



NEWSLETTER

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

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

Volume 14, Number 3
Summer 1995

AFCC Northwest Regional Conference A River Runs Through It

"Yosemite with a river running through it" is the phrase used to describe the Columbia River Gorge, just 45 minutes outside of Portland Oregon and the site of AFCC's Northwest Regional Conference, November 2-4, 1995. The tranquil surroundings of the Pacific Northwest provide the ideal setting for the Skamania Lodge, home of this fall's conference.

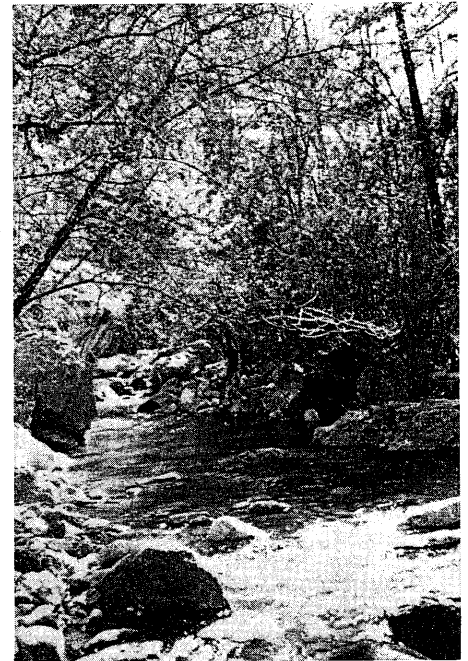
The conference will feature Robert Theobald, described as a futurist, an economist and an instigator involved in fundamental change issues. Mr. Theobald characterizes his work as "providing services to organizations which recognize that directions, priorities and goals have to change as society moves out of the industrial era into the compassionate era."

"The Triple Revolution," Mr. Theobald's 1964 report to President Johnson, introduced the idea that computers, robots, human rights and the development of

weaponry would force fundamental change. He has written and edited over 25 books including *The Rapids of Change* and *Turning the Century*.

The program will also feature Oregon Supreme Court Chief Justice Wallace Carson, author Constance Ahrons and workshops including, "Sabotage of Settlement: How we Contribute, How we Prevent," "Family? The Challenges of Honoring Cultures We Do Not Understand," and "The Art and Science of Judicial Settlement."

AFCC has blocked all two hundred rooms at the Skamania Lodge. Rates are \$85.00 for a single or double, \$99.00 for a room with a river view. AFCC is arranging for shuttle service from the Portland airport. Cost of the shuttle is anticipated to be approximately \$20 each way. Due to the limited number of guest rooms, be certain to make your travel plans early for this exciting conference. See page 9.



For more information contact:
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(503) 248-3189
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Montreal is Magic for AFCC

AFCC's 1995 Annual Conference, "Gender Issues in Family Law," offered participants an experience that was nothing less than magical. Against a backdrop of one of North America's most vibrant cities, AFCC provided an exciting blend of general sessions, workshops, institutes and networking opportunities.

The program ranged from the international perspectives of gender issues in family law presented on opening night, to the stimulating closing session, "The Gender Gap: from Classroom to Courtroom."

Professor David Sadker of American University in Washington, D.C., closed the conference by bringing participants back to the classroom. Using examples from a children's book, a classroom role play and a videotape of an actual classroom, Dr. Sadker demonstrated how teachers, often

unknowingly, treat boys and girls differently. Boys, he noted, are more likely to receive specific corrective feedback from teachers, to be selected when raising their hands and to receive attention from the teacher for both positive and negative behaviors. Girls receive less attention for their work but are praised more frequently for the neatness of their homework and their personal appearance. According to Dr. Sadker, this pattern of treatment contributes to stronger performance by boys than girls on college entrance exams and continues to impact behavior throughout adulthood.

On top of the conference's professional development opportunities, the AFCC Annual Banquet made true believers out of one and all. Magician Gary Kurtz dazzled the audience with magic that sent repeated murmurs of "how did he do that?" through the house.

Conference participants also delighted in Montreal's culinary, cultural and musical magic. Popular activities included the Taste of the Town, the Jazz Tour and seeing the sights of Old Montreal.

AFCC wishes to thank Conference Co-Chairpersons Madame Justice Pierrette Sevigny and Attorney Richard McConomy for their efforts and support from beginning to end. Special thanks also go to Lorraine Fillion, Lisette Boyer, Emile Kruzick, Sylvie Matteau, Kathleen Young, Gordon Morton, Jeanne Thomas, Diana Preice, Beth Kerns, Bill Rosa, Janet Esposito-Daigle, Lee Germaine, Roger Grenier, Joseph Nash, Jeanne Capodano, Dominic Dabate, Brigitte Garceau, Marie-Josée Gamache, Daniel Camozzi, Lorraine Clement and l'Association de Médiation Familiale du Québec.



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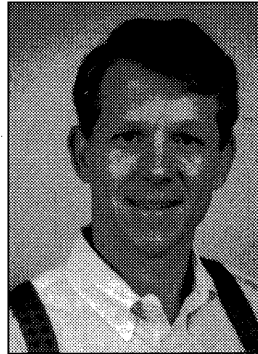
The AFCC Newsletter is a publication of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. The Newsletter is published four times a year. Deadlines for news items and advertising are March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1. Advertising copy must be camera ready and payment made in U.S. funds.

Advertising Rates:

Full page (7½" x 10")\$400
Half page (7½" x 4¾")\$300
Quarter page (3¾" x 4¾")\$175

President's Message

by John Kydd
Seattle, Washington



Fifteen years ago, I attended (thanks to Alice Thomas) my first AFCC Conference. I crept into a cavernous conference room, sat self-consciously in the back and marveled at the plenary speakers. Their presentations hung together with such warmth and humanity, they seemed crafted to fit. At the reception, I listened to wonderful conversations about how people *felt* about their work (a veritable taboo for too many of the lawyers I knew).

Walking back to my YMCA room that night, I remembered saying to myself, "Maybe I'm not crazy to need more heartfulness in the law. Besides, if I am crazy, at least now I'm not alone".

