 28-31, 2003 and plan to attend our 40th AFCC Anniversary Conference and gala event in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada's capital city. I am confident this conference stands to be one of the best! Stay tuned.

The number of AFCC Chapters continues to grow. AFCC members in New York received Provisional Chapter status at our international conference and in record breaking time. Florida, another professional group of high achievers, joined Arizona, California, New Jersey and Massachusetts as a chartered Chapter. Texas, a Provisional Chapter, is drawing closer to earning its charter. The organizing efforts in Illinois and Missouri are all pointing to their successfully meeting the requirements to become Provisional Chapters in the near future. In states with organizing efforts in progress or those with Chapters, your support and participation are needed. AFCC's website, [www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org) is the perfect spot to find links to our Chapters including Chapter websites and upcoming conferences. Members Fred Mitchell and the Honorable Hugh Starnes are our Chapter committee Co-chairs and at the helm we couldn't ask for two better leaders to support our existing Chapters and help guide our newcomers.

If you haven't used the searchable and printable directories on our website to locate colleagues or to learn more about AFCC's upcoming events, why not give it a try? I am hoping once we have completed our administrative restructure that we can look to your ideas for expanding our website, initiating an e-business pilot project and exploring the feasibility of providing on-line training opportunities. For some, using a computer to obtain member or other AFCC information is not desirable; our AFCC office still provides member data, a printed directory and other information on request.

You should have received the program brochure for our two special topic conference this November in Tucson, Arizona. As a graduate of the University of Arizona in Tucson, I can say with all confidence that Tucson in November is a perfect time to visit, network with colleagues, expand your knowledge and expertise in child custody evaluations and parent education and access programs. Bring a colleague, a new member or a professional interested in joining our multi-disciplinary organization. Our 2000 strong membership crosses oceans, disciplines, ethnicity's and interests.

In closing, I want to acknowledge the leadership of our immediate Past President, Magistrate Denise McColley of Napoleon, Ohio. A visionary, consummate professional, tireless worker, collaborator and a woman of extraordinary talents, Denise has served all of us in a manner "above and beyond." Many thanks to the Board members who, as of June 30, 2002, completed their terms including Pat Ross, Dallas, Texas; Hon. Arline Rotman (ret.), Boston, Massachusetts; Donald Dennis, Minneapolis, Minnesota; and LeDeana Gamble, Las Vegas, Nevada. Our work lives are so busy, please take time for yourself, your family and those you care about.

## MEMBER PROFILE

### AFCC President, Jan Shaw

After just a few hours with AFCC President Jan Shaw it is difficult to understand how she ever survived before the age of digital communication. Whether she is checking and sending email from an airplane, making phone calls to the east coast during her early morning commute on one of her two cell phones (one for business use, one for personal), drafting a proposal on her laptop, receiving text messages from her office or booking appointments in her trusty PDA, Jan is always in the middle of the action, even when she is somewhere else.

Jan's mastery of this complex one-woman wireless network provides her with the communication tools necessary for her daily routine of: (1) overseeing a \$4 million budget, a staff of over 350 and meeting the needs of 34 judicial officers as Executive Director of Orange County, California's Lamoreaux Justice Center, a position she has held since 2001; (2) providing hands-on leadership for AFCC; and (3) keeping in contact, no matter the location, with her husband Charlie and daughters Jennifer and Suzanne. "My daughters refer to all my devices as 'techno toys,'" Jan said, "and while I am the first to admit I love the new technology and am always looking to use newer devices, their primary purpose is to keep me in contact with my family, AFCC colleagues, friends, court staff and my judicial officers."

Jan was born and raised in Boise, Idaho. As a teen she was a ranked junior tennis player. After high school she left the cold weather behind for good and enrolled at the University of Arizona. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Social Welfare and earned a Master's degree in Public Administration with specialization in Correctional Counseling. It was also at Arizona where she met husband Charlie, then a pharmacy student, on a blind date. "We married 33 years ago and I am blessed that he is my best friend, greatest supporter and a wonderful husband," she said.

After graduate school Jan accepted a position with the Orange County, California Probation Department where she became Orange County's first custody mediator in 1978. "The training requirements weren't quite the same then," she recalled. "On Thursday my supervisor came to me and asked me if I wanted to do child custody mediation... starting the following Monday. That weekend I read up on mediation and I did about 15 cases on my first day."

Jan was promoted to Director of Orange County's Mediation and Investigative

Services agency in 1986, overseeing a staff of 65. She has served on numerous Administrative Office of the Courts Advisory Committees with judges and court staff. Jan helped write the curriculum for judicial officer training on domestic violence, co-chaired the committee that wrote California's standards of practice for supervised visitation and co-drafted the standards of practice for custody mediation, custody evaluation and domestic violence training for custody evaluators. Jan also served for three years on the California Judicial Council's Family and Juvenile Advisory Committee and has been actively involved in educating and testifying before the California legislature on family law and probate issues.

