AFCC 39th Annual Conference: Big Island, Big Event

The Big Island of Hawaii will provide a spectacular setting for the 39th Annual AFCC Conference, June 5-8, 2002 at the Hilton Waikoloa Village. The conference theme is Looking Over the Rim: New Horizons for Families, Courts and Communities and participants will be attending from Israel, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, Canada, the United States and other countries of the world.

If the opportunity to visit one of the most beautiful spots on earth is not enough to have you packing your bags, consider the exciting line up of more than fifty plenary sessions, workshops and pre-conference institutes.

The conference will open Wednesday evening, June 5, with Dr. Joan Kelly and Dr. Robert Emery taking a look at “Resiliency in Children of Divorce.” Thursday’s plenary session will be a round table discussion revisiting the celebrated grandparent visitation case Troxel v. Granville. The session will feature Catherine Smith, J.D., who argued the case before the United States Supreme Court. Friday’s plenary will feature experts in family law reform looking at what the future brings for family courts and professionals. Participants will include Constance Ahrons, Ph.D., author, The Good Divorce; Susan M. Chandler, Ph.D., Director of the Hawaii Department of Human Services; William Howe, J.D., Co-chair of Oregon’s Statewide Family Law Advisory Committee; Justice Stephen O’Ryan, Family Court of Australia and Andrew Schepard, J.D., Professor of Law at Hofstra Law School and editor of the Family Court Review.

More than 40 workshops highlight the conference program:

- Reconnecting Children with Absent Parents
- High Conflict, Low Budgets: Doing More with Less
- Long Distance Parenting: Policy and Technology Issues
- Ohana Conferencing
- Gender, Custody and Communication

The AFCC Judicial Officers Interest Group is pleased to sponsor its Annual Judicial Officers Forum, where judicial officers have the opportunity to attend a workshop followed by networking with colleagues from around the world. This year’s topic will be The Art and Science of Judgment Writing.

In addition to an outstanding program, AFCC will offer ample opportunities for networking and enjoying the wonderful Hilton Waikoloa Village.

AFCC’s Silent Auction takes place Friday, June 7. The bidding will be open from 5:00pm-7:00pm. Auction items will include a round of golf for two at one of Waikoloa’s championship courses, private tennis lessons, snorkel cruise and much more. Auction proceeds benefit the AFCC Kids Count Club to fund the AFCC Youth Forum, conference scholarships and the AFCC Kids Count Club Award. All conference registrants will be entered into a drawing for a Sunset Cruise for two, courtesy of Red Sail Sports. The winning name will be drawn at the AFCC Silent Auction. Be sure to attend because you must be present to win!

AFCC has negotiated a very favorable guest room rate of $150 per night, single or double room, for conference registrants at the Hilton Waikoloa. For those interested in spending additional time sightseeing, the AFCC group rate is available from May 30-June 13, 2002 on a space available basis. Make your reservations early by calling the Hilton at 1-800 HILTONS (800-445-8667) or (808) 886-1234. Be sure to mention AFCC to assure the $150 group rate.

AFCC is also planning a post-conference trip to Australia and New Zealand. For more information, please see pages 6-7 or contact Burkhalter Travel at (800) 556-9286 or (608) 833-6968, ext. 251 or visit the conference page of the AFCC website at afcc@afccnet.org.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

In February the AFCC Board of Directors met in New York City to conduct strategic planning. As the meetings progressed and we discussed the future goals and directions of AFCC, several themes were discussed, the most notable of which was the expansion of what was once labeled “domestic relations” law. It has become increasingly obvious, as one of my colleagues recently commented, “as professionals working in the area of family law, we now work with clients from womb to tomb.”

We have seen cases involving a surrogate mother, in vitro fertilization, artificial insemination, unmarried parents or adoptions from within or outside the country. We work with families dealing with the special challenges associated with children being raised by two mothers or fathers as the result of one parent changing his or her gender. As professionals, we try to ameliorate the effects of high conflict divorce or separations upon children and their parents and we try to resolve disputes between teenagers and their parents or other authority figures which manifest themselves in delinquency or unruly cases. We attempt to resolve conflicts between parents resulting from one parent making a move to a location away from the other parent. Finally, many of us are now entering the realm of assisting our clients in making decisions for elderly parents or other relatives and in resolving disputes between adult children who have differing opinions about what is best for mom or dad. All of these cases present new and different challenges to a family and to the professionals working with family members.

Through this, our jobs have become more complex, more demanding and more time consuming. We find we need better education and more professional support. As the board completed its strategic planning, it became apparent that we see a larger role for AFCC in providing continuing education and training for professionals in the expanding field of family law both through AFCC’s conferences and also through instructional opportunities at a local level. As the board continues its strategic planning process and searches for ways to assist you as practitioners, we invite your comments and concerns about these new directions.

AFCC’s upcoming 39th Annual Conference, Looking Over the Rim: New Horizons for Families, Courts and Communities, emphasizes many of the changes in family law noted during the board’s strategic planning process. We hope that you will join us from June 5-8, 2002, at the Hilton Waikoloa Resort on the Big Island of Hawaii and be a part of what will be an extraordinary opportunity to learn about the new and different issues that confront all of us on a daily basis.
CONVERSATION CORNER

Dr. Robert Emery

Robert E. Emery, Ph.D., from Charlottesville, Virginia is a longstanding AFCC member and an internationally recognized researcher, teacher, author and psychologist. Dr. Emery is Professor of Psychology at the University of Virginia, Director of the Psychology Department’s Clinical Training Program, Director of the Center for Children, Family and the Law and a practicing clinical psychologist.

Dr. Emery has authored and co-authored five books including Marriage, Divorce and Children’s Adjustment and Renegotiating Family Relationships, which has been translated into Italian. He has served as a consultant to many organizations and agencies including the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Charlottesville Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court and most recently the forthcoming Sesame Street publication, Big Bird Learns About Divorce.

