

NW FAMILY TIES



Washington Chapter
Association of Family & Conciliation Courts

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53RD ANNUAL AFCC CONFERENCE COMING TO SEATTLE- MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Make Plans Now for the Fifty-Third Annual International AFCC Conference

Special Pre-Conference Day-Long

Training Institute Sessions June 1st.

The WA AFCC Chapter will sponsor a session on

Reunification Intervention

Moving Families Forward: A Coordinated Reunification Response to Parental Alienation, Estrangement and High Conflict



Alyson Jones., M.A. et al.

Mark Your Calendar Now

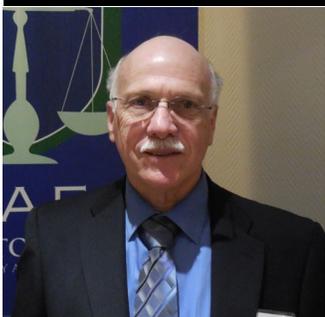


The AFCC National Conference will take place on June 1-4, 2016 in Seattle. The conference is titled **Modern Families: New Challenges, New Solutions**. It is intended to explore the impact of changing family structures on our work, our families, and our lives. The modern family is constantly changing and now includes heterosexual couples (married and unmarried), same-sex partners (married and unmarried), single parent families, multi-generational families, children of assisted reproductive technologies, foster care, and many more variations on the family theme. The diversity in the modern family structure leads to more complexity in legal, social and psychological challenges for professionals and families. The 2016 AFCC National Conference will provide you an opportunity to connect with other professionals from around the world and to engage in provocative educational opportunities regarding modern families. Information regarding the conference and sponsorship opportunities can be found at www.afccnet.org/Conferences

We strongly encourage you to attend. You'll be glad you did!

**June 1-4, 2016
Seattle Sheraton**





David Hodges, M.A.
President, WA AFCC

“Enthusiasm and excitement is already building for AFCC’s 53rd Annual Conference to be held in Seattle.”

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

It is with a mixture of humility and pride that I greet all of you who are members of "our kindergarten class." We are after all only five years of age as an organization. Just old enough to be better coordinated, to start connecting more with our peers, to have excitement and wonder, and for the more precocious among our class, to begin to have a sense about a path to our future.

The sense of humility for me comes from understanding the importance of the mission our Chapter shares with AFCC International as well as from my recognition of the expertise of those who have gone before me and who currently serve with me. The sense of pride comes from being given the honor of serving as Chapter President.

I must say that for those of us who have been involved, enthusiasm and excitement already are building for AFCC's 53rd Annual Conference to be held in Seattle in June 2016. Much of the energy and focus for our Board of Directors has been on preparing for the 2016 Conference, including various ways you and we can be involved in giving a warm Washington welcome to the conference attendees and presenters.

A few of you have responded to our request for shepherds but we will likely have a few more spots available and if you are interested, please let me know. If you are interested in hosting a group for the "dine around," please let me know that as well. We may need two or three more than are currently arranged.

John Kydd, our Chapter Representative, and I were invited to serve as members on the AFCC Local Committee for the Annual Conference. Fortunately Stacy Heard, our Chapter President Elect, was also able to attend the planning meeting at the annual conference in New Orleans this year and is included on the committee. One of our many tasks was to rate the workshop proposals, and the three of us have been involved in that work. In response to AFCC's Call for Proposals 107 proposals were submitted from all over the world: from Singapore to Israel; from France to Sweden; from Australia and New Zealand to Canada and the US. There are 7 proposals from the State of Washington, ranging from Kennewick to the Puget Sound region. Only with some degree of trepidation will I attempt to summarize the range of proposed workshop topics because many of them are as intriguing as they are varied, and I know I am not capturing the important and interesting essence of the proposals in the following summary. Nonetheless, a panoply of practice issues are featured, including a number focusing on various advanced parenting coordination issues; several on innovative mediation practices; others on parenting evaluation issues relating to testing, dealing with bias, and special issues involved with child sexual abuse allegations, domestic violence, etc. Other proposals deal with case collaboration between mental health professionals and legal professionals, team approaches to service delivery, and others with the need for policy development to better serve the "modern family," the theme of the conference. Some proposals derived from specific cultural perspectives, others from the range of gender identity and sexual orientations. Another group of proposals is about use of technology in our work and by the populations we serve.