Other highlights Jan is proud of include: initiating the Domestic Violence Death Review Team in Orange County; being the first public member appointed to the State Bar's Family Law Specialist Committee; developing the first statewide graduate level curriculum in divorce mediation at Chapman University in Orange, California, and serving on the faculty for two years; creating the first statewide program to recruit and train volunteers for conservatorship cases; co-creating a screening tool for domestic violence cases focusing on the frequency, type and severity of the violence; and serving on the American Bar Association's Curriculum Advisory Committee for the Bench Book "A Judge's Guide: Making Child-Centered Decisions in Custody Cases."

Two programs Jan has been involved with earned awards given annually by the California Judicial Council to selected innovative programs. These include her Court's Domestic Violence Prevention Project, involving civil restraining order cases with children and the Volunteer's C.A.R.E. (Court Assistants Reaching Out with Empathy) program. Jan was a member of the California AFCC Chapter Board of Directors for many years before becoming president and newsletter editor. As president, Jan led the California Chapter's pivotal role in supporting the Second World Congress on Family Law and the Rights of Children and Youth, held in San Francisco in 1997. On the international level, Jan has chaired and co-chaired several committees, including the Mediation, Dependency, and Chapter committees. "I am asked often about my choice to volunteer so much time to AFCC activities and the answer is really quite simple," she said. "My AFCC colleagues have always shared my passion for families and children. The interdisciplinary nature of

the association keeps me from seeing families and children only through my lens as a professional. The hearts and spirits of AFCC members aren't found in such quantity in any other organization I've ever belonged to. AFCC has benefitted me on both a personal and professional level."

When she is not working, Jan enjoys spending time with her husband Charlie and daughters Jennifer and Suzanne, both of whom are back in California after living in New York. Suzanne is a third year law student at Pepperdine after graduating from Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York. At Hofstra, Suzanne captained the volleyball team and set several conference and school records. During Suzanne's senior year Jan and Charlie demonstrated their dedication by attending almost every match, traveling coast to coast over a period of nine weeks, catching up with the team at various east coast cities and tournament sites.

Always ready to go the extra mile, Jan was even an overachiever as a volleyball fan. "I wanted to do something special before a finals match at a Kentucky tournament," she recalled. "So I had Charlie paint my face in the Hofstra school colors. Well, the team came from behind to defeat the tournament favorite so for the next 29 matches Charlie painted my face with a different theme each time." As usual, Jan's contributions were noticed and she became the first non-athlete or coach to be inducted to Hofstra's Hall of Fame for women athletes in a special ceremony held in New York last November.

Daughter Jennifer is a manager for an international project management company in Orange County. Jennifer is happy to be living back home again after living and working in Manhattan, where she lived only six blocks from the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

Jan lights up when she talks about her family. She and Charlie have been committed parents and no matter Jan's work schedule, she missed very few of soccer or volleyball games. She traveled throughout the country with the teams and volunteered at their schools. "My family means everything to me and it's such a kick we all like hanging out together, whether it is enjoying our boat and the river, learning to drive NASCAR race cars together or just going for a hike. They were all there to cheer me on last year in support of my three-day walk for breast cancer, a trek of 65 miles from Santa Barbara to Malibu. We make it a practice to support each other in celebration or disappointment. I am one lucky Mom and wife"

# Ann Milne Retires as AFCC Executive Director



Ann L. Milne, A.C.S.W.

**D**ear AFCC Friends and Colleagues;

As some of you heard at the AFCC annual conference in Hawaii, I have moved up my previously announced retirement as AFCC Executive Director from June 30, 2003 to June 30, 2002.

Many of you have asked what I intend to do. While I hope to slow down to some

extent, I will continue to provide training and consulting services for AFCC over this next year. Peter Salem, Jay Folberg and I will be finishing up our edited book on divorce mediation and I'll be continuing to provide mediation training and conduct my private divorce mediation practice.

I am very honored to have served AFCC as Executive Director for the past 13 years and to have been an AFCC member and served in various AFCC leadership positions for over 30 years. Highlights of my years of service include serving as Secretariat of the Second World Congress on Family Law and the Rights of Children and Youth held in San Francisco in 1997, serving as AFCC Mediation Committee chairperson, facilitating the development of Model Standards of Practice for Family and Divorce Mediators and the revision of the Standards in 2001.

I can't think of any other membership organization that I belong to that has added such meaning to my professional and personal life. I know this has been true for many of you as well.

I am doubly honored to have been asked to serve as Honorary Co-chair of AFCC's

40th Anniversary Campaign. I am pleased to have this opportunity to give back to AFCC and to join Former President Justice John VanDuzer and Joan VanDuzer in making a \$5,000 lead contribution to AFCC's 40th Anniversary Campaign. I hope many of you will join us as we look to celebrate AFCC's leadership in the field at our 40th Annual Conference May 28-31, 2003 in Ottawa.

