

American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers - February 2023*Monthly Newsletter*

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STRATEGIC PLANNING SURVEY

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS NEEDED

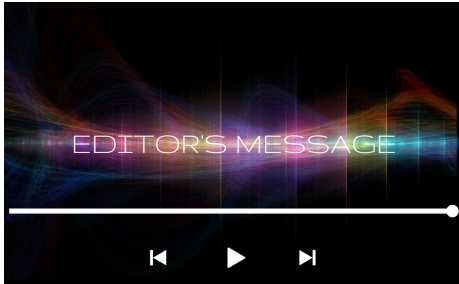
Every five years the AAML leadership embarks on a new Strategic Plan. We are assisted in this project by Avenue M Group, a comprehensive and well-respected independent market research, analysis, and consulting firm

They have begun gathering information by conducting interviews and market research. The next phase is to launch a comprehensive survey before we meet at a facilitated planning and strategy session in May.

The interview phase of the project is in process, and the needs and

expectations survey will kick off in February. More information will be communicated directly in an email, however, we wanted to give you a heads-up to look for the survey. Your participation is vital to the ongoing health and future of our organization. Thank you in advance for your participation and invaluable feedback.

solely focused on organizations like the AAML.



Co-Editors
[Kiilu Davis](#)
[Natalia C. Wilson](#)



See all the Fireside Chats
Check them out on YouTube!
[Fireside Chat Playlist](#)



2023 AAML Midyear Meeting
March 13-17, 2023
Grand Hyatt Baha Mar
Bahamas

Register for your
Midyear Break/Meeting
at the beautiful
Grand Hyatt Baha Mar!



Check the registration page
and watch your emails
for news and updates!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO NOTE BEFORE REGISTERING

LATEST UPDATE: Please review your reservation instructions upon registering. Please note there is a waiting list to reserve a room at the AAML negotiated rate. You may not be able to secure a reservation at the AAML Group Rate. If that is the case, please email office@aaml.org to let us know that you have registered outside of the AAML Room Block so that we can indicate that you are an AAML guest and enter you onto our waiting list. If a room becomes available, we will try to provide you with a room at the negotiated rate. If you wish to cancel your registration to the meeting because there was no room available for you within the room block, a refund will be issued.

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Tech Tips Videos
The AAML Law Practice Management & Technology



Committee's [Lisa J. Gill](#) is featured this month sharing information on how iMazing software has assisted her firm when information needs to be shared from client's phones. Click on the Graphic to View.

[Click Here to View All Past Tech Tip Videos](#)



Zoom Meeting

Open to AAML Fellows Only

Drinks and Diversity

Black History Month

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm CST

[REGISTER](#) - Login Required

February is *Black History Month* in our country. We will watch a few short powerful videos that address the history of Black History Month, systemic racism, and implicit bias. After each video, we will discuss the video, how it impacted us, and how what we are learning informs our perspective on issues of race. If you would like to read more on this topic, here is a suggested book — *The New Jim Crow, Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness*, by Michelle Alexander.



Webinar - 1.0 Hr CLE

Open to ALL

Show Me the Money: How to Ethically Market your Family Law Practice

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm CST

[REGISTER](#) - Login Required

Join [Ronique Bastine Robinson](#) and [Liisa Speaker](#) for ideas on how to market your family law practice without getting in the cross hairs of your state's attorney grievance commission. The conversation will cover many states, including the ethics rules governing marketing your practice. They will then discuss the many ways that you can promote your business and obtain new clients while complying with the ethics rules. You might even discover ways to grow your practice.

to recognize the threat that depression, addiction and other issues pose to members of the profession, and through her work at the national level, Yvette has worked with representatives from other states to develop confidential resources to help



