ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONCILIATION COURTS





AFCC eNEWS

MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER VOL. 6 NO. 6 JUNE 2011

AFCC-AAML

Advanced Issues in Child Custody: Evaluation, Litigation and Settlement September 15–17, 2011 Westin Philadelphia

AFCC is pleased to announce the inaugural AFCC–AAML joint conference, *Advanced Issues in Child Custody: Evaluation, Litigation and Settlement.* AFCC and AAML members will receive priority registration for the conference; registration will open to the general public July 1, 2011. Make your plans to attend soon; registration is first come-first served and will be limited to approximately 250.

Conference participants will learn the latest practice skills; earn continuing education credit, network with leading family law professionals, learn from an interdisciplinary faculty made up of the leaders in the field, and be presented with the latest research on children, custody, separation and divorce.

AAML, the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, is a membership organization that seeks to "provide leadership that promotes the highest degree of professionalism and excellence in the practice of family law." AAML has approximately 1600 Fellows, who are highly skilled negotiators and litigators working in all aspects of family law. For more information on AAML, visit www.aaml.org.

View the conference program Register now

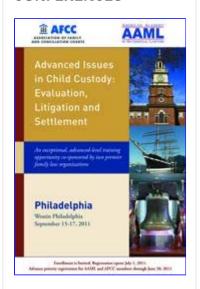
AFCC 48th Annual Conference Wrap Up

The AFCC 48th Annual Conference, *Research, Policy and Practice in Family Courts: What's Gender got to do with it?*, June 1-4, 2011, in Orlando, Florida, was well received by all in attendance. Sunny Orlando provided a warm welcome and the Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek Resort was a lovely backdrop for the event.

Listen to Conference Plenaries Online

A valuable benefit of AFCC membership is free access to audio recordings of conference plenary sessions. This year's sessions were outstanding. If you were unable to attend in person, or would like to hear them again, you can enjoy them now in downloadable mp3 format. Join AFCC to receive free access to plenary audio from conferences back to the 41st Annual in 2004. Read more about plenary sessions

UPCOMING CONFERENCES



AFCC/AAML Conference

Advanced Issues in Child Custody: Evaluation, Litigation and Settlement September 15–17, 2011 Westin Philadelphia Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Conference program Register here

AFCC Regional Training Conference

Working with High Conflict and Violent Families: A Race with No Winners October 27–29, 2011 Hyatt Regency Indianapolis Indianapolis, Indiana More information

AFCC 49th Annual Conference

Listen to plenary session audio

Conference Proceedings Available

AFCC has a limited number of conference proceedings USB drives. To purchase, please call the AFCC office at (608) 664-3750. USB drives are \$20 for members and \$40 for non-members, including shipping to U.S. addresses.

Silent Auction

This year's 13th Annual Silent Auction raised over \$10,000 for special projects and initiatives. It was made possible thanks to the generous donors, the wonderful team of volunteers and everyone who participated by bidding on items. Enjoy your winnings and thank you for participating!

Read more

Thank You

AFCC thanks the sponsors of the 48th Annual Conference: Platinum Sponsor The OurFamilyWizard website; Gold Sponsor Complete Equity Markets, Inc.; Silver Sponsor Dr. Debra Carter and the National Cooperative Parenting Center; and Local Sponsors The Silver Psychology Center and Barbara F. Steinberg, PhD. AFCC also thanks members of the AFCC Conference Committee, conference shepherds and collaborating organizations for helping to make the conference a success. Read more

Continuing Education Reminder

If you signed up to receive a certificate of attendance for the 48th Annual Conference and you did not turn in a Verification of Attendance form before leaving the conference, please download, fill out and return this important form. You may email, fax or mail the form to the AFCC office. This form must be completed in order for you to receive your certificate of attendance.

Awards

Jennifer McIntosh, Nicholas Bala, Barbara Fidler, Solutions for Families (P. Leslie Herold), George Czutrin and Christie Coates were honored for their accomplishments at the AFCC 48th Annual Conference Awards Luncheon on June 2, 2011. Six AFCC Ambassador Awards were presented to Maria Cognetti, Lyn Greenberg, Amy Holtzworth-Munroe, Loretta Frederick, Deborah Silver (on behalf of the Florida Chapter of AFCC) and outgoing AFCC President Robert Smith.

