



NEWSLETTER

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

An international association of judges, counselors, court evaluators, mediators, and lawyers

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Editors: Ann L. Milne
Rebecca Greenlee



DIVORCE: APPEARANCE VS. REALITY Northeast Regional Conference and Board Meeting

November 12-14, 1992 • Baltimore, Maryland
Clarion Inn • Harrison's Pier 5

A FCC's Northeast Regional Conference and Board Meeting will be held November 12-14, 1992 at the Clarion Inn in Baltimore, Maryland. Featured presenters will include Dr. Adele Harrell and Dr. Anne Graffam Walker.



Dr. Adele Harrell

Dr. Harrell is a Senior Research Associate at the Urban Institute in Washington, DC and is the principal investigator for AFCC's research on "The Effective Resolution of Custody and Visitation Disputes in Cases Involving Domestic Abuse." She will be speaking on "Domestic Violence and the Courts." Dr. Harrell has conducted several large evaluations of the justice system's response to domestic violence including

the impact of court-ordered treatment for domestic violence offenders. Dr. Harrell received her Ph.D. from George Washington University in 1983. She has an extensive research background including a three year, 8-site evaluation of model strategies for intervention in domestic abuse conducted for the Bureau of Justice. She also served as a senior research associate on four of the National Household Surveys on Drug Abuse.

Dr. Walker is a forensic linguist in private practice in Falls Church, Virginia. She specializes in courtroom communication. She received her master's and Ph.D. in Sociolinguistics at Georgetown University. She has been working in the field of language and the law since 1980 and organized the first national convention on this topic funded by the National Science Foundation. She is co-editor and author of *Language in the Judicial Process*, (Plenum Publishing, 1990). In addition to her key note address on "Language in the Judicial Process," Dr. Walker will also be presenting a workshop on "Language Issues in Interviewing the Child Sexual Abuse Victim."

Other plenary presenters include Linda Girdner, Ph.D., Miriam Rollin, Esq., and Patricia Hoff, Esq. who will be reporting on the American Bar Association's findings from the Congressionally mandated research project on parental kidnapping. Hon. Leonard Jacobson, judge in the Baltimore County Circuit Court and Alice Dvoskin,

private practice, Baltimore, will keynote "King Solomon, Where Are You Now That We Need You?" David Levy, Esq., President of the National Council for Children's Rights, Wash. DC will speak on "The Disenfranchisement of Fathers Following Divorce and The Effect on Children."

Hotel reservations may be made directly with the Clarion Inn, \$79.00 per day (single or double), (301) 783-5553.

For further registration information contact: Tim Salius, Family Division, Superior Court, 28 Grand Street, Hartford, CT 06106 (203) 566-8187.

Registration

Member (Before 10/15/92) \$115.00
Member (After 10/15/92) \$125.00

Non-Member (Before 10/15/92) \$125.00

Non-Member (After 10/15/92) \$135.00

Daily Fee, Friday, 11/13/92 only (includes luncheon and reception)

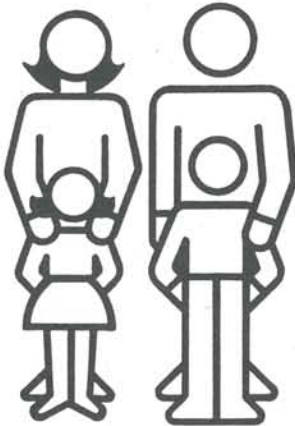
Member \$80.00
Non-Member \$90.00

New Member Special \$195.00 (includes membership through 1993, a \$235.00 value).



ASSOCIATION OF
FAMILY AND CONCILIATION COURTS

PREPARING FOR YOUR CUSTODY EVALUATION



New Pamphlet

Preparing For Your Custody Evaluation

Developed by Phil Bushard, Director of the Family Mediation Program in Reno, Nevada and Dorothy Howard, mediator with the Las Vegas Child Custody Division, AFCC's latest addition to our family of pamphlets was written to answer many of the questions posed by parents as they prepare for a custody evaluation. Topics include:

- What is a custody evaluation?
- What happens in a custody evaluation?
- Who is the custody evaluator?
- How can I prepare for the custody evaluation?
- Will my children be interviewed?
- What happens to the information?
- What does a custody evaluation cost?
- What if we reach an agreement?
- What does "best interests" of the children mean?

Copies of the pamphlet may be purchased for \$.25 per copy or \$.20 for orders over 1,000, plus shipping and handling. Contact: Victoria at AFCC, (608) 251-4001 or FAX (608) 251-2231.

1992 TRAINING SEMINARS

Managing For Change
• September 23-25

The Mediation Process
• February 10-14
• May 11-15, New York
• July 20-24
• November 9-13

International and Cross-Cultural Negotiation
• April 7-10
• October 27-30

Divorce and Child Custody Mediation
(AFM Approved)
• January 27-31
• June 15-19
• October 12-16

Dispute Management Systems Design
• May 20-22

Environmental Mediation
• April 27- May 1

Trainer's Training in Family Mediation
• November 16-20

For more
information contact:

CDR Associates
100 Arapahoe Ave., Suite 12
Boulder, Colorado 80302 1-800-MEDIATE or 303/442-7367



San Diego Conference Focuses on the Future

AFCC's 1992 annual conference was held in San Diego at the beautiful San Diego Hilton Beach and Tennis Resort. Although the weather did not produce the usual San Diego sunshine, conference spirits were no less sunny. Murray Bloom, Director of the San Diego Family Court Services, produced another outstanding conference. The Advanced Mediation Training Workshop by Joan Kelly, Hugh McIsaac, Donald Saposnek and Robert Benjamin was a sell out and will be repeated in New Orleans. Professor William Hodges, Boulder, CO spoke on "The Best Interest of the Child," "Child Development Issues and Child Custody" and "Interventions for Children of Divorce." Conference attendees will be saddened to hear of Dr. Hodges' recent fatal heart attack. Dr. Hodges has been a popular presenter at several AFCC conferences.

"The Future of the Family Court" provided the theme for several of the workshops as participants had an opportunity to hear about

settlement techniques for judges, the administration/management of family courts, grandparents and other support systems, the use of evaluations in child custody disputes, mediation in dependency court and other topics.

The days and nights were full of conference activities. Even the early morning hours were full as AFCC members participated in the first "Fun Run/Walk/Bike/Rollerblade" event. (There's something for everyone at AFCC!) Dean Metzner was the winner of the 5K event with a time of 23:07. David Williams came in second at 23:15 and Bob Tompkins, John Kydd, Doug McNish and Mark Schecter all crossed the line at 23:33. Rosemary Vasquez led the women at 25:45 and Gracine Huffnagle came in with 26:49. A good time was had by all.

Thanks again to Murray Bloom, the staff of the San Diego County Family Court Services and Alvarado Parkway Institute of San Diego.

Message From the President

Gerald Lecovin
Vancouver, BC, Canada

The advent of the 30th anniversary of the founding of our Association prompts one to consider its origins and *raison d'être*. How has it survived 30 years? It is not a professional association, in which membership is obligatory in order to practice one's vocation. It is not a charitable organization, whose membership is drawn from friends and family of the afflicted. Its membership is disparate, being composed of three separate groups, one of which, the mental health professionals, is itself composed of several sub groups. What then is it that draws these people together in ever increasing numbers into a membership which maintains a large core of adherents, who have worked together almost from the Association's inception.

The common denominator, is that all of these are court-connected people, working in the area of divorce. Their object is to lessen the ascerbation of the process; a process that has been regarded as the second most stressful event in the average person's life experience. Because approximately one in every three marriages ends in divorce, a large percentage of our population experiences its trauma. These traumatic effects are not relegated to the parties themselves, but spread to their children, their parents, and their friends. It is not only the husband and wife who are uncoupled, but also grandparents, siblings and friends. The term "extended family" is used to describe the type of family unit brought about by divorce and remarriage. And, it is not just the emotional trauma brought about by divorce, which has such a deleterious consequence

upon society. Its financial effects are even worse. Divorce has brought with it the proliferation of the one-parent family, which itself has become our new "poor." It has created a class of people, mostly women, to whom divorce has brought poverty, both during child-raising and in the years thereafter. This poverty increases our crime rate, our taxes and decreases the quality of life and opportunity of large segments of future generations.