I am a member of many organizations. AFCC is one of the few to which I *belong*. Belonging creates a fundamental relationship of shared intent and shared sentiment. To belong is to be part of and to share in. Stan Cohen *belonged* to AFCC. He explained his relationship to AFCC as only Stan could: "You know, John, I've got an itchy pocket for AFCC." Having an "itchy pocket" meant that he felt better every time he reached in his pocket and gave to AFCC. Stan lived fully and gave fully; both of his time and his money. Stan's recent death highlights how little time we each have to do what *really* needs to be done. Tom Bishop's moving remembrance of Stan appears on page three of this newsletter.

My "itchy pocket" is serving you for this year. Although I serve as president, the office is not mine. It belongs to us. Walt Whitman said it best:

"And what I assume, you shall assume
For every atom, belonging to me as
good belongs to you."

Whatever status I have, you have provided. Whatever leadership I may provide should, therefore, come from listening to you. A good leader should be a good follower; namely, a follower of the hearts, desires and ideas of the membership. As a member of the Board of Directors, I don't feel like a "director" of others. I do feel like a steward. A steward conserves the best of what is, cultivates the rest, and provides a more sustainable organization to the next generation. I daresay we each, in our respective practices, function as stewards of family dispute resolution. Would it be more apt to consider our Board of Directors a Board of Stewards?

My minimum duty is not only to listen to you, but also to share with you what I hear. What I hear is that our work is becoming more difficult and dangerous. Court workers report they have to do more with less. Family court services is often the first to go in budget cuts. King County Court Services (the 12th largest in the nation) faces the loss of its entire mediation department and part of its evaluation department. The cut was made to pay for court-wide security after a quadruple murder in the courthouse (concerning a family law dispute). Threats by parents against evaluators are increasing. Court evaluators now face threats both *in* their practice and *to* their practice. In addition to reduced resources, the families they evaluate have more problems (the families with fewer problems usually settle through mediation). The first question in a parenting evaluation used to be which parent was more fit. Now, it's which parent is *fit*.

We must find a way to better protect and defend our family courts from budget cuts. To do so, we should, at minimum, develop model funding and caseload standards for family court and related services. We should consider a fax or computer network to lobby against budget cuts. We need to pool the research on the savings created by family court services (or court related services) so our family courts can present themselves to the funding authority in their best light.

Some lawyers report fear of reprisal for doing their job too well. Some wear body armor. Others report an increase in "hardball" tactics by younger counsel that exacerbate parental mistrust and make settlement (and future parenting) more problematic.

Many judges tell me of crushing motions calendars; of people who can't afford counsel falling through the cracks; of families who never stop fighting who usurp limited court resources in their pursuit of revenge; and of sixteen-year-old single mothers and sixteen-year-old fathers with murder convictions. They face a decline in support and funding for caseloads growing in size and complexity. Some report that their graduate school-trained custody evaluators are being replaced by lay "volunteers."

On the bright side, many of you report an increasing sense of collegiality within AFCC. Our conferences are not just good presentations. You cherish the friendships, the opportunity for consultation and for personal conversations about how to cope with the stresses of practice. Some members want more time at conferences to meet informally but can't afford to take more time from work.

Listening to 1,600 people is difficult. Passing on that listening back to you is daunting. Questionnaires are helpful but often fail to capture the full flavor of your interests and needs. Members want to know more about their Board, their officers and about each other.

An answer to this need may be on the horizon. It is the AFCC On-line proposal. Right now, the Executive Committee is on-

(Continued on page 4)

AFCC Grieves the Loss of Stanley Cohen

Stanley Cohen, Ph.D., a founding member of AFCC, former Executive Director and a former editor of the *Family and Conciliation Courts Review*, died on June 23, 1995 as the result of a tractor accident on his farm in the Willamette Valley, south of Portland, Oregon.

Stan is survived by his daughter Julia, his son-in-law Sean, his son Aaron, his daughter-in-law Ilka, and his three grandchildren, Scout, Micah and Maureen. Stan's extended family includes all of us at AFCC who had the opportunity to work with him and to share his devotion to families and family court services.

Although he had retired from his formal AFCC duties, Stan remained a friend, mentor and colleague to many AFCC members. His dedication to family court services was evident in his work, his writings and his research. Stan will be deeply missed by his AFCC family, but his principles and passion for helping others will survive him in the mission of the organization he helped found.

*Ann L. Milne, ACSW
AFCC Executive Director*

In Memory of Stanley Cohen

by Hon. Thomas Bishop

Stanley Cohen's death was a cruel, sudden death, wrenching to his family and to all of us who loved Stan. Although we may not be able to understand it, we can, however, choose our reactions to it after our initial response of grief. Whether inspired by spirituality, or propelled by a more mundane practicality, I think we can find potential for a positive outlook from this tragedy. And, I believe that if we do no more than mourn our loss of Stan without celebrating his life with us, we might disserve his memory.

Stan was sixty-five years old. He had retired from his teaching responsibilities at Oregon Health Sciences University a few years ago, and he had just retired from his consultancy with the Clackamas County Family Court Services, which he helped form, and where he had provided guidance, training and supervision to its staff for more than two decades. He continued a small private practice as a marriage and family therapist, seeing mostly poor people, often without compensation.

As many know, Stan was one of the "originals" of AFCC. He was proud of his close friendship with Meyer Elkin and the role he played to fledge a collaboration of courts which has matured into today's AFCC. And he stayed with it. Stan was a member of the AFCC Board and served as Executive Director during the time period 1984 to 1989. He served with Hugh McIsaac as co-

editor of the *Family and Conciliation Courts Review*. Stan's influence permeated AFCC.

Stan had two great passions about AFCC and these interests tell us about Stan the person. When the AFCC was started in 1963 one of its principal aims was to increase the capability of courts to assist separating couples to consider reconciliation. While a realist about no-fault divorce and a clear-eyed observer of our increasingly no-fault society, Stan continued to believe that courts have a legitimate role to play in helping couples re-examine the viability of their marital relationships. He was saddened by our apparent abdication of that responsibility.

He was concerned, too, about the economics of the divorce process, and, in particular, how *pro se* litigants fare in the judicial process. Stan identified with the underdog, the person with less. He believed that our institutions of government were becoming increasingly irrelevant to the people who most mattered to him—those who, for one reason or another, are less enfranchised.

Stan was also my kids' best adult friend. He'd show up a couple of times a year and within an hour of his arrival, they'd be sharing with him information about their lives that neither their mother nor I could ever lever out of them even if we were inclined to try. Not just the man from out of town, Stan was on the phone frequently, calling mostly

just to say hello and as content to talk with one of the kids as to catch Kathrine or me.