Read more

See photos from the Awards Luncheon

AFCC Board of Directors

AFCC is pleased to welcome Hon. Diana Bryant of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia; patti cross of Toronto, Ontario, Canada; and Larry V. Swall of Liberty, Missouri, to the Board of Directors beginning July 1, 2011. A special thanks to Robert M. Smith for his leadership and commitment to AFCC while serving as President. Thanks to Wendy Bryans, Hon. Linda S. Fidnick, and Hon. Emile R. Kruzick for their outstanding service and many contributions during their terms on the board. The new Executive Committee, effective July 1, 2011, consists of President Linda B. Fieldstone, Miami, Florida; President Elect Arnold T. Shienvold, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Vice President Nancy Ver Steegh, St. Paul, Minnesota; Secretary Richard L.

June 6–9, 2012 Hyatt Regency Chicago Chicago, Illinois

AFCC 10th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

November 1–3, 2012 Arizona Grand Resort Phoenix, Arizona

AFCC 50th Annual Conference

May 29-June 1, 2013 J.W. Marriott Los Angeles at L.A. Live Los Angeles, California

AFCC 51st Annual Conference

May 28–31, 2014 The Westin Harbour Castle Toronto, Ontario, Canada

AFCC CHAPTER CONFERENCES

Minnesota Chapter Conference

The 3Rs for Families in Crisis: Research, Resources, and Respect July 22, 2011 University of Minnesota Continuing Education Conference Center St. Paul, Minnesota More information

Texas Chapter Conference

Maximizing Our Resources for Texas Families
October 12–14, 2011
In collaboration with Texas
Association of Domestic
Relations Offices
Fort Worth, Texas

Washington Chapter Conference

Divorce Minefields and
Milestones: Interdisciplinary
Resources and Roads to
Resolution
October 21, 2011
Holiday Inn, SeaTac
International Airport
Seattle, Washington
More information

Ontario Chapter Conference

Altman, Napoleon, Ohio; Treasurer Annette T. Burns, Phoenix, Arizona; and Past President Robert M. Smith, Windsor, Colorado.

FEATURED ARTICLES

Shared Parenting Legislation is Not in the Interests of Children

Courtesy of Nuffield Foundation

Proposed legislation to introduce and enforce a presumption of shared parenting time for separating couples is not in the interests of children, according to a briefing paper published by the Department of Social Policy and Intervention at the University of Oxford and funded by the Nuffield Foundation.

Read more

Budget Squeezes, Access to Justice, and Creative Solutions

Courtesy of Just Court ADR, the Blog of Resolution Systems Institute, by Heather Scheiwe Kulp

While money gets tighter, more people want access to the court system.

Read more

ASK THE EXPERTS

Creating a Circuit-Supported Family Program
Linda Fieldstone, MEd and Michelle Artman-Smith, Esq.

Here are details that should be considered when planning and developing a court-based program that will provide services such as social investigations, evaluations and parenting coordination while utilizing minimal funds and/or community-based support.

Read more

Hofstra Law School and AFCC Family Law Writing Competition

Congratulations to Andrea Bell, a 2011 JD Candidate from Case Western Reserve University School of Law, for being selected as the first place winner of the 2011 Family Law Writing Competition for her article, *Cohabitation Is Not Consent For Marriage: The ALI's Rejection of Autonomy For Cohabitants.*

Congratulations to New Chapter Presidents

Welcome to new Chapter Presidents: Colorado, Jennifer Feingold; Massachusetts, Lesley Goldsmith; Missouri, Michelle Henry; New Jersey, Barbara Worth; and Texas, Janet Denton.

AFCC Member News

AFCC members Debra Carter, Edith Croxen, Robin Deutsch, Bill Eddy, Deborah Moskovitch, Susan Maulucci, Justin Reckers and Robert Simon have new publications, jobs, blogs or awards. If you are an AFCC member with news you would like to share, please send it to Leslye Hunter for possible future inclusion. Click here for your colleagues' latest news

FEATURED NEWSLETTER

October 21, 2011 Sala Caboto at Villa Colombo Toronto, Ontario More information

California Chapter Conference

The New Frontier: Exploring the Challenges and Possibilities of the Changed Landscape for Children and the Courts February 10–12, 2012 Sheraton Delfina Hotel Santa Monica, CA

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Are you a member?

Join or Renew

AFCC offers member benefits that promote excellence in practice.

View member benefits

ABOUT AFCC eNEWS

AFCC eNEWS is a monthly e-newsletter published by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC). AFCC eNEWS provides professionals with time sensitive and up-to-date topics including practice tips, research innovations and international news. Readers are welcome to forward this e-newsletter to interested colleagues.

AFCC eNEWS archive

Website Version:

If you are having trouble viewing this email correctly, please view the website version by clicking here.

In honor of Father's Day, the Child Support Report is pleased to offer three personal essays on fatherhood from leaders in the field, along with several perspectives on the child support program from state child support directors and researchers.