Dr. Emery was born in Athol, Massachusetts and earned his B.A. at Brown University and his M.A. and Ph.D. at State University of New York at Stony Brook. He is married to Kimberly, a lawyer, and is the father to five children between 16 months and 19 years of age. Dr. Emery’s forthcoming book is tentatively titled The Truth About Children and Divorce and is scheduled to be released by Viking Penguin in 2003. Dr. Emery and Dr. Joan Kelly will present the opening session at AFCC’s 39th Annual Conference, June 5-8, 2002 on the Big Island of Hawaii.

AFCC: Have the findings themselves changed?

RE: In my view the findings have not changed, however, I have developed a greater appreciation for some of the subtleties. There remains no question that the overwhelming weight of literature tells us that most children are resilient in coping with the many stresses they encounter as the result of divorce. But I have gained a greater appreciation for the fact that even successful coping extracts some costs for children. This includes the more subtle emotional costs that children incur. I would label it pain rather than pathology.

AFCC: How can parents identify and address the pain their children experience?

RE: It can be very difficult for a parent or even a clinician to identify a child’s pain. In fact, it is hard for children to identify the pain. Often they are unable to use words to describe painful thoughts and feelings until they’ve grown older and have the intellectual, verbal and emotional intelligence to do so. Even the well-functioning children look back and report emotional struggles, but most children do not have problems outside of the normal realm of childhood problems. Children will have pain, but that is not necessarily bad. If someone dies, we want to allow our children to grieve. We need to recognize and appreciate and allow their grief over the loss of their parents’ marriage. As children get older they may become sad in a more abstract sense. They are not crying hysterically, but simply wishing that things could be different. One of the best ways to identify those problems is when young adults look back and talk about the things that have made them unhappy.

AFCC: Is there anything parents can do to ease their children’s pain?

RE: The answer may be that there is not much parents can do. But perhaps it’s okay to allow a child to have pain and to be there to help because the parents are a part of why the child is hurting. That doesn’t mean there are not things parents can do to help their children. The research shows over and over that the behavior of parents after they separate is most important. It is clear that the best situation for children is a happy two-parent family but if that option is closed out it isn’t like the story is over.

AFCC: How can parents best help their children adjust?

RE: There are four key factors that seem to be associated with positive post-separation adjustment. First, that the children have a good relationship—one with love, discipline and structure—with at least one parent. Second, that there be a consistent relationship with the other parent. Third, that there is a cooperative relationship between the parents and that they are able to keep their children out of the middle of conflict. And fourth, some degree of economic stability. I think that the most positive change comes when both parents realize that they are still parents after they separate.

AFCC: We put significant emphasis on the children, but what about the impact of separation and divorce on their parents?

RE: Based on clinical experience I think that divorce is sometimes harder on parents than it is on kids. I think we make a big mistake if we simply tell parents to get along without recognizing, appreciating and validating their legitimate hurt and anger. But they do need to get along. I’ve done a lot of divorce mediation over the years and one of the huge tasks of mediation is to get parents to get beyond their own understandable and painful emotion to focus on the children’s needs.

AFCC: How do you accomplish that?

RE: I try to help parents understand that they need to separate their roles as partners, and the associated feelings, from their ongoing role as parents. Parents may have a lot of anger, but I think that anger is often a surface emotion and we need to look at the hurt, grief and fear beneath the surface. Anger is real, but emotional anger can often block co-parenting. In my 12-year study of litigating parents who were randomly assigned to mediation, we found that parents who mediated had much better co-parenting experiences. The non-residential parents were involved in more areas of their children’s lives and they spent much more time with their children than their counterparts in the comparison group.

AFCC: Given the ongoing debate about the impact of divorce on children, the tentative title for your forthcoming book, The Truth About Children and Divorce, seems very bold. Is there really a “truth” about children and divorce?

RE: I can tell you that the truth is much more than a sound bite and it is unfortunate that very often our work is reduced to just that. It is important that we are aware of the forest and the trees, and we can’t seem to do that. I know, that’s a sound bite too. What I mean is that we need to recognize that most children are resilient and that is the forest. That statement is supported by the research. At the same time, we need to recognize the children and the pain that they experience. They are the trees and that type of information has been difficult to document using empirical methods but it is very real.
AFCC Chapter Update

AFCC New Jersey Chapter is Chartered

The New Jersey Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts was presented its Chapter Charter at AFCC’s Northeast Regional Conference, March 18, 2002 at the New Yorker Hotel.

New Jersey becomes the fourth AFCC Chapter along with Arizona, California and Massachusetts. Provisional Chapters working toward their charters are in place in Florida and Texas.

The New Jersey Chapter was formed in 1998 and granted provisional status in 1999. The chapter now has 55 members. The chapter has developed a Bill of Rights for Children in Dissolution Actions and members have made presentations on behalf of New Jersey’s Institute for Continuing Legal Education. In November, the chapter will be co-sponsoring the third annual conference on “Psychologists and Lawyers Working Together.”

New Jersey Chapter President Dr. Ronald Silikovitz said, “With enthusiasm, gratitude, and anticipation, we hope that the work of our members may make a real difference in helping families in New Jersey resolve differences amicably.”

For further information regarding the New Jersey chapter please contact Dr. Silikovitz at (973) 736-2424.

California Chapter Annual Conference: Crossroads for Courts, Professions and Families

by Leslie Ellen Shear, J.D., Encino, CA

AFCC California Chapter members gathered February 8-10, 2002 at the Lodge at Sonoma in the heart of the Northern California wine country for their annual chapter conference. The conference theme was Crossroads: In the Courts, Our Professions and Our Families. Outgoing President Bobby Vincent and incoming President Don Eisenberg served as masters of ceremonies for the events.

