



COLORADO CHAPTER ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONCILIATION COURTS

SPRING 2013 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Armand Lebovits, L.C.S.W.

Welcome to our Spring 2013 Newsletter! I hope each of you has found some time to be with your family and friends and to be outdoors in the sun and enjoy this seasonal change. As we are approaching our annual meeting and elections, I want to acknowledge our 2012-2013 COAFCC Officers, Board of Directors and Committee Members who have been very active volunteering their time, chairing and working on our committees.

Thank you to Jennifer Feingold, J.D., Past President, and a founding member of COAFCC, for her continued officer and committee work and Co-Chairing the Program Committee along with our Vice President, Kate McNamara, Ph.D., from Fort Collins, during this last year. Kate has also been our Chapter Council Liaison to AFCC and Co-Chair of the Outreach Committee. Sarah Quinlan, J.D. stepped into the Secretary position when Jennifer Fontaine, Psy.D. resigned last November, and she is also our Bylaws Committee Chair and a member of two other committees! Congratulations to Jennifer Moné, Ph.D. who was nominated and elected to our board in January. Thank you to Barbara Pevny, LPC, from Ignacio, our Chair of the Membership Committee, who has fine-tuned that committee over the last few years. Lenny Tanis, J.D., became Chair of the Communications/Public Relations (CPR) Committee, which ensures that communications like this newsletter and brochure announcements reach all of you. Gary Reser, Ph.D., LPC, agreed to Co-Chair the Outreach Committee in January. I also want to express my thanks to Cindie Farmer, BA from Lamar, and the Honorable Robert H. Russell II that have been on our board and committees over the last 3 years. I gratefully acknowledge and appreciate the hard work of Jack Gardner, Psy.D., from Greeley, who has been our Treasurer for the past 3 years, and is also a founding member of COAFCC. Undoubtedly I would be remiss if I did not personally thank Shelley Bresnick, Psy.D., founding member and the first COAFCC President, for her continued guidance, support and dedication to COAFCC and being a member of our Program Committee. Finally, a special thanks to our Administrative Assistant, April Freier, from Greeley and to our Web Administrator, Peter Ornstein, J.D. from Boulder, for all that they contribute to our chapter.

This year has been marked with exceptional programs that make COAFCC what it is. From our Philip Stahl, Ph.D., ABPP presentation on “Child and Family Evaluations in a Tight Economy: What are Best Practices?” in November 2012 to the March 2013 joint COAFCC, Boulder Interdisciplinary Committee (BIDC) and the Metro Denver Interdisciplinary Committee (MDIC), Conference with presenters Nicholas Bala, J.D., LL.M. and Barbara Jo Fidler, Ph.D., on the topic of “Children Who Resist Post-Separation Contact With a Parent: A Differential Approach For Legal and Mental Health Professionals” to our upcoming program on “Effective and Ethical Use of Research in

Family Law Cases” scheduled for May 10, 2013, the COAFCC board and program committee take pride in the quality and caliber of education we continue to offer. For more information on these well-attended programs with nationally renowned speakers, please read the full newsletter to ensure you do not miss out on the wealth of information provided. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our COAFCC 7th Annual Meeting and Election on May 10th following the program!

Please also visit the AFCC website, www.afccnet.org, for more information about registering for AFCC’s 50th Anniversary Conference, *Riding the Wave of the Future: Global Voices, Expanding Choices*, in Los Angeles from May 29th through June 1, 2013.

In conclusion, I want to express my Gratitude to all members of COAFCC! Gratitude to members that agree to be presenters and panelists for our conferences! Gratitude to all the Officers, Directors and Committee Members that support COAFCC! Gratitude to all of the Founders and Past Officers, Directors and Committee members who have volunteered their time; and Gratitude in advance to the new elected Officers, Directors and Committee members that will serve our organization in 2013-2014 and in the future. Thank you! It has been an honor to be your chapter president this last year!