While with certainty I can say the annual conference will offer you the opportunity to take in new information, hone your skills, and enhance your work, I hope you will also take advantage of the opportunity to relax after hours with friends and colleagues as well as connect with other professionals around the world. As Washington Chapter members we also have both an opportunity and a pleasant responsibility to make our "guests" from all over the country and the world feel welcome.

Another source of excitement for me stems from the new Board members who come with such a wealth of experience and expertise (also bringing another dose of humility for me). Dan Rybicki is introducing them individually and with specific details in this newsletter about what they bring to our Chapter.

(continued p. 3)

Training Institute at 53rd AFCC Conference Includes Local Talent

by Daniel Rybicki, Psy.D., Conference Coordinator

As you may already know, the Seattle Sheraton will host the four day AFCC conference, **Modern Families: New Challenges, New Solutions.** Make plans to attend the day-long pre-conference training on Reunification sponsored and conducted by members of our local WA AFCC Chapter. The full AFCC conference runs from June 1st through June 4th 2016.

Mark your calendar for June 1st 2016 and register early to ensure a space in the workshop presented by Alyson Jones and her colleagues from Vancouver, B.C., joined by several members of the Board. The program is titled: **Moving Families Forward: A Coordinated Therapeutic Response to Parental Alienation, Estrangement and High Conflict Family Situations.**

It is widely recognized that parental alienation, estrangement and high conflict are some of the most difficult family situations for both lawyers and mental health professionals to deal with. The reality is that regular family therapy often does not work in these situations, and not everyone can afford a residential program (such as Family Bridges, Family Camp). This workshop is designed to assist professionals in building affordable solutions to family fractures and complex family situations. Although intensive, this intervention format is community based and does not have a residential component.

President's Message (continued from p. 2)

With all of the focus on planning for the annual conference, on the recruitment and nomination of the new Board members, and on some of the "nuts and bolts" of a developing organization, one area that deserves more attention is a greater inclusion of membership in the work of the Chapter.

In February 2015 Dana Dean Doering, Dr. Jennifer Wheeler, and I had the pleasure to meet with forty legal and mental health professionals as well as several judicial officers from Snohomish County Superior Court at the Everett Golf and Country Club thanks to long time member Christine Wakefield Nichols and her husband Todd Nichols. It was a great time to talk about the mission of AFCC and to enjoy the company of others involved in the work of families in crisis. The atmosphere and refreshments were delightful. Thank you Christine! If any of you have ideas for organizing and promoting a "meet and greet" for the purpose of promoting AFCC in your professional community, we will be pleased to hear from you. So, in closing, thank you for the opportunity to serve as President of your Chapter for the past six months and I look forward to getting to first grade! AND, see you all at the Annual Conference in June! Hooray for Washington!

Sincerely, David Hodges, MA

President WA AFCC

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

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

Helping Families in Times of Crisis

The workshop will provide information on how to carry out a therapeutic response that is truly based on the best interests of the children. Alyson Jones is the Founder, Clinical Director and Team Leader for The Family Forward Reunification Program based out of Vancouver Canada which is a unique community based Treatment Program. Alyson and her Team will bring extensive knowledge and share how the principles from the Family Forward Reunification Program can be utilized by other professionals in responding to attachment disruptions and complex family situations. Several local WA AFCC Members will join Dana Dean Doering in role play interactions to facilitate the training.

The presenters will explain why a coordinated team approach is essential when dealing with complex family situations. The importance of case management, team work, and communication protocols will be explored. The concept of courageous counseling will be presented and the participants will have an opportunity to observe and practice these skills within the workshop. The presenters will provide practical tools regarding how to respond to family fractures. The structure of the team approach will be outlined and the different roles of the team members will be explored in a practical and informative manner. Solutions for these challenging and often heart-breaking cases will be explored.

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Benefits of Attorney Membership in WA AFCC and AFCC

by Stacy Heard, J.D. (President Elect)



As an attorney practicing family law, the AFCC offers me direct connections to mental health professionals, other family law attorneys, and resources I use in my practice. The AFCC is a unique interdisciplinary and international association of professionals dedicated to the resolution of family conflict.

The AFCC Membership Network is a resource upon which I rely regularly. It provides an international network of support and access to information. AFCC members share perspectives, information, and work collaboratively. I enjoy being part of an association whose members do not all share a common profession. Non-legal professionals have provided me a wealth of information that I would not have otherwise learned. I have also enjoyed wonderful personal relationships with these colleagues.