Unfortunately, none of the above is new to those who are reading this article. But the demands of our day-to-day life are such, that most of us do not sit back and think about the global effects. We are so busy doing, we have no time for thinking.

I believe however that subconsciously we do realize the importance of the problem with which we are dealing on a day-to-day basis, not only to our society, but to societies throughout the world and it is that realization that coerces us into membership in AFCC. Advising on legislation; advocating mediation; improving conciliation facilities; researching; propagating knowledge through video tapes, films, and articles; outreaching to other countries; these are a few examples of what AFCC does. *What we do, makes a difference* and it is our collective realization that AFCC makes a difference, which accounts for its continuity.

But every organization requires regeneration. I urge you therefore, to not only be members, but active members; to join committees and share your knowledge and experience with us, so that AFCC can continue to lead the way.



Gerald Lecovin
Vancouver, B.C. CANADA

AFCC President, Gerald Lecovin, is a practicing Family Law attorney in the firm of Lecovin & Company in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. He is Past Chairman of the B.C. Branch of the Family Law Subsection of the Canadian Bar Association and serves on the Editorial Board of The Canadian Journal of Family Law. Currently President of the Interlock Employee Assistance Society of B.C., he is a Past President of the B.C. Jewish Family Service Agency, the B.C. Neurological Society, Sunflower Crisis Centre and B.C. Epilepsy Society. When not contributing his leadership talents to such philanthropic endeavors, he may be found acting and singing in local theatre groups and composing lyrics for legal cabarets. A prolific writer to both newspapers and legal magazines, of particular interest is his article on mediation called "How I Hunted Sex-Starved Elephants in Africa . . . and Found God." Perhaps Jerry will autograph a few of the 5,000 copies he has left at the next Board meeting.

An ardent traveler and fisherman, Jerry has participated in several AFCC post-conference exchanges including trips to New Zealand, Australia and England.

With AFCC's 30th anniversary coming around during Jerry's Presidency, perhaps we can convince him to put together a little ditty or two to commemorate the occasion. Congratulations Jerry on becoming President of AFCC. We are honored to have you at the helm and look forward to a very good year.

Dispute Resolution Organizations Convene

Representatives of nearly 40 organizations in the field of conflict resolution met last December in San Francisco to discuss how they could better coordinate their efforts. AFCC Vice President Joel Shawn and Executive Director Ann Milne attended. The meeting was funded by the National Institute for Dispute Resolution (NIDR) and the National Conference on Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution (NCPDR). The purposes of the meeting were outlined as follows:

- To develop a collective understanding of the possible ways that dispute organizations can collaborate, to develop specific projects, to make initial organizational commitments to those projects, and to work together in a way that builds rapport

and opens doors for a variety of ways of working collaboratively together;

- To pool resources to increase the positive impact of the participant organizations;

In addition to AFCC, participants included the Academy of Family Mediators, the Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution, Family Mediation Canada, the National Association for Mediation in Education, the American Arbitration Association, the Association for Victim-Offender Reconciliation. Also attending were representatives from the Hewlett Foundation, Harvard Law School, and other academics. The meeting will be reconvened following the SPIDR conference in Pittsburgh in October.

Johnson County, Kansas

The Tenth Judicial District in Johnson County, Kansas has taken a strong, positive role in Family Law over the years. Beginning in the 1970's, the Family Law/Bench Bar Committee began a process of developing guidelines for use in family law matters. Several interested judges and family law attorneys established a format that would make Domestic Relations cases easier for the court and for families. Specific guidelines, which are periodically reviewed, have been set up for both division of property and custody/access issues. Children's issues are carefully discussed and scheduling options are outlined. Because of the importance of these guidelines, two mental health professionals have been added to the Family Law/Bench Bar Committee. The guidelines are available and provided for all attorneys. A pamphlet entitled, "Children Need Both" is also available to all families going through divorce. The pamphlet highlights issues that families need to consider in making decisions about their children.

The District Court believes that intervention into family matters ought to start out with the least intrusive method possible. This is initiated through the use of educational programming. Through a cooperative effort with the Johnson County Mental Health Center, a required two-hour educational program is provided for all divorcing families with children under eighteen. The program, called GRASP (General Responsibilities as Separating Parents), is required under local court rule. The class focuses on how parents can

develop a business-like relationship regarding their children and the effects of parents' own behavior on their children.

A weekend experience, called the Divorce Workshop, is also provided by the Mental Health Center. The workshop includes all family members with the goal of educating parents and helping children cope with situations that may be out of their control. The staff can also provide the court with some assessments of family dynamics, if so ordered.

The District Court has taken a strong view about the use of mediation in contested issues involving children. A 1985 Kansas law allows the judge to order mediation in contested cases. Johnson County passed its own local court rule mandating mediation in all custody, access and parenting disputes. The majority of this mediation is done by the court staff. Mediation services to parents are free and confidential. Attorneys and behavioral scientists in private practice are also available to provide mediation.

Court staff also provides child custody assessments for families where problems have not been resolved in mediation or are inappropriate for mediation. Staff interview the parents, children and collateral references and provide a written assessment of how each parent is able to meet the needs of the children. The report is often used to help families reach a settlement or to get the parents back into mediation.

Several years ago the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (CASA) began

providing services to divorcing families. Originally sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women and now with its own Board of Directors, the CASA program provides trained volunteers to help out in difficult cases. The court can appoint a CASA volunteer as a non-legal guardian ad litem for the children. They advocate for the child and help the court by providing important information about the family and monitoring various court orders. Each volunteer has responsibility for only one family.

CASA has also developed a very successful supervised visitation program when there needs to be monitoring of parental contact. An educational component of the program involves both the custodial parent and the visiting parent. Providing supervised visitation in an organized manner has been a great benefit for the District Court.

The range of services available in Johnson County have helped to reduce the amount of unnecessary litigation which, in itself, can be harmful to children and families. An excellent and productive working relationship between judges, local attorneys, court staff, the Mental Health Center, behavioral scientists in the private sector, and the CASA program, is critical to the success of all the programming and leads to beneficial results for children and families.

Submitted by Gary Kretchmer, Director of Domestic Court Services, P.O. Box 787, Olathe, Kansas 66061; telephone, (913) 782-7252.

Idaho's Fourth District Court Mediation Service "Parenting Plans for Pro Se Divorcing Parents"

Most professionals who work with clients in family court agree that parents going through the family court process should have the assistance of legal counsel. However, the reality is that many court-connected mediation programs must struggle to find helpful methods of assisting divorcing parents who have no attorneys to structure a parenting plan for their children. Idaho's Fourth District Court Mediation program has developed a Parenting Plan format for use at meetings with parents who are doing their own divorces.

The format is a comprehensive ten-page document with checklists and blanks for parents to complete regarding major decision-making and time-sharing. Categories listed are: General, Residential Arrangements, Visitation with Extended Family,

Education, Day Care, Religion, Health Care, Communication, Financial Support, Compliance with Plan, Dispute Resolution and Other (removing the child from the state, first refusal option for vacation without children, no use of alcohol/non-prescription drugs when driving with children, etc.)

The model includes general language that reflects parenting philosophy; e.g., "We respect each parent's individual role with our child(ren) and we will support each other as fit and proper parents," and "We realize our children's needs are the most important thing to think about as we plan their living arrangements, and also that their needs will change as they grow older."

The model incorporates general information about child development, broken into age and developmental stages. Detailed

residential arrangements can be selected from a checklist e.g., "We agree to give each other two weeks advance notice of the need to make arrangements for special circumstances."

Specifics of parental time-sharing can be tailored by parents in the blank spaces for other issues, such as "When Mondays are a legal holiday we agree our child(ren) will be with (check one):

whoever they are normally scheduled to be with

_____"

For further information, contact Kristie Browning, Mediation Services, Fourth District Court, 514 W. Jefferson, Boise, Idaho 83702; telephone (208)383-1270.

