

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

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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

I set out to write this month's President's message about Jimmy Buffett, and the legacy he left behind. As I read through some of his most memorable quotes, one thing caught my eye - Jimmy's

**Here are some of my favorite quotes that I found inspirational, and I hope you do, too.**

- "Searching is half the fun: life is much more manageable when thought of as a scavenger hunt as opposed to a surprise party."
- "It's important to have as much fun as possible while we're here. It balances out the times when the minefield of life explodes."
- "It takes no more time to see the good side of life than to see the bad."

- "I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination."

Whether you had an incredible summer or you are feeling the pressure of life, I'd encourage you to go into September with an attitude like Jimmy's. A new perspective can be an incredible catalyst for you personally or professionally. That new perspective may also help your clients too.

approach to life and his ability to always see things through a positive lens.

And remember, "If life gives you limes, make margaritas."



Click Above to view the  
EDITOR'S MESSAGE

[Kiilu Davis](#)  
[Natalia C. Wilson](#)



Click Above to view  
September's Fireside Chat  
Check all past FCs on YouTube!  
[Fireside Chat Playlist](#)



## 2023 Annual Meeting

Registration is Now Open!

REGISTER

Online Registration closes after **Monday, October 31st**. After that date you will need to contact the office for availability.

### Hotel Booking Link Information

Hotel arrangements must be made by **October 16th**, to take advantage of our negotiated rate at the Loews Chicago Hotel. *You will receive a confirmation email upon registering which will contain the link needed to book your room.*

### Note to Fellows

Fellows must be logged in to receive the Fellow rate. If someone else is registering you, please be sure to give them your credentials so your Fellow rate is applied. Contact [office@aaml.org](mailto:office@aaml.org) if you require assistance with logging in.

**The Presidential Dinner Dance is on Saturday, November 11th.** Be prepared to party down at the **Presidential Dinner Dance** on Saturday night. The party theme is "Saturday Night Fever." Disco attire is encouraged. That evening, President J. Benjamin Stevens will be sworn in as the new AAML National President.

[Download the latest schedule](#) from the Event Page.

A Huge Thank You to our Sponsors  
[Click here for more information](#)

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## Event Inquiries

Email [office@aaml.org](mailto:office@aaml.org) and someone from the National Staff will be able to assist you.

## Social Media

Share your disco attire and event-related photos! #23AAMLDisco

## Newsletter and Weekly Updates

Please watch future weekly updates and monthly newsletters for updates and news around this event.



The SoCal Chapter is back to business as usual. SoCal President, [Ira Friedman](#) called the SoCal Chapter Meeting to order at 9:00 AM on Saturday, August 19, 2023.

SoCal Fellow, [Andrew Botros](#) presented to the Chapter on *Set Asides and Other Post-Judgment Relief*. Prior to the Chapter Meeting the Long-Range Planning Committee met to discuss the future of hybrid chapter meetings, updates on the 2024 SoCal Trial Institute and updates on the 2024 SoCal Retreat. Immediately after the Chapter Meeting the SoCal Board met. On the Friday evening before the Chapter Meeting several SoCal Fellows met for dinner and networking. The SoCal Chapter is working hard.



## Tech Tips Videos

The AAML Law Practice Management & Technology Committee's Tech Tip Videos will return in October. If you haven't seen them all, you will want to take a few minutes to view the videos the committee has been providing since 2021. [Click Here](#) for all Tech Tips to Date (Login Required)



## Zoom Meeting

Complimentary to AAML Fellows

## Drinks and Diversity

**September 13, 2023**

**7:00pm-8:30pm (CST)**

[REGISTER - Login Required](#)



## 14-Day Hispanic Heritage Month Equity and Diversity Challenge

This Challenge is modeled after the “21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge©,” which was created by diversity expert Dr. Eddie Moore, Jr. to advance deeper understandings of the intersections of race, power, privilege, supremacy, and oppression. Dr. Moore has publicly shared and encourages others to use this 21-day framework as an educational tool to advance educational opportunities across diverse communities. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council of the American Bar Association (ABA) likewise has a 21-Day Hispanic Heritage Equity-Habit Building Challenge© with a similar “syllabus” except that certain portions have been updated, revised or edited for brevity for discussion with the AAML RERC Drinks and Diversity attendees.

Those who register for the September 13, 2023 Drinks and Diversity Meeting will be sent a link to the “syllabus” in their registration confirmation email. The syllabus will contain links to short articles/videos/podcast for each day of the challenge which registrants can view at their leisure. At the meeting, we will discuss the topics presented in Days 1-14 and have a lively discussion with attendees and our moderator.



