

Dear Fellow AZ AFCC Members:

First and foremost, thank you to Jason Castle for his efforts these past two years as our President. Jason had the courage to take on this task for two years. Thank you Jason.

Under Jason's guidance, we have started a process of moving forward and improving with a technology committee, a Facebook page, a new website and a Tucson Brown Bag lunch and learn committee. We also started a strategic planning committee to see where we have been and where we want to go. With Jason's guidance we are looking at new venues for our Sedona conference and what needs to be done to improve the quality and quantity of the AZ AFCC membership.

I am very pleased to announce our new officers for 2015-2016:

President:	Michael Aaron, Esq.
President Elect:	Norma Izzo Milner, Esq.
Vice President:	Rebecca Stahl, Esq.
Secretary:	Julie Skakoon, M.C., L.P.C.
Treasurer:	Stacey Brady, Esq. and Mediator

I am humbled to serve as president of our chapter and hope to continue the great work before me to improve our board, our committees, our conference, and our outreach to the high learning institutions and our communities.

The 2015 Sedona Conference was a big success with record attendance and revenues, excellent presentations, and the added blessing of having our parent board in attendance and presenting. I must say David Fitzsimmons rocked! We also had record scholarship winners for both students and conciliation courts.

We will hold our annual board retreat April 18-19 at Westward Look in Tucson to begin preparations for the 2016 Sedona Conference as well as getting caught up on committee assignments and to address the changes we need to make as well as the overall goal of our chapter. If you are interested in joining a committee please let us know.

Our Board this year lost some significant board members that will be very difficult to replace. I would like to extend a special thanks and gratitude for these board members who will no longer be on our current board. They have sacrificed enormous amounts of time and energy for the good of our chapter. They brought us consistency and great ideas. They really are all irreplaceable. Thank you to:

Faren Akins, Ph.D.  
Hon. KC Stanford  
Connie J. A. Beck, Ph.D.  
Launi Sheldon, J.D.  
Sid Buckman, MA  
William Fabricius, Ph.D.  
Marie Mendelson Piccarreta, Esq.

I would also like to welcome our four new board members.

Gustavo Perez, Ph.D.  
Nancy Gray Eade  
Celice Korsten, PsyD  
Timea Hargesheimer, J.D.

Our board attempts to fill vacant spots with diversity in disciplines and geography. This makes our board broad based and balanced while creating a challenge in itself. For those of you that are good in math, yes we lost seven board members and only added four new board members. We wanted to try to see if a smaller board, although it will still have 24 active board members, could better serve our chapter. We will evaluate this decision as the year goes on.

I urge all of our members to do three things. First, consider being a board member. If you are interested please contact a board member to express your interest. Second, look at our committees on our website and join one by contacting one of the board members listed as a contact person. Third, reach out to your fellow practitioners and encourage them to join our chapter and to attend our presentations and conference as well as the conferences by our parent organization.

Finally, thank you to each and every one of you for your support, contributions, and efforts to support our Mission Statement in trying to improve the lives of families and children. We obviously need you and appreciate all you have done to make our chapter a flagship chapter of AFCC. We desire to grow and improve. Your thoughts and assistance would be appreciated. Please contact any board member to further discuss our future. We look forward to working with you this year to continue our journey to improving our chapter.

As a final reminder, we are tentatively scheduled to hold the 2016 Sedona AZ AFCC Conference January 29, 2016 to January 31, 2016; we look forward to seeing you there.

Michael Aaron  
AZ AFCC President.