Another benefit of AFCC membership is the Family Court Review. AFCC's quarterly journal is the leading interdisciplinary family law journal. It publishes issues on domestic violence, child development and attachment, parental alienation, unified family courts and child welfare mediation. I turn to the journals when I have a case involving particular parenting issues as a way to educate myself further.

AFCC also provides collaborative leadership with the AAML (American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers) and other organizations. The AFCC partners with the AAML for training in family law and domestic relations practice.

In my view, the AFCC needs more members from the legal profession. In the increasingly high-conflict area of family law, lawyers and judges need additional resources and education in dealing with the unique parenting issues presented.

I encourage you to become a member and assure you that membership will enhance your practice.

Past President's Retrospective Review by Dana Dean Doering, ARNP

Dear AFCC Washington Members at Large,

It has been my great honor to serve the AFCC Washington membership and the Board during this past two years of 2013 to 2015. I greatly appreciate the trust that was placed in me, as well as the many lessons I have learned as I travelled around this great state to meet many of you. I also discovered how diverse our Court systems are across the state- more diverse than I ever imagined possible!



We all got to celebrate our 5th birthday year of the WA AFCC Chapter together, which allows us to reflect back and to celebrate our accomplishments & our ability to band together and to create a new collaborative organization for ourselves- an AFCC Washington Chapter that is now the envy of many states across the nation. Thanks to our talented Founding President, Daniel Rybicki, and the dedicated first 5-year Board, we attracted talented lecturers, national experts and brought great talent and expertise to Washington and into our work for the Courts and to benefit the many families in conflict that we all serve.

Thanks to the overwhelming participation from all of you we established the financial strength in our WA Chapter which will allow us to be sustainable, and we created progress with our Quality Assurance Committee work which may lead to future legislation that can define higher standards in forensic practice & practice roles across our state. We reached out to every collaborative partner & organization we could find and joined with them in their good work. They in turn came and joined us.

A sad truth is that divorce rates remain high, both locally and around the world. Children and families are often not adapting well to these changes. The Courts and our current laws are struggling under 150 years of tradition. The Court is seeking to become more relevant and accessible in the modern world. The Court is also trying to adapt to the many family, social and technological changes and needs it faces daily. Many hopeful changes are afoot for kinder, more accessible, and more collaborative problem solving. Families and children need us all to help create this sort of new paradigm!

Now let's tie together the many good ideas of the past, as we all move forward and support our current President, David Hodges, our President-elect, Stacy Heard, our new Board Members, and the Executive team in 2015-2016. Soon, we will also share the joys of hosting the 2016 AFCC National Seattle Conference. I look forward to serving the AFCC Washington Chapter for many years to come.

Most Sincerely, Dana Dean Doering AFCC WA Chapter, Past-President 2013-2015

WA AFCC Welcomes New Board Members



Mark Baumann, J.D. is a lawyer, mediator, and judge pro tem. He has practiced law for 25 years and now specializes in high conflict family law. In 2013 Mark completed a one year graduate credit certificate program in interpersonal neurobiology at Portland State University. He was the only lawyer in this program. His focus in the training was on how to apply the science of relationship and neurobiology to conflict. Prior to that he researched and applied Bill Eddy's high conflict concepts to the practice of criminal and family law. He was the first associate of Bill Eddy's High Conflict Institute.

Over the last fifteen years Mark has been working to understand and apply principles of psychology, attachment, neuroscience, negotiation, and mindfulness to helping parties resolve conflict, whether in litigation or mediation. He is a member of and frequent contributor to the WSBA Family Law section Yahoo Group, providing suggestions to problems based on the perspective detailed in his presentation. He is a board member of the WSBA ADR section, and developed a high school peer mediation program. He has developed several training programs, including one on applying attachment to family law. His full resume is at www.markbaumann.com/resume.



Dennis ("DC") Cronin, J.D., graduated from Gonzaga's School of Law in 1985, Dennis was admitted to the practice of law in Washington State in 1986 and in 1990 to the United States Supreme Court. DC is also admitted in the US District Court Eastern District, & US Court of Appeals Ninth Circuit. DC is also a certified Family Law Mediator. DC was former private counsel for L. Carl Maxey and, at times, his firm. DC has represented over fifty two attorneys (in one forum or another) a coroner, two mayors, a psychologist, two judges and several law enforcement officers and co-counseled cases with L. Carl Maxey, F. Lee Bailey, Ralph Nader's Organization; NAACP Defense and Educational Fund Inc, & Andrew Shapiro of Yale Law School.