SAVE THE DATE!!! LIVE ALL THE WAY FROM AUSTRALIA!!!

**COAFCC, BIDC, MIDC AND BIPR
PRESENT A DAY WITH**

JENNIFER MCINTOSH

Presenting on

**“On Being the Child in a 50/50 Era:
Research and Developmental Perspectives on Shared Parenting after
Separation”**

OCTOBER 4, 2013

REGISTER TODAY FOR THE:

7TH ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTIONS

**AND
SPRING CONFERENCE**

MAY 10, 2013

Holiday Inn Cherry Creek, 455 South Colorado Blvd., Denver, Colorado
(at the northwest corner of N. Cherry Creek Drive and S. Colorado Blvd.)

The Board of Directors for the **Colorado Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts** will hold its seventh annual election for positions on the Board of Directors on **Friday, May 10, 2013**, at the annual membership meeting. Elections will take place immediately following our Spring Conference. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The annual membership meeting and elections will take place over lunch from noon to 1:00 p.m. There will be drawings for door prizes (and you must be present to win!).

*Effective and Ethical Use of Research in Family Law
Cases*

With Guest Speakers:

Bill J. Fyfe, EdD., Columbine Counseling Center, P.C
Ann Gushurst, JD, Gutterman Griffiths, PC Shareholder
Judge Anne Mansfield, Second Judicial District Court

(3 General and 1 Ethics Approved CLE Credits)

**PLEASE SEE THE REGISTRATION FORM AT THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER or
VISIT www.coafcc.org to register today!**

**Summary of the Fall 2012 Conference
What You Missed**

Child and Family Evaluations in a Tight Economy: What are Best Practices?

Keynote Speaker: Philip Stahl, Ph.D., ABPP (Forensic)

COMPILED BY LYNDA KEMP

The COAFCC Fall Conference, “Child and Family Evaluations in a Tight Economy: What are Best Practices,” was held on November 30, 2012, in Denver. The two-part presentation/panel format focused on how investigations should be conducted in a tight economy and what those investigations need to include. The conference featured the presentation of Philip Stahl, Ph.D., on both child custody evaluations and work product reviews, which Dr. Stahl noted were on the rise, especially in hotly contested cases.

Dr. Stahl’s morning presentation focused briefly on the current state of investigation practices and how investigations were and should be conducted. He acknowledged that everyone doing investigations is doing “more with less.” Dr. Stahl outlined elements of what he believed the CFI role and process should include: making sure there is a clear Order for what the CFI is to do, the best way of getting started, how to try to avoid harm, the importance of data gathering, and the critical point of writing the report.

The second half of the morning session focused on how he approaches critiquing both evaluations and evaluation reports. Dr. Stahl emphasized that for him the “process” used by the evaluator is what is most important. He listed the following as important elements that he looks for:

- Is there evidence of adequate informed consent?
- Did the evaluator use forms for data collection?
- Was the process thorough?
- Was the evaluator qualified?
- Was it explained in a user-friendly manner for both family and court?

Intervention with Children Who Resist Contact with a Parent Post-Separation

A Review of the 2013 COAFCC Annual Conference

By Michele Tipple

On March 22, 2013, COAFCC, in conjunction with the B IDC and MDIC, hosted a joint conference that gave attendees the pleasure to hear Barbara Jo Fidler, Ph.D., and Professor Nicholas Baba, J.D., speak on *Children Who Resist Post-Separation Contact with a Parent: A Differential Approach for Legal and Mental Health Professionals*. An added bonus was the luncheon presentation by Colene Robinson, J.D., Director of the CU Juvenile and Family Law Clinics, on the topic of *When is Your Client not your Client? Examining the Attorney-Client Relationship with Minors*.

