

American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers - October 2023

Monthly Newsletter



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Brent A. Cashatt
AAML President

My stint as the Academy's President is flying by. Just one year ago, I was planning what I wanted to accomplish during my tenure and now, my opportunity to lead the Academy is coming to a

Some of the foundational items that we achieved include:

- Creating a strategic plan for the Academy to guide us from 2024 to 2029.
- Hiring Smithbucklin as AAML's management company which will help us be more efficient in our operations.
- Focusing on the AAML brand so that we can better position our marketing in the future. Tom Sasser led the effort to hire an agency that helped us develop a branding guide for the academy.
- Streamlining our committees

- Minimized expenses to ensure that the academy is fiscally responsible in all aspects of the organization.

While all of these accomplishments will help the Academy for years to come, one of the most important parts of my job as President was to help boost membership and recruit incredible family law practitioners into the organization. I'll forever be grateful for the opportunities I had to tell lawyers about AAML and the benefits I've seen from being a part of it.

close. Before I turn the reigns over in November, I wanted to look back at the things we've accomplished in the last year. These achievements were possible because of the support of the Academy and our incredible Fellows.

to be more effective and focused. These new committees have brought efficiency and focus to the Academy.

The Academy is an incredible organization and I look forward to seeing us grow for years to come.



Click Above to view the
EDITOR'S MESSAGE

[Kiiilu 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**

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 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.

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.*

Event Inquiries

Email 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

A Huge Thank You to our Sponsors

[Click here for more information](#)



Newsletter and Weekly Updates

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



Robie House: A Modern Home Guided Interior Tour - \$55

Limited to the first 25 Registrants

A waiting list will be activated if we exceed 25. You will be notified if an opening occurs.

The Annual Meeting Guest Event's Registration is open. Please email office@aaml.org if your guest wishes to attend.

The house Frank Lloyd Wright described as "a cornerstone of modern architecture" on this guided tour that takes in both the exterior and interior of the building.

Inspired by the expansive landscape of the Midwest prairie houses. Completed in 1910, the house is recognized today as one of the most important buildings of the 20th century. It is inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Accepting nominations until October 15, 2023 AAML PROFESSIONALISM AWARD



Please [CLICK HERE](#) to download and complete the form. Then submit your nomination on behalf of a Chapter or as an individual Fellow to the [National Office](#). The AAML Professionalism Award is presented each year at the Annual Meeting in Chicago. This year it will be awarded on November 11th at the Dinner Dance.

All nominations are due no later than **October 15, 2023**.



[Virginia AAML Chapter Reception](#)
Promoting the AAML Scholars Program

On September 27, 2023, Virginia Fellows hosted a reception at the University of Richmond School of Law to promote the AAML Scholars Program. Fellows discussed the practice of Family Law and AAML with approximately 20 law students. Another AAML Scholars reception will be held at the American University Washington College of Law on November 16, 2023.



**CLICK ABOVE
TO WATCH THE VIDEO**

Tech Tips Videos

The AAML Law Practice Management & Technology Committee's Tech Tip for October is brought to you by [Patrick A. Wright](#). Patrick shares an AI Program he uses to create images. Check out this and all of the videos this committee has been providing you since 2021. [Click Here](#) for all Tech Tips to Date (Login Required to View All)



Zoom Meeting

Complimentary to AAML Fellows

Drinks and Diversity

October 11, 2023

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

REGISTER - Login Required

The October 11th Drinks & Diversity program offers an educational opportunity for all fellows as we approach Native American History Month in November. We are honored to have as our speaker and guide the [Honorable Abby Abinanti](#), presiding Chief Justice of the Yurok Tribe and retired Commissioner of the San Francisco Unified Family Court. Chief Justice Abinanti comes to us for this presentation to discuss the Indian Child Welfare Act ("ICWA"), one of her many areas of expertise. Following a series of anti-tribal challenges to ICWA, the Supreme Court upheld key portions of the law in June 2023 in *Haaland v. Brackeen*. Justice Abinanti will

explain the history behind ICWA, the importance of its child welfare provisions and challenges faced by Native American families as they navigate a justice system.



WEBINAR - 90 Mins CLE

Open to ALL

Watch Live or On-Demand

When Does Control Become Coercive?