I would like to extend my grateful thanks to staff members Peter Salem, Chris Shanahan, Dawn Holmes and Danai Banta for their hard work and dedication to AFCC and to all of my friends and colleagues who over the years have inspired me with their enthusiasm and commitment to families and children. I look forward to crossing paths with you again soon. Best wishes to you all.

Sincerely,  
Ann

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Email: [amilne@amilne.net](mailto:amilne@amilne.net)

## ACR asks AFCC Members to Take a Bow

**T**he Association for Conflict Resolution honored several AFCC members at its annual conference in San Diego in August.

**Arnold Shienvold, Ph.D.**, AFCC life member from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, was acknowledged for his outstanding efforts as the first ACR President. Dr. Shienvold was former President of the Academy of Family Mediators (AFM), was instrumental in the merger between AFM, the Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution and the Conflict Resolution Network in Education. He served a 19-month term as ACR President. AFCC congratulates Dr. Shienvold on this extraordinary accomplishment.

**Donald Saposnek, Ph.D.**, AFCC member from Aptos, California, was the recipient of the John Haynes Distinguished Mediator Award. Dr. Saposnek, a longstanding AFCC member, was recognized for his work as editor of the Family Mediation News and his many conference presentations and humorous videotapes.

**Gregory Firestone, Ph.D.**, President of the AFCC Florida Chapter, was recognized by ACR President Arnold Shienvold for his contributions to the development of the Uniform Mediation Act. Dr. Firestone's efforts, along with those of ACR Board Member Dennis Sharp, kept members informed through out the process and enabled the association to have substantive input during the drafting process.

## And the Winner is...

*by Lesley Hunter, Co-chair, AFCC Membership Committee, Metairie, LA*

**T**he AFCC Membership Committee congratulates Teri Hastings, member from Seattle, WA, on winning a free conference registration for simply recruiting a new member to AFCC.

Last year the AFCC Membership Committee mounted a campaign to increase membership and new members were able to identify referring members on the membership application. At the 39th Annual Conference in Waikoloa, HI, a drawing was held of all referring members and Terri Hastings' name was drawn.

AFCC thanks Terri and all of the members who have been working to recruit new members and spread the word about AFCC.

The Membership Committee, co-chaired by Leslye Hunter and Shelley Probbler, continues to encourage members to recruit colleagues to join AFCC. To become eligible for next year's drawing, make sure that your name is listed as the referral source on the AFCC membership application. If you would like membership applications to provide to colleagues who are potential AFCC members contact the AFCC administrative office at [afcc@afccnet.org](mailto:afcc@afccnet.org) or (608) 664-3750.

## Call for Presenters

# AFCC's 40th Anniversary Conference

## Change and Challenge

### *40 Years of Evolution in Families, Courts and Communities*

May 28-31, 2003

Westin Ottawa

Ottawa, Ontario – Canada's Capital City

The past 40 years have witnessed significant changes in our families and communities, and corresponding responses by our legal and mental health institutions and services. The Association of Family and Conciliation Courts invites you to join us for our 40th Anniversary celebration as we explore the evolution that has taken place in families, courts and communities since AFCC was founded in 1963.

#### Preliminary Topics:

Representing Children

Triage in Court Services

Legal Reform

Violence and the Legal System

Advanced Issues in Custody Evaluations

Innovations in Dispute Resolution

Collaborative Family Law

High Conflict Families

Dealing with the Budget Crunch

Skills for Judicial Officers

AFCC is accepting proposals for 90-minute workshop sessions including, but not limited to, the topics listed above. If you are interested in presenting a workshop 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) name, address, telephone and fax numbers, and email addresses for all proposed presenters; (5) resumes for all proposed presenters; (6) name, address, telephone and fax numbers, and email address of two professional references. Maximum of four presenters per workshop.

Please note that the deadline for proposals is December 5, 2002. AFCC is unable to guarantee consideration of incomplete proposals or those submitted after the deadline. AFCC offers a reduced registration fee for conference presenters. We are unable to reimburse travel and related expenses. Please mail, fax or email proposals to: AFCC, Conference Proposal, 6515 Grand Teton Plaza, Ste. 210, Madison, WI 53719-1048, Phone: (608) 664-3750, Fax: (608) 664-3751, Email: [afcc3@afccnet.org](mailto:afcc3@afccnet.org) (Word or Wordperfect attachment only please)

# AFCC Board of Directors Elected

AFCC is pleased to welcome new members of the Board of Directors, Fred Mitchell, Tucson, Arizona; Steve Grant, Rocky Hill, Connecticut; William Howe, Portland, Oregon; and Leah Pallin-Hill, Phoenix, Arizona. AFCC wishes to acknowledge those members who have completed their service to the board, Doneldon Dennis, Minneapolis, Minnesota; LeDeana Gamble, Las Vegas, Nevada; and Pat Ross, Dallas, Texas. A special thanks to Hon. Arline Rotman (ret.) who leaves the AFCC Board of Directors after nine years of service. Judge Rotman served as AFCC President in 2000-2001 and was instrumental in the planning and execution of AFCC's streamlined governance structure and setting the stage for effective leadership in the future.