Friday’s half-day pre-conference institutes on domestic violence, substance abuse and alienation attracted large audiences. Dr. Michael Fraga presented a workshop which explored the tensions between the law’s friendly parent doctrine and its policy of protecting children from domestic violence. The panel members included Dr. David Smith, Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic; Millicent Buxton, addiction counselor; Jeanne T. Ames, mediator-special master-conсulant, former San Francisco Family Court Services director; Nordin F. Blacker, family lawyer; and Marjorie A. Slabach, family law commissioner. The presenters discussed how addictions impact families. Physician Graeme Hanson and Bay area psychologists Nancy Oleson, Majorie Walters, Steve Friedlander and Margaret Lee presented case studies in alienation.

Saturday morning’s opening plenary on Attachment and Trauma featured faculty from the University of San Francisco. John Siskorski, M.D. lectured on the neurobiology of attachment and trauma. Alicia Lieberman, Ph.D. discussed the impact of domestic violence on children’s attachments. Patricia J. Van Horn, J.D., Ph.D. explored the implications for child custody and visitation of domestic violence and attachment.

Saturday workshops addressed interventions for high-conflict families, applying a family conferencing model developed in dependency court to family court, interdisciplinary collaboration in supervised visitation for high conflict families and implementation of California’s new rule of court governing education, experience and training for child custody evaluators.

Sunday began with a legal update by attorney Garrett C. Dailey, publisher of Attorney’s Briefcase. Commissioner Bobby Vincent reported on events in California’s Judicial Council affecting family courts. Pauline Tesler, author of the new American Bar Association book on collaborative law, introduced conference goers to this new paradigm for the divorce process. Physician Linda Hawes Clever presented a closing plenary entitled, “Thruving, Not Just Surviving.” Clever is president of “Renew,” an organization designed to help people who are committed to their professions, their families and the pursuit of excellence maintain their balance.

The California Chapter conference was planned by AFCC-CAL members Susan King, Larry Lehner and Jeanne T. Ames, with the assistance of conference administrator Paula Jackson. Next year the California Chapter’s annual conference will return to the Pasadena Doubletree Hotel in February 2003, followed by a return to the Lodge at Sonoma in 2004.

AFCC Massachusetts Chapter Conference

Giving Voice to Children in the Court is the theme of the AFCC Massachusetts Chapter Conference scheduled for May 3, 2002 at the Northeastern University Law School in Boston, MA.

The conference will feature Vivienne Roseby, Ph.D., co-author with Janet Johnston of the widely acclaimed book In the Name of the Child. Dr. Roseby will speak on “Warring Parents: Compromising the Development of Their Children.” Members of the respondent panel include David Doolittle, Psy.D., Hon. Gail Pearlman and Gary O. Todd, J.D. Robin Deutsch, Ph.D. will serve as the moderator. For further information about the 2002 AFCC Massachusetts Chapter Conference please email arliner@aol.com.

Children’s Issues Highlighted at Arizona Chapter Conference

by Fred Mitchell, Ph.D., Tucson, AZ

AFCC Arizona Chapter held its Annual Conference in Sedona, AZ, February 8-10, 2002. The conference was entitled, Developing a Child-Centered Approach to Custody Disputes and featured author, researcher and teacher, Donald T. Saposnek.

Dr. Saposnek opened the conference on Friday with a stimulating presentation on the importance of child temperament variables in crafting parenting plans and optimizing outcomes for children in family law cases. On Saturday, he expanded on his opening remarks by defining the important interactions between child-specific variables and attachment. As a bonus, Dr. Saposnek held a special topic workshop on special needs children and how courts and court-connected social services can help parents to address their unique concerns.

Several other offerings at the conference highlighted the sometimes missing voice of children in family courts, including a riveting presentation on the damage experienced by children who witness domestic violence, a workshop on therapeutic interventions, novel approaches to conciliation counseling and new methods for interviewing child victims of abuse and molestation.

The Arizona Chapter was honored by the presence of International AFCC President, Magistrate Denise McColley, former AFCC President Phil Bushard and AFCC Board Member Michele MacFarlane. Magistrate McColley spoke at Saturday’s luncheon on the important work of the AFCC Resource Development Campaign. Spurred by her comments, the Arizona Chapter voted unanimously to donate $500 to the Kids Count Club.

The conference closed with an Arizona Chapter tradition: A panel of expert stakeholders in the family law arena discussing the critical role of the family court in a changing world. This year’s panel Continued on page 9
AFCC Members Travel to Cuba

by Hon. Arline S. Rotman (ret.), AFCC
Past President, Boston, MA

What excitement! A group of intrepid travelers met at Logan Airport in the wee hours of the morning of November 5, 2001 ready for our Cuban adventure. A Cuban American judge had organized a judicial exchange with members of the Cuban legal community interested in family law. We traveled via Jamaica (since direct flights to Cuba are not allowed) on a permit issued by the Treasury Department.

Arriving in Havana only hours before the hurricane, we transferred directly to the famous Hotel Nacional. Our group included AFCC members Hon. Sean Dunphy, Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Probate and Family Court and Linda Cavallero, Ph.D., Director of the Worcester Family Court Clinic at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center. Guide books in hand, we ignored the hurricane winds for as long as we could and set out to explore the old city of Havana. Looking at the 1950’s vintage automobiles we felt as if we were in a time warp. Unable to purchase new cars, the Cubans maintain and rebuild the pre-revolution cars which remain on the island. We were struck by the beauty of the architecture much of which is undergoing major restoration. Cuba is clearly planning to attract an increased number of tourists since many buildings are being rehabilitated as hostels or small hotels. We heard the wonderful sound of Cuban music everywhere.

We were evicted from the room in which we were scheduled to have our first meeting and later learned that it was being used by the Vice President of China. When word got out that Castro was coming through the lobby we crowded together and waited patiently for a glimpse of the legendary figure. I must admit that his presence was electrifying.