Oct. 12, 2023 - 12:00pm-1:30pm (CST)

[REGISTER - Login for Fellow Rate](#)

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Join us for this important and informative webinar on coercive control.

A panel of experts from across the country and various professions will be presenting. They include a well-known Psychologist, a retired Judge, an experienced Attorney, a coalition Advocate, and Fellows from the AAML Domestic Violence Committee

Speakers:

Leslie M. Drozd
Hon. Kim R. Hubbard
Andrea Brown Riley
Samuel "Raymie" White

Moderator

Lisa M. Hawrot



UPCOMING NATIONAL EVENTS/MEETINGS

[Drinks and Diversity](#)

[October 11, 2023](#)

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

[Webinar - When Does Control Become Coercive?](#)

[October 12, 2023](#)

[12:00pm - 1:30pm CT](#)

[2023 AAML Annual Meeting](#)

[November 8 - 11, 2023](#)

[Chicago, IL](#)

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS/MEETINGS

[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](#)

[Click to View More](#)

[Webinar - The Untapped Potential of Arbitration](#)[November 29, 2023](#)[12:00pm - 1:00pm CT](#)[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.

This article submission by:[David W. Griffin](#)

If you are anything like I am, there is nothing worse than facing the reality that commercial broadcasting can turn your brain into mush

during your daily commute, or that there is nothing worth watching on TV, after you have worn out the battery on your remote, flipping through what feels like 500 offerings of digital Ambien. Where have you gone, Mrs. Maisel and Ted Lasso?

There are even times when I get home at night after a long day at work, and I don't have the energy to pick up one of my books, even the easy ones I read for some not-so-guilty pleasure while I'm on vacation.



The solution is a great podcast – they are easy to download, come in a variety of sizes and flavors, and even can contribute to what we all should be doing with some regularity: opening our minds to ideas and points of view which may be disruptive, contrary to our philosophies and patterns of thinking, or simply new and different. Here are 5 law-related podcasts for all of us to consider:

[Click to Read More](#)[Click here](#) to view all past Journal Volumes.**What We Can Learn from the Don**by [Steven N. Peskind](#)*Reprinted from [The Successful Lawyer](#) blog*

Wisdom can come from any source, even the movies. Take The

The message is obvious—keep your mouth shut to keep your options open.

This is great advice for lawyers. We all know that lawyer who's a bit like Sonny— hot-headed, and quarrelsome, given to diatribes about the rightness of their case. They show their cards before they need to, and they always let you know what they're thinking.

When these lawyers accost you with one of their sanctimonious

While there is a time and a place to argue a disputed point, that place is in the courtroom, not in the courthouse hallway. Instead, I take a deep breath and listen closely to gather critical intelligence. You can't do this when you're busy talking.

2.) This is business. It's not personal.

In another scene, hot-headed Sonny is again scolded—not by his father this time, but by his consigliere brother, Tom Hagen.

Godfather, for example. The crime family saga offers three tips that resonate with my Stoic sensibilities:

1.) Never let them know what you're thinking.

In an early scene in Godfather I, Don Corleone and his son, Sonny, have an encounter with a possible business partner. During a tense negotiation, Sonny explosively challenges the potential adversary, and unwittingly reveals family strategy.

After the meeting, the Don scolds Sonny, saying something like, "What's the matter with you?! Never let them know what you're thinking."

lectures, see it as an opportunity. Smile and say, "you may be right," or "we'll see..." rather than debating the point and revealing your theory. Like Don Corleone, listen more and speak less.

A mentor of mine once reminded me that nobody ever got into trouble listening. Great advice! My ego urges me to shoot back when challenged. It pushes me to prove my point, even at the expense of the case.



Referencing the Don's philosophy, Hagen decries, "this is business Sonny, not personal."

Lawyers should heed this wisdom as well. Choose your actions thoughtfully, not reactively. If somebody takes a cheap shot, don't react with rage and self-righteousness. Instead, look for opportunities to turn it round to your client's advantage. Make it business, not personal.

[Click to Read More](#)



The AAML Foundation wants to give thanks to the generosity of our donors who participated in our annual Billable Hour Campaign. It is from the donations made by our members that the Foundation has the ability to fund and give grants to all the deserving charities. We hope we can thank each of you in person if you plan to attend the Foundation Reception at the University Club.