## AFCC Board of Directors for 2002-2003

### President

Jan A. Shaw, M.P.A.  
Orange, CA

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Hamilton, ON, Canada

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Metairie, LA

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# AFCC Kids Count Club Update

## Silent Auction a Success

The bidding was fast and furious during AFCC's Fourth Annual Silent Auction, held at AFCC's 39th Annual Conference, June 7, 2002 on the Big Island of Hawaii. Auctioneer and AFCC Vice President/Secretary Leslye Hunter whipped the crowd into a bidding frenzy resulting in nearly \$12,000 for the AFCC Kids Count Club. The Kids Count Club provides financial support for AFCC's Annual Youth Forum, the Kids Count Club Award and conference scholarships.

This year's auction featured a bit of everything, including fashionable clothing, autographed baseballs, movie scripts, footballs, kayaking and snorkeling cruises, original artwork, fine wines, airline tickets and packages from hotels and resorts in Hawaii, Chicago, Boston, San Antonio, Ottawa and Tucson.

A special thanks to the Hilton Waikoloa Village, Starwood Resorts and Dolphin Galleries for their lead contributions and thanks to the many, many individual contributors and organizations who made this year's auction a huge success.

### Individuals

Anonymous  
Dick Altman  
Phil Bushard  
Hon. George Czutrin  
Doneldon Dennis  
Hon. Linda Dessau  
Mary Ferriter  
William Howe, III  
Leslye Hunter  
Jeffrey Leving  
Michele MacFarlane  
Denise McColley

Ann Milne  
Carren Oler  
C. Eileen Pruett  
Thomas L. Rohrer  
Pat Ross  
Hon. Arline Rotman (ret.) and Barry Rotman  
David Rotman  
Steven Rotman  
Peter Salem  
Jan Shaw  
Phil Stahl  
Hon. Hugh and Judy Starnes  
Andrew and Debra Schepard  
Jan Shaw

### Organizations

Adam's Mark Hotel, San Antonio, TX  
Aesention, Inc., Madison, WI  
AFCC  
AFCC Arizona Chapter  
AFCC California Chapter  
AFCC Florida Chapter  
AFCC Massachusetts Chapter  
AFCC New Jersey Chapter  
AFCC Texas Chapter  
AFCC Parenting Coordinator Task Force  
Association for Conflict Resolution  
Charles Street Inn, Boston, MA  
CDR Associates, Boulder, CO  
Center for Divorce Education, Athens, OH  
Complete Equity Markets, Wheeling, IL  
Dolphin Galleries, Waikoloa, HI  
Family Mediation Canada  
Hawaii Bar Association Family Law Section  
Hilton Waikoloa Village  
Kohala Tennis, Waikoloa, HI  
Lands' End, Dodgeville, WI  
NASW, Hawaii Chapter  
Norwich Bookstore, Norwich, VT

Ottawa Tourism  
Pleasant Company, Middleton, WI  
Quick Quality Press, Madison, WI  
Rare Essentials, Hanover, NH  
Red Sail Sports, Waikoloa, HI  
Starwood Resorts  
Waikoloa Golf  
Westin Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL  
Westin Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario  
Westward Look Resort, Tucson, AZ

## AFCC Honors Boys and Girls Clubs with Kids Count Club Award

The AFCC Kids Count Club honored the Boys and Girls Clubs of Hawaii, Hilo Clubhouse with the 2002 Kids Count Club Award, presented at the AFCC Annual Awards Luncheon, June 6, 2003 at the 39th Annual Conference. The Hilo Clubhouse received a \$2,000 award to support programming for the underprivileged youth of the Hilo, HI.

## Major Contributors Recognized

AFCC President Denise McColley recognized the generosity of Diamond and Platinum contributors to the AFCC Kids Count Club in 2001-2002, at the AFCC Awards Annual Luncheon. This year's major donors were former AFCC President Hon. Arline Rotman (ret.), the Suzie S. Thorn Family Foundation and AFCC Board member C. Eileen Pruett.