In talking with Cubans, we came away believing that Castro continues to have general support. The Cubans we met seem to have separated Americans, whom they like, from the United States, which they do not. The Museum of the Revolution sets out the Cuban triumph over an American Imperialist policy that served only the needs of the American people. Our current policy toward Cuba does not seem to weaken support for Castro, but does impact severely on the people of Cuba. The shortage of food, medicine and decent housing is deplorable.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Cuban economy suffered a serious decline. The government has since experimented with limited forms of private enterprise. For example, people can sell their own art and craft products but cannot employ anyone other than a family member to sell their wares. They pay a tax to the government for whatever they sell. Until recently, all restaurants were owned by the government. There are now small private restaurants with limited seating, but these restaurants are not allowed to sell meat because it is in short supply. A U.S. dollar economy has developed for tourists only. Hotels and stores available to tourists deal in dollars only. People working in the tourist industry who receive tips in dollars, or Cubans with families in America who send them money, are better off than those whose wages are paid in Cuban pesos.

Among health care providers it is generally felt that the Cuban system of health care delivery is exemplary. Unfortunately they suffer from a severe shortage of drugs. Linda Cavallero and her husband donated a large quantity of medications to a psychiatric hospital. Others in the group brought aspirin, Tylenol and other common over-the-counter medicines which are not otherwise generally available in Cuba.

Cuban children have an extremely high literacy rate since all children go to government run schools. Free milk is available until children reach the age of seven. After that, the shortage of food must be as difficult for them as it is for others. One woman told us that she and her family had not had any meat for more than one year.

Housing presents more complex issues. Although everyone is entitled to housing, the chronic shortage of housing stock leaves many Cubans living in deplorable conditions. Substandard structures are divided and subdivided so that there is often a lack of privacy and personal space. Upon divorce, if separate suitable housing cannot be found for the parent without custody, the housing is further subdivided and everyone stays in place.

Although many of the problems that we face in our family court are similar to those in Socialist Cuba, the differences are striking. Since everyone is entitled to legal representation, they do not have the problem of unrepresented litigants. Law firms are organized by the government and have standardized predetermined charges depending upon the type of case. A lawyer’s remuneration has nothing to do with the amount of money that a litigant pays. We were told that compensation depends on the number and complexity of the cases. We visited a law firm which seemed to me to look much like a legal services office. Many of the problems which clog our court dockets are not problems for the Cubans since they are dealt with by Neighborhood Associations rather than the courts. These associations exist on every street and are the arbiters of neighborhood disagreements. If a child is misbehaving, the committee will talk to the family and attempt to resolve the dispute. Custody is almost always given to the mother unless she is unfit. Since there is no private property, there is no need for property division upon divorce.

International Congress on Family Law Travels to Cuba

The Association of the Bar of the City of New York (ABCNY) is sponsoring a United States delegation to the XII International Conference on Family Law in Havana, Cuba September 22-27, 2002. The conference is entitled, Family Rights and the Challenges of the New Millennium. It will provide an opportunity for judges, lawyers, academic and mental health professionals to exchange ideas about challenging family law issues.

The ABCNY will organize the U.S. Delegation, coordinate panel presentations and serve as liaison for travel arrangements. The U.S. Delegation will depart from New York City. The cost of the trip is expected to be approximately $2,500 and includes air, hotel, ground transportation and a cocktail reception. Registration fee for the Congress is additional.

The ABCNY organizing committee is seeking expressions of interest in attending the Congress. If you are interested in additional information, please contact:

Harold A. Mayerson, Esq.
Chair, Subcommittee on XII International Congress Committee on Matrimonial Law
Association of the Bar of the City of New York
P: (212) 685-7474
F: (212) 685-1176
Email: hmayerson@nynatlaw.com

Additional Thanks to Canadian Judges

In the last AFCC Newsletter we noted that the Canadian Judicial Council has authorized funding for twenty Federal Judges to attend AFCC’s 39th Annual Conference, June 5-8, 2002 in Hawaii and thanked the Hon. Madam Justice Heather Smith, Judicial Council Executive Director Jeanne Thomas and AFCC members Hon. George Czutrin and Hon. Emile Kruziek for their role in facilitating this support. We add our thanks now to Justices Mary Noonan, Ross Goodwin and Raymond Guerette for their assistance.
Join AFCC on this fabulous 10-day trip to the North and South Islands of New Zealand and the Great Barrier Reef of Australia. New Zealand Family Court Chief Justice Patrick Mahony and Australia Family Court Chief Justice Alastair Nicholson will be serving as local hosts in their respective countries.

The tour will depart Saturday evening June 8, 2002 following the conclusion of the AFCC Annual Conference on the Big Island of Hawaii and conclude June 18, 2002 in Cairns, Australia, the site of the world famous Great Barrier Reef. Optional tour extensions to Sydney, Ayres Rock and other locations may be added to the tour package. The tour package price of $2,995 includes:

- Roundtrip airfare from Honolulu to Auckland, Auckland to Queenstown, Queenstown to Christchurch, Christchurch to Cairns and Cairns to Honolulu
- All hotel accommodations in Auckland, Queenstown, Christchurch and at the Great Barrier Reef conference site
- Daily Breakfasts
- Dinner in Auckland, Christchurch, Queenstown and Cairns
- City tour of Auckland including admission to the Auckland Skytower
- New Zealand South Island Milford Sound Day Cruise, including lunch
- City tour of Christchurch including Tram Pass
- Full day Great Barrier Reef Ocean Spirit Cruise, including lunch
- All airport, hotel and sightseeing transfers
- Local English speaking greeters in New Zealand and Australia, driver/guide in New Zealand and Australia.
- Taxes and gratuities on included items.

Items not included: AFCC/Australia Symposium-separate fee (see below), items of a personal nature (passport/visa, phone calls, etc.), airport departure taxes, meals other than listed above, sightseeing other than listed above.

For the full tour brochure and to sign up for the travel package contact Burkhalter Travel Group Department, (608) 833-6968 or (800) 556-9286 ext. 251, 255, 254, or 250 or go to the AFCC website at www.afccnet.org and click on conferences.