Past Webinars Hold a Wealth of Information

There's a lot there for you to tap into. Most recently we held a complimentary webinar for all Fellows, to kick off the new year, [*Ethics & Lawyer Self-Care: How Behavior is Influenced by Well-Being*](#). If you missed it, you should give it a watch. Yvette Hourigan, the director of the Kentucky Lawyer Assistance Program and member of the ABA Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs, devoted a significant amount of time and energy to develop programs and resources for law students, lawyers and judges following a horrifying number of suicides by Kentucky attorneys several years ago. The loss of 11 attorneys within a 1-year time span highlighted the need for the Bar

address the problem. In this webinar, Yvette reinforced why it's important to take care of yourself, explained her firsthand experience on this subject, and invited all to challenge themselves in becoming a healthier you in 2023, for your sake and that of your family law business. This webinar, like all past webinars can be found by visiting the website and clicking on Events/Webinars/[Past Webinars](#). Whether you are looking for something that offers CLE, or a complimentary (Fellow Benefit) webinar, you'll need to log into your AAML profile before accessing the webinar or registering for a CLE one.

Check them out! There is a wide-ranging list to choose from right at your fingertips!

[VIEW PAST WEBINARS](#)

UPCOMING NATIONAL EVENTS/MEETINGS

[Drinks and Diversity](#)

[February 8, 2023](#)

[7:00pm - 8:30pm CST](#)

[Webinar-Show Me the Money: How to Ethically Market your](#)

[Family Law Practice](#)

[February 28, 2023](#)

[12:00pm - 1:00pm CST](#)

[2023 Midyear Meeting](#)

[March 13-17, 2023](#)

[Nassau, Bahamas](#)

[2023 Negotiation Seminar](#)

[May 5-6, 2023](#)

[Boston, MA](#)

[AAML National Executive Committee Meeting](#)

[May 19-20, 2023](#)

[Chicago, IL](#)

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS/MEETINGS

[AAML-NJ Seminar Series](#)

[February 16, 2023](#)

[AAML-IL President's Day Seminar 2023](#)

[February 20, 2023](#)

[AAML-PA Quarterly Board of Managers Meeting](#)

[March 1, 2023](#)

[AAML-NJ Board of Managers/Chapter Meeting](#)

[March 2, 2023](#)

[AAML-NJ Seminar Series](#)

[March 30, 2023](#)

[AAML-NJ Charity Event](#)

[April 20, 2023](#)

[AAML-PA Board of Managers Meeting](#)

[May 2, 2023](#)

[AAML-NJ Seminar Series](#)

[May 4, 2023](#)

[Arbitration Training Seminar](#)[June 1- 2, 2023](#)[Chicago, IL](#)[2023 AAML Institute for Family Law Associates](#)[\(Introductory\)](#)[June 21-25, 2023](#)[Chicago, IL](#)[2023 AAML Institute for Family Law Associates \(Advanced\)](#)[June 21-25, 2023](#)[Chicago, IL](#)[Click to View More](#)[AAML-NorCal 46th Annual Symposium](#)[May 5-7, 2023](#)[AAML-NJ Board of Managers/Chapter Meeting](#)[May 11, 2023](#)[AAML-Mountain States Annual Meeting](#)[June 29-July 1, 2023](#)[Click to View More](#)[back to top](#)

Open to All AAML Fellows!

The AAML Illinois Chapter is extending an invite to all Fellows to join us for our President's Day Seminar: *Gender Identity and Family Law* on **February 20, 2023**. Attend live in Chicago or via webcast. [CLICK HERE](#) for more details and to register. Learn about the role of gender in family law practice from an accomplished gender health physician as well as experienced Academy Fellows.

Journal of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers

New Year's Resolution: Read a Great AAML Journal Article!

by: [Helen R. Davis](#)

Happy New Year to all AAML Fellows from your Journal Editorial Board. Are you like me? Every year you make a list of resolutions with great intention only to look back a few months later in defeat or regret because you made not one iota of progress in tackling any of those goals? Or maybe you've just given up on the resolutions

not alone, my friend. But help is on the way – why not join me this New Year in making one resolution you can stick to and conquer in 10 to 15 minutes? Read a great AAML Journal Article! And I have just the article to suggest.