The conference was extremely well attended and the featured speakers gave a well-organized and thoughtful presentation on the subject of how to analyze a situation where a child is resisting contact with a parent after separation. The first issue is to assess the type and severity of the strained parent-child relationship. They postulated that rejection can range between affinity (mild), alignment and justified/realistic estrangement (moderate), unjustified/alienated (severe). Only when that work is completed can the course of legal and client intervention be determined. They warned, of course, that favored parent's attitude toward the child's relationship with the other parent and their views about therapy for the child and family can greatly affect the eventual outcome. Some questions that they felt important were: What is the favored parent's attitude toward the child's right to decide? What is the role of the family court system in these cases? When is it time to give up? In case you missed it Barbara Fidler, Nicholas Bala, and Michael Saini have co-authored the book *Children Who Resist Post-Separation Parental Contact*. (2012)

During the lunch hour, Ms. Robinson discussed confidentiality and the client/lawyer privilege in relation to both a GAL (Guardian *ad litem*) and a CLR (child legal representative) in the light of the Colorado Supreme Court's decision in *People v. Garbrieheski*, 262 P.3d 653 (Colo. 2011). Ms. Robinson's conclusion was that essentially, there is no client/lawyer privilege for children and their appointed counsel within the family court system. Additionally, GAL's are not mandatory reporters. The presentation simply added to the vast amount of information that was offered at the conference.

CFI Applications and Renewal Timelines – 2013

RENEWAL affidavits (for current CFIs) will be available online April 1, 2013. Renewal affidavits will only be accepted from April 1, 2013, through 5:00 p.m. on June 1, 2013. Affidavits received after that time will not be considered. Failure to submit a renewal affidavit will result in removal from the statewide and district eligibility rosters effective June 30, 2013.

The Affidavit of Mandatory Consent and Disclosure for Eligibility of Appointment as a Child and Family Investigator and placement on the Statewide Eligibility Roster is now closed for 2013 new applicants.

Some districts conduct a local screening process. Each court has the discretion to qualify the names on the statewide eligibility list locally. Some of these districts may request additional information to aid in this process. Follow up with the districts that you have been approved to serve in and determine if the district is requiring additional information.

Obtain more information from Bill Delisio bill.delisio@judicial.state.co.us or kelly.steele@judicial.state.co.us with the Colorado State Court Administrator's Office (SCAO.)

AFCC 50th Annual Conference

Riding the Wave of the Future: Global Voices, Expanding Choices

JW Marriott L.A. LIVE, Los Angeles, CA, May 29-June 1, 2013

WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND!

Lynda Kemp

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, an anniversary that will be celebrated at the annual AFCC conference in Los Angeles, California, May 29-June 1, 2013. Last year, as a new CFI, I was excited at the opportunity to apply for an AFCC scholarship to attend the annual conference in Chicago. I thought it would be a great way to immerse myself quickly in the issues and information surrounding my new profession. Luckily for me, I was selected for a partial AFCC scholarship and, thus, was able to head to Chicago.

Although Chicago is one of my favorite cities, I think the conference site was enhanced by the fact that both the weather that particular June weekend was stunning and the Chicago Blues Festival was going on a few short blocks from the conference location. All of these factors, combined with a conference schedule that was full and overflowing with interesting topics and presentations, made for an amazing experience. My conference experience was without doubt the best professional development experience I have ever had in my 25 years of practice.

The AFCC is truly an interdisciplinary organization, which contributes significantly to the experience and value of the conference. Members and conference attendees come from many “walks” of the profession: judges and court employees, private practice lawyers, mental health professionals, dispute resolution professionals, policy advocates, policy makers, researchers, community agencies, academics, and students. The “brain power” present is astonishing: So many lawyers and judges, so many Ph.D.’s, so many of the presentations based on published research, so many references to scholarly undertakings. There was simply an incredible smorgasbord of material available to increase or enhance my practice. Anyone seeking information on the latest research will be in heaven, information that may confirm existing knowledge or lead to an understanding of new possibilities.

If you haven’t attended a national conference before, I strongly urge you to consider this one. The trip is not far and the chance to gain knowledge and share information will be an exciting and eye-opening experience for you. I hope to see you in LA!