## Kids Count Club Thanks Donors

AFCC's Kids Count Club and Resource Development Committee would like to thank all of those who contributed to the 2001-2002 Kids Count Club Annual Campaign. AFCC would like to thank AFCC Chapters in Arizona, California, Florida, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Texas for their generous contributions. A very special thank you to AFCC member Suzie Thorn and the Suzie S. Thorn Family Foundation and to former AFCC President Hon. Arline S. Rotman, for their continuing and substantial contributions in support of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts.

### Diamond

Suzie S. Thorn Family Foundation  
Hon. Arline Rotman (ret.)

### Platinum

AFCC Arizona Chapter  
AFCC California Chapter

AFCC Florida Chapter  
AFCC Massachusetts Chapter  
Barrie Floyd  
C. Eileen Pruett

### Gold

Doneldon Dennis  
Mary M. Ferriter  
Elayne Greenberg  
Denise McColley  
Darlene McNulty  
Arnold Shienvold  
Hon. Betty Vitousek (ret.)

### Silver

AFCC New Jersey Chapter  
AFCC Texas Chapter  
Dick Altman  
Phil Bushard  
Linda Cavallero  
Christine Coates  
Hon. George Czutrin  
Nancy Dailey

Hon. Linda M. Dessau  
Robin Deutsch  
Hon. William Fee  
Leslye Hunter  
Phyllis Kenney  
Michele MacFarlane  
Ann Milne  
Fred Mitchell  
Susan Mary Raja  
Thea Reinhart  
Thomas L. Rhorer  
Ida Rotman  
Peter Salem  
Richard and Greta Salem  
Andrew Schepard  
Jan Shaw  
Leslie Abbott Smith  
Robert Smith  
Philip M. Stahl  
Hon. Hugh Starnes

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# AFCC Honors Member Contributions

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

### Hon. Douglas McNish (ret.)

Hon. Doug McNish, (ret.), of Maui, Hawaii, was the recipient of the AFCC Distinguished Service Award. Judge McNish served as AFCC President in 1994-95 and was instrumental in AFCC's leadership in developing and supporting the field of Parent Education. Judge McNish provided counsel and inspiration to many AFCC friends and colleagues. He co-chaired the AFCC/ABA Family Law Section Task Force on Parent Education and coordinated the last volunteer-led Annual Conference in Maui in 1994.

## STANLEY COHEN DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH AWARD

### Robert Emery, Ph.D., University of Virginia

Dr. Robert Emery of the University of Virginia received the Stanley Cohen Distinguished Research Award for his innovative and outstanding research in the area of family courts and family law. Dr. Emery's combination of research and practice has made his work valuable to the clinician as well as those in academia. His work addresses salient topics such as the impact of divorce on fathers, mothers and children, and the process of family reorganization. He has conducted one of the few longitudinal studies on the impact of mediation using a random sample.

## IRWIN CANTOR INNOVATIVE PROGRAM AWARD

### Linda Cavallero, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts Medical School

Dr. Linda Cavallero, Worcester, MA, accepted the Irwin Cantor Innovative Program Award on behalf of the UMass Family Court

Clinic. The Clinic utilizes the Brief, Focused Evaluation Model, developed by Dr. Cavallero, to assist the court in assessing urgent family disputes involving children. The Clinic was funded by the Greater Worcester Community Foundation from 1991-97 and expanded its services when it received state funding in 1998. More than 1,000 families have benefitted from clinic services, which are provided without cost to the families.



## PRESIDENT'S AWARD

### C. Eileen Pruett, J.D., Supreme Court of Ohio

AFCC President Magistrate Denise Herman McColley presented the President's Award to C. Eileen Pruett, AFCC member from Columbus, Ohio. Ms. Pruett is Coordinator of Dispute Resolution Programs for the Ohio Supreme Court and she serves on the AFCC Board of Directors. She was Chair of AFCC's Mediation Interest Group, was an AFCC representative for the development of the Model Standards of Practice for Family and Divorce Mediators and was instrumental in the planning of AFCC's Colloquium on Child Protection/Dependency Mediation, held in Columbus, OH in September 1999.

## Chapter Update

### Florida Chapter Receives Charter

AFCC Florida Chapter President Gregory Firestone was presented with Florida's Chapter Charter at AFCC's 39th Annual Conference in Waikoloa, Hawaii in June 2002. Others acknowledged for their contribution to the development of the Florida Chapter were Hon. Hugh Starnes, Shelly Finman, members of the Florida Chapter Board of Directors and Lindsay Firestone. The AFCC Florida Chapter will hold its annual conference on October 25-26, 2002 in Tampa. For more information please go to [www.flafcc.org](http://www.flafcc.org).

### Provisional Status Granted to New York Chapter

Provisional Chapter status was granted to AFCC members in New York at the 39th Annual Conference in Waikoloa, Hawaii in June 2002. The New York organizing committee formed in March 2002 and within only three months had recruited enough members and fulfilled all of the requirements for provisional status. If you are interested in becoming a member of the New York Chapter please contact Dr. Lauren Behrman at [drbehrman115@aol.com](mailto:drbehrman115@aol.com).