A true friend, his unconditional love was a treasured gift. Stan helped me to take myself less seriously than the serious work I do, and he made me be a patient listener.

We'll all miss Stan, but we have, all of us, benefitted from his walk with us. His strong principles initially helped mold the AFCC and his continuing influence helped shape our course as an organization. We mourn Stan but we celebrate him as well for all he has been to us.

AFCC to Honor Stanley Cohen

AFCC will pay tribute to Stanley Cohen with a special gathering of his friends and colleagues during AFCC's Northwest Regional Conference, November 2-4, 1995 at the Skamania Lodge, outside Portland, Oregon. AFCC is also establishing a fund in Dr. Cohen's memory. Memorial contributions may be forwarded to AFCC, 329 W. Wilson St., Madison, WI 53703.

MEMBER PROFILE

AFCC President John Kydd

Those who know him best say that AFCC President John Kydd brings to the association a personality and leadership style that effectively blend very different characteristics. "John combines mature leadership with boyish wonderment," said former AFCC President Hon. Susan Snow. According to Leonore Levit, "He is gentle and soft, but underneath that velvet is a lot of iron."

Descriptions such as these don't surprise John. In fact, he notes that from a very early age he came to appreciate differences. "I was practically an infant when I lived in Kyoto, Japan with my family during the Korean war," he recalled. "I had this bright red hair, and nobody over there had red hair. Everywhere I went children tried to come up to me and touch my hair. It helped me to be aware at an early age that there was difference in the world."

With the exception of his time in Japan, John was raised in Seattle, Washington. He earned a B.A. and an M.S.W. from the University of Washington, and a J.D. from the University of Puget Sound School of Law.

His professional life has been active and diverse. He is a Partner with the law firm of Strong & Kydd. He also founded several organizations including the Pacific Family Law Institute, the Washington State Mediation consortium and the Seattle King County Dispute Resolution Center.

John has made a practice out of blending what others may perceive as distinctions. His two professional degrees ("one for the heart and one for the mind") allow him to integrate his commitment to community, family and change. "Part of my desire has been to reunite the long lost siblings of law and social work," he said. "My social work degree gave me exposure to the problems that families face and my law degree is a tool to advocate for further extension for professions of the heart."

John lives with his family on a small farm on Bainbridge Island, a brief ferry ride from Seattle. The Kydd family chose island life to assure a sense of community for their children. John's wife, Marianne, has a degree in special education which John claims,

"gives her an advanced capacity to understand me." Marianne is presently working at home raising Sean, age four, Galen, age three, and Ryan, age one. Also sharing the Kydd farm are two llamas, two sheep, fruit trees and 500 feet of wine grapes. John said, "I learn a lot from living on the land. Watching animals who survive on grass, air and water can be a humbling experience. It helps remind me about how little one should need."

Nowhere is John's commitment to family and community more evident than his work with AFCC and he sees exciting challenges in the association's future. "I think the single biggest challenge is for us to find a way as professionals to heal ourselves and each other," he said. "AFCC has the potential to do real cutting edge work; to demonstrate how professionals can come together and cope with the pressures of practice and their lives. I think our greatest resource is each other."

President's Message *(continued from page 2)*

line with Conflict-Net. If you join Conflict-Net you can access a few AFCC conferences. You can post your ideas and questions on the member conference (afcc.member) and leave messages for any of the officers by e-mail or on the Board Conference (afcc.board). There is a very interesting conference on custody assessment that just began weeks ago. My e-mail door is "always open" at jkydd@igc.apc.org.

If we decide to fully implement AFCC On-line, it should meet your needs. What information would you like to have? We could have electronic "rooms" for each AFCC committee and profession to trade practice tips or seek a second opinion on a family conflict. We could set up a library with papers on myriad issues, references to recent research and court opinions. Board members could share their hopes for the future in detail so you could get a much clearer idea (and have more opportunity to influence) where we are headed.

Beyond the political, there is room for more of the personal. E-mail allows for confidential messages. It ends the travails of phone tag and costs about 20% of a fax of the same message. Some members would

like to learn more about coping with job stress, networking on personal interest areas, starting on-line study groups, book clubs, etc. In a nutshell, you are creating professional families that have "reunions" at each conference. What would you like other members to know about you? What information would you like to know about other members?

The design of AFCC On-line is up to you. It is rather like a field of dreams. Whether it will work will depend largely on whether it works for you. Please write me soon to detail what you would like to see.

To go on-line requires a computer with Windows (or the Macintosh equivalent) and a modem of at least 9600 baud. The cost to join Conflict-Net is \$15.00 plus \$10.00 for a copy of Interact, a user-friendly network software. The monthly fee is \$12.50 for full Internet, world-wide web and e-mail access to anyone on any network. All AFCC member countries have access to this network. If a large group joins, we will have leverage to negotiate a reduction in our monthly fees.

I hope to hear from you and I will faithfully share what you say.

Lawyers Wanted

by Nancy Palmer, JD, Chair
AFCC Lawyers Committee

Yes, the headline above is correct. In a society that has thrived on lawyer jokes since Shakespeare wrote, "let's kill all the lawyers," this request may seem an unusual call to action. However, AFCC needs lawyers of integrity and is asking that all non-lawyers and recovering lawyers identify one good lawyer to bring into the AFCC fold.

Please tell the targeted lawyer:

1. This group is visionary, insightful and stimulating.
2. Exciting opportunities exist for conference presentations and publishing in the *Newsletter* and the *Review*.
3. New sources of referrals are possible since members often seek out others of the same mind and priorities.
4. One does not have to be grey and over forty to be a key participant.
5. We meet in great places.

The Chair of the Lawyers Committee is offering a reward to every member who brings a lawyer to the Lawyers Committee Meeting at the Annual Conference in San Antonio. Make her pay!

Presenters Wanted

AFCC Plans Florida Double Header

The August due date is fast approaching for those wishing to submit workshop proposals for AFCC's **Second International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations** (January 20-22, 1996), and **Second International Congress on Parent Education Programs** (January 27-29, 1996). AFCC will usher in 1996 with these exciting special topic conferences at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort in Clearwater Beach, Florida.