AFCC Research Project on Resolution of Custody Disputes Involving Domestic Abuse

The AFCC research project, "The Effective Resolution of Custody and Visitation Disputes Involving Domestic Violence" is underway with a flurry of activity. The study, which is funded by a \$200,000 grant from the State Justice Institute, is examining court-connected programs in Portland, Oregon and Minneapolis, Minnesota, to learn about the impact of the mediation and custody evaluation processes in cases where domestic violence has occurred.

Principal Investigator Dr. Adele Harrell and Research Associate Dr. Lisa Newmark of Washington, D.C.'s The Urban Institute, along with AFCC Project Director Peter Salem conducted visits to both project sites to learn about each system from a variety of perspectives. To gain input and understand the concerns of members in each community, discussions were held with representatives from victim support programs, abuser treatment programs, statewide advocacy coalitions, mediators, custody evaluators, family court judges, referees, and members of the family bar. Project staff members also met with interdisciplinary groups convened

around the issue of domestic abuse and the courts.

Not surprisingly, AFCC members figured prominently in the coordination and success of the site visits. Doneldon Dennis, Supervisor with Hennepin County Family Court Services, and Hon. Mary Winter worked with the Chief Family Court Judge, Steven Lange, to help pave the way in Minneapolis. In Portland, Judge Stephen B. Herrell and Department of Family Services Acting Director Rose Mary Lyons served as the Multnomah County catalysts for the project.

The summer has been filled with work on the research design, including a focus group with advocates and victims of domestic abuse. This group was facilitated by Dr. Harrell to help design screening and research instruments. In addition, a survey of state statutes and program policies relating to domestic abuse cases is in the works, with the results expected in the fall of 1992.

Finally, AFCC prepares to welcome the project advisory panel to Madison, Wisconsin for a meeting in September. The committee, which will review the work of the project

staff, brings together leaders of the many interrelated fields within the scope of the project. Committee members are Sheila Kuehl, JD, Managing Director of the California Women's Law Center; David Levy, Esq., President of the National Council for Children's Rights; Professor Daniel Saunders, Ph.D., University of Michigan; Joan Kelly, Ph.D., Executive Director, Northern California Mediation Center; Janet Johnston, Ph.D., Director of Research for the Center for Families in Transition; Russell Schoeneman, Ph.D., Director, Maricopa County Conciliation Services; and Hon. Susan Snow, AFCC Past President, Cook County Circuit Court; Diane Bryner, Co-chair AFCC Mediation Committee and Linda Girdner, Co-chair AFCC Domestic Abuse Committee, Daina Farthing-Capowich, Program Manager, State Justice Institute will also be present.

Submitted by Peter Salem, Project Director

Forum Creates Dialogue Between Battered Women's Advocates and Mediators

*By Linda Girdner, Ph.D.
Co-Chair AFCC Domestic Abuse Committee*

A forum on mediation in cases of woman and child abuse was held in Toronto, Ontario on May 28-30, 1992. Participants included mediators, shelter workers, battered women's advocates, child advocates and others involved in preventing family violence from Canada and the U.S. The primary objective of the forum was to provide an opportunity to learn about the plight of abused women and children in the context of marital separation and divorce and to listen to the concerns about the use of mediation in these cases. Although participants represented a wide range of organizations, they attended as individuals and not as spokespersons. AFCC was represented by AFCC President Gerald Lecovin and Linda Girdner, co-chair AFCC Domestic Abuse Committee.

The stage was set for the forum with a dramatic presentation about abuse performed by the Company of Sirens. The two days which followed included plenary presentations, small group discussions, and role-plays. Despite the seeming similarity of these activities to other conferences, the atmosphere at this forum was different. Perhaps it was the sense of compassion felt for those who are abused and the recognition that our communities have largely failed them. Perhaps it was the recognition that many attended the forum at personal and professional risk, anxious that their mere presence not be interpreted as support for a practice which they opposed.

The climax of the forum was on the final day, when battered women's and children's advocates presented a list of principles relating to the use of mediation in cases involving woman and child abuse and asked for the mediators present to endorse them. Below are the principles raised (A) and the statements endorsed by the mediators (B).

1.A. Mediation is always inappropriate in woman abuse situations. (The broadest definition of abuse is applicable, including psychological abuse.)

1.B. Participants endorsed a statement that there should be a rebuttable presumption that mediation is inappropriate in cases of abuse. That is, as a general principle, mediation should not proceed in cases of abuse. Mediators need to define under what circumstances, if any, and with what safeguards, mediation will continue in cases of abuse.

2.A. Screening should be mandatory. (Battered women's advocates must be part of the process of designing screening instruments. Children should never be part of the initial screening process. Children's advocates should be engaged in dialogue with mediators to address specific needs for children.)

2.B. Participants endorsed this statement.

3.A. Once abuse is discovered, mediation must be immediately terminated. (After termination, there should be an assumption of accountability by the mediator for ensuring the woman's safety.)

3.B. Participants endorsed a statement that mediation should be terminated with mediators taking reasonable steps for ensuring the woman's safety.

4.A. Mediation should never be compulsory by law. There must be viable and accessible alternatives to mediation when it is terminated.

4.B. Participants endorsed this statement

5.A. More public money should be made available to allow women and children's advocates to monitor mediation.

5.B. Participants endorsed this statement.

Accolades to Barbara Landau, AFM Domestic Abuse Task Force Chair, for her tireless efforts in planning the forum, obtaining funding, and inviting participants. The forum was supported by a grant from the Fund for Dispute Resolution.

The AFCC Domestic Abuse and Mediation Committees continue to work on the problematic issue of mediation in cases in which there has been spouse abuse through participation in the forum described above, surveys of attendees at AFCC and AFM conferences, and participation in research. The goal is to provide a draft of policy recommendations to the membership and the board on this issue within the next year. A meeting of the joint committees will be held at the AFCC regional conference in Baltimore. All are welcome to attend.

MEETINGS AROUND THE WORLD



First World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights

The First World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights will be held July 4-9, 1993 in Darling Harbour, Australia. The Congress will be co-convened by Lawasia's Family Law and Family Rights Section and the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia with the support of AFCC and a number of other international organizations.

The Congress is aimed not only at lawyers but at anyone working in the area of human relations. At a time when traditional relation-

ships of family are changing, there is a need to reassess the rights of people within their relationships and, in particular, the rights of children.

For more information contact: Gail Hawke, Manager World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights, P.O. Box N399, Crosvenor Place, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia, phone (02) 256-4444, FAX (02) 241 5282.

IUFO World Conference

The International Union of Family Organizations will be hosting the second of four World Conferences in Curitiba, Brazil November 22-16, 1992. This conference will focus on "The Economic Rights of Families" in preparation for the 1994 United Nations International Year of the Family. Participants at the Curitiba conference will discuss government and non-government policies and their influence on the economic situation of families, marginalized populations due to poverty and the effects of employment conditions. Travel packages may be purchased through BBTUR-Viagens E Turismo, LTDA., the official travel agency. The conference fee after Aug. 31, 1992 is \$160 US. Hotel, transfers and lunch packages range from \$471-\$774 US. For further information contact: IUFO, 28. Place Saint-Georges F-75009 Paris, FAX (33.1) 42.82.95.24.

AFCC and IUFO Share Interests

In 1991, the A.F.C.C. became a member of the International Union of Family Organizations (IUFO). The I.U.F.O. is an umbrella organization which oversees several Commissions, each of which addresses family issues from a different perspective. One of these sub-groups, the Commission of Family and Interpersonal Relationships, held its 1991 annual meeting in Pittsburgh immediately preceding the A.F.C.C. conference.

Commission meetings begin with formal presentations by one or two experts in a particular field. For the next two days, small groups comprised of representatives from several different countries work on the issues raised by the speakers. The conclusions reached by each group are shared in a final session. A written report summarizing the group work is later prepared and disseminated by the chairperson of the Commission.