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the following scholarship awards for the 50th Annual Conference of the AFCC in Los Angeles, California, May 29-June 1, 2013:

1. Lynda Kemp is awarded the AFCC/COAFCC Matching Scholarship

2. Glenn Crow and Adoree Blair are each awarded a COAFCC Scholarship

The scholarships provide funds for the recipients to fully participate in the Conference, including the Preconference Institute, Conference Registration, Conference Registrant Meals, Opening Reception, Awards Luncheon, and Annual Banquet. Each was required to submit an application stating their profession and how it relates to the goals of the AFCC, how many years they have been in practice and a statement on the reasons they are requesting the scholarship.

Each award winner must be a member in good standing of both the AFCC and the COAFCC, must agree to serve for one year on one of the standing committees and must agree to provide a summary of their experience at the Conference.

Congratulations to Lynda, Glenn and Adoree and we look forward to reading about their time in Los Angeles!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS VOTES TO DONATE TO AFCC CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Board of Directors of the COAFCC voted to donate \$500 to the AFCC Scholarship Fund for the upcoming 50th Annual Conference of the AFCC to be held in Los Angeles, California, beginning on May 29, 2013. The program allows people to attend AFCC conferences who might otherwise not be able to afford it. This year, AFCC will be offering more than 66 scholarships and 9 travel stipends (7 at \$500 and 2 at \$1000) to the conference. The Board's action was in response to a plea from the organization for additional funds for the fund.

It is important to note that this is not the same program as the matching scholarship program. The AFCC Resource Development Committee is charged with the development and growth of AFCC in part through the AFCC Scholarship Fund with increasing its capacity to help professionals who work with families in conflict. The Scholarship Fund creates greater accessibility to AFCC conferences for those who otherwise lack the resources to participate.

This fund is for scholarships to the annual conference and is administered solely by AFCC to assist with registration and travel stipends. If you would like to donate, there are multiple ways to do it: send a check to the main office at 6525 Grand Teton Plaza, Madison, WI, 53719, contact Erin at AFCC with a credit card number by email (esommerfeld@afccnet.org) or phone (608-664-3750), or donate online at <http://www.afccnet.org/About/ScholarshipFund.aspx>. Remember every little bit helps! The AFCC accepts donations from individuals and firms to this worthy fund.

Upcoming AFCC Events

AFCC Regional Training

There's No Place Like Two Homes: The Complexities of Separation, Divorce and Co-parenting
Westin Kansas City at Crown Center

Kansas City, Missouri
November 7-9, 2013

Ontario Chapter Annual Conference

Toronto Public Library
Toronto, ON
October 18, 2013

What is the Colorado AFCC Chapter?

An interdisciplinary group of professionals dedicated to improving the lives of children and families through the resolution of family conflict. COAFCC promotes a collaborative approach to serving the needs of children among those who work in and with family law systems encouraging education, research, innovation, and identifying best practices. For more information or to join the AFCC or COAFCC please visit: www.afccnet.org and www.coafcc.org

Welcome New COAFCC Members!

Felicia Greher	Beth Lieberman	Christopher Sarson	Karen Hubler
Joyce Randall	Jonathan Zalesne	Sharon Feder	Rachel Levy
Catherine Burkey	Mary Houchin	Karen Jamieson Darr	Jeffrey Polatis
Kimberly Casebolt	Landon Doiel	Jacqueline Bosworth	Joyce Miller
George Nicholos			