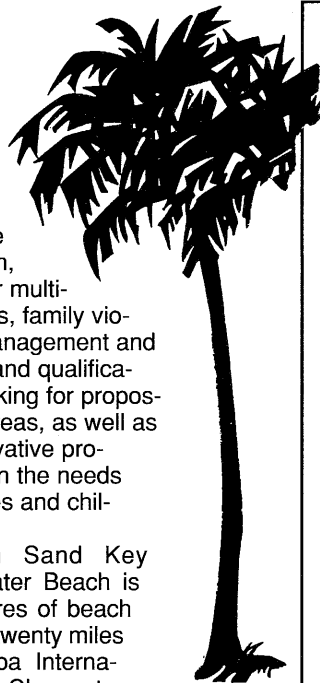
AFCC is looking to build on the 1995 **Custody Evaluation Symposium** by developing workshops, plenary sessions, consultation groups and networking opportunities for experienced evaluators, those new to the custody evaluation field, and judges, lawyers, mediators and others in collateral professions. AFCC seeks proposals which address private and court services evaluation models, psychological testing, innovative evaluation models and evaluations for "non-traditional" families.

AFCC's **Second International Congress on Parent Education Programs** will be devoted to the development of programs for separated, divorcing and never-married parents and their children.

The 1996 **Congress** will examine program evaluation, service delivery for multi-cultural populations, family violence, program management and standards, ethics and qualifications. AFCC is looking for proposals in the above areas, as well as proposals on innovative programs, research on the needs of divorcing families and children's programs.

The Sheraton Sand Key Resort in Clearwater Beach is located on ten acres of beach front property just twenty miles west of the Tampa International Airport. The Clearwater Beach area offers a variety of activities, including golf, deep sea fishing, and tennis. Disney World, Epcot Center, Busch Gardens, Cypress Gardens and Sea World are an easy day trip from the hotel.

If you interested in presenting a workshop for either program, please send a brief abstract, a one page outline and a resume to AFCC, 329 W. Wilson St., Madison, WI 53703; Phone: (608) 251-4001, Fax: (608) 251-2231.



CNN Taps AFCC for Parent Education Story

CNN, the Cable News Network, recently completed a segment on Parent Education Programs as a part of a series on marriage and family. The segment, which aired in mid June, featured Professor Andrew Schepard, Chair of AFCC's Parent Education Committee, and AFCC member Hon. Damian Amodeo of Poughkeepsie, New York.

CNN joins a growing list of national media outlets which have interviewed AFCC members for stories on family issues. AFCC and several members have been mentioned prominently in stories by ABC, NBC, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, Associated Press, and the *National Law Journal*.

Parent Education Video Wins Telly Award

"In the Best Interest of the Child," a forty minute videotape developed by the P.E.A.C.E. (Parent Education and Custody Effectiveness) Program has been awarded a Telly award, a national competition which honors non-network television productions. The videotape was produced for P.E.A.C.E. by Victor/Harder Productions and is used at P.E.A.C.E. programs throughout New York State.

Fran Victor, producer of "In the Best Interest of the Child," was a presenter at AFCC's **First International Congress on Parent Education Programs**. AFCC congratulates Ms. Victor, and P.E.A.C.E. co-founders Steve Schlissel and Andrew Schepard for this well-deserved honor.

SVN Joins AFCC in a 1996 Texas Two-Step

by Anne Reiniger, President, Supervised Visitation Network New York, NY.

The Supervised Visitation Network will hold its Fifth Annual Conference in Austin, Texas, May 4-6, 1996. SVN chose these conference dates to dovetail with AFCC's Annual Conference in San Antonio, May 8-11, so that members of both organizations may attend both conferences.

The SVN Annual Conference will take place at the Radisson Hotel on Town Lake. For further information contact:

Gail Beauregard
Supervised Visitation Network
1101 N. Fourth Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85705
(520) 792-6393

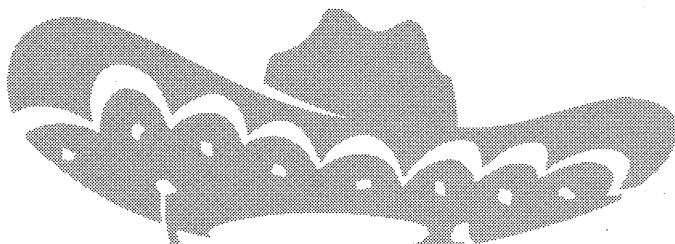
Judge Strikes a Blow for Going to San Antonio

Hon. J.R.O. Archambault, of Regina, Saskatchewan was the winner of a free registration for the 1996 **Annual Conference** in San Antonio, Texas, in a combination raffle/athletic competition which took place in the hospitality suite at the 1995 **Annual Conference** in Montreal.

Judge Archambault secured the victory by being the first contestant to shatter the pinata. The pinata, which accompanied AFCC President Elect Linda Hahn to Montreal from Texas, deposited a mountain of candy on the floor below. Ms. Hahn, who serves as Chairperson for the 1996 **Annual Conference**, promises many more sweet experiences to all of those who make the trip to San Antonio next spring.

The 1996 **Annual Conference** is entitled "Best Interest: Special Issues for Children & Families" and will take place at the Hyatt Hotel on the Riverwalk, May 8-11. The Riverwalk, also known as the Paseo del Rio, borders both sides of the San Antonio River and winds its way through parks, sidewalk cafes, specialty boutiques and nightclubs. Both the conference and the city offer plenty to look forward to, so mark your calendar now.

If you are interested in presenting in San Antonio, please send a brief abstract and one page outline of your proposed workshop with a resume to AFCC, 329 W. Wilson St., Madison, WI 53703; Phone: (608) 251-4001, Fax: (608) 251-2231.



AFCC Award Winners

AFCC Recognizes Parent Educators with Irwin Cantor Innovative Program Award

The Irwin Cantor Innovative Program Award was presented to the entire field of parent education in recognition of the many outstanding and innovative programs being developed by AFCC members and others.

The award was accepted by Andrew Schepard, Chair of AFCC's Parent Education Committee and Professor of Law at Hofstra University, on behalf of the parent education programs throughout the world. Professor Schepard noted that the existence of more than 500 programs throughout North America and the continued growth and development of new programs pointed to an exciting future for the field of parent education.