Read more

FAMILY LAW IN THE NEWS

Japan Closer to Giving Rights to Foreign Parents By Norimitsu Onishi, courtesy of NYTimes.com

Japan recently moved closer to joining an international child-custody agreement that would give rights to non-Japanese parents involved in disputes with Japanese citizens. The Japanese cabinet said it approved a plan to submit legislation to Parliament by the end of the year to ratify the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. Read more

Push to Support New Bill to Protect Children

By Adele Horin, courtesy of Brisbanetimes.com

A woman whose ex-husband was jailed for sexually abusing her daughter is resisting Family Court orders to allow him contact visits with their son.

Read more

Teen Sex in Women Affects Divorce Rate

Courtesy of Press-Citizen

A University of Iowa study found that women who make their sexual debut as young teens are more likely to divorce, especially if "the first time" was unwanted, or if she had mixed feelings about it.

Read more

Editor:

Leslye Hunter editor@afccnet.org

AFCC welcomes your comments, questions or feedback. Please email the editor by clicking here.

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Professionals dedicated to improving the lives of children and families through the resolution of family conflict



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Silver Sponsor

Dr. Debra Carter and the National Cooperative Parenting Center

Local Sponsors

The Silver Psychology Center Barbara F. Steinberg, PhD

Special thanks to members of the **AFCC Conference Committee**: Cochairs Hon. Denise McColley and Arnold T. Shienvold, Rachel Birnbaum, Hon. Peter Boshier, Wendy Bryans, Christine Coates, Greg Firestone, and Jenn McIntosh.

Thanks to conference **head shepherd** Ernie Sanchez and **shepherds**: Peter Barbone, Susan Berg, Judith Higgins Donohue, Chris Jones, Sherrie Kibler-Sanchez, Rhonda Lucineo, Mike Puiia, Fernanda Rossi, Daniel Salem, Jonathan Spellman, Stephen Thompson and Tony To.

AFCC also offers its gratitude to the **collaborating organizations** that were important to the success of the conference: AFCC Florida Chapter, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, ABA Section of Dispute Resolution, ABA Section of Family Law, Association for Conflict Resolution, Florida Bar Association Family Law Section, Florida Dispute Resolution Center, Florida Office of the State Courts Administrator, International Academy of Collaborative Professionals, National Association of Counsel for Children and National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.



- >> Family Court Review
- » AFCC Conference Audio
- » AFCC News
- » Member Directory
- » Member Resources
- » Chapter Resources
- » AFCC HOME



AFCC 48th Annual Conference Plenary Sessions

The Opening Session, *Gender and Domestic Violence: A Scientific Appraisal* offers a spirited debate on the relationship between gender and domestic violence. Panel members Amy Holzworth-Munroe, PhD, Jennifer Langhinrichsen-Rohling, PhD, K. Daniel O'Leary, PhD, and Walter DeKeseredy, PhD, with moderators: Nancy Ver Steegh, JD, MSW, and Bernard Mayer, PhD represent differing views on the subject. Listen as they combine decades of experience to examine critical issues in this nuanced discussion, exploring applications for policy and practice.

The General Session, *Parenting, Separation and Divorce: What's Gender Got to do with it?* brings together panel members Allan Barsky, JD, PhD, David DeGarmo, PhD, Jana Singer, JD, and moderator Hon. Linda S. Fidnick to discuss the role of gender in contemporary parenting, separation and divorce. Questions addressed include: How has the influence of gender on family law issues changed in recent years? Have changes benefited one gender more than the other? How do culture, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, work roles and parenting styles play into the mix? Listen as this experienced panel of practitioners, researchers and scholars explore the answers.

Additional audio CDs and MP3s from the conference may be purchased as a complete conference set or individually from Digital Conference Providers, Inc.

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- >> Family Court Review
- » AFCC Conference Audio
- » AFCC News
- >> Member Directory
- » Member Resources
- >> Chapter Resources
- » AFCC HOME



AFCC Member News

Debra Carter, Bradenton, Florida, has written a new book, *Parenting Coordination: A Practical Guide for Family Law Professionals*. Published by Springer Publishing Company, Inc., the text offers up-to-date research, a practical guide for training, service provision and references to relevant research for quality parenting coordination practice. Specifically, this book describes the integrated model of parenting coordination, including the parenting coordinator's professional role, responsibilities, protocol for service, and ethical guidelines.

Edith Croxen, Tucson, Arizona, is now the Chief Counsel of the Pima County Office of Children's Counsel. She and her staff of six attorneys service 300 cases affecting 1000 children each year.

