



NW FAMILY TIES

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	2
First Conference Success	2
Civility & The Law	3
Meet Your Board	3
A Good Divorce	4
Divorce Do's & Don'ts	4

Make Plans Now for the Second Annual WA AFCC Conference

Pre-Conference Training Institute Friday April 13

Nuts & Bolts of Parenting Coordination Services

Key Note, Plenary and Workshops

Saturday April 14, 2012

Systemic Solutions for Families In Crisis

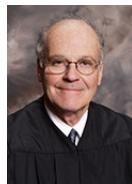


Up to 12 hours CLE (approved WSBA), CE for NASW approved.

Sessions in the program have been approved by the AFCC organization for up to 12 hours of continuing education. AFCC parent organization is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. AFCC maintains responsibility for this program and its content

SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE BRINGS TOP NAMES TO SEATTLE

Two days of training are scheduled to begin on Friday April 13th with a day-long hands-on workshop by Dr. Matthew Sullivan on Parenting Coordination, and another track of workshops on the Voice of the Child, Abusive Use of Conflict, Solution Focused Legal Services, and Collaborative Law. Those sessions feature Gary Schreiner & Michele Unsworth, Daniel Rybicki, Wendy Hutchins-Cook, Carol Bailey, and Felicia Malsby.



Saturday begins with a keynote address by WA Chief Justice (ret.), Gerry Alexander — Looking back and looking forward, and plenary sessions Dr. Matt Sullivan on Court ordered therapy, and Drs. Kuehnle and Drozd on Research Guided Parenting Plans. The WA AFCC will hold elections at noon, and the afternoon will have Three Tracks of simultaneous workshops. Issues involving Relocation and Abduction will be covered along with 191 travel restrictions in presentations by Leslie Shear and Catherine W. Smith. Gatekeeping and domestic violence issues will be covered by Drs. Bill Austin, Leslie Drozd and Nancy Olesen. A comparison of GAL practices Coast to Coast will be presented by David Hodges, Dr. Robert Zibbell and Dr. Rybicki. Presentations on Risks for Violence in Evaluations and Applying Research to Evaluations will be presented by Drs. Poppleton, Tutty, and Lee.



Dr. Bill Austin, Dr. Leslie Drozd, Carol Bailey, Dr. Kathy Kuehnle, Catherine Smith, Dr. Matt Sullivan and many other notable training resources will be on hand.

Once again, the tables are set and the PowerPoint slides are ready to go!! [Registration is still open](#), but the early bird registration will end February 15th. Regular registration continues through March 15th when space may become limited. Attorneys, GAL's, mental health professionals and others have been making their plans to be at the Washington Athletic Club for what will be an outstanding 2 days of presentations, discussions, networking and sharing of information. There is [still space available](#) for you to register, so [Sign Up Now](#).

WA CHAPTER APPLIES FOR CHARTER STATUS

The local WA AFCC chapter received Provisional status from the parent AFCC group in June 2010. Following the very successful first conference and with sufficient numbers of AFCC members in our state, the WA AFCC filed for Charter status. Documents will be reviewed by the AFCC

Board with a vote held at the June International Conference in Chicago. All the necessary steps have been taken to complete the process to join the increasing number of states with local chapters of AFCC. The Washington Chapter is one of thirteen other chapters that include Arizona,

California, Colorado, Florida, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Missouri, New Jersey, Texas, and Ontario. More News to Follow.



"There is a growing awareness of our commitment to service and our desire to become one of the best interdisciplinary resources for judges, attorneys, GAL's and mental health professionals in our state."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE DANIEL RYBICKI, PSY.D.

It is truly remarkable how the enthusiasm for our WA AFCC programs has been gaining momentum. We have had our First Annual Conference with really great presentations and a useful exchange of ideas. It was also a golden opportunity for many local professionals to finally get to meet other folks face to face that they had only heard of before or had only talked to on the phone. True to our Pacific NW style, these professionals got to share a cup of coffee, chat and get better acquainted.

Our local WA AFCC has taken on other important tasks that go beyond merely doing an annual training event. For instance, we have formed a work group to address quality assurance issues that impact GAL and psychological parenting evaluations, and we have completed two sets of survey research mailings to generate some useful data and begin a dialogue intended to advance the level of service and training for family law professionals.

With our Second Conference set to deliver an outstanding array of concurrent workshops and superb plenary sessions, we are picking up speed to sustain our efforts throughout the year.

