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Top Ten Reasons to Join AFCC: According to our Members

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Every member of AFCC was at one time a prospective member and something prompted them to join. For me it was an email. In 2007, I opened a message from Bob Smith, former AFCC president (2010-2011), in which he told me about the upcoming AFCC fall conference and invited me to join. I was in solo practice as a psychologist, conducting parenting plan evaluations and providing therapeutic services for court-involved families. I perused the conference brochure and thought, “Wow! This looks great.” I joined at the conference rate and off I went to my first AFCC conference. Like many before me, I was awestruck by the relevancy and excellence of the workshops, the warmth of AFCC staff and leaders, and the wealth of knowledge and resources offered by AFCC. I felt energized by new ideas and was thrilled to come home with new “tools in my toolbox” to aid me in my practice. I had found my professional home. I have barely missed an AFCC conference since. I continue to grow, learn, and be inspired by the AFCC community. The vast array of learning opportunities, access to research and resources, and connections to outstanding experts in the field have been invaluable to me. These are my primary reasons for being a member of AFCC. I thank Bob Smith often for that email he sent me so many years ago!

What turned you from being a prospective member into a member, and why do you remain a member of AFCC? I urge you to ask yourself this question and share your answer with prospective members in your community. By doing so, you will be actively participating in the growth of our vibrant, inclusive, and cutting-edge association of multidisciplinary professionals. You will also be contributing to the advancement of knowledge, best practices, and expertise in your community, and you’ll feel great when someone thanks you for suggesting that they join.

Below are the Top Ten Reasons to Join AFCC according to our members. Perhaps you’ve read them before, but I urge you to re-read them and ask yourself which ones resonate with you. Then reach out to someone who is not yet a member and

encourage them to join (and tell them to attend the AFCC conference in Boston in June!) Someday, they will thank you.

Top Ten Reasons to Join AFCC: According to our Members

1. Learning, learning, learning! I belong to AFCC because I want cutting-edge learning opportunities. AFCC offers national, international and local programs that are extremely relevant to my daily work. Once you attend an AFCC conference you become hooked on the high-quality learning opportunities!

2. Cutting edge research and knowledge. I appreciate getting to know and learning from the people who write the books and articles. I look forward to reading the *Family Court Review*. It's a treasure trove of the latest, greatest, most relevant information! Belonging to AFCC enables me to be well informed about what is currently known, as well as what is not yet known.

3. Innovative programs. From co-parent education, to parenting coordination and elder coordination, to therapeutic programs and court-based services, AFCC is on the leading edge of innovative services and programs. No need to reinvent the wheel if you are a member of AFCC! Resources and information about a wide range of interventions and best practices are readily accessible to members.

4. Discourse and Debate. Bar none, AFCC is the best place to hear and engage in debate on the really difficult questions. You hear multiple perspectives and can make up your own mind. AFCC never shies away from addressing the most challenging issues in family law.

5. Colleagues and Friends. As a professional organization, AFCC has some of the friendliest people I have ever met! You experience true collegiality without egos. I have made lifelong, wonderful friendships within AFCC. This is what happens when you bring people who are committed to excellence.

6. Global and Diverse Perspectives. Being a member of AFCC helps me understand the perspectives of professionals from various disciplines. I immensely value having access to international experts and being a part of international collaboration.

7. A Multidisciplinary Home. AFCC is a multidisciplinary home for those who work at the interface of psychology, family law, dispute resolution, and education. We are a diverse group, defined by our commitment to helping children and families in conflict. I find membership in AFCC to be more relevant and valuable than my membership in the association for my primary discipline!

8. Dedication to Excellence. No organization identifies and promotes best practices for working with families in conflict better than AFCC. I belong to AFCC because it truly makes the world a little better place.

9. Discounts and Scholarships. Membership in AFCC is a bargain! The dues are extremely reasonable for what you get. Member discounts and scholarships are just a few of the perks that come with membership.

10. Information at your fingertips. The AFCC website is the first place I go when I need information and resources. The monthly AFCC eNEWS quickly updates me on the latest news and events and alerts me to emerging issues and innovations. *Family Court Review* articles back to 1963 can be accessed in a few clicks if you are a member. Belonging to AFCC keeps me at the top of my professional game!



Kathleen McNamara, PhD is a licensed psychologist in private practice in Fort Collins, CO, specializing in counseling and forensic psychological services for court-involved families. She has conducted hundreds of parenting evaluations, consults with attorneys and mental health professionals about complex issues in family law cases, and is a parenting coordinator, decision-maker, and therapist. She was the reporter for the 2022 AFCC Guidelines for Parenting Plan Evaluations in Family Law Cases. Before devoting herself to full-time practice, she was a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at Colorado State University, where she was a teacher, researcher, and clinical supervisor for fourteen years. She is a former president of the Colorado Chapter of AFCC and remains involved in

program planning and chapter development. She is a past chair and former member of the Colorado Psychological Association Ethics Committee and serves on the Colorado Supreme Court Standing Committee on Family Issues and the 8th Judicial District Domestic Relations Best Practices Team.