Former AFCC President **Robin Deutsch**, Wellesley, Massachusetts, was appointed Director of the new Center of Excellence for Children, Families, and the Law at Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology. She will launch the center in West Roxbury this September. The Center will train judges, lawyers, court personnel, child welfare professionals and mental health providers. Dr. Deutsch will continue to serve as a parenting coordinator and consultant.

Bill Eddy, Scottsdale, Arizona, has written several new books for clients. *BIFF: Quick Responses to Hostile Email, Personal Attacks and Social Media Meltdowns*, published by HCI Press, and *Splitting*, with co-author, Randi Kreger, published by New Harbinger Press. BIFF stands for Brief, Informative, Friendly and Firm. A BIFF response can be applied in any communication anywhere—on the Internet, in a letter or in person. *Splitting* is about protecting yourself while divorcing someone with a borderline or narcissistic personality disorder.

Deborah Moskovitch, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, has created *The Smart Divorce® Resource Tool Kit*, to better inform consumers about divorce so they can handle the process more efficiently. It is designed for professionals to provide to their clients to help reduce stress and educate about the process of divorce. The kits include audio CDs narrated by Deborah and AFCC member, psychologist **Robert Simon**.

Magistrate **Susan Maulucci**, Bradenton, Florida, was the recipient of the March 2011 Florida Bar Association Family Law Section's "Making a Difference" Award for helping to improve the lives of the underserved or disadvantaged in the state. She is also the recipient of the William E. Gladstone Award, identifying and celebrating the important work of the judges and magistrates who make the greatest contribution to the courts in serving dependent children and their families. This award recognized Magistrate Maulucci's development of the *Next Step* program, a mentoring program for teens aging out of the foster care system.

Financial planner **Justin Reckers**, San Diego, California, writes a blog specific to financial issues in divorce. He has a second blog, www.behavioralfinances.com, which is a joint effort with AFCC member, psychologist **Robert Simon**, Del Mar, California, exploring the intersection of human emotion and economic theory in financial decision-making.

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» Family Court Review

- » AFCC Conference Audio
- » AFCC News
- >> Member Directory
- » Member Resources
- >> Chapter Resources
- » AFCC HOME



MEMBER CENTER

AFCC 2011 Awards

Jennifer McIntosh, PhD, was awarded the Stanley Cohen Distinguished Research Award, which recognizes outstanding research and/or achievements in the field of family and divorce. Dr. McIntosh was nominated for her longitudinal study on child inclusive mediation, recent studies on shared parenting, and her guest editorship on a forthcoming issue of *Family Court Review* on attachment in custody disputes.

Nicholas Bala, LLB, LLM and Barbara Fidler, PhD, were awarded the Meyer Elkin Essay Award for their article, *Children Resisting Postseparation Contact with a Parent: Concepts, Controversies, and Conundrums.* The article provides an overview of the key concepts, themes, issues, and possible mental health and legal interventions related to children's postseparation resistance to having contact with one parent. The Meyer Elkin Essay Award is presented to the author(s) of the best article in *Family Court Review* from the previous year; the recipient is selected by senior *FCR* editorial staff. AFCC members can read the article in the *FCR* online archives.

P. Leslie Herold, PhD, founder of Solutions for Families, accepted the Irwin Cantor Innovative Program Award, which recognizes innovation in court-connected or court-related programs. Solutions for Families is an early forerunner in parent education for parents living apart that now offers innovative solution-focused services to families going through challenges related to separation or divorce. Solutions for Families and Dr. Herold have collaborated with other organizations and individuals to help them implement creative skill-based co-parenting classes throughout the United States.

George Czutrin was presented with the John E. VanDuzer Distinguished Service Award. This award recognizes outstanding contributions and/or achievements by members of AFCC. Justice Czutrin was a well-respected family law lawyer before becoming a highly regarded Justice on the Superior Court. He is a Past President of AFCC, a founding member of the Ontario Chapter of AFCC, and continues to serve on many AFCC committees. Justice Czutrin is continually willing to share his knowledge, experience, and skills as a role model for AFCC members and those in the legal and judicial community at large.

Christine Coates was presented with the President's Award, given by outgoing AFCC President Bob Smith. She is a Past President of AFCC, and a practicing attorney whose practice emphasizes ADR. Ms. Coates has served on many AFCC committees, presented AFCC training programs and is a frequent conference presenter. She is a frequent and popular national speaker on conflict resolution.