### WEBINAR

*Open and Complimentary to ALL*

*Watch Live or On-Demand*

**The Future Law Office: Decentralization?**

**Sept. 19, 2023 - 12:00pm-1:00pm (CST)**

[REGISTER - Open to ALL](#)

The Future Law Office. What will it look like and how will it affect our law practices? Join us for this complimentary webinar, as various members of the AAML Law Practice Management & Technology Committee engage in thought-provoking conversation about changes that are impacting our businesses and how all of our law practices should be considering changes to our day to day procedures, from the technology that we use, to how we will handle remote work vs. in-person, and contract work, in order to transition smoothly into the Future Law Office.

#### Speakers:

Scott Bassett  
Lawrence Datz  
Lisa Gill

Katharine Maddox  
Kimberly Quach  
Richard West  
Patrick Wright



**AAML-AFCC Joint Conference on Advanced Issues  
in Child Custody**

**September 28-30, 2023**





**The Capital Hilton  
Washington, DC**

**REGISTER**

**YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!**

**AAML-AFCC Joint Conference on Advanced Issues in  
Child Custody: Evaluation, Litigation and Settlement**

While the most seasoned litigator will walk away with research, ideas, and strategies that inure to the benefit of clients, this is also an opportunity to train associates and junior lawyers in presenting the most compelling child custody case.

*Sessions include:*

**LITIGATING THE CHILD CUSTODY ACTION FROM INTAKE TO COURT**

*Presenters are Fellows Dawn Smith & Lawrence Braunstein  
and Dr. Arnold Shienvold*

**EVIDENTIARY CONSIDERATIONS WITH MENTAL HEALTH EXPERTS**

*Presenters are Judge Kevin Dufan, Fellow Adam John Wolff  
and Dr. Kathleen McNamara*

**DIRECT AND CROSS EXAMINATION OF A CHILD CUSTODY  
FORENSIC EVALUATOR**

*with Judge Cheryl Joseph, Fellows David Ladov and Maria Cognetti  
and Dr. Arnie Shienvold*



**UPCOMING NATIONAL  
EVENTS/MEETINGS**

[Drinks and Diversity](#)  
[September 13, 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](#)

**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](#)

[AAML-AFCC Joint Conference on Advanced Issues in Child](#)[Custody](#)[September 28-30, 2023](#)[Washington, DC](#)[Click to View More](#)[Click to View More](#)**Journal of the American Academy of  
Matrimonial Lawyers**[Steven N. Peskind](#) and  
[Dana E. Prescott](#), Co-Chairs

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.

The Journal Board conducted its annual meeting in Kansas City on August 25 and 26. For those unaware, the editorial muscle for the journal is provided by University of Missouri - Kansas City (UMKC) Professor Mary Kay Kisthardt, Dean Nancy Levit and Mary Kay's student assistants.

Current student assistants include: Taylor Marshall, 3L; Ashley Segnibo, 2L, Saba Deutschmann, 3L; Audrey Doering, 2L; Megan Tiede, 3L. The student editors provide copy editing for submissions and also write comments for each issue. A Comment is a short piece of scholarship discussing recent and important judicial decisions, analyzing a development in the law, or advancing a novel legal idea. The creative interchange between board members and the students was both inspiring and productive.



The Board discussed upcoming issues, which include:

- An international issue in the spring of 2024
- Dispute resolution issue in the fall of 2024
- Family Law History in the Spring of 2025

Generally, at the board meeting, the board discusses potential future topics and authors. The brainstorming is energetic and generally results in great ideas for future issues.

[Click to Read More](#)[Click here](#) to view all past Journal Volumes.**Join the Dance**

*Thoughts on the Future of the Practice  
of Family Law*

by [Steven N. Peskind](#)

If they wish to continue to be productive over their working years, they will need to learn to adapt to a continuously changing professional environment. Darwin's evolutionary theory of survival was based upon adaptability rather than raw power.

At the rate we're going, future clients will demand we sync our minds to them, so they can know our thoughts and case developments in real time.

The key to surviving in an environment of hyper-change is anticipation, acceptance, and adaptability. In the 1990s, I converted to an all-digital practice

Reprinted from [The Successful Lawyer](#) blog

I'm becoming more and more aware of how quickly the world is changing. The increasing speed of transformation is astounding, much like how pebbles accelerate when they slide down a hill. According to professor and author Mauro Guillen, disruptions will likely require people starting their professions today to make many professional changes over the course of their work lives.

While not “in your face” like it is now, evolving practices have been noticeable during my 38 years in the law. The economics, technology, and culture have all crept forward. As one small example, the speed of communication and client expectations of their attorneys have turbo-charged from the technological horse and buggy days of the 1980s. Fax machines were bleeding edge then; today they are on the shelf alongside the VHS player.



years ahead of most of my peers. While that was revolutionary at the time, it seems relatively quaint considering the radical speed of the world today.

How will AI change family law practice? Will it dramatically alter how family law cases are resolved or simply be a fancy tool to handle them more efficiently? Will judgments be rendered by algorithm?