AFCC's **Second International Congress on Parent Education Programs**, January 27-29, 1996 in Clearwater Beach, Florida, will highlight the many new developments in the field of parent education.

Dr. Linda Girdner Receives AFCC's Distinguished Service Award

AFCC's Distinguished Service Award, for outstanding professional contribution, was presented to Dr. Linda Girdner, Director of Research for the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law. Dr. Girdner is a frequent presenter at AFCC conferences, which she began attending in 1978.

Dr. Girdner's most recent work has been in the area of interstate and international parental abduction. She served as Co-Chair of AFCC's Domestic Abuse Committee and coordinated pre-conference institutes at AFCC's Annual Conferences in Maui and Montreal.

President's Award Presented to Dr. Sanford Braver

Hon. Douglas McNish presented the AFCC President's Award to Sanford Braver, Professor of Psychology at Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ.

Professor Braver has made numerous contributions to AFCC in the past year. He served as Co-Chair of AFCC's Academic and Research Committee, coordinated two workshops for the **Annual Conference** in Montreal and presented at both the **Annual Conference** and the **First International Congress on Parent Education Programs**. Professor Braver also took the lead in designing, administering and analyzing a survey of parent education providers which resulted in AFCC's recent publication, *Parent Education Program Profiles*.

Meyer Elkin Essay Contest Winner

The Meyer Elkin Essay Contest Award was awarded to Dr. Cheryl Lee, Dr. Jack Shaughnessy, and Joel Bankes, of Phoenix, Arizona, for their study of children's perspectives of expedited visitation services. The article is entitled, "Impact of Expedited Visitation Services, A Court Program that Enforces Access: Through the Eyes of the Children." The authors interviewed seventy children whose parents participated in expedited visitation services (a med/arb model of dispute resolution). The study found that children's perception of conflict diminished significantly over a six month period of expedited visitation services, and that their overall and school adjustment improved when visits with non-custodial parents were more frequent. The article will be published in an upcoming edition of *Family and Conciliation Courts Review*.

AFCC Elects New Officers, Board Members

The following Board and Executive Committee members were elected at AFCC's 32nd Annual Conference in Montreal, Canada.

1995-96 Executive Committee

President:

Mr. John Kydd, Seattle, WA

President Elect:

Ms. Linda Hahn, Dallas, TX

Vice President:

Hon. Alastair Nicholson,
Melbourne, Australia

Vice President:

Ms. Christine Coates, Boulder, CO

Vice President:

Dr. Philip Bushard, Reno, NV

Treasurer:

Hon. Arline Rotman, Worcester, MA

Secretary:

Ms. Lorraine Martin, Toronto, ONT

Past President:

Hon. Douglas McNish, Wailuku, HI

New Members of the AFCC Board of Directors:

Dr. Sanford Braver, Arizona

Dr. James Campbell, Wisconsin

Mr. Doneldon Dennis, Minnesota

Hon. Ann Dranginis, Connecticut

Dr. Gregory Firestone, Florida

Ms. Sandra Fultz, Texas

Mr. Daniel Hamoline, Saskatchewan

Ms. Elizabeth Hickey, Utah

Ms. Oryssia Kostiuk, Manitoba

Ms. Sharon Leach, Texas

Ms. Michelle MacFarlane, Ohio

Dr. Frederic Mitchell, Arizona

Ms. Sophia O'Brien, Massachusetts

Hon. Robert Page, New Jersey

Mr. Andrew Schepard, New York

Hon. Barry Schneider, Arizona

Special Thanks

AFCC wishes to extend a special thanks to Bob Tompkins, Deputy Director of the Connecticut Superior Court Family Division, who has completed his term on the Executive Committee. Bob's leadership, insights and creativity have sparked AFCC's growth and helped prepare the association for the many challenges which lie ahead.

AFCC also thanks the following members who have completed their terms on the Board of Directors:

Hon. Rebecca Albrecht, Arizona

Ms. Maxine Baker-Jackson, California

Ms. Diane Bryner, Virginia

Ms. Aza Butler, Maryland

Hon. Mary Davidson, Minnesota

Hon. Margaret Houghton, Arizona

Ms. Thekla Johnson, Alaska

Mr. Gary Kretchmer, Kansas

Mr. Frank Laney, North Carolina

Dr. Leonore Levit, Illinois

Hon. Kenneth Rohrs, Nevada

Ms. Judith Ryan, Ontario

Hon. Herbert Walton, Kansas

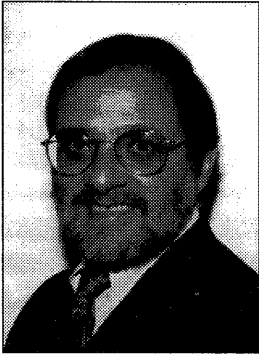
Mr. Tony Wells, England

Hon. R. James Williams, Nova Scotia

Mr. David Woodbury, Kansas

Conversation Corner:

Dr. Sanford Braver



Dr. Sanford L. Braver, Professor of Psychology at Arizona State University, has been conducting research on divorcing families for well over a decade. Born in Detroit, Michigan, Dr. Braver earned his B.A.

at Wayne State University and his Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Michigan. His first position following graduate school was at Arizona State, where he has served on the faculty since 1970. Dr. Braver is Co-director of the Program for Prevention Research and serves as an editorial consultant to 11 scholarly journals. As Co-chair of AFCC's Academic and Research Committee, he took the lead in producing AFCC's recent publication, *Parent Education Program Profiles*. Dr. Braver has written numerous articles and is currently working on a book entitled *Deadbeat Dads and Other Divorce Myths*. He and his wife Mary, who is also a psychologist, have five children.

AFCC: What exactly is the Program for Prevention Research?

Sandy Braver: That's a good question. The Program for Prevention Research at Arizona State is one of four such programs in the United States funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. Several years ago, NIMH wanted to focus on the prevention of mental health problems. Our approach was to identify situationally at-risk citizens—members of divorcing families, children in poverty, children of alcoholic families, for example—then to create and implement prevention programs for these groups and to conduct research throughout the process. So we start by conducting research on what the program should be, what components to emphasize, how to structure the groups, etc. Then we continually assess and adapt the program. Most people agree that today's children are at much greater risk than previous generations, and a big reason is the prevalence of divorce and single and never-married parents. At the Program for Prevention Research we are able to provide the constant interplay between practice and research that is necessary to develop programs that can be documented to be effective. The research agenda is a critical part of the process because it lets us know what is working and what isn't. If prevention programs that are put in place are truly effective, society will not bear the strain or financial cost of dealing with the problems

in the future. That is why sound prevention programs are cost-effective.