The meetings are hosted by a different country each year. The registration fee includes registration for the meeting, room and board for three nights and sightseeing. The attendees are housed in conference centers or hotels in scenic areas of these countries. They share meals and activities as well as group sessions for three days. Outings are scheduled to acquaint the conference participants with interesting and scenic areas which are usually unique to that particular venue. Topics of discussion are chosen by the host country and deal with issues that are similar to those presented at A.F.C.C. con-

ferences. However, the opportunity for dialogue with colleagues in similar fields in other countries adds an important dimension to the learning experience.

I recently attended a Commission meeting in a seaside resort thirty miles from Belfast in Northern Ireland. We were housed in a beautifully restored old hotel nestled at the foot of the Mountains of Mourne and facing the Irish Sea. The topic under discussion was **Marriage Across Frontiers**, which in Northern Ireland focused primarily on Protestant/Catholic relationships.

The 1993 meeting is scheduled for May 3-6 in Vienna. Housing will be in a small hotel outside the city: The meeting will focus on different forms of family structures; the exact title has not yet been formalized. An optional pre-conference tour is being planned. The A.F.C.C. conference in New Orleans will immediately follow this meeting. It may be possible to prepare a travel package including air fare from New York to Vienna and back to New Orleans. Anyone wishing more information about Commission meetings may contact Byrnece Gluckstern: Domestic Relations Division, Arapahoe County District Court, 2009 West Littleton Blvd., Littleton, Colorado 80120, (303) 730-7227.

*Submitted by Byrnece Gluckstern
Chair AFCC International Committee
Member IUFO General Council*

Mediators Institute Ireland

The first all Ireland Conference will be held November 2-4, 1993. The Mediators Institute Ireland and the Academy of Family Mediators will be co-sponsors of the conference "Empowerment Through Mediation." The conference will examine current issues and assess future international prospects for mediation. The conference will be organized around four areas of interest: cross-cultural and intergroup mediation; family mediation; environmental and public policy mediation; and commercial and organizational mediation. For further information contact: Mary Lloyd, Chairperson, Mediators Institute Ireland, 45A Sandymount Ave., Dublin 4, Ireland (01 269-2883).

Karen Raiford Receives AFCC Distinguished Service Award

Karen Raiford was presented AFCC's Distinguished Service Award at the annual conference in San Diego. Karen has been the Assistant Director of the Los Angeles Family Court Services Child Custody Section since 1972. She was born and raised in Copenhagen, Denmark and came to the US to attend college. She received her sociology degree followed by a Master's Degree in Social Work both from UCLA. She worked her way up the ranks to become a Deputy Director in the Los Angeles Department of Children's Services before joining the Los Angeles Court system. Karen now supervises a staff of 26, including custody evaluators and clerical support. Her colleagues praise her for her "endless honesty and professional ethics" and her support of her staff. They enjoy teasing her about her Danish background, (referring to their unit

as the Danish Army), and note that not everyone knows that she has a great sense of humor. She has participated in many seminars sponsored by AFCC and the LA County Bar. Karen has been a long-time member of the Board of Directors of AFCC, recently retiring from the Board. She is a former chairperson of AFCC's Child Custody Evaluation Committee and helped to develop the first edition of "Guidelines for Custody Evaluations." Karen lives with her husband, a retired attorney with Hughes Aircraft, in Pacific Palisades. She became a volunteer at the Suicide Prevention Hotline after the death of their daughter. She enjoys reading and traveling and annually returns to Denmark to visit her sister and brother who continue to live there. Congratulations to you Karen on your receipt of AFCC's Distinguished Service Award!

Magaña and Taylor Win Meyer Elkin Essay Contest

Holly Magaña, Ph.D. and Nancy Taylor, LCSW were the winners of the 4th annual Meyer Elkin Essay Contest. They received a \$250 cash prize and individual plaques for their article on "Child Custody Mediation and Spouse Abuse: A Descriptive Study of a Protocol."

The article reviews the literature on domestic abuse and describes a protocol developed by the Orange County, California Family Court Service Unit to provide protection to the alleged victim of violence through the use of interviews, co-mediation and the development of post-parenting arrangements that provide for protection and security. Dr. Magaña is a mediator in Orange County and a lecturer at the University of California, Irvine. Ms. Taylor is a mediator with the Orange County Mediation and Investigation Service.

Articles for the 1993 Meyer Elkin Essay contest must be received by March 15, 1993. Contest themes are "Economic Issues in Divorce" or "Family Law and Cultural Diversity." The winning article will be published in the *Family and Conciliation Courts Review*. Entries should be submitted to Review Editor Hugh McIsaac, Family and Conciliation Courts Review, 111 N. Hill Street, Rm. 241, Los Angeles, CA 90012 USA (213) 974-5524.

Member News

Murray Bloom, Director of the San Diego Family Court Services, and chair of AFCC's 1992 conference in San Diego, is recovering from a herniated disc. We wish you a speedy recovery! What a way to recuperate from putting on a great AFCC conference.

Stanley Cohen, former AFCC Executive Director and **Gary Kretchmer**, Director of the Johnson County Domestic Relations Services, Olathe, Kansas will each be returning to Germany and Austria to conduct several mediation training programs with AFCC member **Roland Proksch**. Isn't it about time that we start an AFCC chapter?

Michael Lang has been selected as the Director of the newly established Master of Arts Degree in Conflict Resolution at Antioch University, Yellow Springs, OH. Michael was an attorney and mediator in Portland, ME and is a Past-President of the Academy of Family Mediators.

Pierette Sevig Mc Conomy was recently appointed to the Superior Court of the District of Montreal.

Hon. Frank Orlando has been awarded the Livingston Hall Juvenile Justice Award by the Juvenile Justice Committee of the Criminal Justice Section of the American Bar Association. Judge Orlando will be presented with his award at the ABA conference in San Francisco.

Hon. Herbert Walton, Johnson County, Kansas, retired from the bench in April 1992. Judge Walton was a charter member of AFCC's Kansas Chapter. During Judge Walton's 31 years on the bench, he served as Probate Judge and Juvenile Judge before becoming District Court Judge in 1965. Judge Walton's contributions to the development of family law include legislation, education and child support reform. Judge Walton has been spending his retirement establishing a mediation and arbitration practice for retired judges.

Dr. Susan Zaidel, AFCC member and clinical psychologist in Haifa, Israel is the author of the first English-language book about divorce mediation in Israel. The book is written for the general public and professionals in the mental health and legal fields. The book may be ordered for \$22 US (includes shipping) from *Divorce with Respect*, P.O.B. 7688, Haifa, Israel 31076. Please note that this is a corrected address from the notice published in the Fall, 1991 Newsletter. We apologize for any misdirected mail.

Zena Zumeta, mediator from Ann Arbor, MI assumed the office of President of the Academy of Family Mediators at AFM's recent annual conference in Minneapolis.

Tony Wells Wins AFCC International Scholarship

Tony Wells, the recipient of the first annual International Scholarship competition, submitted a paper on "Interdisciplinary Cooperation in Divorce" to win \$1,000 to help defer expenses to AFCC's annual conference in San Diego. Tony is the Director of Development with the Socio-Legal Centre for Family Studies in Bristol, England.

AFCC's 1993 competition is open to any individual residing outside of the North American continent. The \$1,000 scholarship is to be used to defray travel and lodging costs to attend the New Orleans conference. Conference registration will be waived. Applicants shall submit a 1-5 page descriptive summary of the intended topic to be presented and a resume. Presentations shall address the conference theme: THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DIVORCE. Applications must be received by January 15, 1993. The scholarship award will be announced by February 1, 1993. Direct all queries and applications to New Orleans Conference Chairperson: Tim Salius, Family Division, 28 Grand St., Hartford, CT 06106 (203) 566-7973.

Mediating With Hispanic Families

by Maria Elena Burbano and Ray Cardona

This is the first in a series of articles on ethnic and cultural diversity.