For over 25 years, Dennis has worked tirelessly in the pursuit of justice for his clients. Mentored by L. Carl Maxey, from whom the DC moniker was received, DC formerly served the community as counsel for the NAACP/Spokane and for Spokane's Martin Luther King, Jr. Center, member of the Board of Directors of the Spokane American Civil Liberties Union, Spokane Peace and Justice Action League, Washington State Bar Association Sentencing Committee, and was appointed as the 2008 chairperson of the City of Spokane Human Rights Ordinance Working Group Task Force.

DC is a proud recipient of the "AV" Preeminent Rating from Martindale-Hubbell, which represents his peers ranking him at the highest level of professional excellence. Since receiving his AV ranking, DC has consistently maintained the ranking each and every year since. DC is currently a member of the Spokane and Lincoln County Bar Associations; Chairperson of the SCBA Family Law Sub Committee; a member of the Spokane Superior Court Guardian Ad Litem Committee, Washington State Bar Association including the WSBA Family Law and Criminal Law Sections, WSAJ, NACDL, Federal Bar Association Eastern District of Washington and was appointed in 2006 to the City of Spokane Human Rights Commission.



Lynn Fainsilber Katz, Ph.D., is a Research Professor in Child Clinical Psychology and Developmental Psychology at the University of Washington, and Associate Director of the University of Washington's Child and Family Well-Being Center. Dr. Katz has 24 years of experience working with children and families on issues relating to marital conflict, parenting and family relationships. She has been conducting research on the effects of marital and family conflict on children's adjustment. Dr. Katz has written extensively in the area of marital conflict, and has authored numerous publications including *Domestic Violence, Emotion Coaching and Child Adjustment; Buffering Children from Marital Conflict and Dissolution; and Patterns of Marital Conflict Predict Children's Internalizing and Externalizing Behavior*. Her book on parenting, *Meta-Emotion: How Families Communicate Emotionally*, received widespread attention both locally and nationally. Most recently, she developed a parenting intervention for survivors of domestic violence.

Dr. Katz is nationally recognized as a leading expert in the area of family relations. She has received over \$10 million of funding from the National Institutes of Health for her work on domestic violence, parenting, childhood aggression, adolescent depression and family adjustment in the context of pediatric cancer. She has lectured extensively on the effects of marital conflict on children, and on parenting qualities that buffer children from marital dissolution. She has also taught courses on child and adolescent behavior disorders and on children's social development at the University of Washington.

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Dr. Katz received her B.A. in Psychology from McGill University, and her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has a Parenting Evaluation Certificate from the Parenting Evaluation Training Program at the University of Washington, and is a licensed clinical psychologist in the State of Washington. Her private practice focuses on parenting evaluations in child custody disputes, and supporting parents and children through the divorce process.



Michele Unsworth, M.Ed., is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor/Supervisor. Prior to relocation to Olympia she contracted with then was employed by the Idaho Supreme Court (December 2006-June 2015) as Coordinator/Manager of Family Court Services for the six southwest counties of the Idaho Third Judicial District to: Develop, implement and oversee court-based services for families; Supervise and train Family Court Services providers and staff including Court Assistance, Domestic Violence Courts, Guardianship and Child Protection Courts, Mediation, Parent Coordination, Parenting Time Evaluation, and Court Involved Therapy; Provide administrative support, research and education to Family Court judges; Promote least intrusive and most effective alternative, non-adversarial methods of dispute resolution, child development and parenting apart education; Assist families and courts with developmentally sensitive parenting schedules and other resources for families.

Michele received her B.A. and M.Ed. in Counseling from Whitworth University in Spokane. Her background includes twenty five years in various capacities in Washington and then in Idaho as an adoption specialist, school counselor, psycho/education treatment group facilitator and mental health clinician approved to provide supervision for counselors. Michele has been an Idaho Supreme Court approved Child Custody Mediator since 1999 and an active member of the Conflict Resolution Center of the Inland Northwest since 2014. She is committed to assisting families in finding peaceful ways to settle their disputes outside the court system, when possible. Michele is passionate about her family, horses and equine distance riding.

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Our Family Wizard.Com



For reliable scheduling and civil communication between high conflict parents. An email resource of superb value. More Info at www.ourfamilywizard.com

Dennis McGlothin and the Western Washington Law Group



Western
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Carol Bailey and Associates



Daniel Rybicki, Psy.D.



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