While perusing the latest Volume of the (incredible) AAML Journal, I came across an article written by Chris Mulchay, who is a Licensed Psychologist in Asheville, North Carolina, titled “The Revised MMPI-3 and Forensic Child Custody Evaluations: A Primer for Family

prior MMPI testing tools and this new-fangled MMPI-3, I wondered? Dr. Mulchay answered that question and more.

The first part of the article provides a history of the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI). Part II identifies the features of the MMPI, Part III explains the new features of the MMPI, and Part IV expounds on the “controversy of using psychological testing in family court evaluations.” Finally, Part V discusses the applicability of the...

-- [Click to Read More](#) --

and don't even bother making that list anymore? Well, you are

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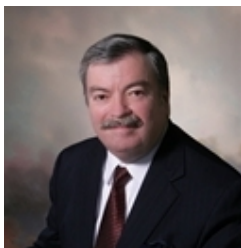


Avoid Hague Like the Plague-If You Can

by [David N. Schaffer](#)

The filing of a Hague Convention petition for return of a child should be the last resort and avoided if at all possible. Hague Convention proceedings are far from perfect and often times get very messy and time consuming. Rare is the "quick" expedited hearing contemplated by the Convention. Then, more often than not, there is the appeal with a fair chance of getting the return order stayed. The Supreme Court's reputation of rarely

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Divorce, Military Survivor Benefit Plan - Tips for the Practitioner

Lawyers." My attention was captured; my interest piqued. What is the difference between the prior MMPI testing tools and this new-fangled MMPI-3, I wondered? Dr. Mulchay answered that question and more.

taking Hague Convention cases has of late drastically changed. Fee for an appeal are not always a factor, either. Taking on Hague Convention cases, especially at the appellate level, has become the "go to" for big firms to satisfy their pro bono quotas. Perhaps this is due to the odds being much greater that yet another appeal will be taken up by The Supremes. Then there are the defenses to the granting of a return order.

A current trend is to morph the Article 13 "grave risk" defense to include domestic battery. It is not uncommon for an abducting parent to make an often times spurious domestic violence police report on the way to the

process, since former-spouse coverage can be provided at divorce through a court order. Here are the most important points to remember, regardless of which side you're representing.

TIP #1. Don't Leave It Out. If you're representing the spouse/former spouse, make sure that you state that

If you have a topic that you would like to propose or to write about, please contact either [Dana Prescott](#) or [Steve Peskind](#) with your ideas.

airport with the children. Some of the recent Supreme Court Hague Convention cases have focused on the "grave risk" defense. I will present with a case study a much better alternative - when available - than a Hague Convention petition for getting children returned home, i.e., Section 308 of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act ("UCCJEA") EXPEDITED ENFORCEMENT OF CHILD-CUSTODY Determination. Although no information disclosed in this article is confidential, I have changed the name of the venues, save for Illinois where the case was brought.

Having one's child abducted to, or wrongfully retained in, another country is often-times a parent's second worst nightmare.

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mention it, the SBP is lost. Remember "LIFE and DEATH." Be sure to protect your client for both of these contingencies - a share of the pension during life, and SBP coverage in the event of John Doe's death.

TIP #2. What's the Deadline? To effectuate coverage, you must comply with the deadlines imposed by federal

by Mark E. Sullivan

Author of the *The Military Divorce Handbook*

The Survivor Benefit Plan is the survivor annuity associated with military retired pay. If the servicemember (SM) or retiree dies first, the spouse or former spouse (FS) survivor will receive 55% of the selected base amount (usually the full pension) for life. The cost is 6.5% of the base amount for active-duty retirements, and about 10% for Guard/Reserve retirees. When the parties are divorcing, this is an important part of the