Six AFCC Ambassador Awards were awarded; these awards recognize members who go above and beyond promoting AFCC, the AFCC mission and reaching out to other organizations. This year's recipients were Maria Cognetti, Lyn Greenberg, Amy Holtzworth-Munroe, Loretta Frederick, Deborah Silver (on behalf of the Florida AFCC Chapter) and outgoing AFCC President Bob Smith.

Congratulations to all AFCC award recipients!

AFCC accepts nominations for the John E. VanDuzer Distinguished Service Award, Irwin Cantor Innovative Program Award and Stanley Cohen Distinguished Research Award throughout the year. Please visit the Awards Committee page on the AFCC website for more information or contact Erin Sommerfeld.

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- » Family Court Review
- » AFCC Conference Audio
- » AFCC News
- >> Member Directory
- » Member Resources
- » Chapter Resources
- >> AFCC HOME



AFCC thanks the volunteers who helped at the auction:

Dick Altman, Peter Barbone, Jaelyn Blue, Landon Blue, Annette Burns, Andrea Clark, Cori Erickson, Mary Ferriter, Linda Fieldstone, Chris Jones, Emile Kruzick, Mindy Mitnick, and Daniel Salem.

And the many generous donors:

ABA Section of Family Law

Arizona Chapter of AFCC Dick Altman Kelly Asbury Joanne Baum Annette Burns California Chapter of AFCC Children in the Middle Andrea Clark Christie Coates Complete Equity Markets, Inc. Tobias Desiardins Robin Deutsch Jeff Dunham Mary Ferriter Florida Chapter of AFCC Linda Fieldstone Larry Fong French, O'Sullivan and Associates GormetGiftBaskets.com Hon. Dianna Gould-Saltman Green Bay Packers Lyn and Steve Greenberg **Grace Hawkins** High Conflict Institute Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek Leslye Hunter Hyatt Regency Chicago IACP Impact Publishers JW Marriott Los Angeles at L.A. LIVE Marsha Kline Pruett Hon. Emile Kruzick Kathryn Kuehnle Andrew Lamden Louisiana Chapter of AFCC Denise McColley Mediate.com Diana and Victor Mercer Milwaukee Brewers Missouri Chapter of AFCC Monica Murray Jewelry

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ASK THE EXPERTS

Creating a Circuit-Supported Family Program

By Linda Fieldstone, MEd and Michelle Artman-Smith, Esq.

Specialized services, such as social investigations, evaluations and parenting coordination, provide assistance to parents and children involved in court proceedings and better inform judicial decisions on those cases. It is possible to provide these services through a court-based program, utilizing minimal funds and/or community-based support. The following details should be considered when planning and developing a court-based program:

- 1. Assess the needs of the court and of families serviced to develop a program that takes minimal time from court staff.
- 2. Support from the judiciary is essential. Schedule a meeting to describe the program benefits to parents and children, as well as the court. Once they see the advantages, they can help to gain support from the Administrative Office of the Court.
- 3. Designate a court program manager or liaison if an outside entity will be running the program. Thinking small can make a big difference. If the service cannot be provided by court staff, staff could keep a list of organizations in the community that can provide that service.
- 4. Uniform procedures will ease implementation of the program. Create a Standard Order of Referral in which the judge determines the party responsible for payment.
- 5. Make sure that the order takes into account the current conflict level of the parties, considering history of domestic violence and abuse, and addressing potential safety concerns.
- 6. Develop a program manual with policies and procedures to avoid conflicts of interest and other ethical dilemmas.
- 7. Create an application process where professionals who apply as providers must meet certain qualifications.
- 8. Create an advisory committee, review board or oversight committee to provide guidance and support.
- 9. Develop mandatory circuit-specific training and facilitate ongoing training for providers. Create a listserv for providers so they can give each other support.
- 10. Keep the channels of communication open between the judiciary and families served in order to get comments and feedback about the program and providers. Use this feedback to make adjustments.

Linda Fieldstone, MEd, Supervisor of Family Court Services of the 11th Judicial Circuit in Miami-Dade County, Florida and Michelle Artman-Smith, Esq., ADR Director of the 12th Judicial Circuit in Manatee County, Florida, contributed to the Florida Chapter Task Force on Social Investigations and Parenting Plan Evaluations by developing a step-by-step guide to implementing a court-based program.

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- » AFCC Conference Audio
- » AFCC News
- >> Member Directory
- » Member Resources
- » Chapter Resources
- » AFCC HOME



Those interested in starting a program in their court system might be interested in the AFCC publication, *Innovations in Court Services*, which chronicles six court programs designed to address the challenges presented to courts in providing quality services to families in conflict. This volume details program design and provides the framework to develop and implement each program.

Order now

The appendices for this book are available online.

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