

American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers - March 2023
Monthly Newsletter



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Brent A. Cashatt
AAML President

moments of our lives. From darkness to light; from dormant to growing; from cold to warm.

Whether you're looking forward to warmer weather, spring cleaning, or just more golf, the changing of seasons is always a great time to reflect on winter and plan for the growth of spring. And I'd encourage you to look

opportunity. And that's something I look forward to. As Fellows, we're focused on representing our clients during every season. The new growth of spring may be encouraging for them, but it can be easy to lose focus on taking care of ourselves too. So as the seasons change, I want to remind you that taking care of yourself is

The days are getting longer, and temperatures are getting warmer, which, for me, means more time to golf. Spring also symbolizes a time of growth, change, and new life for many of us and the clients we represent. The change from winter to spring is a powerful metaphor for so many

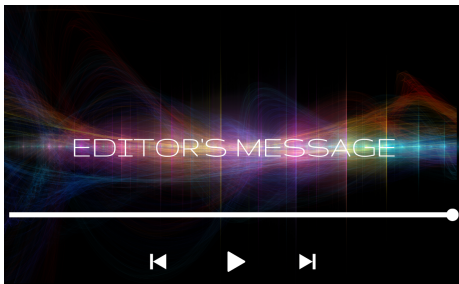
back on the last few months and look forward to what spring may bring for you, your practice, and your clients.

Just like each season comes with its own difficulties, so do the seasons of our lives. Whether this winter has been good or bad for you, spring is a new

critical to being able to take care of your clients.

I'd encourage you through this new season to let yourself have a little more water, a bit more sunshine, and see how things grow.

And as Robin Williams once said, "Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's Party!'"



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



**Click on the Graphic to Watch
this Month's Fireside Chat with:**
[Cassandra M. Chin](#)



2023 Strategy Refresh Project
Wednesday, March 1, 2023
Complete our 10-minute Survey
You Could Win a \$50 Gift Card!

Complete our 10-Minute Survey!

Today, Wednesday, March 1st, you will receive an email invitation from our partner, Avenue M Group, LLC to complete a survey as part of our 2023 Strategy Project. Your feedback will be much appreciated in assisting us to ensure our resources and efforts are relevant and beneficial to you now and in the future. You can also enter a drawing to receive a \$50 gift card for your participation. Questions about the survey can be directed to: Trevor Schlusemann schlusemann@avenuemgroup.com or Tom Lamm tom@aaml.org.



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

[REGISTER - Log in for Fellow Rate](#)

We're all booked up! There are no more rooms available at the resort. Please email office@aaml.org to let us know you would like to be placed on the wait list in case a room becomes available.

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Come eat with other Fellows and enjoy some Bahamian Cuisine! If you have registered for the event and did not receive your confirmation email, please [let us know](#) and we'll send you the link!



Zoom Meeting
Open to AAML Fellows Only
Drinks and Diversity
Wednesday, April 12, 2023
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm CST

[REGISTER - Login Required](#)

Moderator, AAML Fellow Samantha Gemberling will lead an open discussion with members of the judiciary about how cultural competencies impact their rulings.

**UPCOMING NATIONAL
EVENTS/MEETINGS**

[2023 Midyear Meeting](#)
[March 13-17, 2023](#)
[Nassau, Bahamas](#)

[Drinks and Diversity](#)
[April 12, 2023](#)
[7:00pm-8:30pm CST](#)

**UPCOMING CHAPTER
EVENTS/MEETINGS**

[AAML-PA Quarterly Board of Managers Meeting](#)
[March 1, 2023](#)

[AAML-NJ Board of Managers/Chapter Meeting](#)
[March 2, 2023](#)

[2023 Negotiation Seminar](#)[May 5-6, 2023](#)[Boston, MA](#)[AAML National Executive Committee Meeting](#)[May 19-20, 2023](#)[Chicago, IL](#)[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-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](#)[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](#)

THE AAML WELCOMES NEW FELLOWS:

[Abigail Beebe](#)

West Palm Beach, FL

[Amy L. Britt](#)

Raleigh, NC

[Abby Foster](#)

McKinney, TX

[Jonathan P. Friday](#)

Austin, TX

[Monica R. Guy](#)

Raleigh, NC

[Justin R. Key](#)

Jefferson, IN

[Maxine Weiss Kunz](#)

Elmhurst, IL

[Cory E. Oshita](#)

Chicago, IL

[Jamie L. Ryan](#)

Oak Brook, IL

[Marisa C. San Filippo](#)

Menlo Park, CA

[Mikal J. Stole](#)

Joliet, IL

[Tasha M. Wilson](#)

Houston, TX

**On Behalf of
the AAML Journal**
An Article by:
[Stephanie E. Goodenow](#)

A new year invites reflection on the past, and goal-setting for the future. Like many industries, the practice of law has adapted in the nearly three years since pandemic protocols changed our practices – our lives – forever.[1]

Having had some time to reflect on those adaptations, we now might consider what “best practices” means now. The rise of new technologies in the law, rising numbers of self-represented litigants, and increased use of specialty courts are just a few ways that the law has experienced rapid change over the last few years. While this change has been remarkable in a profession

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**Family Law Arbitration:
Another Approach to Resolving
Family Law Matters**
by [Amy J. Amundsen](#)

The time has come for all states to offer a comprehensive approach to resolving

that tends to cling to tradition, it is against this backdrop of adapting and overcoming that we also should consider re-evaluating what it means to be a leader in the law.

One of my goals for 2023 is to focus sharply on eliminating gendered language from the courtroom. Please consider doing likewise, not as a matter of political correctness, but in defense of fair process of law, a clean record on appeal, and of orderly operations in the courtroom.

Language Matters

As leaders in family law, our words matter. I have committed to scanning my vocabulary, my forms, and my office procedures for gendered language, and eliminating it whenever possible.

A. Names

In family court, we tend to shorthand party names to “Mom” and “Dad,” “Son” and “Daughter.” If a party has transitioned or goes by another name or gender identity than is listed in the case caption, we might

find ourselves tempted to “dead name” those parties in deference to clarity.

With the definition of “family” expanding, both legally and practically,

I will be considering whether shorthand terms are limiting or in some cases, offensive, to litigants. This is not a political consideration, but speaks more to both client satisfaction and maintaining a clean record for appeal.

How we speak to and about court users is a basic tenet of procedural fairness. In a time when “the perception of unfair or unequal treatment ‘is the single most important source of popular dissatisfaction with the American legal system,’[2] we have a unique opportunity to lead on this issue.

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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.

The solution: A Family Law Arbitration Act modeled after the Uniform Family Law Arbitration Act (UFLAA) of 2016 or the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Model Family Law Arbitration Act (MFLAA) of 2005.

The UFLAA is a self-determinative process that generally offers a faster, less expensive resolution. This Act allows the parties to voluntarily engage in the process, choose their third-party neutral, manage the scope of discovery necessary to present the case to the arbitrator, establish the rules and arbitrability of

disputes before a court appointed special master. In addition, the arbitration proceeding occurs in a private setting (not the courthouse) and the parties receive the arbitrator’s award within thirty days of the hearing. This framework lends itself to a faster, less expensive resolution of the case.

While some states have either the Uniform Arbitration Act (UAA) or the Revised Uniform Arbitration Act (RUAA), those Acts do not address the intricacies of family law, specifically, temporary awards to safeguard persons from harm and abusive discovery tactics

family law matters. The national backlog within the state court system demands an alternate approach that promotes efficiency, flexibility, and greater control by the parties. In today's busy environment where there are so many demands and so little time, parties who cannot resolve their differences need an alternate process to finalize their divorce or other family law matters.

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**Practice Makes Perfect:
Incorporating Mental Rehearsals
into your Practice
by [Steven N. Peskind](#)**

Athletes have long benefitted from mental rehearsals; why not lawyers?

I've written before about using visualization to prepare for a trial, but it's a training tool that can be used in all aspects of our daily practice. Mental rehearsals help to improve performance, and to reduce the ever-present anxiety that we confront throughout our day.

Assume you have an important contested motion that's on the horizon. You can use mental imagery to prepare for the motion, and to deliver your argument.

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issues and schedule the hearing to accommodate the parties' work and home schedules. The arbitrator hears all motions and hearings, while in the litigation model, the parties often argue their support hearing before a magistrate and discovery

Prepare to prepare

Ron Friedman, in "Decoding Greatness: How the best in the World Reverse Engineer Success," observes that the rehearsal of the actions leading up to the contest are the real keys to improved performance. Focusing on the process leads to more thorough preparation, lower anxiety, and ultimately a better result. If you just imagine a positive outcome, you may gloss over the critical elbow grease necessary to get there.

Experts suggest twenty minutes as optimal. Start by actually reviewing the pleadings before you commence the mental exercise. Then visualize yourself sitting down at your computer and working on an outline of talking points. According to Friedman, the more senses you include, the more effective your simulation will be. Smell the hot coffee you have prepared in advance of your deep work.

and procedures to protect domestic violence victims and children. The UFLAA provides a tailored structure for family law arbitration that ensures fairness, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness while preserving the court's oversight with respect to children.

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

Feel the keyboard under your fingers. Are you at the office or at home? Hear Hans Zimmer quietly playing in the background. See your desk wherever you are working, and the stacks of paper surrounding you.

As you rehearse your preparation, consider what will you need to do to get ready? What research do you need to support your arguments? What facts will you use to support or refute the opposition? Get clear on the relief you'll be asking for. Imagine preparing an order in advance encapsulating the relief.

What will your opponent likely argue? Anticipate counter arguments and how you will refute those points. Now with what you have "imagined," get to work physically, accumulating the information, law, facts, etc. that you'll need for the argument itself. If you're the movant, visualize your argument as it develops. Visualize starting with your "ask" and then move into the reasons and law supporting it.

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AAML Foundation Celebrates Kids First Law Center with the Michael S. J. Albano Grant

Each year, the Foundation awards special grants to worthy agencies. One of these grants is the Michael S.J. Albano Grant, in honor of the memory of an exceptional family law attorney, and noted author, lecturer and litigator. This special grant is reserved for a grantee committed to improving the lives of children. This year's worthy recipient is the Kids

First Law Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

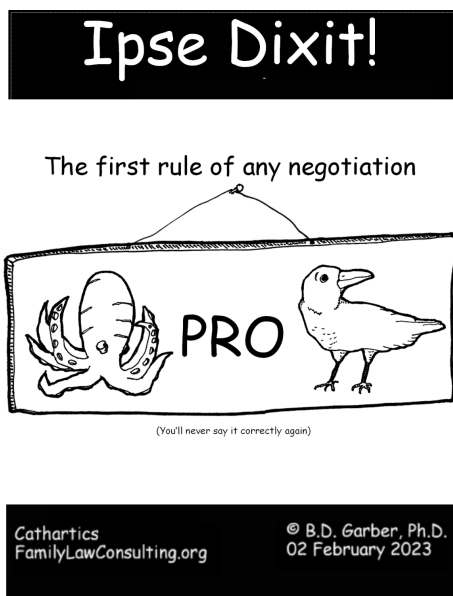
This grant was awarded to provide funding for child advocacy in high-conflict divorce and custody cases. The grant will be used to fund in-depth legal representation for children whose parents are engaged in high-conflict cases to help reduce parental conflict, strengthen family relationships, connect families with available and necessary resources, and, most importantly, make children's voices heard in these cases. The project will serve more than 150 children. The Foundation grant will be used for all aspects of child representation: meeting with child clients, alternate dispute resolution efforts with parents, filing

motions, and court appearances.

The need for child advocacy is greater than ever. Children are coming out of being in a virtual world, where they lost their support system, and many were isolated at home when their homes were neither safe nor stable, without suitable role modeling from their parents. Many of the parents of these children suffered with substance abuse, child abuse, mental illness and domestic violence. Kids First Law Center offers necessary intervention to highlight the needs of these children and create consistency and safety in their custody schedules and decreased conflict between their parents.

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Cathartics
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02 February 2023

Ipse Dixit! is a monthly cartoon created by Co-conspirators: [Dana E. Prescott](#) and

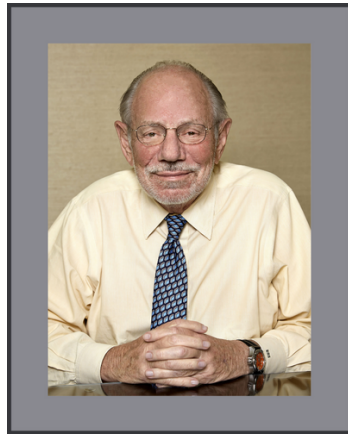


If They Could Talk is a section for you to share photos of your animal companions. **Have a [Look at the Gallery](#)** for these and more photos and if you have some you

[Ben Garber, PhD. Click to View Past Cartoon Creations](#) and have a laugh.

would like to share, please send to:
mary@aaml.org

IN MEMORIAM



Edward S. Snyder

February 3, 2023

Fellow since 1973

Roseland, NJ

[Obituary](#)

[Tribute from Snyder Sarno D'Aniello Maceri
& da Costa, LLC](#)

[Additional Tributes](#)

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



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