Maria Elena Burbano is a social worker who grew up in Costa Rica. Ray Cardona is a first generation New Mexican, whose parents came from Mexico. He is a family intervention specialist at the Peanut Butter and Jelly Therapeutic Pre-School. Both have been mediators with the Parent/Child Mediation Program at New Mexico Center For Dispute Resolution.

To mediate a family is conflict is always a challenge. To facilitate a successful resolution, a mediator must have an understanding of cross-cultural issues and their implications in the mediation process. In any culture, families vary in the degree to which they follow traditional ways, but to some extent Hispanic families share a heritage of role expectations and value priorities. As Hispanics with an understanding of the mediation process, we would like to share our knowledge of cultural issues that are frequently manifested in mediation with Hispanic families.

Conflict emerges in Hispanic families in part because of the different experiences of each family member with the dominant culture and society. As children today are exposed to contemporary cultural norms, they often challenge the traditional values of their parents.

In the dynamics of traditional Hispanic families, nothing is more important than one's role in the family, and no one is more important than the father. He is the head of the household, the provider of material security, the final authority in all matters, and the spokesperson for the family in public. He either makes decisions or delegates that authority. The home is his kingdom, and no one expects it to be a democracy. In his absence, the mother assumes his role as well as fulfilling her own duties.

The mother supports the father's authority and accepts whatever responsibilities he delegates. She provides the family with order, unity, and emotional security. She oversees the care of the children and the smooth running of the household. She is the center who holds the family together, and despite appearances, it is often the mother who really makes family decisions. Just as the father often delegates authority to her, she may frequently pass on responsibilities to the oldest child.

The oldest child, male or female, has a unique family role. He or she is given a quasi-adult position. The oldest child is often expected to fulfill the duties of an absent parent, to make the younger children behave properly, and possibly to contribute financially if necessary. If the oldest child is a female, she may be given a great deal of responsibility for the household and the other children. A male oldest child may be expected to set an example for his brothers and assure the virtue of his sisters. Younger children, in contrast, are treated as children whose main job is to obey their parents and oldest sibling and to act according to family values. All of the children, regardless of birth order, have one major obligation, depending on their gender. Boys are expected to follow in the footsteps of their fathers and the other males in the family. This could mean seeking similar vocations and having similar interests. Traditional values hold that girls are to be chaste; pregnancy out of wedlock reflects negatively on the family. Children in Hispanic families are expected to behave in certain ways; their actions are a reflection of their culture's values.

Mediators must be aware of more than family roles in Hispanic families; they must also understand the traditional values which underlie expected behaviors. In Hispanic homes, the value of respect has a high priority. To show proper respect means to acknowledge the authority of others in the family hierarchy. The father, above all, is to be listened to, waited on, and obeyed by his wife and children. The children should be equally respectful of their mother and of the oldest child among them.

Another primary value is the integrity of the family. All family members are expected to be loyal to the family, to maintain unity and harmony, and to participate in family activities. Everyone should bring credit to the family name.

Education and work are also important values. Parents often urge their children to stay in school, to get a good education, and to take advantage of opportunities the parents did not have. If the mother works outside the home, it must not be at the expense of her duties as wife and mother. If the adolescent children work, it must not be at the expense of their schoolwork.

Being aware of roles and values in Hispanic families, effective mediators will act sensitively. They will be careful to address the father, or, in his absence, the mother, before speaking to anyone else. They will not say or do anything to show disregard for the father's or mother's authority. Similarly, the oldest child will be addressed before his siblings are. Because the mother or children may remain silent rather than say anything that might offend the father, mediators will have frequent caucuses or individual conferences, remembering to meet with family members in order of their position.

Since conflicts in Hispanic families are normally handled within the nuclear family first, then within the extended family, and then within the church, an agreement to mediate with an outsider is clearly difficult, and may be especially difficult for the father. A good mediator would recognize this and attempt to make the father feel that the mediation is a credit to the family. If the family, particularly the father, feels heard, acknowledged, and respected, communication will be enhanced and a successful resolution to the family's conflict can be achieved.

The mediator should also be aware of the conflicts an Hispanic family is likely to experience, even if they are not the positions that brought them to mediation. The mother or daughter(s) may resent the limitations on their personal freedoms that the father and son(s) aren't restricted by. The oldest child may resent what is perceived as excessive responsibility, while the younger children want more autonomy. Family values may differ from values they learn at school or from peers. The same importance attached to belonging to a family may make gang membership appealing to a boy, while his family disapproves of that outside alliance. Hispanic families experience the same stresses all families feel, and have the additional stresses of the conflicts that are particular to their culture. Understanding that culture is a vital part of a mediator's capacity for success.

This article was reprinted by permission from Dispute Resolution News, the newsletter of the New Mexico Center for Dispute Resolution, 510 2nd Street NW, Suite 209, Albuquerque, NM 87102, (505) 247-0571.

AFCC Committee Reports

The **Academic and Research Committee**, chaired by Mary Duryee, Ph.D., Director of the Alameda Family Court Services and Jennifer Mastroski, Ph. D., Penn State University, met in San Diego to formulate several areas of interest for the next year. They included: 1) **Working Seminar on Court Internships**. To be scheduled as a conference workshop for those who are involved or interested in administering an internship program or training interns. Participants would be invited to share resources and information about coordination between courts and academia, cost-effectiveness, interns/staff ratio, training techniques, etc. 2) **Working Seminar on Future Research in Family Law: Developing the Questions**. To be scheduled as a conference workshop for court personnel, administrators, and researchers to discuss areas of research that should be pursued further.

The committee will be meeting again during the Baltimore conference, November 12-14, 1992. Anyone interested in the work of the committee is invited to attend or to contact Mary Duryee at Family Court Services, Hall of Justice, 244 W. Winton Ave., Suite 208, Hayward, CA 94544 (510) 670-6350 or Jennifer Mastroski, Penn State University, 102 S. Human Development Bldg., University Park, PA 16802 (814) 863-0241.

Interest in AFCC's recently established **Child Support Committee** has been raised by the focus of the 1993 AFCC Conference

in New Orleans on "**The Economic Impact of Divorce.**" Fourteen AFCC members have joined the committee and will be actively addressing specific objectives over the next year which include:

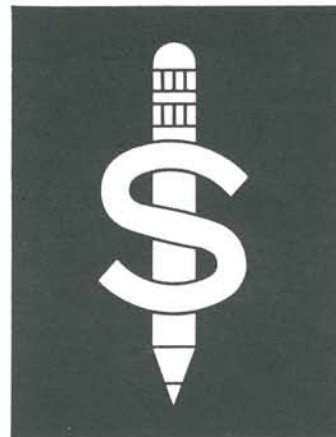
1. The proposal of educational programs re: public policy and practice issues in the areas of Child Support Determination, Modification and Enforcement.

2. The evaluation of Child Support Public Policy issues of relevance to AFCC membership and the recommendation of policy positions to the AFCC Board of Directors.

3. The review and update, as warranted, of the Child Support Brochure prepared by AFCC.

Though only a handful of members were able to attend the committee's meeting, which preceded the San Diego Conference, several program proposals for the '93 Conference were drafted and have been forwarded to the Conference Planning Committee for consideration.

Both the activities of the Child Support Committee and the focus of the '93 Conferences are very timely. Federal legislation to reform the Child Support Enforcement System is under consideration. In this national election year in the U.S., family issues, including the economic and emotional support of children, have received significant attention. For more information re: AFCC Child Support Committee membership, please contact Joel Bankes (chairperson) at (602) 506-5714.



Treasurer's Report

AFCC concluded the 1991-92 fiscal year with income surpassing expenses. Income was \$196,570 and expenses \$196,427. Please recall that the 1991-92 budget approved in Pittsburgh contained a deficit of approximately \$16,000. A balanced budget was realized because income was \$2,600 over projections while expenses were \$13,800 under budget allocations.

INCOME

Dues reached 92% of budget target.
Conference income was 310% of budget target.
Pamphlet sales were 103% of budget target.
Video sales were 101% of budget target.