There is a growing awareness of our commitment to service and our desire to become one of the best interdisciplinary resources for judges, attorneys, GALs, and mental health professionals throughout our state. With the active involvement of top local talent and with the ability to call upon some of the foremost nationally acclaimed authorities in the country, we are setting the bar for keeping current on new developments in the field. We hope to utilize this forum for improved service to our court and community. We have the potential to develop into a voice for clear thinking and well reasoned interventions for families and children.

During the next year we will be enhancing our team building and network of volunteers and directors, adding new work

groups and new directors. This may be a great time for you to get more involved.

Additional midyear training events called "brown bag lunch and learn" are being developed for local Family Court groups and county bar associations. This may be your opportunity to share your expertise with others and enjoy the excitement of a lively discussion and exploration of ideas.

We will also be expanding our newsletter to include at least one open forum edition which will showcase members and their ideas and concerns. Fire up your keyboard and submit your thoughts.

So stay tuned for the next phase of our development as we get past the basics and onto the pathway for new methods for meeting the needs of families in crisis.



FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE: A GREAT START



(left to right) Judge Orlando, Com.Ponomarchuk, Judge Casey, Judge Fleck
Drs. Daniel Rybicki, Andy Benjamin and Marsha Hedrick below (left to right)



Nearly 100 people were in attendance on October 21st 2011 when the WA AFCC held its First Annual Conference. Workshop presentations were offered by Dr. Hedrick on gatekeeping & alienation, by Dr. Rybicki on dealing with allegations of child sexual abuse, and by Dr. Benjamin on risk management for ethics complaints. Three sets of panels delivered exciting news about efforts to develop statewide standards for case managers and parenting coordinators, current views of the issues and concerns as seen by four well-respected judicial

officers, and a lively exchange between Drs. Rybicki, Hedrick and Benjamin on evaluation practices. Comments from the attendees were also very helpful in providing some new suggestions for assessment and intervention with family law cases.

Feedback from the attendees was that this event provided some of the most useful and on-point training that they had received in years. Several persons joined the AFCC and Washington Chapter immediately following the event.

For those of you who missed this conference, you may wish to purchase a set of DVD or CD recordings of the sessions. You may order those items at our website and purchase them online through PayPal.



CIVILITY AND THE LAW BY STACY HEARD, ESQ.

LAW OFFICES OF STACY D. HEARD, PLLC

In October 2011, I had the extraordinary opportunity to attend and participate in an eight-day CLE in Sovana, Italy, with approximately 40 other attendees. The program is called "The Civility Promise in Italy: Experience Consciousness, Creativity, and Community," conducted by the Seattle University School of Law and Robert's Fund, founded by the president of Robert's Fund and Seattle University Law School Professor, Paula Lustbader. The seminar is particularly unique because the participants stay in a small Tuscan town, one block long. The participants spend a significant amount of time together in the seminars, dinners, and excursions. Because the CLE is away from home, in a foreign country, participants engage in a way that is incomparable to a CLE in the states. The sense of community accomplished in this type of setting and the level of consciousness regarding civility is unparalleled.

Civility is diminished in the legal community, and in particular, in family law cases. What is Civility? Civility is a display of respect, professionalism and courtesy to others. Civility is good manners. Civility is diminishing amongst lawyers, particularly those dealing with family law cases. Managing the high emotions of clients, intense workloads, face-paced work environments, and an instant-gratification culture has placed increasing challenges on professionalism.

Learning the proper tools to address incivility such as consciousness, creativity, and community, assists attorneys in reducing conflict in highly emotional cases. In doing so, clients benefit from improved professionalism among members of the bar. Moreover, attorneys benefit by gaining greater satisfaction in their lives and their careers.

On February 24 and 25, 2012, a CLE on The Foundations of Civility in the Legal Profession will be held in Seattle. The Civility Promise in Italy CLE is offered twice this year, in April and October. More information is available on the Robert's Fund website: www.robertsfund.org/italy.

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS — NEW BOARD MEMBERS TO JOIN IN APRIL



Pictured on the left: Dana Dean Doering, Dr. Daniel Rybicki, Dr. Ellie Sternquist, and Camille Schafer. On Right: Dr. Natalie Novick Brown. Not Pictured: Dr. Jennifer Wheeler, Margo Waldroup.



Dr. Natalie Novick Brown who, with her committee, is gathering information to develop training and quality assurance standards for Guardian Ad Litem and Psychological Parenting Evaluation Services. Data from the recent statewide survey will assist this group in forming a slate of suggestions which may be delivered to WSBA or the Washington State Administrative Office of the Court to assist in developing new training programs and methods of ensuring that families being evaluated for the Court will receive the highest quality of service from GALs and mental health providers.

