

# NW FAMILY TIES



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Past President's Message</i>	2
<i>Training Institute Local Talent</i>	3
<i>Advanced Training for GAL</i>	4
<i>2017 Conference Info</i>	5

## 53RD ANNUAL AFCC CONFERENCE COMING TO SEATTLE- MARK YOUR CALENDER

### 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.

**Register Now**

[www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org)



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](http://www.afccnet.org/Conferences)

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

June 1-4, 2016  
Seattle Sheraton



Hurry Before Time  
Runs Out





Stacy Hodges, J.D.  
President, WA AFCC

*“The network of international professionals dedicated to the resolution of family conflict is invaluable to my practice.”*



David Hodges, M.A.  
Past President



Mark Baumann, J.D.  
Early Riser Program  
Chair

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear Washington AFCC Chapter Members: I am honored to write to you as the new Washington State Chapter President. The Board is grateful to David Hodges, MA, LMFT, for his past year of service as our Chapter President. His countless hours devoted to AFCC this past year have assisted our Chapter in growing exponentially. I recognize the big shoes that I was left to fill, and I am confident that with the strong Board we have assembled in the past year that we can continue to grow and succeed as an organization.

We are now in our sixth year as an organization and continue to grow. We are thrilled to host the National AFCC Conference June 1-4, 2016. If you have not already registered, we encourage you to do so. This is a unique opportunity for our organization to host international and nationally renowned experts in our field. You can register here: <http://www.afccnet.org>.

As the first attorney acting as Washington State Chapter President, I want to share my interest and commitment to AFCC. The multidisciplinary professionals of AFCC provide me direct connections to mental health professionals, other family law attorneys, and resources I use in my practice. AFCC’s quarterly journal, Family Court Review, is an exceptional resource that I use to research particular issues that may arise in my cases. The network of international professionals dedicated to the resolution of family conflict is invaluable to my practice. I have also enjoyed rewarding personal relationships with AFCC colleagues.

In the coming year, we will host a conference on March 25, 2017 with Marsha Klein Pruitt and Bill Eddy as our keynote speakers. We are also exploring the possibility of co-hosting a CLE with the Washington State Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML). On a national level, AFCC partners with the AAML for training in family law and domestic relations practice. Your continued support will assist us in our future growth and commitment to assisting families in need, furthering the AFCC mission of assisting families in conflict. Stacy Heard, J.D. WA AFCC President

## PAST PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Greetings fellow members of the Washington Chapter of AFCC. When I last wrote to you, I spoke of our young organization and its developmental stage. It is clear to me that since then we have made great strides as an organization. As you might imagine much of our focus has been on the international conference coming to Seattle June 1<sup>st</sup>. Our board has actually met together on eight evenings during the course of the year ending April 1, 2016 in order to address, among other things, the various tasks related to the conference that involve our chapter. But that is not all that we have been doing.

During the past year some exciting things have been developing and taking place. You probably have seen announcements for the “Early Riser” breakfast series, brain child of Mark Bauman, one of our newest board members. Those meetings have been not only interesting and informative opportunities to learn both from presenters and participants, but great opportunities for networking. Please, as further announcements come to you, consider participating in some of those events.

Another important development is the Title 26 GAL Update program. Our Chapter is committed to reaching out to regions beyond Puget Sound to provide training. This effort, spearheaded by the ever ready and resourceful Dr. Rybicki, kicks off with an all-day program in Spokane on July 25<sup>th</sup> followed by a not so distant repeat performance in Olympia on September 19<sup>th</sup>. These presentations feature the following topics and trainers: Shared Parenting and Attachment Issues -- Dr. Lynn Fainsilber-Katz; Decision Making for Thorny Issues (DV, Alienation, Addictions)-- Dr. Daniel Rybicki; Parenting

# 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.

### ***Past President's Retrospective Message (continued)***

Plans for Young Children -- Dana Dean Doering, ARNP, Michele Unsworth, M.Ed.; and How to Avoid Common Pitfalls: Professional Ethics and Roles -- Frances Kevetter, J.D.

I wish to take this opportunity thank all of the presenters who are donating their time and expertise to make these presentations possible and to point out that two more of our Board's newest members, Dr. Lynn Fainsilber-Katz and Ms. Michele Unsworth, are among the presenters.

Also, we have come to a "changing of the guard." I am very pleased to announce that as of April 1<sup>st</sup> Stacy Heard became our Chapter President. I have found her so helpful and resourceful on many levels. Already she has demonstrated that her leadership will add much to our Chapter during her tenure as President. She has done an incredible job as one of the conference committee local chairs and has done much to promote interest in the conference. I am also happy to announce that in accordance with our Chapter bylaws an election of Chapter officers was held during the board meeting on February 22, 2016. Dr. Jennifer Wheeler was nominated and elected as President Elect, Frances Kevetter was reelected as Board Secretary, John Kydd was reelected as Council Representative, and Dr. Dan Rybicki was reelected as Treasurer.

On Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the end of day two of the conference, there will be a brief membership meeting for the purpose of voting on some amendments to our Chapter bylaws and to introduce you to our new officers and newest board members. The room location at the Sheraton will be announced later.

In addition to meeting almost monthly, your Chapter board has committed to a daylong retreat at the end of April during which we will revisit our Chapter mission and tailor our committee structure and responsibilities to better accomplish objectives in support of that mission, specifically:

1. To provide an interdisciplinary forum for the exchange of ideas and the development of procedures to assist families in conflict.
2. To encourage the development of courts and court procedures relating to families and children emphasizing cooperative and collaborative methods of dispute resolution.

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.

*Past President's Retrospective Message (continued from p.3)*

3. To develop and improve the provision of services that aid in the resolution of family disputes.
4. To protect the interests of children in all aspects of family law proceedings.
5. To promote and maintain professional and ethical standards of practice in private, public, and court-related practices.

That's a tall order but we are making incremental progress on some of those goals and more obvious progress on others. However, in my view our Chapter will need you to let us know how you may already be involved with such efforts and ways that you would like to contribute your talents and expertise. It is my hope that we can briefly report at the Annual Meeting in June on what is accomplished at our Board retreat.

So, in closing, I want to do two things. First, Congratulations to Stacy Heard, our new Chapter President! Second, I wish to express my sincere gratitude for to our Board for all the time and work they have committed to AFCC and to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve as President of your Chapter for the year ending April 1<sup>st</sup>. AND, to quote a past president, "See you all at the Annual Conference in June! Hooray for Washington!"

Many Thanks – David Hodges, M.A. Past President

## Advanced Update Training for Guardian Ad Litem by Daniel Rybicki, Psy.D.

As part of our service to the community, the WA AFCC Speakers Bureau has developed a **one-day six-hour training event** that provides **update advanced training for GALs**. The program has been submitted to WSBA for continuing legal education credits. The registration fee is being significantly reduced (\$40) with an optional \$10 fee for recording the CLE attendance. Training materials will be posted on the WA AFCC website in PDF format for download. It is necessary to pre-register in order to ensure that we have sufficient space for those who wish to attend as space is limited. Course evaluation and program evaluation forms will be utilized for gathering feedback and for meeting continuing education requirements.

For 2016, the program will be offered on Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup> in Spokane and Monday September 19<sup>th</sup> in Olympia. The Spokane training takes place at the Spokane Falls Community College Lounge A. The location for Olympia will be announced. These are regional programs seeking to provide outreach to large sections of the state. Watch for more details in the coming weeks. Announcements will be sent to local jurisdiction court administrators as the program details are finalized.

***The Pros and Cons of Shared Parenting: Current Research and Implications for Practice --***  
Lynn Fainsilber Katz, Ph.D.

***Thorny Issues in Family Law: Investigating Allegations of Domestic Violence, Alienation and Addictions --***  
Daniel Rybicki, Psy.D.

***Attachment Considerations in Parenting Plans with Young Children for Family Law Practitioners --***Dana Dean  
-Doering, ARNP, and Michele Unsworth, M.Ed.

***How to Avoid Common Pitfalls: Professional Ethics and Roles--*** Frances Kevetter, J.D.

Other program details and registration tools are on our website [www.wa-afcc.net](http://www.wa-afcc.net) with a link for secure online registration.

Sign Up Now for this great training program.



# Call for Presenters WA AFCC 2017 Conference

## Join us for the March 25, 2017

### Sixth Annual WA AFCC Conference

## Parents Come in All Sizes....

Keynote speakers include Dr. Marsha Kline Pruett (Parenting Plans with Very Young Children) and Bill Eddy, LCSW (Parenting Plans with Difficult People). Our day-long program will include a panel discussion with these presenters in addition to five more break-out sessions. Mark your calendar for this event which will once again be held at the Washington Athletic Club. If you or your colleagues have a desire to conduct a 90 minute training session, you may access instructions at the website using the **Call for Presenters tab**. The deadline for presentation proposals is not until October 25th so you have plenty of time to consider offering a training program.



## Special Thanks to Past Sponsors for their Donations and Support

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](http://www.ourfamilywizard.com)

Dennis McGlothlin and the Western Washington Law Group



Western Washington Law Group



Carol Bailey and Associates



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

*Helping Families in Times of Crisis*