[Click to Read More](#)



**AAML Scholars Program**  
by [Rebecca K. Millenbach](#)

The Academy has continually strived to increase diversity among its Fellowship. The adoption of a Diversity Policy and creation of the Racial, Ethnic and Religious Consideration in Family Law committee help to achieve this objective.

What happens, however, when the pool of prospective Academy Fellows does not have the type of diversity the Academy is trying to achieve? If the pool of qualified lawyers lacks diversity, then it is impossible to achieve greater diversity among Academy Fellows. This has been an issue affecting the implementation of impactful diversity outreach for the Academy. In order to obtain diversity among the pool of Academy applicants, we must



diversify the pool of lawyers qualified to be fellows. The Scholars program, brainchild of Fellows Kiilu Davis and Gary Rosen, set out to accomplish this objective. The idea behind the Scholars program is to garner interest in family law to minority students at the very beginning of their legal careers – law school.

The Scholars program is a paid clerkship for minority law school students completing their first or second year of ...

[Click to Read More](#)

Domestic violence victims need legal assistance and representation to obtain protection orders, child support, and to resolve other civil issues arising from abuse.

outdated technology, it was still having difficulty meeting the ever-increasing demand. To increase efficiency, LiveSafe sought to purchase and deploy





## A Tiny Ripple of Hope

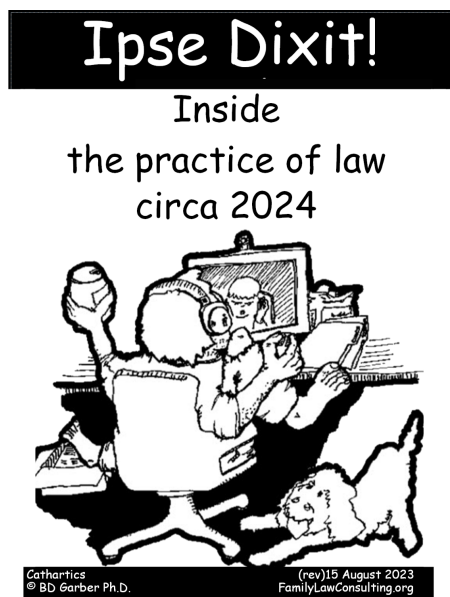
The AAML Foundation was chartered in 1990 to advance one of the most important goals of the Academy: the protection of children and families. In 2022, 45 grant recipients around the country received \$5,000.00 from the Foundation, for a total of \$225,000.00 in grants. One of those grant recipients was LiveSafe Resources, Inc., in Marietta, Georgia, whose mission is: “To provide safety and healing with dignity and respect to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, giving them a voice and hope for a better future.”

LiveSafe is Cobb County, Georgia’s *only* comprehensive domestic violence program. It provides a legal assistance office in the Cobb County Courthouse, serving over 1,000 clients annually, with five staff members. One of the consequences of the recent pandemic was an alarming spike in domestic violence. LiveSafe experienced a 40% increase in demand for legal services. Its legal assistance program had expanded in recent years from three “Legal Advocates” to five, but, with inadequate and

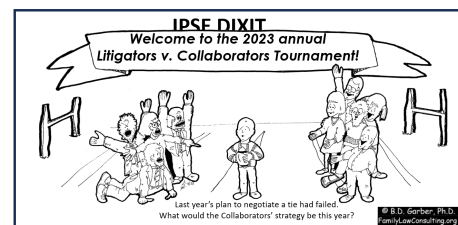
five iPads to facilitate in-person intake, two additional laptops, hands-free telephone headsets for staff, and a one-year subscription to Clio software to manage client intake and case management. It also wanted to print several hundred two-sided program brochures.

The Foundation’s grant made LiveSafe’s dream a reality. The technology and software purchased by LiveSafe has enabled each of the Legal Advocates to be more productive, even in their small office space that was designed for just three staff.

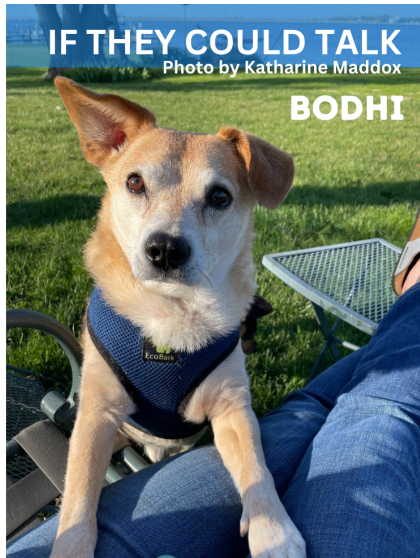
[Click to Read More](#)



Check out last month's cartoon [HERE](#).



*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, *Bodhi* is staring right back at you. Katharine Maddox shared this photo while enjoying some R&R with her buddy *Bodhi*.

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)



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