## AFCC Chapter Conference Schedule

### AFCC Texas Chapter Conference

September 27, 2002  
Holiday Inn Select  
Dallas-Fort Worth Airport  
South Irving, TX  
Contact: [hlc@hlclarke.com](mailto:hlc@hlclarke.com)

### AFCC Florida Chapter Conference

October 25-26, 2002  
Tampa Airport Marriott  
Tampa, FL  
Contact: [jholtcpa@gate.net](mailto:jholtcpa@gate.net) or  
[lfieldstone@jud11.flcourts.org](mailto:lfieldstone@jud11.flcourts.org)

### AFCC Arizona Chapter Conference

February 7-9, 2003  
Hilton Sedona Resort and Spa  
Sedona, AZ  
Contact: [AnnetteAFCC@yahoo.com](mailto:AnnetteAFCC@yahoo.com)



# ABA Child Custody Pro Bono Project Highlights Achievements

In February 2001, the American Bar Association launched the Child Custody Pro Bono Project. The project was funded by a \$1 million grant from Bill and Melita Grunow in memory of their niece Ann Liechty, a dedicated child advocate. The project is co-sponsored by the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service and the Family Law Section, and is housed in the ABA Center for Pro Bono. The project has a director, several interns, a part-time consultant, and a part-time administrative assistant. The project receives advice from an expert Advisory Committee of 16 entities, which includes AFCC. Denise McColley, AFCC Past President, has served as the AFCC representative since the project's inception.

During the recent ABA Annual meeting, Denise and the rest of the project's Advisory Committee and staff reflected upon the projects accomplishments in the past year-and-a-half. The project's main goal during this time has been to increase the quantity and quality of representation for children in private custody cases, including divorce, unmarried parent disputes, private guardianship, adoption, and civil orders of protection with custody issues. The project has a special focus on the use of pro bono attorneys in this representation.

Among the accomplishments of the project since its inception are the following:

## • Child Custody Resource Library

The project has collected 215 documents in its Child Custody Resource Library. Each document is abstracted and categorized in an electronic database. Currently the database is searched by project staff based on requests made to them. By year's end, the database will be searchable by any user over a website. All documents have copyright clearances for distribution and are sent out free of charge.

## • Survey of Laws on Child Custody Representation

The project surveyed the laws of all 50 states and the District of Columbia on the following issues: when representatives are appointed for children in custody cases; the role of those representatives; who can be a representative; how representation is funded; qualifications for representatives; and when children's preferences are considered. The results of this survey have been distributed to many persons and

organizations, and summarized in several publications.

## • Mini-grants

The project distributed \$40,000 in mini-grants to support new child custody pro bono program development within existing programs. The following programs received funding: \$11,000 to Children's Law Center of Kentucky; \$10,000 to Pine Tree Legal Assistance/Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project; \$10,000 to Legal Aid Society of Northwest North Carolina; \$3,000 to Chicago Volunteer Legal Services; \$3,000 to Franklin County Bar Association; and \$3,000 to West Tennessee Legal Services.

## • Information and Technical Assistance

Project staff served as an information resource and provided technical assistance to more than 125 current and potential child custody programs, state and local child custody reform committees, judges, lawyers, and other persons and entities interested in child custody representation.

## • Ann Liechty Pro Bono Child Custody Award

The project worked with the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service to establish and present the first annual Ann Liechty Pro Bono Child Custody Award. The award recognizes an outstanding attorney who has provided free representation to children in custody cases. The 2002 award went to Rebecca Rundgren of Denver, Colorado, nominated by, and a volunteer for, the Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center.

## • Presentations, Seminars and Training Programs

Project staff conducted numerous presentations on the need for, and the status of, children's representatives in custody cases. The project also produced an all-day, interdisciplinary training program on June 6, 2002 in Washington, D.C. for children's representatives.

## • Child Custody List Service

The project established and manages a List Service for current and potential child custody programs and others interested in the representation of children in private custody case. The List Service has over 125 subscribers. Anyone interested in joining the List Service can email project Director Linda Rio at [lrio@staff.abanet.org](mailto:lrio@staff.abanet.org).

The project has a long-term, five-year plan in place. During the coming year, the project plans to:

- Continue to speak around the country at conferences and seminars on the importance of representation for children in custody cases, and the best practices for pro bono representation.
- Work with the ABA Family Law Section on passage of Standards of Practice for Representing Children in Custody Cases.
- Finalize a videotape training program for free distribution to local programs to train pro bono attorneys and program staff.
- Produce ten computer-based training/education modules, and distribute to pro bono programs, pro bono attorneys, legal service providers, law schools, judges, psychologists, social workers and parent educators.
- Place online a list of all law-related child custody programs.
- Produce a document called "Profiles of Successful Child Custody Programs" to assist new and existing programs.
- Continue with the first year's success in making mini-grants, recognizing a pro bono child advocate with the Ann Liechty Award, and providing resources and assistance to persons and programs around the country.