AFCC: What programs have been developed through your efforts?

SB: Our most notable effort so far is **New Beginnings**, which is a divorce education program for mothers and children. The component for mothers was developed by Dr. Sharlene Wolchik and the component for children was developed by Dr. Irwin Sandler. **New Beginnings** has been subjected to two rigorous evaluations and has demonstrated efficacy in improving the post-divorce family environment and reducing aggression problems in children of divorce. Also, I am heading up the development of a program for noncustodial fathers called **Dads for Life**.

We are just beginning to work on the dissemination of **New Beginnings**, which brings us a new set of challenges. Often programs will be changed by different providers or will be offered to a different population. While we can develop reasonable hypotheses about what should and shouldn't be changed to maintain effectiveness, that is not enough. We need to continue to research the impact of such changes so we know whether what we have changed makes the program better, makes it worse, or makes no significant difference.

AFCC: What impact should we expect from divorce education programs?

SB: It depends on the program. **New Beginnings** is a longer-than-typical program. It consists of eleven sessions, including two one-to-one meetings. We can undoubtedly expect more beneficial impact from it than from shorter programs. One of the challenges we now face is finding a way to shorten **New Beginnings** without diluting the product. But we also ran a pilot program which was only one session, more like a typical mandatory divorce education program, so we have some experience with shorter programs as well. I believe these programs serve two important functions. First, most do a very good job of sensitizing parents to the issues related to divorce. Second, they frequently provide the motivation for parents to learn the skills necessary to have a successful post-divorce relationship. That may be all that some parents need. But many others are not able to learn the skills or make the necessary changes in behavior without a more substantial program. In a way, the shorter and longer programs can be complementary. Programs like **New Beginnings** should probably not be mandated because they require highly motivated parents who are willing to do extra reading and other types of homework. But the shorter programs, which are often mandatory, can provide the motivation for parents to attend the longer ones.

AFCC: In all of your years of research, what is your most surprising finding?

SB: Probably that, for the most part, divorced dads are not the deadbeats they have been made out to be. I think the notion of the deadbeat dad was propounded by the media, based on studies which only talked to the moms. Thus, when we started our research, we sought to understand why so many fathers became irresponsible. But we were really the first researchers to ask the fathers what they thought was going on. We surveyed fathers, mothers and children in over 400 families and found that it is simply not the case that fathers are voluntarily removing themselves from their children either emotionally or financially. Most struggle to maintain the relationship. Of fathers who did in fact withdraw, most felt their wishes or preferences played little role in that decision. Many who withdrew felt disenfranchised, as if everything related to the divorce was completely out of their control. They felt that they had no rights, only responsibilities.

A related surprise was that we found control was not a "zero-sum game" in which what one parent gained in control the other parent lost. Instead, we found that control tended to be high or low for both parents. In families engaged in power struggles, neither parent felt much control.

AFCC: What do the mothers have to say?

SB: Actually, we found that many custodial mothers don't see much value in their ex-husbands being involved with the children, and between 25–35 percent acknowledged that they interfered with visitation. So the perceptions of these fathers seems to have some reality. But divorce often creates two realities, his and hers, which simply don't intersect, and this goes beyond general perceptions or opinions. For example, mothers, on average said roughly two-thirds of the child support that was owed was actually paid. Fathers claimed the figure was 92 percent. There was also 30 percent difference in the amount of visitation time reported by fathers and mothers.

AFCC: Your work must have great interest for father's rights organizations.

SB: Yes, but they are not totally happy with me because I don't support the presumption of equal time sharing. Certainly I feel that, in most cases, having two very involved parents is in the best interest of children. But forcing a 50/50 time sharing arrangement is unlikely to work well for the children if one or both parents are highly resistive to the plan. Our best hope is to get parents to accept such arrangements voluntarily. That's why I invest my energies in developing and researching programs which can be demonstrated to promote voluntary cooperation as well as offer the information, motivation and skills-training.

SPOTLIGHT SERIES

The Sandcastles Program, Miami, Florida

by M. Gary Neuman, Ph.D., Miami, FL.

It was national news. A man buried live rotweiler puppies in the ground only to have them be saved by the puppies mother, who dug them out. The Miami Herald did not print the name of the individual because it was felt that it would put the man's life in danger; such was the uproar of the community. In the same newspaper was the story of a father who committed sodomy with his four month old son. The paper was able to print the father's name.

One must wonder when society will attain true respect for the concept that childhood experiences make indelible marks on children's personalities and that these experiences affect the choices children make for the rest of their lives.

There are approximately one million new children of divorce in the United States each year. Countless studies have shown that a host of problems can arise in the child of divorce. To help reduce the trauma of separation and divorce for children, Chief Judge Leonard Rivkind, of Miami, directed the formation of the **Sandcastles Program**.

The **Sandcastles Program** is an interactive group for children of divorce ages 6-17. In Miami, a judge will not grant parents a divorce unless their children have participated in the 3½ hour program. Miami,

like many other counties in the country, has already instituted a mandatory education program for divorcing parents. But parents wanted more help for their children; direct help that wouldn't leave the entire burden in the hands of the parents.

Miami judges wanted to mandate Sandcastles without creating a burden for parents who may already be overwhelmed. Therefore, the 3½ hour program was designed to run either as a single or multi-session experience.

Sandcastles is based on the belief that children can discover many of the solutions to their problems if they are provided the appropriate support and the opportunity to think out loud. The program uses activities such as art, games, role-playing, workbooks, creating newsletters and plays, and viewing videos to make the experience comfortable and enriching. Leaders do not give advice. Rather, they provide a healthy atmosphere that allows children to develop their own attitudes and solutions.

Sandcastles focuses on communication and problem solving techniques to help children begin to cope. It lets children know that they are alike in their emotions and desires and that they can learn to speak about them openly. Children learn to express their feelings and thoughts. When they meet others their own age experiencing similar family sit-

uations, it alleviates the intense isolation children of divorce often experience. Children frequently enter the group feeling abnormal and leave feeling normal again.