1991-92 income budget total \$193,935
1991-92 actual income total \$196,570

EXPENSES

Executive Director contract was 100% of budget target.
Travel expenses were 73% of budget target.
Conference Coordinator expenses were 50% of budget target.
Committee expenses were 49% of budget target.
Publication and Video expenses were 75% of budget target.
"Other" expenses were below budget.

1991-92 expenses budget total \$210,210
1991-92 actual expense total \$196,427

Implications for the 1992-93 budget include the following:

a) AFCC 91-92 income was greatly assisted by conference revenues. The 92-93 budget projects a substantial increase in conference revenue over 91-92 for both budget and income. Make plans to attend the Minneapolis, Baltimore and New Orleans conferences! b) Maintaining current membership and increasing dues income is still a priority.

Phil Bushard
Treasurer
August 1992

Technical Assistance Committee Solicits Faculty

AFCC's Technical Assistance Committee, chaired by Tim Salius, Director of the Connecticut Superior Court Family Division, is currently involved in development of a plan to strengthen and enhance our technical assistance program over the next year. As part of this effort, the committee is soliciting names and resumes of members interested in serving as faculty for training, technical assistance and consultation activities.

If you would be interested in participating in these AFCC-sponsored activities please send a resume and indicate your area of interest and expertise to Tim Salius, Family Division, Superior Court, 28 Grand Street, Hartford, CT 06106 (Tel. 203 566-8187).

Technical assistance areas of interest include but are not limited to:

- Mediation Training
- Parent-Child Mediation

- Family Violence Intervention
- Pretrial Settlement Techniques
- Child Custody Evaluations
- Supervised Visitation Programs
- Divorce Education/Orientation Programs
- Parent-Child Education Programs
- Establishing Court Services
- Child Development and Parenting Plans
- Mediation Programs in Juvenile Courts
- Court-Appointed Special Advocates

The Technical Assistance Committee is planning to host an open forum at the AFCC conferences in Baltimore and New Orleans to obtain information and ideas from the membership about the development of a Technical Assistance Division. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Lois Gold Authors Book

Between Love and Hate was written by Lois Gold, ACSW as a comprehensive guide for the divorcing public. Lois is a mediator in private practice in Portland, OR, a member of AFCC and a past-president of the Academy of Family Mediators. The book artfully covers trial separations, parenting, re-establishing oneself as a single person, coping with the ex-spouse and the emotional and legal aspects of divorce. Numerous anecdotes, stories, exercises and suggestions add to the readability of this book and compassionately illustrate how couples can end their marriage with dignity. This book is recommended reading for those contemplating divorce and those who find themselves in the middle of these issues. Published by Plenum Publishing Corporation, 233 Spring Street, NY, NY 10013 (800) 221-9369, and is available for \$24.95 (cloth).



Lois Gold

South Plains, TX Adopts Mediator Classification System

The South Plains Dispute Resolution Center (SPDRC) recently adopted a career ladder for mediators. Mediators and other neutrals affiliated with the DRC will be classified at three levels. Each level has continuing education requirements and performance standards which must be achieved to retain a classification. Training and continuing education will be arranged by the DRC and the newly incorporated Texas Association of Dispute Resolution Professionals. According to Becky Cannon, chair of the Regional Alternative Dispute Resolution Advisory Committee, this is an effort to assure accountability and that quality ADR service are provided to residents of the South Plains. Further information may be obtained from D. Gene Valentini, Director, SPDRC, P.O. Box 3730, Lubbock, TX 79452, (806) 762-8721.



PBS Series on The World of Abnormal Psychology

The World of Abnormal Psychology is a 13-part television series scheduled to premier this Fall. The series will serve as a complete college credit television course or can be ordered on video-cassette as a teaching tool. Students can register for the course through participating colleges and view the episodes over the local PBS station. The series will offer viewers an in-depth view of various mental illnesses and disorders, with documentary footage and commentary from teachers, clinicians, and researchers. The series explores new areas of research in

substance abuse, childhood and stress-related disorders and psychological factors in physical illness. Methods of assessment of mental disorders, forms of psychotherapy and preventive measures will also be included. The series is part of the Annenberg/CPB Collection, funded in 1981 with a gift from the Annenberg School of Communication to support innovative educational efforts through telecommunication. For information on purchasing the video series call 1-800-LEARNER.



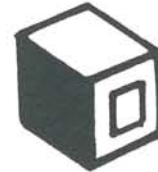
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Director, Department of Family Services, Multnomah County, Portland, OR. This organization provides mandatory mediation in child custody and visitation cases, performs custody and visitation studies, marital counseling and related services. Highly qualified and experienced staff. Applicants to have Master's Degree, administrative experience and commitment to mediation. Inquiries: Leslie Dana-Frigault, Multnomah County Courthouse, 1021 SW 4th Ave., Portland, OR 97204 (503) 248-3443.

Corrections

Please note that the dates of the **1993 AFCC Northcentral Regional Conference** have been changed to October 7-9, 1993. The conference and Board meeting will be held in Toledo, Ohio. See Calendar of Events for contact information.

Anyone who requested a copy of the **Albuquerque Court Clinic Guidelines** or who would like a copy should send a certified check or money order made out to the Clerk of the District Court for \$4.00 to Dr. Louise Koditwakku, Family Court Clinic, P.O. Box 488, Albuquerque, NM 87102. Requests previously received cannot be processed until the \$4.00 is received to cover the cost of publication and postage.



When Playing Games is Not Just Play

Checkers, Dominoes, Candy Land and Play Dough are on the shelf, not in a toy store, but in the office of a Family Court Counselor into which a seven year old child has come for the purpose of a custody evaluation. The child is given the choice of "a game to play" which is played with the counselor, then with each parent. What is actually happening is far more than play. Information is being made available about the child's level of functioning, the parent-child relationship, and parenting skills.

When the focus of the custody evaluation is the best interest of the child, it seems imperative to have as much knowledge about the child as possible. Games provide the opportunity to obtain valuable information about the parties in a custody evaluation in a non-threatening manner. Physical functioning, such as manual dexterity, hand-eye coordination and activity level, can be observed in the way the child handles the items. Intellectual ability can be assessed by noticing what the child knows (colors, numbers, alphabet, reading, etc.), and compre-

hends, and the child's capacity for problem solving.

When playing with family members, the counselor is able to view the parent-child interaction as well as obtain historical information about whether or not this child and parent have played games together. Including siblings allows this relationship to be demonstrated. If any child is parentified, a bully, dependent or if cooperation rather than competition is present, those family interactions will be apparent during the game.

Parenting styles quickly surface during a period of play. Parents can be observed giving directions, explanations, and handling conflict. Whether the parenting style is authoritarian, uninvolved, rigid or flexible as well as the degree of sensitivity to the children can be noted during a game.

*Submitted by Cheryl Portele
Counselor
Family Court Services
Dallas County, Texas*

AFCC Liaisons

AFCC has developed a formal liaison with a number of other organizations that we share an interest with in the fields of family law and dispute resolution. Each organization's liaison is invited to attend AFCC conferences and meetings of the Board of Directors.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Richard J. Podell, J.D.
100 E. Wisconsin Ave.
Suite 2800
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 224-6060

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUVENILE & FAMILY COURT JUDGES

Hon. Roy B. Willett
Roanoke City Courthouse
315 Church Ave., S.W.
P.O. Box 211
Roanoke, VI 24002-0211
(703) 981-2437

NATIONAL JUDICIAL COLLEGE

Hon. Burt Scott
National Judicial College
Judicial College Bldg.
University of Nevada
Reno, NV 89557
(702) 784-6747

ACADEMY OF FAMILY MEDIATORS

Zena Zumeta
Ann Arbor Mediation Ctr.
330 E. Liberty, Suite "3A"
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(313) 663-1155
FAX: (313) 998-6203

FAMILY MEDIATION CANADA

Dr. Larry Fong
Fong & Associates, CTD
300, 840-6 Ave., S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3E5
(403) 233-7533
FAX: (403) 266-4998

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONALS IN DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Hugh Mclsaac
Los Angeles County Counciling Court
111 N. Hill St., Rm #241
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-5531
FAX: (213) 617-7176

Sympathies

AFCC extends its sympathies to Jerry Lecovin upon the death of his mother. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Richmond Society for Community Living, #240-8260 Granville Ave., Richmond, B.C. Canada V6Y 1P3.