The project would like to hear from local programs about their own efforts in this area as well as about ways in which the project can assist local programs with their needs. For more information, contact the project's Director, Linda Rio, at (312) 988-5805 or [lrio@staff.abanet.org](mailto:lrio@staff.abanet.org). You can also visit the project's web site at [www.abachildcustodyproject.org](http://www.abachildcustodyproject.org).

## Job Announcement Counselor/Mediator I.

Family Services of the Conciliation Court, Pinal County, AZ.

Starting salary: \$35,450-37,250.

Minimum of Master's degree required.

For further information, see <http://www.co.pinal.az.us/>

# Connecticut Access Program Selected as Site for National Study

by Debra Kulak, Program Manager,  
Family Services, Court Support Services  
Division, Rocky Hill, CT

Connecticut has been selected as one of the five states, along with Nevada, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Georgia, by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services to participate in a Federal study examining the effectiveness of the Access and Visitation Grants. According to AFCC Board Member Steve Grant, Deputy Director of Connecticut Family Services, "Being selected as a study site is a very public recognition of the fine work that our Court Support Services Division (CSSD) family staff does in administering the court-based mediation pilot program sponsored by this grant."

Since 1997 the Judicial Branch and the Department of Social Services (DSS) have collaborated to provide a variety of services to Family Services clients under the Federal Access and Visitation grant program. One of these projects is a pilot program that has been implemented by the CSSD Family Services Unit's Hartford office. It offers

court-based negotiations and mediation services to clients appearing in Magistrate Support Court who have concerns with respect to contact with their children. The Hartford pilot program has recently received recognition by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and was selected as a model program to participate in the study.

The evaluation will be conducted by the OIG's Office of Evaluation and Inspections. The OIG is focusing on states that have programs under the grant which provide mediation services to clients who are receiving state assistance. The goal is to examine the impact mediated agreements have had on improving parents' access to their children. Data will be collected to evaluate if mediated agreements actually resulted in the increased access and, if so, correlate to improved child behavior, improved parental relationships and increased responsiveness in child support payments.

OIG program analysts met with Family Services administrators this summer to discuss the five-year history of this program. They conducted a site visit to the Hartford Family Services office and interviewed

Family Relations staff members who provide the service. Finally, they conducted a review of agreements reached in Family Service Magistrate cases, Magistrate Court files, and the DSS Child Support Offices payment records.

The preliminary findings of this study will be presented to the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) in September 2002. The final report on the study is expected at the beginning of 2003. Bill Carbone, CSSD Executive Director, noted, "This program provides a needed service for clients and we have had excellent outcomes. We are excited to be able to share the program successes with others through the results of this study." For additional information please contact Debra.Kulak@jud.state.ct.us or (860) 529-1316.

*Debra Kulak and Steve Grant will present on the Hartford pilot program at AFCC's Fifth International Congress on Parent Education and Access Programs, November 10-12, 2002 in Tucson, AZ. For more information on the Congress go to <http://afccnet.org/docs/conferences.htm>*

## Connecticut Intake Assessment Project Awarded to AFCC

AFCC has been awarded a contract with the Judicial Branch of Connecticut to develop an intake assessment protocol for families referred to Family Services for dispute resolution services. The protocol is designed to help address the case management challenges caused by growing caseloads and the increasing number of intractable disputes for court services agencies. A streamlined intake assessment tool, facilitating early and in-depth identification of parenting conflicts, will assist Family Relations Counselors in achieving a better match between the needs of families and the level of intervention and services provided.

The project team consists of AFCC members Robin Deutsch, Ph.D., Boston, MA; Professor Andrew Shepard, Hofstra Law School; Professor Janet Johnston, San Jose State University; Dr. Geri Fuhrmann, Psy.D., University of Massachusetts Medical School; Linda Cavallero, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts Medical School; Ann Milne, ACSW, former AFCC Executive Director; and Peter Salem, Acting Executive Director of AFCC.