Parents are invited to attend the last half hour of the program. During that time children share what they have learned, questions are asked and activities are completed which help children and parents to talk about the divorce. Often, parents and children communicate about their love and leave having broken the ice; the topic of divorce and the feelings surrounding it become less difficult to discuss.

The **Sandcastles Program** has received attention from the national media, including NBC Nightly News, CBS Weekend News and *Time Magazine*. But most importantly, Sandcastles has made an impact on the children and parents for whom it was designed. "I got to see others just like me," said an eleven year old child. The parent of an eight year old noted, "We learned that there are many children of divorced parents who need guidance and explanations, and we were also given the chance to talk about feelings, emotions and sharing."

For further information about the Sandcastles Program, contact M. Gary Neuman, Ph.D., 333 Arthur Godfrey Road, Suite 802, Miami Beach, FL, 33140. (305) 532-2668.

MEMBER NEWS

Hon. James Cawood, AFCC Board Member from Annapolis, MD, is recovering from recent knee surgery and a staph infection which caused him to miss this year's **Annual Conference**. Judge Cawood is now walking (gingerly) and reports that his rehabilitation has been unintentionally stepped up due to construction in his parking space which requires him to walk two and one half blocks from his car to the courthouse. AFCC wishes Judge Cawood a speedy recovery.

Joan Kelly, AFCC member from Corte Madera, California, received the Joseph W. Drown Memorial Award at AFCC's 1995 California Chapter Conference. The award was presented to Dr. Kelly in recognition of outstanding service to children.

Hon. Sheila McGovern, AFCC Board Member from Cambridge, Massachusetts, received the 1995 Distinguished Jurist Award from the Massachusetts Association of Women Lawyers. Over 300 people attended a dinner in Judge McGovern's honor.

Gerry McNeilly, AFCC member from Ontario, recently accepted a new position as Chair of the Board of Inquiry of the Province of Ontario. Mr. McNeilly may now be reached at 150 Eglinton Avenue, East, Suite 550, Toronto, Ontario, M4P 1E8. (416) 314-8436, Fax (416) 314-8743.

Donald Moir, former AFCC President from Vancouver, British Columbia, was unable to attend the **Annual Conference** in Montreal due to illness. Mr. Moir's son reports that his father is on the mend. AFCC wishes him a speedy recovery

Ruth Pearson Urban, AFCC member from Las Vegas, Nevada, was presented a 1995 Liberty Bell Award by the Clark County Bar Association. Ms. Urban developed Nevada's first Neighborhood Justice Center and has been a long-time leader in the field of mediation in Nevada.

AFCC to Host World Congress

by Margaret Taylor, San Francisco, CA.

Mark your calendar now for AFCC's milestone 1997 **Annual Conference**, June 3-7 in San Francisco, CA. This truly international conference will be a collaboration between AFCC and the Second World Congress on Family Law and the Rights of Children and Youth.

The San Francisco conference will combine the successes of previous AFCC conferences and of the First World Congress, held in Sydney, Australia in July 1993. AFCC members will enjoy all of the traditional components and subject areas they have experienced at past conferences. The addition of the World Congress will expand the breadth of the program and bring many new conference participants to AFCC.

Conference topics presently identified include: Children in a Violent World; Family Law; Family Forms and Family Functions; The Effects of Poverty; and Health Issues for Families and Children.

For more information on the Congress, or if you are interested in presenting a paper contact: AFCC, 329 W. Wilson St., Madison, WI 53703; Phone: (608) 251-4001 Fax: (608) 251-2231.

AFCC NORTHWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

& BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
NOVEMBER 2-4, 1995

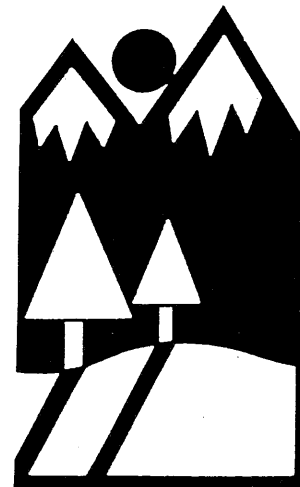
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Constance Ahrons, Author, **The Good Divorce**
Hon. Justice, Wallace Carson, Chief Justice, Oregon Supreme Court
Jay Folberg, Dean, University of San Francisco Law School
The Honorable Alastair Nicholson, Chief Justice Family Court of Australia
Hon. Justice Linda Cople Trout, Idaho Supreme Court
Hon. Justice Cathy Silak, Idaho Supreme Court
Hon. Elizabeth Welch, Chief Family Law Judge, Multnomah County, Oregon
Hon. Bobbe Bridge, Presiding Family Law Judge, King County, Washington
Hon. Kristina La Mar, Chief Settlement Judge, Multnomah County, Oregon
Hon. Jeanne Graham-Hall, England
Henrik Andrup, Denmark
William Howe III, Chair, Oregon Task Force on Family Law

PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE: Advanced Mediation with Robert Benjamin and Pat Dixon
Thursday, November 2, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Separate Registration (\$75); limited enrollment

WORKSHOPS TO INCLUDE: Strategies for Early Interventions ■ Sabotage of Settlement ■
Honoring Cultures We Do Not Understand ■ Violence & Fear
■ The Art & Science of Settlement Conferencing ■ Creating a Unified Family Court
■ Support & Spousal Maintenance ■ Conciliation Counseling ■ and many others



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May 17-20, 1995 Montreal, Quebec

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- FCC512 The Politics of Gender and Divorce
- FCC513 Mediation Styles
- FCC514 Working Marriages: How Couples Reach Fifty Years
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- FCC516 Parent Education: Mandatory or Voluntary?
- FCC517 What Makes Poppa Run? Disengagement in Nonresidential Fathers
- FCC518 Benchmarking: An Emerging Strategy for Family Courts
- FCC519 How Gender, Values and Intervention Styles Affect Custody Decision Making (available in French only)
- FCC520 Religion as a Factor in Child Custody Disputes
- FCC521 Gender Issues in Domestic Torts
- FCC522 Innovations in Family Mediation
- FCC523 Training Court Staff in Gender Equity
- FCC524 Gender Issues: Implications for Children of Divorce
- FCC525 Programs and Policies for Unmarried Parents
- FCC526 Ethical and Professional Boundaries for Court-Connected Services
- FCC527 Gender Issues in Parent Education
- FCC528 All Domestic Violence is not Created Equal: A Practical Guide to Visitation Decisions
- FCC529 Gender Bias in Custody Evaluations
- FCC530 Using Play Therapy in Child Custody Evaluations
- FCC531 International Committee Forum
- FCC532 Gender Roles and Divorcing Parents
- FCC533 Ethical Issues: Private Practice and the Courts
- FCC534 I've Been Cheated, Been Mistreated: The Impact of Affairs on Mediation
- FCC535 Mediator Neutrality Revisited
- FCC536 Child Sexual Abuse: Assessing and Managing Allegations
- FCC537 Gender Bias and the Practice of Law
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Membership Survey Report

by Phil Bushard, AFCC Vice President, Reno, Nevada.

