



AFCC Hosts Wingspread Conference on Family Law Education Reform

AFCC and Hofstra Law School's Center for Children, Families and the Law convened more than 30 professionals in early March for a two-day conference as part of the Family Law Education Reform Project.

Wingspread, located in Racine, Wisconsin on the shores of Lake Michigan, was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright as home to Herbert Fisk Johnson in 1938-39. In 1959, Johnson and his wife moved into an adjacent home and donated Wingspread to the Johnson Foundation to be used as an international educational facility.

Over the years, the Johnson Foundation has sponsored conferences on issues ranging from arms control to education to sustainable development. National Public Radio has its roots in a Wingspread conference, as do the National Endowment for the Arts and numerous other organizations and movements. Eleanor Roosevelt and presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter top the long list of distinguished conference participants.

The goal of the Wingspread Conference was to convene representatives of family law-related organizations, leading practitioners, scholars and researchers to build on the family law education reform that began in May 2004 at AFCC's Annual Conference in San Antonio and continued with a think tank of family law professors at Hofstra in November 2004.

Wingspread participants worked in groups to identify educational goals and objectives to help bridge the gap between current family law teaching and practice. Strategies for developing reform within law schools and the legal community were identified. Project participants are now working on developing a report on the current and future state of family law teaching as well as identifying new teaching priorities and strategies for law school faculty.

Project co-reporters Mary E. O'Connell of Northeastern School of Law, and J. Herbie DiFonzo of Hofstra Law School will present a report on the State and Future of Family Law Teaching at the AFCC 42nd Annual Conference, May 18-21, 2005 in Seattle, WA.

The final report, along with commentary and related writings, will appear in the January 2006 issue of *Family Court Review*.

AFCC is grateful to the many organizations that participated by sending representatives to the Wingspread Conference. Participants at the conference included:

Elissa Benedek, American Psychiatric Association

Lisa Berman, Hofstra Center for Children, Families and the Law
Hon. Susan Carbon, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
Hon. Dolores Carr, Santa Clara County Superior Court
Alexis Collentine, Hofstra Law School
Howard Davidson, ABA Center on Children and the Law
Otis Dean, Blackwell Publishing
J. Herbie DiFonzo, Hofstra Law School
Linda Elrod, Editor, *Family Law Quarterly*, Washburn University School of Law
Robert Emery, American Psychological Association, University of Virginia
Steve Erickson, Association for Conflict Resolution
Thomas Fee, The Agreement Zone
Susan Hansen, International Association of Collaborative Professionals
William Howe III, AFCC
Leslye Hunter, AFCC
Karen Jick, National Association of Social Workers
Kris Koeffler, Rock County Domestic Violence Intervention Program
Gregory Lampe, University of Wisconsin Colleges
Forest Mosten, UCLA School of Law
Mary E. O'Connell, Northeastern University School of Law
Paul Pearson, ABA Section of Dispute Resolution
Peggy Podell, ABA Section of Family Law
Marsha Kline Pruett, Yale Child Study Center
Jennifer Rosato, American Association of Law Schools Family and Juvenile Section,
Brooklyn Law School
Peter Salem, AFCC
Andrew Shepard, Hofstra Center for Children, Families and the Law
Andrea Schneider, American Association of Law Schools Dispute Resolution Section,
Marquette Law School
Hon. Hugh Starnes, AFCC
Nancy Ver Steegh, William Mitchell College of Law

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