AFCC Goes Down Under
Post-Conference Tour to New Zealand and Australia • June 8-18, 2002

AFCC/Australia Symposium
June 15-16, 2002
Hon. Alastair Nicholson, Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia, is inviting all tour participants to join members of the Australia Family Court Association June 15-16 in Cairns at the Marriott Palm Cove for two days of professional dialogue, networking and hospitality. A separate conference registration fee of $165 per person will include lunch on Saturday and Sunday, dinner Saturday night, Sunday evening cocktail party and barbeque, morning and afternoon breaks and conference materials. A spouse/guest registration of $90 includes all social events.

AFCC NEWSLETTER • WINTER 2002
A FCC is pleased to announce plans for the post-conference trip to New Zealand and Australia. An enormous amount of interest has been expressed. The trip will depart Honolulu on June 8, 2002, the final day of the AFCC 39th Annual Conference and return from Australia on June 18. The itinerary for this trip will keep even the most active travelers busy.

**Saturday, June 8, 2002:** Depart Honolulu by air and cross the International Dateline en route to Auckland, New Zealand.

**Monday, June 10, 2002:** Arrive New Zealand. You'll be met by a representative of Southern World New Zealand who will introduce you to your driver. Depart on a sightseeing tour of Auckland city including the Auckland War Museum, where there is one of the best Maori Artifact collections in the South Pacific, and Auckland's Skytower for views of the city and harbor before checking into your hotel. This evening enjoy dinner at the Harbourside Restaurant located on Auckland’s waterfront. Overnight stay at The Heritage Hotel, Auckland.

**Tuesday, June 11, 2002:** Auckland-Queenstown. Following breakfast at the hotel, your time is free until you are transferred to Auckland airport for your flight to Queenstown. Nestled on the shores of Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown is a year-round alpine resort that enjoys a magnificent setting amid steep mountain ranges and pockets of native bush with the jagged peaks of the Remarkables Range rising from the lake. The town is compact enough to travel around on foot. On arrival in Queenstown you will be met by a Southern World representative who will assist you with any optional sightseeing you would like to schedule. You will then be transferred to your hotel. This evening, a delightful dinner at The Skyline Restaurant, just a few minutes from your hotel. Overnight in lake view rooms at The Heritage Hotel, Queenstown.

**Wednesday, June 12, 2002:** Milford Day Tour. After breakfast, leave Queenstown and skirt Lake Wakatipu until you arrive at the township of Five Rivers. Once you reach the highest point in the hills, you'll see magnificent views of the mountains of Fjordland to the north, south and west. After a few miles the wide panorama of Lake Te Anau comes into view. On your journey you will see a magnificent beech forest, sheer rock faces, and towering, rugged mountains, until the road comes out into the open at Milford Sound. Formed thousands of years ago during the ice ages, Milford Sound is the northernmost fjord in Fjordland National Park and is, without doubt, the most dramatic. Enjoy a nature cruise on the fjord and a picnic lunch before returning to Queenstown. Weather permitting, you might see the northern lights above the mountains, until the road comes out into the open at Milford Sound. Formed thousands of years ago during the ice ages, Milford Sound is the northernmost fjord in Fjordland National Park and is, without doubt, the most dramatic. Enjoy a nature cruise on the fjord and a picnic lunch before returning to Queenstown. Weather permitting, you might see the northern lights above the mountains.

**Thursday, June 13, 2002:** Queenstown-Christchurch. After breakfast you will have some time to enjoy on your own until you transfer to the airport for your flight to Christchurch. On arrival, you will be met by your driver who will transfer you to your hotel. Depending on flight times, a city tour will be done upon arrival or the following morning. Your tour includes the Arts Centre, Canterbury Museum, a visit to the Mona Vale Gardens, one of Christchurch’s most beautiful gardens. Tonight, a delightful dinner at the award-winning Annie’s Wine Bar & Restaurant, specializing in Canterbury and New Zealand boutique wines (wine and beverages at own expense). Following dinner, return to your hotel by coach. Overnight in deluxe rooms at Rydges Hotel, Christchurch.

**Friday, June 14, 2002:** Christchurch-Cairns. After your breakfast, transfer to the airport where Southern World New Zealand will provide assistance for your check-in procedures. Upon arrival in Cairns and following the completion of your customs formalities, you will be met by a representative from Southern World Australia and transferred by private coach from the International airport to your hotel in Palm Cove. Cairns, Queensland’s most northerly city, has tree-lined streets, excellent shopping and good restaurants. The city is surrounded by lush sub-tropical rainforests, and to the north and south are miles of white sandy beaches and turquoise oceans filled with technicolour fish. Beyond Cairns there are excellent coastal resorts such as Mission Beach, Palm Cove and Port Douglas, and Daintree Rainforest hideaways like Silky Oaks. Overnight in garden view rooms at Courtyard by Marriott Palm Cove.

**Saturday, June 15, 2002:** Start the day with breakfast at your hotel, then your choice of a two-day AFCC/Australia Symposium (additional cost of $165 per person) or a full day at leisure. Overnight in garden view rooms at Courtyard by Marriott.

**Sunday, June 16, 2002:** Breakfast at your hotel, then day two of AFCC/Australia Symposium or second full day at leisure. Overnight in garden view rooms at Courtyard by Marriott.

**Monday, June 17, 2002:** Cruise of Michaelmas Cay and the Great Barrier Reef. Breakfast at your hotel, followed by an Ocean Spirit Michaelmas Cay Cruise. Transfer from your hotel to Cairns Martin Marina to board your catamaran “Ocean Spirit” to Michaelmas Cay at the edge of the outer barrier reef. Spend a leisurely day on the Cay, take a ride in the semi-submersible or try snorkeling in the clear waters which reveal the magic of tropical waters and their inhabitants. Lunch is provided onboard the vessel. Return to Cairns and transfer to your hotel late this afternoon. Dinner tonight at your hotel. Overnight in garden view rooms at Courtyard by Marriott.

