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President's Message

Hon. Linda Fidnick



The world has gone full round the sun one more time, and thankfully we are, mostly, still here. As we grace our desks and walls with 2023 calendars replete with those big blank spaces to write in new meetings, new appointments, and new special events, we can also welcome other, less concrete, types of newness. Whether we choose to explore new ideas, or want to take on new professional challenges, or seek to deepen our understanding of the work we do with new energy, it is my hope for you that this turning of the calendar will give you the chance and motivation to do so.

As you consider all the many opportunities for learning and growth that may come your way, I hope that you will put coming to the 60th annual AFCC conference in Los Angeles this May at the top of your list. We have been working hard to make this conference an extraordinary one for all who are involved with divorced and separated families. We will re-visit, with new research and new perspectives, some of the toughest issues facing us as family law professionals, from those cases in which a child is not seeing one parent, to a nuanced understanding of intimate partner violence, to ways in which courts in a variety of countries are trying to make the process of divorce and separation less traumatic and more humane for those who must access an adjudicatory system.

AFCC continues to grow and thrive because of you, the members who see a place for themselves in the thinking and caring AFCC community of professionals. Doing this work is not easy, as the people with whom we work are often traumatized, angry, hurt, and suffering. I often think that when one chooses to work with these families one is entering a vocation rather than taking a job. It requires patience, empathy, and a thick skin. There is no better place to share difficult experiences, find support, and learn possible solutions to the challenges that we face in that work than at an AFCC conference.

I hope your new year is filled with many new and rewarding experiences, and that coming to AFCC - Los Angeles in May will be a highlight of those experiences for you when you look back on 2023 at this time next year.

Hon. Linda Fidnick