## Kids Count Club Thanks Donors

Continued from page 7

### Bronze

Lewis A. Bonney  
Aza Howard Butler  
Ned Price  
F. Dan Foley  
Cynthia Garwood  
Joan Hollett  
Elizabeth B. Johnson  
Judge & Mrs. Lawrence Kaplan  
Norberto Katz  
Pamela Krell  
Judy Meeh  
Ned Price  
William F. Rosa  
Patricia Ross  
Nancy Satenberg  
Robert Tompkins  
Anita Trubitt

### Contributors

Joan S. Anderson  
Kristy Bradish  
Victoria Coad  
Ellen M. Crain-Rostker  
Deborah Datz  
Karen M. Dorn  
George Ferrick  
John H. Hunt  
Donna F. Jewett  
Linda B. Johnson  
Jerald A. Kessler  
Anita K. Lampel  
Eileen H. McCarten  
Joan C. Pavlik  
Linda Rio  
Brian P. Seltzer  
Susan E. Speight  
Barbara Suskind



## Upcoming Events

### AFCC Florida Chapter Conference

October 25-26, 2002

Tampa Airport Marriott

Tampa, FL

[www.flafcc.org](http://www.flafcc.org) or email: [fieldston@aol.com](mailto:fieldston@aol.com)

### Fifth International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

November 7-9, 2002

Westward Look Resort

Tucson, AZ

[www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org)

### Fifth International Congress on Parent Education and Access Programs

November 10-12, 2002

Westward Look Resort

Tucson, AZ

[www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org)

### AFCC Arizona Chapter Conference

February 7-9, 2003

Hilton Sedona Resort and Spa

Sedona, AZ

Contact: [AnnetteAFCC@yahoo.com](mailto:AnnetteAFCC@yahoo.com)

### AFCC 40th Annual Conference

May 28-31, 2003

Westin Ottawa

Ottawa, ON, Canada

[www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org)

### AFCC 41st Annual Conference

May 12-15, 2004

Adam's Mark Hotel

San Antonio, TX

## Access Programs

Continued from page 1

barriers to implementation which exist in many courts. Presenters include Professor Barbara A. Babb, Center for Families, Children and the Courts, Baltimore, Maryland; Irwin N. Sandler, Ph.D., Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona; JoAnne Pedro-Carroll, Ph.D., Children's Institute, University of Rochester, New York; and Professor Andrew Shepard, moderator, co-founder of New York's P.E.A.C.E. Program, Hempstead, New York.

Sunday afternoon will offer participants the opportunity to choose from two half-day institutes for a more intensive training experience. Institutes include:

- **Programs for Children from High Conflict Families**  
Janet R. Johnston, Ph.D., Co-author, *In the Name of the Child*, San Jose, CA  
Bettina Gentner, LCSW, Principal Trainer, Protecting Children from Conflict, Menlo Park, CA
- **Integrating Research into Parent Education Programs**  
Arnold Swartz, LCSW, Parenting After Divorce, Denver, CO  
Sue Waters, M.A., Parenting After Divorce, Denver, CO
- **Adult Education Skills and Theory**  
Frank R. Williams, Ph.D., Director of Education and Training, Family Counseling Agency, Tucson, AZ
- **Programs for Children of Divorce**  
Charlene Anaya, J.D., Program Specialist, Kids First, Honolulu, HI  
Susanna Marshland, LCSW, Kids Turn, San Francisco, CA

Twenty Congress workshops will cover a wide range of topics, including domestic violence sensitivity, developmentally appropriate parenting plans, teaching with props, metaphors and storytelling, program evaluation for service providers and Internet parenting classes.

For a conference brochure or additional information, please check the AFCC website conferences page at <http://afccnet.org/docs/conferences.htm> or contact the AFCC administrative office at (608) 664-3750.



## Custody Evaluation Symposium

Continued from page 1

- Assessing the Data and Writing the Report

**Advanced Applications workshops** are designed for experienced practitioners and address a variety of challenges faced by professionals working with families in conflict. Workshops include:

- Domestic Violence: True or False?
- Assessing Drug and Alcohol Abuse in Child Custody Evaluations
- Advanced Issues in Sexual Abuse Cases
- Children Exposed to Domestic Violence

**Professional Practice workshops** provide a forum for all participants to address practical and ethical concerns inherent in practice of custody evaluations. Workshops include:

- Evaluating Appointment Orders

- Ethical Decision Making
- Making Evaluations More Efficient and Cost-Effective
- Child-Based vs. Forensic Evaluations

California custody evaluators may earn up to 20 hours of credit toward the 2002 requirement of California Rule of Court 1257.4. Institutes, plenaries and workshops will be designed to cover the specific learning objectives required in the rule. A special supplemental session will be held on November 9, 1:00pm-4:00pm following the Symposium. California's annual domestic violence update requirements (California Rule of Court 1257.7) may be fulfilled by attending Pre-Symposium Institute #4, Custody Evaluations and Domestic Violence.

For a conference brochure or additional information, please check the AFCC website conferences page at <http://afccnet.org/docs/conferences.htm> or contact the AFCC administrative office at (608) 664-3750.



# **AFCC's 40th Anniversary Conference**

## **Change and Challenge**

*40 Years of  
Evolution in  
Families, Courts  
and Communities*

**Save the Dates!**

**May 28-31, 2003**

**Westin Ottawa**

**Ottawa, Ontario**