**Tuesday, June 18, 2002:** Transfer by private coach from your hotel to Cairns International Airport where you will board your flight home. A representative from Southern World Australia will assist with departure formalities.

Tour cost per person is $2,995 double, (single supplement $291). Ask about extensions to Ayers Rock (three nights at $998 per person double, $1,274 single) and Sydney (three nights at $660 per person double, $891 single).

**ICCFR Conference in Sydney**

The International Commission on Couple and Family Relationships will hold its annual conference June 17-20, 2002 at the All Seasons Premier Menzies Hotel in Sydney, Australia. The conference theme is *Distance, Diversity, Dislocation: Families Facing Globalization.*

The ICCFR conference follows the AFCC Annual Conference (June 5-8), and the AFCC post-conference trip to New Zealand and Australia and the AFCC/Australia Family Court Association Symposium in Cairns on June 15-16.

For additional information about the ICCFR conference please contact:

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AFCC New York Conference: Take Two

AFCC’s Northeast Regional Conference, rescheduled due to the tragic events of September 11, 2001, was held on March 18, 2002. More than 300 participants turned out for the Symposium on High Conflict Families and the Courts, at the New York Hotel in Manhattan.

The Symposium Opening Session was a roundtable discussion on Overnights and the Best Interest of Infants and Young Children, one of the hottest debates in the field today. Participants included Dr. Albert Solnit, co-author of the classic book, In the Best Interests of the Child; Sonja Goldstein, J.D.; Toby Klienman, J.D.; Robin Deutsch, Ph.D. and moderator Robert Z. Dobrish, J.D.

A blue ribbon faculty explored the role of the judiciary in the development of effective court-related services for families in the Judicial Leadership Institute, sponsored by the New York Office of Court Administration. The full-day institute was designed for judicial officers who have an interest in new trends in the structure of the courts, case management techniques and the growing role of judges in developing and implementing court-annexed and community based programs.

Conference workshops included:
- Assessing and Addressing Allegations of Sexual Abuse
- Considerations for Implementing a Collaborative Family Law Practice
- Working with Parents in High Conflict Families: The Impact on the Professional
- The Alienated Child Within an Alienating Family System
- Domestic Violence, High Conflict Families and the Courts
- Conducting Effective Cross-Examination and Expert Testimony

AFCC thanks all of the participants, presenters and others who enabled the rescheduled conference to become a reality. Special thanks to AFCC members and New York Conference co-chairs Andrew Schepard and Elayne Greenberg for their extraordinary efforts and hard work. AFCC also thanks Dean David Yellen and Vice Dean Marshall Tracht of Hofstra University School of Law, Lance Elder and Robyn Schneider of Education & Assistance Corporation, Inc. and Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann and Joyce Funda of the New York Office of Court Administration. Without the support of these co-sponsoring organizations the conference could not have been rescheduled.

Kids Count Club Update

AFCC Chapters Contribute to Kids Count Club

AFCC chapters in Arizona, California, Florida, Massachusetts and New Jersey have demonstrated their generosity by making contributions to the 2001-02 AFCC Kids Count Club Annual Campaign. AFCC’s Kids Count Club would also like to send a special thanks to major contributors William L. Carpenter, the Suzie S. Thorn Family Foundation and AFCC Past President Arline Rotman for their continued support.

AFCC would like to thank all of those who have contributed to the success of this year's annual campaign.

Diamond ($1,000-$4999)
William Carpenter
Hon. Arline S. Rotman (ret.)
Suzie S. Thorn Family Foundation

Platinum ($500-$999)
AFCC Arizona Chapter
AFCC California Chapter
AFCC Florida Chapter
AFCC Massachusetts Chapter

Gold ($250-$499)
Elayne Greenberg
Mary Ferriter
Denise McColley
Arnold Shienvold

Silver ($100-$249)
AFCC New Jersey Chapter
Richard Altman
Phil Bushard
Linda Cavallero
Christine Coates
Hon. George Czutrin
Doneldon Dennis
Robin Deutsch
Lesley Hunter
Phyllis Kenny
Michele MacFarlane
Ann Milne
Fred Mitchell

Bronze ($50-$99)
Susan Raja
Ida Rotman
Peter Salem
Richard and Greta Salem
Nancy Satenberg
Andrew Schepard
Leslie Abbott Smith
Robert Smith
Philip Stahl
Hon. Hugh Starnes
Hon. Betty Vitousek (ret.)

Contributors
Joan Anderson
Victoria Coad
Ellen Craine-Rosker
Deborah Datz
George Ferrick
John Hunt
Lisa Johnson
Anita Lampel
Eileen McCarten
Joan Pavlik
Linda Rio
Susan Speight
Barbara Suskind
Client Management For Lawyers: Do You Have To Become Your Clients’ Therapist?

by Sanford M. Portnoy, Ph.D., Author, The Family Lawyer’s Guide to Building Successful Client Relationships, Waban, MA

One of the challenges many family lawyers face is dealing with highly emotional clients. Lawyers frequently resist the notion of managing the emotionality of their clients with responses such as “I can’t be a therapist to my clients.” This is a very reasonable objection. Typically, lawyers do not have the time nor the years of clinical training to work with clients on emotional issues.

But sometimes a little knowledge actually is a good thing. Through training, reading and case consultation, lawyers can learn about client baggage that will likely get in the way and learn how to minimize its effects. An understanding of the emotional issues will then facilitate the legal work.

Information that can be helpful to lawyers falls into a few categories. First is some knowledge about what’s normal in a client’s reactions (versus what should be of concern.) Knowing a little about the emotional stages of divorce is a solid beginning. Understanding how clients’ feelings and reactions interact with the legal process is also important. These interactions often occur at important junctures such as the issuance of temporary orders. It is at this time that the narcissistic injury of having strangers decide what to do with the children and property surfaces rage in the client. This may also happen at an initial four-party meeting when seeing the spouse leaves the client unable to participate.