This is the second of a three part report on AFCC's recent membership survey.

AFCC's first general membership survey was conducted in December 1994 to assist the Executive Committee and Board of Directors in strategic planning. Over 350 members responded to the survey, representing a wide range of AFCC members.

One area of particular interest is membership recruitment: what draws an individual to AFCC? After joining, in what activities do members wish to participate?

Members were asked "What influenced you to join AFCC?" Respondents were permitted to answer with more than one selection. The most popular responses were:

Attended an AFCC conference	48%
Contact with another AFCC member	45%
Interest in interdisciplinary membership	36%
Family and Conciliation Courts Review	21%

Respondents also noted that the administrative office does an excellent job in producing conferences and educational materials which are attractive to potential members. The editorial direction for the *Family and Conciliation Courts Review*, edited by Hugh McIsaac, also received high marks.

When asked about future participation with the association, respondents identified conferences as the catalyst for bringing AFCC members together. Over 90 percent of new members and 80 percent of the most

senior members state that they plan on attending future AFCC conferences.

The association's strategic planning efforts must recognize the intangible efforts

of members bringing new members to AFCC. Survey results demonstrate that AFCC members are a substantial resource in the growth of the association.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 20-23, 1995
September 14-17, 1995

October 12-15, 1995
Basic Mediation Training
Location: San Francisco, CA
Contact: John Lemmon, Ph.D.
(510) 547-8089

August 14-18, 1995—Ann Arbor, MI
Mediation Training & Consultation Institute
Basic Divorce Mediation Training
Contact: Zena D. Zumeta, J.D.
(800) 535-1155 or (313) 663-1155

August 14-18, 1995
October 9-13, 1995
Divorce and Child Custody Mediation
Location: Boulder, CO
Contact: CDR Associates
1-800-MEDIATE

August 17-21, 1995—Allentown, PA
September 28-October 2, 1995
Burlington, VT
Basic Divorce Mediation Training
Contact: Carl D. Schneider, Ph.D.
(800) 905-2221

October 25-28, 1995
Victoria, BC, Canada
Family Mediation Canada Annual Conference
Contact: FMC
(519) 836-7750

November 2-4, 1995
Columbia Gorge, OR
AFCC Northwest Regional Conference and Board Meeting
Contact: Hugh McIsaac
(503) 248-3189

January 20-22, 1996
Clearwater Beach, FL
AFCC Second International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations
Contact: AFCC
(608) 251-4001

January 27-29, 1996
Clearwater Beach, FL
AFCC Second International Congress on Parent Education Programs
Contact: AFCC
(608) 251-4001

May 8-11, 1996—San Antonio, TX
AFCC Annual Conference
Contact: AFCC
(608) 251-4001

November 14-16, 1996—Boston, MA
AFCC Northeast Regional Conference and Board Meeting
Contact: AFCC
(608) 251-4001

June 3-7, 1997—San Francisco, CA
AFCC Annual Conference
Contact: AFCC
(608) 251-4001

San Antonio

May 8-11, 1996

AFCC Annual Conference
Hyatt Hotel on the Riverwalk

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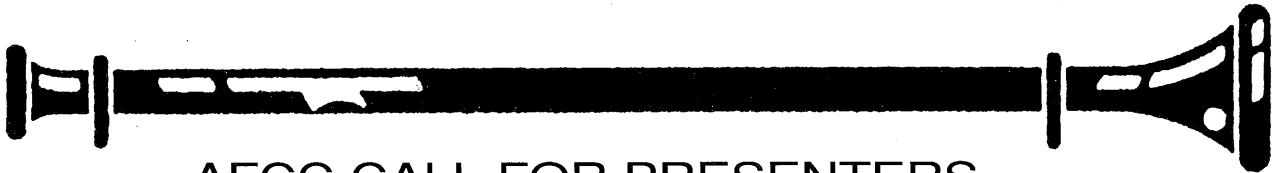
San Francisco

June 3-7, 1997

AFCC Annual Conference
&
Second World Congress
on Family Law & the Rights
of Children and Youth
Hyatt Hotel Embarcadero

Contact:

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329 W. Wilson Street
Madison, WI 53703
(608) 251-4001
FAX (608) 251-2231



AFCC CALL FOR PRESENTERS

Second International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

Sheraton Sand Key Resort
Clearwater Beach, Florida
January 20-22, 1996

AFCC's **Second International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations** will include workshops ranging from general evaluation skills to advanced sessions for the experienced practitioner.

The Second International Symposium will also offer a variety of networking and consultation opportunities.

AFCC is looking for workshop presenters in the following areas:

- private vs. court services models
- innovative evaluation models
- the role of psychological testing
- what judges want from evaluations
- evaluating "non-traditional" families

Second International Congress on Parent Education Programs

Sheraton Sand Key Resort
Clearwater Beach, Florida
January 27-29, 1996

AFCC's **Second International Congress on Parent Education Programs** will provide in-depth, practical instruction on how providers can meet the challenges of establishing and maintaining parent education programs.

AFCC is looking for workshop presenters in the following areas:

- innovative programs
- program management
- standards and ethics
- conducting program evaluation
- service delivery to multi-cultural populations
- programs for post-divorce parents
- programs for children
- family violence

To submit a proposal for the **Second International Congress on Parent Education Programs** or the **Second International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations**, please send a brief abstract, a one page outline of your proposed workshop and a resume to AFCC, 329 W. Wilson St., Madison, WI 53703, Tel: (608) 251-4001, Fax: (608) 251-2231.

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