William Hodges, a frequent AFCC conference presenter, died August 4, 1992 of a heart attack in Boulder, CO. Professor Hodges was the author of *Interventions for Children of Divorce: Custody, Access and Psychotherapy*. Memorial contributions may be sent to the William Hodges Scholarship Fund, c/o Louise Silvern, 1795 Gillespie Drive, Boulder, CO 80303.

Memorial Contributions

Should you have an occasion to make a memorial contribution on behalf of a friend or relative, consider making a donation to AFCC. The Association will notify the individual or family of your remembrance and send a confirmation of the gift to the donor. AFCC is a non-profit association and all gifts are tax deductible.

South Carolina Concludes Families in Court Project

Fifteen years ago, South Carolina created a uniform, statewide family court system. With support from the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, South Carolina Chief Justice George T. Gregory, Jr. appointed a panel of state leaders to study the current system and to make recommendations for ways to improve the justice system for families in court. The resulting recommendations were developed by the participants at the South Carolina Families in Court Symposium held August 8-9, 1991. They are organized into three action areas: 1) Quality of Judicial Services; 2) Accountability and Communication and 3) Primary Prevention and Long Range Planning.

I. Quality of Judicial Services

The present structure of the judicial system, with a comprehensive family court system separate from courts of general trial jurisdiction, best addresses complex and important family and children's issues. However, the judicial services provided by these courts can be improved.

A. Court facilities must inspire respect for the dignity of the Family Court and the families and children involved in the proceedings. Adequate facilities should be available to include the courtroom, waiting rooms and conference rooms.

B. Judges and supporting agencies should be provided with up-to-date technology which will enable electronic communication among the courts and service agencies, legal research, case management, tracking and docketing. This automation would include computers, facsimile machines and telephones with conferencing capabilities.

C. Clerks of Family Courts should have administrative capabilities that ensure effective judicial calendars and case flow management, records management, management information systems data, budget preparation and fiscal management. Adequate, trained staff should be provided to administer this capability. Judges should have law clerks. Adequate, trained personnel should be provided to guide children and families through the system, to achieve prompt case processing and to ensure inter-agency involvement and follow-up.

D. A qualified judiciary is essential to properly deal with children and families. Certain requirements and criteria, emphasizing experience in family and juvenile law, should be utilized in the selection process. Salaries should be increased to attract highly qualified applicants. Sufficient training and education prior to actually holding court and during tenure in office should be mandated.

E. Mediation and other alternative dispute resolution processes should be implemented with special consideration being given to child custody and visitation, division of household property in divorces, parent/child disputes, (excluding child and spouse abuse) and status offenses. The legislature should collaborate with the existing pilot programs to develop and expand the provision of mediation services to an eventual statewide system. Proper qualifications and training requirements for mediators should be established.

F. A formalized intake procedure for domestic violence cases should be developed to include provisions for counseling, treatment and assistance in preparation of necessary court documents such as financial affidavits and protection order forms.

G. The use of lay advocates and court-appointed special advocates for children in delinquency cases should be studied.

H. The feasibility of expanding case coordination involving family members should be studied. This might include advising the judges of all previous or concurrent proceedings involving family members. It may include individual judges hearing all matters relating to all members of a family.

II. Accountability and Communication

The court that handles matters touching the lives and welfare of our families and their children should have the most qualified decision makers, the most qualified support staff, and the most modern equipment and facilities to ensure that the citizens of South Carolina have the highest quality of justice. It also requires that all governmental institutions charged with providing protection and services to families coordinate their activities and cooperate with each other in developing solutions.

A. There should be periodic meetings of the judiciary, service agency representatives, and legislative and executive branch representatives to discuss issues and recommend improvements.

B. The structure of service agencies should be examined, and restructured to prevent duplication of services.

C. There should be shared electronic database among service agencies.

D. There should be a system for the review of court orders to ensure compliance. Automation should assist in this review.

III. Primary Prevention and Long Range Planning

A. A greater share of state resources must be devoted to programs designed to assist in the prevention of child deprivation and juvenile delinquency, such as:

- headstart and other early childhood programs
- basic reading and writing skills for children
- prenatal and pediatric health care
- teen pregnancy prevention
- parenting education
- vigorous child support enforcement
- in-home services
- home health visitation services

B. The state and local agencies must undertake and maintain a coordinated program for long range planning for the provision, funding, and delivery of services for children and families. This effort must include policy making members of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches so that needs will be anticipated and met in a proactive rather than reactive/crisis manner.

C. State agencies should be required to report their actual delivery of services in relation to stated goal/plans. Reporting requirements should incorporate service costs and outcomes.

D. An objective of the planning/reporting process should be to increase judicial knowledge of service options in all geographical areas, costs and probable outcomes.

IV. Resources

Resources for services for families and children in court have frequently been inadequate to meet the need. Part of this problem stems from lack of coordination of funding and oversight between state agencies and between the state and local governing authorities.

A. Funding of family courts and service agencies must be adequate.

B. Increased use of foundation or corporate grants and federal funds should be pursued in a coordinated manner through the Health and Human Services Finance Commission.

C. Court-appointed counsel should be adequately compensated. Use of contempt fines and filing fees from modification actions, motions or rules to show cause to fund an account for this purpose should be pursued. The Bar should emphasize its services to the state as court-appointed counsel.

D. Regional, secure, pre-adjudication facilities for juveniles should be funded. These facilities must provide a rehabilitative environment.

1993

MEYER ELKIN

ESSAY CONTEST

- ◆ **Economic Issues in Divorce**
- ◆ **Family Law and Cultural Diversity**

The 5th annual Meyer Elkin Essay Award will be presented at AFCC's annual meeting in New Orleans, May 1993. The winner will receive a \$250 cash prize and award certificate. The winning article will be published in the **Family and Conciliation Courts Review**. Articles may address any of the themes listed above. Articles must be received by March 15, 1993. Entries should be submitted to Review Editor Hugh McIsaac, Family and Conciliation Courts Review, 111 N. Hill Street, Rm. 241, Los Angeles, CA 90012 USA, (213) 974-5524.

AFCC Newsletter Advertising Rates

Advertising copy must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication. Send your camera-ready advertising copy and payment in US funds to:

AFCC
329 W. Wilson St.
Madison, WI 53703

Full page\$350
Half page\$250
Third page\$125
Sixth page\$ 75

The **AFCC Newsletter** is published four times a year in January, April, July and October. News items should be sent by the 15th of the month preceding publication to Newsletter Editor, Ann L. Milne, 329 W. Wilson St. Madison, WI 53703, (608) 251-4001.

Thanks to Becky!

Becky Greenlee has been serving as co-editor of the AFCC Newsletter since 1990. Becky was formerly the Director of the Rock County Family Court Services and has now taken a job as a staff attorney with Legal Action of Wisconsin. Becky hopes to continue to stay involved with AFCC. We will miss her assistance on the Newsletter and look forward to working together on other projects.



NEW ORLEANS NOTES



AFCC's 30th annual conference will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana May 12-15, 1993. This is the first in a series of articles on New Orleans and the attractions that it holds for our conference attendees.

Laissez les bon temps roulez!

Let the good times roll! New Orleans is the perfect place to celebrate AFCC's 30th anniversary. This Queen of the Mississippi was born in 1718 as a Creole princess in the new Louisiana territory. She lived among the Choctaw and Chickasaw and met up with pirates and Spanish conquerors. The Spanish adorned her with architectural splendors but her proud French creole origins were apparent everywhere. She welcomed the fun-loving Cajuns in 1763 who gifted her with incomparable zest. She discovered a natural instinct for soul-stirring music and exotic cuisine. By the time she became an American citizen in 1803, many Europeans were flocking to her door.