Knowing how to structure the working relationship according to client type goes a long way toward forestalling emotional train wrecks. For instance, whether the lawyer sits behind the desk or in a more open seating arrangement in client meetings helps to define the relationship. (Hint: The more problematic a client seems likely to be, the more structure you need.) The way in which office staff interacts with the client can similarly be part of a client management strategy. The wording of questions can invite open-ended responses or lead the client toward contained answers that keep the conversation goal-directed. In these simple ways, lawyers can build client relationships that are focused and less tempestuous.

Most divorces where there is conflict around custody or assets will kick up at least some psychological complications. The lawyer who is prepared will have at his or her disposal a handful of strategies and techniques for keeping it contained. For example, there are a few guidelines for giving advice or information that will increase the client’s capacity to take in information. These include repeating the advice, over-clarifying, knowing when the client is in a position to hear clearly and providing advice and information in multiple forms.

Knowing how to set limits that keep the client from calling at all hours, how to gently confront untoward reactions, or what homework assignments will help keep the client focused are examples of having enough knowledge and techniques to help the client and yourself stay on task while saving wear and tear on their psyche and yours.

Providing all of the information necessary to integrate strategies such as those mentioned above into practice is beyond the scope of this article. However there are several ways in which lawyers can accomplish these objectives.

Using a consultant around the stuck client or impasses is one method. The consultant can offer the lawyer information about why the difficulty exists, suggestions for resolving it and help the lawyer to implement the recommendations. After a few consultations, most lawyers become more proficient themselves in applying this knowledge. Training can be very effective and including the entire office staff in training can produce a “state-of-the-art” office, capable of responding effectively to a wide-range of client demands and needs.

Aside from the benefits that such tools bring to lawyers, effectively addressing emotional issues contribute to making the legal divorce process less traumatic. While therapist intervention is helpful, it deals with crises after the fact and is often too far removed from the actual legal events. If legal professionals understand emotional issues and can help clients negotiate the process with that in mind, there are significant gains to be had for clients, their children and the entire system.

AFCC Chapter Update

Continued from page 4

was moderated by Arizona AFCC Board Member Hon. Fred Dardis and included Dean Patricia White, Arizona State University Law School; Professor Zelda Harris, Director, Domestic Violence Clinic; James E. Rogers, School of Law at the University of Arizona; Dr. Brian Yee, custody evaluator, Maricopa County; Hon. Carey Hyatt, Maricopa County Family Court; and Ms. Linda Rose Levin, a parent education specialist in Phoenix.

It’s never too soon to mark your calendar for next year. The Arizona Chapter Conference will be held February 7-9, 2003 at the popular Hilton Sedona Resort and Spa.

www.afcc-cal.org

California Chapter Debuts Website

A FCC’s California Chapter is up and running with a terrific new website. AFCC-CAL would like to invite all AFCC members to read the current issue of the California chapter newsletter at www.afcc-cal.org. The current issue features articles on special mastering, the evolution of the changed circumstances doctrine and move-away cases. The AFCC-CAL website will provide news of upcoming AFCC-CAL events and activities. You can also link to the California Chapter web site from the chapter page of AFCC’s web site at www.afccnet.org

Other AFCC Chapter websites are located at:

Arizona: www.azafcc.org
Florida: www.flaafcc.org
New Jersey: www.psychologyinfo.com/nj-afcc
Texas: www.texasafccnet.org

Chapter Interest in Missouri and Georgia

Chapter interest in AFCC continues to grow. Organizational groups have formed in Missouri and Georgia to develop AFCC Chapters in those states. The Missouri Organizing Committee for AFCC has developed an electronic newsletter and is co-sponsoring a one-day training on High Conflict Families and the Courts on April 25, 2002. The training will feature Christie Coates, J.D., former AFCC President.

The Committee is also sponsoring a regular St. Louis Area Lunch and Learn Series on topics including Parental Alienation and Children Who Refuse Visits (March 13, 2002), Mediation in Cases with Continued on page 10
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11th Annual Family Law Student Essay Contest

Sponsored by the Family Court Review: An Interdisciplinary Journal which is Co-Sponsored by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts and Hofstra Law School

Family Court Review is an interdisciplinary family law journal, a forum for the exchange of ideas, programs, research, legislation, case law and proposed reforms. Its international readership consists of about 2,600 members of the judiciary, the legal and mental health professions, mediators, custody evaluators, parent educators and family court administrators. FCR publishes articles concerned with all aspects of family law and family law related dispute resolution. Articles on topics like divorce and separation, child custody problems, child abuse and neglect, adoption, termination of parental rights, juvenile delinquency, domestic violence, gender issues in family law and courts, court-affiliated family education programs, conciliation, mediation, forensic evaluation, arbitration and family court organization are welcome, as are articles about strengthening and preservation of family life. International perspectives on these topics are also encouraged.

Guidelines:
• Open internationally to all students attending law schools
• The subject matter may be any aspect of family law
• Essays are limited to 25 typewritten pages, double-spaced on 8-1/2" by 11" paper (including footnotes)
• Papers should comport with A Uniform System of Citation, Seventeenth Edition
• The winning essay will be awarded a $400 honorarium and will be published in an issue of Family Court Review during the 2003 year.
• Submission Deadline: August 15, 2002
For more information on entry requirements and entry procedure, contact:
Family Court Review
Hofstra University School of Law
121 Hofstra University
Hempstead, NY 11549 USA
Attn: 2002 Essay Contest
Telephone: (516) 463-5926
Family.Court.Review@Hofstra.edu
Attn: Essay Contest Editor
* Hofstra Law students are not eligible to enter.

E-Communication Is Here!

Do we have your email address? If not, please let us know how to reach you electronically. In the coming months more and more will be shared with our membership by this method. Please email your email address to: afcc@afccnet.org.

AFCC Award Nominations

AFCC is seeking nominees for the following awards to be presented at AFCC’s 39th Annual Conference on the Big Island of Hawaii, June 5-8, 2002.