Behind the scenes of your WA AFCC are the dedicated professionals who make decisions to chart the course for the organization. These Board members are also the group from which the Officers are selected to serve as President, VP/Treasurer, and Secretary. In addition to holding at least two meetings per year, the Board members have been active in work groups and committees such as the work of Camille Schafer and her team that developed the By Laws for our WA AFCC. Currently at work is

New Board Members will be added to the current slate of Directors with an election to be held at the April Conference. We are still taking Nominations via email at info@wa-afcc.net



"Civility is a display of respect, professionalism, and courtesy to others."



Special Thanks to Sponsors for Conference 2011

Supporting (\$250 or more)

Tacoma Pierce County Bar Association, Family Section;
Dr. Bruce Harshman

Gold (\$1,000 or more)



Current Sponsors for Conference 2012

Silver (\$500 or more)

Our Family Wizard.Com



For reliable scheduling and civil communication between high conflict parents. An email resource of superb value.



YOU REALLY CAN HAVE A GOOD DIVORCE

BY CAROL BAILEY, ESQ. INTEGRATIVEFAMILYLAW.COM

It's possible. You really can have a good divorce—a divorce where you feel good about yourself and good about your former spouse after the divorce is over.

A good divorce is worth the effort, especially if you have children. Research tells us that the best thing you can do for your children in your divorce is to reduce the conflict you have with your child's other parent. The person with whom you chose to have children.

Having a good divorce requires two things: each of you has to work effectively with your own emotions and you have to choose the right lawyer. Emotions commonly set the tone and focus of the divorce. Often both parties lose sight of the larger picture and ignore the impact of their actions during the divorce. Emotions do have a lifespan that apologies cannot shorten. So both you and your spouse or partner are responsible for what you do and say and write in court papers about your former loved one during a divorce.

Most of the time one spouse makes the decision to leave, even if you've talked about separation before. Being left presents an extraordinary challenge, particularly if you aren't expecting it. Feelings of self doubt (which we all have in varying degrees) intensify and often turn our hurt to anger. Or rage, depending on how hurt we feel and how insensitive the other person has been. Negative feelings begin to overwhelm us.

Because divorce triggers our deepest feelings about our lovability, recovering and moving forward is both complex and difficult. But somehow, we have to calm ourselves and separate our hurt from the divorce process. We need to turn our attention to the feelings we have always had about ourselves and find a way to strengthen ourselves and actually feel better in the end. I have to admit I love the phrase "Happiness is the best revenge." And it is. Finding your own power by working through the issues of a divorce is a great goal for everyone and helps reframe the experience into something positive.

The person who leaves also needs to take responsibility for the situation that leaving has created. Developing the virtues of patience and compassion will help everyone. Creating the conditions for a good divorce often involves allowing the other person time to "catch up" emotionally—to get used to being left; to get used to being single and to adjust to new financial realities. Handling this with compassion for the other person means recognizing that it could have been you. And you may have to handle your own hurt too, regardless of how justified you feel in having decided to leave. Because, if you are leaving the marriage without having resolved your own issues about your lovability, virility, attractiveness and sexual desirability, you could be the new "left person" down the road. It's very important to remember that.

If both of you take on the task of resolving these strong emotional issues in an appropriate forum, you can spare paying your lawyer the money to "act out" your issues for you. Better to pay your therapist to help you get to a good place. Or spend time with friends who will hold you accountable for whatever your contribution was to the end of the relationship, so you aren't stuck in blaming forever.

In the end a divorce is really two processes—an emotional one, and a legal one. The first step to a good divorce is not to confuse the two.

Divorce "Do's and Don'ts"

- Don't put down or badmouth the other parent to the kids
- Don't grill the children for information about the other parent
- Don't use the children as messengers
- Don't ask the children to choose between parents
- Don't make the children feel responsible for taking care of you
- Tell the children the divorce is not their fault
- Let the children know they are loved by both parents
- Talk to the children about divorce in age-appropriate ways, careful not to cause fear
- Assure the children they can still count on the parents to take care of them
- Let the children know it is ok to love the other parent



We're on the Web!
WWW.WA-AFCC.NET

Helping Families in Times of Crisis



WA-AFCC

**WA Chapter
Association of Family
and Conciliation Courts**

PMB #287
5114 Pt. Fosdick Dr. NW #E
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Phone: 253-858-8850
Fax: 253-858-7772
Email: info@wa-afcc.net