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the SM or retiree must elect former spouse SBP coverage. This is the only way to protect the flow of income which starts with the share of the pension. While your client, Mary Doe, is living, you need to ensure that she receives her proper share of the military retired pay as marital property. If her former husband, John Doe, dies before her, what happens to the pension? It's gone. The pension payments stop when the pensioner dies. Make sure you've insured the client for continued payments in the event of the untimely death of the military member or retiree. If you don't

law. The military member or retiree, John Doe, needs to submit to the retired pay center his election form within one year of the divorce. An election filed by the retiree is effective upon receipt by the retired pay center. The form to use for submissions to DFAS is DD Form 2656-1; and it's available in fillable PDF format.[6] At the time of making this election, the retiree must provide a statement setting forth whether the election is being made pursuant to a court order. If it is not, the statement must indicate whether it is pursuant to a written agreement previously entered into voluntarily by the retiree as

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2022-2023 GRANT RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

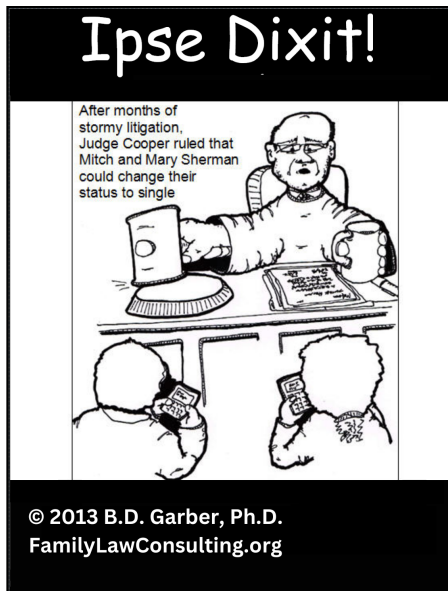
Thanks to all your generous support, the Foundation awarded 45 grants totaling \$225,000 from the 87 worthy applications received. The Grants Committee, under the leadership of Julie Swain, spent countless hours going through the applications to select the ones that were most aligned with the goals of the foundation.

With great appreciation, the 2022-2023 grant recipients are as follows:

A Safe Harbor, Flemington, NJ
 A Safe Place, Oakland, CA
 Calm Waters Center for Children & Families, Oklahoma City, OK
 Children's Law Center of Connecticut, Hartford, CT
 Conejo Free Clinic, Thousand Oaks, CA
 DC Affordable Law Firm, Washington, DC
 f.a.c.e.s. for children, Ft. Lauderdale, FL (Jim and Lea Hennenhoefler Grant Recipient)
 Family Law CASA of King County, Seattle, WA
 Family Tree, Inc., Wheat Ridge, CO
 FamilyKind Ltd., New York, NY
 Haven Hills, Inc. Canoga Park, CA
 Her Justice, Inc. New York, NY
 Hope Alliance, Round Rock, TX
 Hopeful Horizons, Beaufort, SC

Journey Center for Safety and Healing, Cleveland, OH
 Kids First Center, Scarborough, ME
 Kids First Law Center, Cedar Rapids, IA (Michael S.J. Albano Grant Recipient)
 Kids In the Middle, St. Louis, MO
 Kids' Turn – San Diego, San Diego, CA
 Lee's Place – Domestic Trauma Therapy, Tallahassee, FL
 Lee's Place – Home for the Heart, Tallahassee, FL
 Legal Aid Foundation of Tallahassee, Inc., Tallahassee, FL
 Legal Aid Society of Monmouth County, Ocean, NJ
 Legal Clinic for the Disabled, Philadelphia, PA
 LevittQuinn Family Law Center, Los Angeles, CA

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Ipse Dixit! is a monthly cartoon created by Co-conspirators: [Dana E. Prescott](#) and [Ben Garber, PhD](#). [Click to View Past Cartoon Creations](#) and have a laugh.



If They Could Talk is a section for you to share photos of your animal companions. **Have a [Look at the Gallery](#)** for these and more photos and if you have some you would like to share, please send to: mary@aaml.org

IN MEMORIAM



Elaine Smith Amendola

November 21, 2022

Fellow since 1990

New Haven, CT

[Obituary](#)

Send in your newsletter submissions
for consideration **2 weeks before the**
1st Wednesday of the month



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