The Foundation has much planned for those of you attending the

Thursday, November 9

Legacy Donors Reception: Like last year, it will be held at Cathedral Hall at the University Club located at 76 E. Monroe Street from 4:45 pm to 5:15 pm. Invitations will be emailed to all Legacy Donors. This will be followed by:

AAML Foundation Reception: This event will be in Cathedral Hall at the University Club located at 76 E. Monroe Street from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. We thank Platinum Sponsors **Aronson, Mayefsky & Sloan, LLP, Financial Research Associates** and **STOUT** and Gold Sponsor **Pollock Begg** for their support and sponsorship of this event. Transportation to and from the event will be provided by trolleys sponsored by **CBIZ Compensation Consulting**

between the Loews Hotel and the University Club. Trolleys will run from 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm.

Friday, November 10

Lifetime Members Luncheon: Invitations to the Lifetime Members Luncheon will be emailed to all Lifetime Members. In addition to the Installation of our Officers and New Directors, we will be making 2023 Grant Recipient and Leonard Loeb Scholarship presentations and honoring the memory of our Past President Anne Lamkin Durward. The Luncheon will be held in the Sullivan Ballroom of the Loews Hotel from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm. We give thanks to our Silver Sponsor Northern Trust for their support and Sponsorship of this event.

[Click to Read More](#)

AAML annual meeting. These activities permit you to socialize with your other Fellows and learn what is happening at the Foundation. We hope to see you at the following events:

Services which shall take attendees

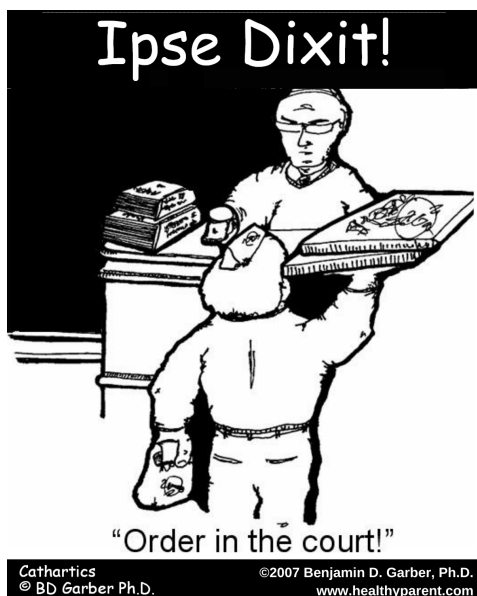


Kathleen A. McCarthy

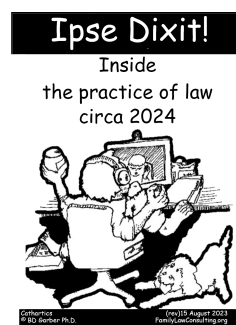
Fellow since 1996

September 18, 2023

*Further information will be shared
as it becomes available.*

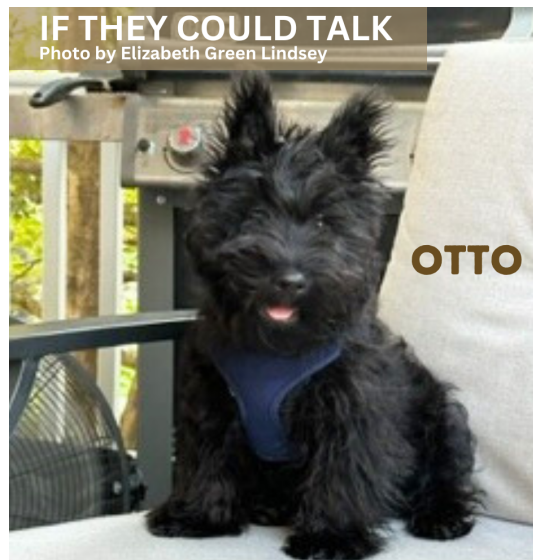


Check out last month's cartoon [HERE](#).



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, Elizabeth Green Lindsey's *Otto* is enjoying some time out on the deck.

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



Co-Editors:
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