Distinguished Service Award: Presented in recognition of outstanding contribution to the field of family and divorce.
Stanley Cohen Research Award: Recognizing innovative and outstanding research in the area of family courts and family law.
Irwin Cantor Innovative Program Award: Presented to an innovative program serving the family court community.

If you would like to nominate someone for one of the above awards, send a fax or email of no more than two hundred words to the AFCC Administrative Office. 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 as to why you believe the nominee to be a good candidate for the award.

The deadline for nomination is May 1, 2002. Please forward your nomination to:

AFCC Awards Nomination
6515 Grand Teton Plaza, Suite 210
Madison, WI 53719
Email: afcc@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.

If you or another member you know is interested in serving on the AFCC Board of Directors, please forward name, contact information and resume to:
Hon. Arline Rotman (ret.)
Chair, AFCC Nominating Committee
c/o AFCC
6515 Grand Teton Plaza, Suite 210
Madison, WI 53719-1048
Fax: (608) 664-3750
Email: arliner@aol.com

AFCC Members to Confirm Association Name

AFCC members will vote to confirm that the association’s official name shall be the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. The vote will take place at the AFCC Membership Meeting at the 39th Annual Conference, June 8, 2002 at the Hilton Waikoloa Village on the Big Island of Hawaii.

AFCC Chapter Update

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Domestic Violence: Pros and Cons (May 15, 2002) and Collaborative Law (July 10, 2002).

For information about the activities of the Missouri Organizing Committee for AFCC, please contact Ellen Cowell at (314) 615-8094 or (314) 615-8752 or email Ellen.Cowell@stlouisco.com

AFCC members in Georgia are also gearing up to develop a state chapter. AFCC member Susan Boyan is spearheading the drive and is actively recruiting those interested in joining her. For details about an upcoming Steering Committee Meeting, please call (404) 315-7474, extension 1. Those interested in becoming involved in a Georgia Chapter of AFCC, please send an expression of interest to:
Susan Boyan, M.Ed., LMFT
2801 Buford Highway, T70
Atlanta, GA 30329
Fax: (404) 982-0006
Email: smbayan@yahoo.com

AFCC Chapter Update

Continued from page 9

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Susan Boyan, M.Ed., LMFT
2801 Buford Highway, T70
Atlanta, GA 30329
Fax: (404) 982-0006
Email: smbayan@yahoo.com
AFCC Member News

Connie J. A. Beck, AFCC member from Tucson, AZ, is co-author of the recently published book *Family Mediation: Facts, Myths, and Future Prospects*. Dr. Beck and co-author Bruce D. Sales trace the development of the field as well as current mediation practices and take a look at the consequences for families and the legal system.

Hon. Thomas Bishop, former AFCC President from Connecticut, has been appointed to the Connecticut Court of Appeals. AFCC sends its congratulations on this outstanding achievement.

Isolina Ricci, AFCC member from Tiburon, California is now the Director of The New Family Center, an organization she founded in 1978. The main focus of the Center is on consulting with courts, communities and government on programs, policies and administrative structures that serve or impact children and families. You can contact Dr. Ricci at The New Family Center, P. O. Box 711, Tiburon, CA 94920-0711. Her telephone number is 415-435-7648 and her email address is IsolinaRicci@NewFamilyCenter.com.

Pauline H. Tesler, AFCC member from Mill Valley, CA, has written a new book entitled, *Collaborative Law: Achieving Effective Resolution in Divorce without Litigation*. Ms. Tesler has been a frequent AFCC presenter on the topic of Collaborative Law. The book is published by the American Bar Association Section of Family Law and may be obtained by calling (800) 285-2221.

Richard A. Warshak, AFCC member from Dallas, Texas, recently published *Divorce Poison: Protecting the Parent-Child Bond from a Vindictive Ex*. The book is published by Regen Books and it provides advice for families when divorce poison is in danger of destroying relationships forever.

AFCC to Award Conference Scholarships to Members

AFCC’s Awards and Scholarships Committee, in collaboration with the AFCC Resource Development Committee, has established a conference tuition scholarship program. Three scholarships will be awarded to AFCC members for AFCC’s 39th Annual Conference, June 5-8, 2002, on the Big Island of Hawaii. Scholarships will include registration fees for the conference and for two half-day pre-conference institutes. Scholarship recipients are responsible for funding their own travel, lodging, meals and all other related expenses.

The Awards and Scholarships Committee will make the awards based on (1) the needs of the individual; (2) how the individual will use the information gained to enhance services in their community and (3) how the individual’s presence at the conference will add to the diversity of the AFCC community.

Scholarship applications are available on the conference page of the AFCC web site at www.afccnet.org. If you do not have Internet access please call AFCC at (608) 664-3750 and request that a copy be mailed or faxed.
Upcoming Events

**AFCC Massachusetts Chapter Conference**
May 3, 2002
Northeastern University Law School
Boston, MA
Contact: arliner@aol.com

**AFCC 39th Annual Conference**
June 5-8, 2002
Hilton Waikoloa Village
The Big Island of Hawaii
www.afccnet.org

**Conflict Resolution Network Canada and Family Mediation Canada National Conflict Resolution Conference**
June 12-14, 2002
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada
www.crnetwork.ca or www.fmc.ca

**Association for Conflict Resolution Second Annual International Conference**
August 21-24, 2002
Town and Country Resort and Convention Center
San Diego, California
www.acresolution.org

**AFCC Florida Chapter Conference**
October 25-26, 2002
Tampa Airport Marriott
Tampa, FL
www.flafcc.org or email: fieldston@aol.com

**Fifth International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations**
November 7-9, 2002
Westward Look Resort
Tucson, AZ
www.afccnet.org

**Fifth International Congress on Parent Education and Access Programs**
November 10-12, 2002
Westward Look Resort
Tucson, AZ
www.afccnet.org

**AFCC 40th Annual Conference**
May 28-31, 2003
Westin Ottawa
Ottawa, ON, Canada
www.afccnet.org