You can begin your stay in New Orleans with a cup of café au lait followed by Eggs Hussard. Sample a hot beignet and watch the artists begin to gather at Jackson Square. Stroll through the French Quarter and down Royal Street. Peek past the narrow passageways into Italiane courtyards with sculpted fountains or view sprawling mansions and Victorian homes.

For an exciting afternoon, climb aboard the St. Charles Avenue Streetcar, a national historic landmark which you can catch one block from the Fairmont, our conference hotel, and travel uptown to the beautiful Garden District and Audubon Park and Zoo. Then take a Mississippi Cruise back to the Aquarium of the Americas. Plan time for a paddlewheel steamboat excursion on the muddy Mississippi or a bayou cruise into the heart of Louisiana's swampland and subtropical beauty. Sports fans, don't miss a tour of the Superdome, home of the New Orleans Saints.

Hungry? How about a New Orleans brunch or an evening of crawfish etoufee, gumbo and shrimp creole finished off with cool blues and hot jazz. Boogie til dawn, stomp to a Cajun beat or dance cheek to cheek in one of New Orleans' intimate night clubs. It's all there! As well as a great AFCC conference!

Don't miss this opportunity. Register early for reduced conference rates. See the enclosed registration form. Delta Airlines, and Corporate Travel Consultants, AFCC's official carrier and travel agency for this conference, are offering reduced rates and will assist you in your travel arrangements. Contact Corporate Travel Consultants Group Services at 1-800-323-0088 for airline and auto rental information. Identify yourself as traveling to the AFCC conference.



Of Special Interest...

You are invited to help us
PLAN, PROMOTE
and
PRODUCE
the

AFCC
ANNUAL CONFERENCE • MAY 12-15 1993
N · E · W O · R · L · E · A · N · S
THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DIVORCE

AFCC's 30th Annual Conference will focus on **The Economic Impact Of Divorce**. This will be more than simply looking at the dollars and cents of divorce. Rather, this conference will examine the **BIG PICTURE**—the economic impact of divorce on Children, Adults, Courts, and Society.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE AND HEAR?

WHO SHOULD WE TELL ABOUT THIS CONFERENCE?

DO YOU HAVE A PROGRAM TO PRESENT?

If you would like to submit a proposal for a workshop or presentation: Send a one-two page description/outline, a list of participants and note any audio-visual or other equipment that you will need. Proposals should be directed toward one of the following topic headings:

- The Economic Impact of Divorce on CHILDREN
- The Economic Impact of Divorce on ADULTS
- The Economic Impact of Divorce on COURTS
- The Economic Impact of Divorce on SOCIETY
- SPECIAL ISSUES

We want to make sure that everyone knows about this conference. Let us know who we should notify. Do you have mail lists that would be appropriate?

What are the issues that are of special interest to you? What would you like to know more about? What would you like others to know more about?

SEND TO
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329 W. Wilson Street
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(608) 251-4001
FAX (608) 251-2231



Of Special Interest...

AFCC
ANNUAL CONFERENCE • MAY 12-15 1993
N·E·W O·R·L·E·A·N·S
THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DIVORCE

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SPECIAL AFCC ROOM RATE—\$89 Single or Double

REGISTRATION

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL (Prior to December 31, 1992)

- AFCC Member \$200.** Full conference. (Includes all food functions and amenities)
- Non-Member \$225.** Full conference.
- New Member Special \$275.** Full conference and AFCC membership.
(Applied to new 1993 memberships only. AFCC membership regularly \$95)

REGULAR REGISTRATION

- AFCC Member \$225.** Full conference. (Includes all food functions and amenities)
- Non-Member \$250.** Full conference.
- New Member Special \$300.** Full conference and AFCC membership.
(Applied to new 1993 memberships only)
- Spouses and Guests \$100.** (Includes all food functions)
- Students \$100.** Student ID must accompany Registration.
(Conference attendance only, does not include food functions)
- Banquet Only \$45.**

Amount enclosed

\$ _____

Name _____

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AFCC INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA • MAY 12-15, 1993

AFCC is pleased to announce that it will be awarding a \$1,000 scholarship to an international applicant to attend and participate in the 1993 annual conference in New Orleans, Louisiana:

1. Scholarship applicants must reside outside of the North American continent.
2. The \$1,000 scholarship shall be used to defray travel and lodging costs to attend the New Orleans conference. Conference registration will be waived.
3. Applicants shall submit a one-five page descriptive summary of the intended topic to be presented and a resume.
4. Presentations shall address the conference theme: **THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DIVORCE.**
5. Applications must be received by January 15, 1993. The scholarship award will be announced by February 1, 1993.

Direct all queries and applications to New Orleans Conference Chairperson: Tim Salius, Family Division, 28 Grand St., Hartford, CT 06106, (203) 566-7973.

AFCC is an international association of judges, lawyers, counselors, mediators and other professionals who are concerned with the constructive resolution of family conflict. AFCC was established in 1963 to develop and improve the practice and procedures of family court services as a complement to the judicial process and to promote and maintain professional and ethical standards in court-related services. The Association's annual and regional meetings allow members to share ideas and improve services, refine techniques and profit from exposure to the most recent research findings. Members receive the quarterly journal, **The Family and Conciliation Courts Review**, and the quarterly Newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM

AFCC • 329 W. WILSON STREET • MADISON, WI 53703
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To receive a conference brochure, please return this portion to:

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September 17-20, 1992

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June 25-27, 1993

July 15-18, 1993

August 19-22, 1993

September 16-19, 1993

October 1-3, 1993

October 16-18, 1993

October 21-24, 1993

November 11-14, 1993

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Family Mediation Training

Gary Kirkpatrick

Contact: (214) 528-2830

or 1-800-888-8609

August 14-18, 1992

Divorce Mediation Training

Zena Zumeta and Carl Schneider

Contact: 1-800-852-1432

September 17-20, 1992

October 8-11, 1992

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November 5-8, 1992

December 10-13, 1992

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Contact: John Lemmon

(510) 547-8089

October 1-3, 1992

AFCC North Central Regional Conference

Izaty's Resort

Contact: Hon. Mary Winter

County Government Bldg.

Rm. 559

Minneapolis, MN 55487

(612) 348-7782

October 2, 1992

Advanced Mediation Training

Contact: Emily Brown

Key Bridge Therapy and Mediation Center

1925 N. Lynn Street, Suite 700

Arlington, VA 22209

(703) 528-3900

October 12-16, 1992

January 25-29, 1993

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October 11-15, 1993

Divorce Mediation Training

Contact: CDR Associates

100 Arapahoe Ave. Suite 12

Boulder, Colorado 80302

(303) 442-7367

October 21-25, 1992

Mediation Training

Contact: Joan Kelly and Nancy Foster

Northern California Mediation Center

100 Tamal Plaaza, Suite 175

Corte Madera, CA 94925

(415) 927-1422

November 10-13, 1992

School Conflict Managers Training

Contact: The Community Board Program

1540 Market Street, Ste. 490

San Francisco, CA 94102

(415) 552-1250

November 12-14, 1992

AFCC Northeast Regional Conference

Harrison's Pier 5

Clarion Inn

Baltimore, Maryland

Contact: Aza Howard Butler

801 Dairy Road

Parkton, MD 21120

(301) 583-6578

May 12-15, 1993—New Orleans

1993 AFCC Annual Conference

Contact: Tim Salius

Family Division Superior Court

28 Grand Street

Hartford, CT 06106

(203) 566-7973

October 7-9, 1993

AFCC Northcentral Regional Conference

Toledo, OH

Contact: Denise McColley

105 W. Main St.

Napoleon, OH 43545

(419) 592-0010

May, 11-14, 1994

AFCC Annual Conference

Maui, Hawaii

Contact: Hon. Douglas McNish

2145 Main Street

Wailuku, HI 96793

(808) 572-9642

Fall 1994—Hamilton, Ont.

AFCC Northcentral Regional Conference

Contact: Gerald McNeilly

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