MEET OUR NEW COAFCC BOARD MEMBER

JENNIFER MONÉ

Jennifer Moné, Ph.D. is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and runs her own private practice in Denver. Upon graduating from the University of Notre Dame, she completed a year of volunteer work through the AmeriCorps national service program, where she assisted families affected by crime and abuse. She moved to Colorado for graduate school at Colorado State University, where her research specifically focused on divorce and high conflict families. She was honored to present her dissertation research, entitled "Narratives on divorce and interparental conflict: study findings and ethical considerations for research" at the 2010 AFCC national conference. Dr. Moné works with couples and families using a systemic, strength-based, brief therapy model. Her clinical specialties include assisting families who have experienced divorce, helping couples dealing fertility challenges, strengthening couples' relationships, helping clients manage and cope with grief and loss, and assisting individuals through normative life transitions. She is also an EMDR practitioner (EMDR is a therapeutic approach aimed at reducing the intensity of traumatic events and the thoughts and feelings associated with them), which comes in useful with the trauma children can experience when pulled in loyalty conflicts between their warring parents.

UPDATING OR MODIFYING YOUR PROFILE IN THE COAFCC SEARCHABLE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY
Armand Lebovits, LCSW, CAC III

COAFCC has a searchable membership directory at our website: www.coafcc.org. This is a public directory that can be updated by individual members and is password protected. You can find the directory by clicking on the "Search for Members" button on the left side of the home page. The list of members can be searched by name (at the bottom of the page), city or practice type. Each member should update their profile by including information about their own practice types, professional memberships, fees and other descriptive data. You can access your profile by clicking on the "Membership Directory" or the "Become a Member of COAFCC or AFCC" links on the homepage. Once you find your own listing, more information can be displayed by clicking on the "More Information" link on the right side of the listing, which brings up a more detailed listing. To modify this listing, click on the "modify" link located on the bottom right corner of the page - the link will appear somewhat washed-out. Clicking on "modify" takes you to a page that requests a password. Your initial password is PASSWORD (all capital letters). Once you access your listing, ***you should change your initial password.*** If you forget your password, you can click on the "Password Help" button and your password will be e-mailed to the e-mail address in the database. Once you have modified your profile click on "submit" to save the changes.

Registration

Mail check along with registration form to COAFCC:

COAFCC C/O Jack Gardner, Psy.D., 1228 8th Street, Greeley, CO 80631

Or

Register and pay online at www.coafcc.org

7TH ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTIONS AND SPRING CONFERENCE

MAY 10, 2013

Holiday Inn Cherry Creek, 455 South Colorado Blvd., Denver, Colorado
(at the northwest corner of N. Cherry Creek Drive and S. Colorado Blvd.)

Conference Fees includes presentation, continental breakfast, lunch, parking and materials

Registration Fees:

\$50 for COAFCC members \$65 for Non-members

Check selection(s) above to be included with Payment

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email (print clearly) _____

Enter Total Amount Paid: \$ _____

Please indicate if you require a vegetarian () or a vegan () lunch request.

Board of Directors Nomination Form

The Board of Directors for the **Colorado Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts** will hold its seventh annual election for positions on the Board of Directors on **Friday, May 10, 2013**, at the annual membership meeting of the COAFCC. Elections will take place immediately following our Spring Conference. The Conference begins at 8:30 a.m. The annual membership meeting and elections will take place over lunch from noon to 1:00 p.m. There will be drawings for door prizes (you must be present to win!).

There are five vacancies— three legal and two mental health—on the COAFCC Board of Directors, all of which have a three-year term. The new term begins on July 1, 2013.

If you are interested in serving as a member of the COAFCC Board of Directors, or want to recommend someone else, you may submit your nomination as follows:

- 1) Provide information requested below.**
- 2) Provide a short biography of no more than seven lines.**

All nominations must be received by Jennifer Feingold no later than **May 3, 2013**, by fax (303-333-9786), email (Jennifer@fostergraham.com), or U.S. Mail (360 So. Garfield St., Ste. 600, Denver, CO 80209). Please see the Nomination Form below.

COAFCC Board of Directors Nomination Form

Name _____ Degree _____

Profession _____ (Attorney, Mental Health, Judicial, etc.)

Address _____

Phone _____ email _____

Prior Board Experience _____

Biography: