

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



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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



**Brent A. Cashatt**  
**AAML President**

As we enter a new month, I know one thing: August is busy. A lot is happening, whether you're heading to the State fair, getting in a few more days at the pool, or gearing up for back to school.

Summer fading reminds me of how quickly time flies. Whether or not you're having fun. Even looking back just a few months, I know many of us were eager for warmer weather and sunny days.

breaking heat, you may be hoping for cooler temperatures. I know I am.

As this year flies by, I'm continually reminded to take in the moment and enjoy every season. And not just the seasons of the year, but your season as a lawyer, as a spouse, as a parent, and any other season you may encounter in life.

Hopefully, you survived the heat waves of July, and you're enjoying the summer nights while they last. If you're like me, you're feeling the summer nostalgia but also looking forward to cooler weather and the changing seasons.

And after the last few weeks of record-

Since summer isn't officially over, use this time to knock a few things off your summer bucket list.



#### EDITOR'S MESSAGE

[Kiilu Davis](#)

[Natalia C. Wilson](#)



Click Above to view August's Fireside Chat

Check all past FCs on YouTube!

[Fireside Chat Playlist](#)

## 2023 Annual Meeting News



This year, the Annual Meeting schedule was restructured to make it more convenient for Fellows and Leaders. Please take a moment to review the changes which are highlighted below in **RED**.

More information will be forthcoming soon, but you can visit the event page to see the [Schedule](#).

### Tuesday, November 7

- The **Executive Committee** will meet to kick off the meeting.

### Wednesday, November 8

- The **New Fellows Orientation** and lunch will take place from 9am – 12pm. This is a wonderful way for Fellows who have joined in the past three years and those who have not attended previous Annual Meetings to learn more about what Fellowship means and meet with other new Fellows.
- The **Hennenhoefer Reception** will immediately precede the Opening Reception.

- Everyone is encouraged to join President Brent Cashatt and Stacey Warren as they welcome Fellows and guests to the **Opening Reception**.

### Thursday, November 9

- **CLE** starts on Thursday morning and runs through Saturday.
- The **Chapter Leaders** will meet in the afternoon immediately following CLE.
- **Committee meetings** will take place in the afternoon.

### Friday, November 10

- The **Open Membership Meeting** will take place in the morning after the Group Breakfast.

### Saturday, November 11

- The **Board of Governors Meeting** will take place on Saturday afternoon.
- The **Annual Presidential Dinner Dance** will take place on Saturday night. Come in your best disco attire to celebrate 'Saturday Night Fever' style!

We hope this will assist you as you begin to plan for your trip to Chicago. Registration will open soon! Please be sure to watch your emails for notice when it has opened.

Please direct any inquiries to [office@aaml.org](mailto:office@aaml.org)

You can download the latest schedule on the events page by visiting the [2023 AAML Annual Meeting page](#).

Brent A. Cashatt, AAML President  
J. Benjamin Stevens, AAML President-Elect

## THE AAML WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW FELLOWS

[Kaitlyn Arthurs](#)  
Solon, OH

[James Barnes](#)  
Reno, NV

[Lorien K. Cole](#)  
Henderson, NV

[Wayne Dersch](#)  
Vista, CA

[Julie C. Gerock](#)  
Falls Church, VA

[Carolyn Helwick](#)  
San Jose, CA

[Margaret R. Kerouac](#)  
Concord, NH

[Patricia Kuendig](#)  
Park City, UT

[Matthew Mady](#)  
Islandia, NY

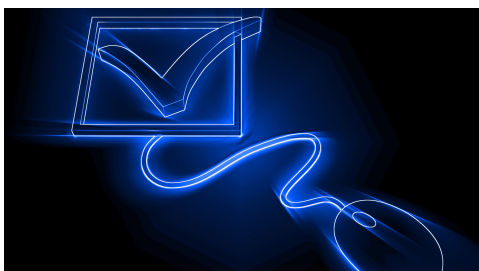
[Sarah M. Mancinelli](#)  
Washington, DC

[Halleh T. Omid](#)  
Denver, CO

[Denise L. Schneider](#)  
Boca Raton, FL

[Robert L. Isaacs](#)  
Henrico, VA

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We're excited to launch the second annual State of Marketing Survey with Scorpion. We hope that this year's survey will bring valuable information that Fellows can use to further their practice. For the survey to be most effective and useful to all Fellows, we need your Valued input!

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

Some things to know:

- The survey is anonymous
- It will take only 5 to 10 minutes
- The survey will close on Friday, September 1.

We look forward to receiving your response and we very much appreciate your input.

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## ARE YOU OUT OF FOCUS?

Please take a moment to review your profile on the AAML website.

If your picture is not clear, it's time to upload a new image. Here are a few tips for you before uploading a new photo.

Elizabeth's profile picture below is an example of good *resolution/pixel size* 1024x1280. This size works nicely for the space provided, and is close to the recommended *file size* for your image, which ideally is 1 MB. Another popular pixel size is 1024x1024, which also works nicely.


Low image resolution and file size will affect how your photo appears in your profile.

One way to check what your image size and resolution currently is, would be to right click on the photo that is saved to your computer, and click on 'Get Info'. There you will see the image information displayed as shown below.

To upload your new image, log in to your AAML profile, click on your existing photo, click on edit and upload your new image.


If you need assistance, please email [office@aaml.org](mailto:office@aaml.org).








## Elizabeth Lindsey

Davis, Matthews & Quigley, P.C.

Contact:  404-261-3900

3400 Peachtree Rd, NE Suite  Email Attorney  
1400  Website

Atlanta, GA  
30326



General Info

File name: No. 5.jpeg

Document type: JPEG image

File size: 866 KB (866,488 bytes)

Creation date: Jun 9, 2023 at 11:46 AM

Modification date: Jun 9, 2023 at 11:46 AM

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Image size: 1024 × 1280 pixels

Image DPI: 96 pixels/inch

Color model: RGB

ColorSync profile: sRGB IEC61966-2.1

**Example:**

**Great *Image***  
**Size for website**

**Also close to the**  
**1 MB *File* Size**



***Great Job! We have collectively  
traveled  
5,677 miles  
far surpassing our original goal to  
travel 1302 miles from the Bahamas  
to Chicago!***

The Health & Wellness Challenge is going strong! Starting on June 1, Fellows from across the country have been walking, running, swimming, biking or rowing to meet our original goal, which was to travel the 1302 miles distance from the Bahamas to Chicago. As you can see, we have left that figure in the dust! [Joani Moberg](#) reports that the Minnesota

Chapter remains in 1st place, with the most miles traveled, North Carolina has taken 2nd place, and the Southern California Chapter is at a close 3rd. Thanks to all who are making this a fun competition! Let's keep on moving and reporting those miles 'weekly' to [Joani!](#)

### Tech Tips Videos

The AAML Law Practice Management & Technology Committee's [Christopher K. Wrampelmeier](#), shares an excellent tip on some software that he uses in his practice for planning for



a case, presentations, and organizing committees among other things. You will want to take a minute to view this and other videos the committee has been providing since 2021. [Click Here](#) for all Tech Tips to Date (Login Required)

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### **WEBINAR - TODAY!**

#### **Watch Live or On-Demand**

Redefining Advocacy: How Collaborative Practice Has Changed the Landscape

**August 2, 2023 - 12:00pm-1:00pm CST**

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

Collaboratively Trained; Collaborative Experts; Collaboration Experts; Collaborative Divorce Experts: Whatever we call ourselves, there are substantive reasons why we are great for clients and attorneys. We have an important place in working with family systems in divorce matters to reach balanced, dignified and lasting agreements within a safe environment.

#### **Some Topics That Will be Covered in this Webinar:**

- What it means to be a Collaborative Lawyer (with a Capital “C”)
- How does advocacy differ in Traditional from Collaborative representation
- Why would an attorney want to learn more about Collaborative Practice
- How has Collaborative Practice impacted my professional practice
- Business and Forensic accounting issues in divorce
- Ways a collaboratively trained expert can work with couples and the collaborative team to come to a resolution and not delay the process

#### **Speakers:**

[Stacy Preston Collins](#), CPA/ABV, CFF, Managing Director, Financial Research Associates, Bala Cynwyd, PA

[Neil E. Kozek](#), Kozek, PLLC, White Plains, NY

[Anne Robinson Lucas](#), MA, LMHC, Kirkland, WA

#### **Moderator:**

[Donna M. Genovese](#), Goldschmidt & Genovese, LLP, New York, NY

#### **Zoom Meeting**

*Complimentary to AAML Fellows*

**Drinks and Diversity**

**August 16, 2023****7:00pm-8:30pm (CST)**[REGISTER - Login Required](#)

Moderator, AAML Fellow, Shelby Duffy Benton, will lead an open discussion with members of the judiciary from the Southeast about how cultural competencies impact their rulings. We are offering a peek behind the robe to gain more insight of what jurists consider when they rule, if they consider the impact their ruling makes on the gallery present when ruling from the bench, and what role if any, the consideration of cultural nuances has on a ruling.

*This is the third in our series of Judges panels. Previously, we heard from Judges' panels from the Southwest and Midwest. Both recordings are available to Fellows on the Drinks and Diversity Group Page.*

## UPCOMING NATIONAL EVENTS/MEETINGS

[Webinar - Redefining Advocacy: How Collaborative Practice  
Has Changed the Landscape](#)

[August 2, 2023](#)

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

[Drinks and Diversity](#)

[August 16, 2023](#)

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

[Webinar - The Future Law Office: Decentralization?](#)

[September 19, 2023](#)

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

[AAML National Executive Committee Meeting](#)

[September 22-23, 2023](#)

[Seattle, WA](#)

[AAML-AFCC Joint Conference on Advanced Issues in Child](#)

[Custody](#)

[September 28-30, 2023](#)

[Washington, DC](#)

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## UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS/MEETINGS

[AAML-MN 2023 Divorce Camp](#)

[Brainerd, MN](#)

[September 28-October 1, 2023](#)

[AAML-SoCal 32nd Annual Institute of Trial Advocacy](#)

[Santa Monica, CA](#)

[January 12-15, 2024](#)

[AAML-FL 2024 Marital & Family Law Review Course](#)

[Bonnet Creek, Orlando](#)

[January 26-27, 2024](#)

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**Journal of the American Academy of  
Matrimonial Lawyers** AAML

Steven N. Peskind and Dana E.  
Prescott  
Co-Chairs



**Prayer for a  
Divorce Lawyer**

by Steven N. Peskind

*Reprinted from The Successful Lawyer  
blog*

Lord, as I enter the arena, whether it be the courtroom or conference table, let me maintain my patience and dignity. Let “grace under pressure...” be my mantra.

Remind me to distance myself from my cases; remind me that I’m not getting a divorce.

Also, remind me that all life has challenges and opportunities. Don’t hide from the challenges; instead, find the opportunities.

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The Journal will return with a new article in September.

[Click here](#)  
to view all past  
Journal Volumes.

Help me to remember that my principal opponent is my own mind rather than an external adversary.

Remind me that conflict makes me better, just like friction polishes a precious gem.

Also, please empower me to trust myself and remember that nearly all outcomes are outside of my control. All I can control are my thoughts, attitudes and perspectives.

Please assist me not to take incivility personally, and to remember that when others threaten, insult or disrespect me, it is because of their own fear or insecurity.

Help me to understand that the dragons that I face today are larger than the ones from yesterday

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

because my capacity to vanquish them is greater as well.

Please don’t allow me to torment myself with fear of things that are more easily endured than worried about.

Also, help me to remember my role as an advocate: It is not to obtain a victory (whatever that means). Rather, it’s to help the judge better understand the facts and the issues. If I do that, I have succeeded. Rulings are outside of my control.

Please remind me to forgive myself when I fall short. Also, help me to remember that I, like all humanity, am imperfect.

Please don't let me forget that time passes quickly, and that tough times won't last. Please help me savor this day with all of its turbulence and trials.



## SBP - The Phantom Element

by [Mark E. Sullivan](#)

Author of the *The Military Divorce Handbook*

### Introduction: "What's SBP?"

The Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) is often the phantom in military divorce negotiations. Providing a death benefit to the former spouse which will ensure the continued flow of income if the servicemember/retiree dies first, SBP is a valuable and vital element in the spouse's negotiating kit while the divorce is pending.

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And yet it's left out in many divorce settlements. The parties and their attorneys often focus on the lifetime share of the pension, the marital share, when payments begin, the taxation of each party's share, and the other assets in the marital estate. Unless the attorneys remember and repeat the mantra, "Life and Death... Life and Death," they may overlook this measure of protection.

And even if the divorce settlement provides for SBP, the attorneys need to remember the "phantom within a phantom." That would be the setting of a base amount for SBP in the divorce settlement. This can be an important part of the deal-making, as a Navy rear admiral found out when he drew the anger of a trial judge for a selfish and spiteful mistake.

## The Story Begins

At the end of a 24-year marriage, Admiral Jon Bayless signed a consent judgment of divorce in 2010 with his wife, Denise Weatherford. In addition to granting the ex-wife half of Bayless's military pension, the consent judgment ordered that he designate her as beneficiary of the Survivor Benefit Plan. She was directed to request an SBP election within one year of the date of entry of the judgment of divorce.

Apparently, she didn't follow through, because in 2014 she filed a motion to require her former husband to sign the SBP election form. He objected because the ex-wife hadn't requested the SBP election within one year of the divorce. The trial court ordered him to sign the form and return it to his former wife within seven days, and the admiral did so.

[Click Here to Read More](#)



## Your Donations at Work

We are excited to provide the following Grantee Profiles to you so that you can see how your donation dollars to the AAML Foundation are helping our grantees. In these profiles, we focused on two organizations that specialize in assisting victims of domestic violence. Together we can

### Lee's Place

Tallahassee, FL

Lee's Place was founded in 2000 by Dr. Rabalais several years after the death of her son, Lee, who tragically lost his life to bone cancer at the age of 14. Located in Tallahassee, Florida, Lee's Place has been providing grief, loss, and trauma counseling in the Tallahassee area for over 20 years. Lee's Place is a non-profit counseling center where everyone can receive quality, licensed, therapeutic services regardless of their financial circumstances. The therapy services provided by Lee's Place address a broad definition of loss, including all forms of trauma,

domestic violence, divorce, abandonment, as well as death, homicide, suicide, crime, and abuse. Lee's Place provides therapy services regardless of health insurance or financial ability.

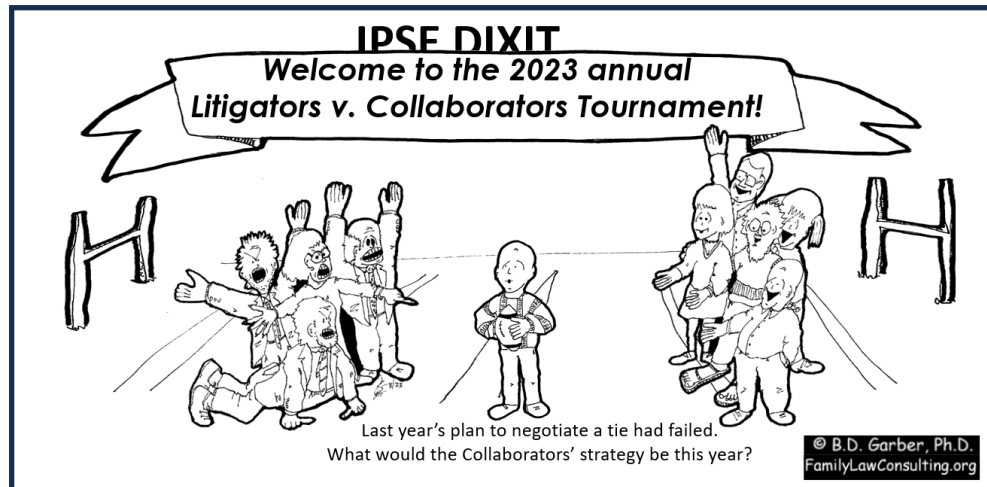
In looking at domestic violence occurrences in Leon County, Lee's Place realized that there was a significant amount of domestic violence cases that were being reported and for which no counseling was provided. Based on the staggering number of cases, Lee's Place developed the Domestic Violence Trauma Therapy program. The program was implemented

[Click Here to Read More](#)



make a difference. [Billable Hour](#)  
[Donation Form \(donorperfect.net\)](#)

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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 your animal companions' section.

This month, meet Katie King's 8 week old Foster Kittens that were rescued from a high-kill shelter during *kitten season*.

Have a [Look at the Gallery](#) to see this and past newsletter submissions.

Send us your furry and non-furry animal's photos and we will post them in an upcoming edition of the monthly newsletter! Please send to: [mary@aaml.org](mailto:mary@aaml.org)



**Co-Editors:**  
[Kiilu Davis](#)  
[Natalia C. Wilson](#)  
**Staff:**  
[Mary Dietel](#)



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