

CIVILITY AND THE LAW BY STACY HEARD, ESQ. LAW OFFICES OF STACY D. HEARD, PLLC

In October 2011, I had the extraordinary opportunity to attend and participate in an eight-day CLE in Sovana, Italy, with approximately 40 other attendees. The program is called “The Civility Promise in Italy: Experience Consciousness, Creativity, and Community,” conducted by the Seattle University School of Law and Robert’s Fund, founded by the president of Robert’s Fund and Seattle University Law School Professor, Paula Lustbader. The seminar is particularly unique because the participants stay in a small Tuscan town, one block long. The participants spend a significant amount of time together in the seminars, dinners, and excursions. Because the CLE is away from home, in a foreign country, participants engage in a way that is incomparable to a CLE in the states. The sense of community accomplished in this type of setting and the level of consciousness regarding civility is unparalleled.

Civility is diminished in the legal community, and in particular, in family law cases. What is Civility? Civility is a display of respect, professionalism and courtesy to others. Civility is good manners. Civility is diminishing amongst lawyers, particularly those dealing with family law cases. Managing the high emotions of clients, intense workloads, face-paced work environments, and an instant-gratification culture has placed increasing challenges on professionalism.

Learning the proper tools to address incivility such as consciousness, creativity, and community, assists attorneys in reducing conflict in highly emotional cases. In doing so, clients benefit from improved professionalism among members of the bar. Moreover, attorneys benefit by gaining greater satisfaction in their lives and their careers.

On February 24 and 25, 2012, a CLE on The Foundations of Civility in the Legal Profession will be held in Seattle. The Civility Promise in Italy CLE is offered twice this year, in April and October. More information is available on the Robert’s Fund website: www.robertsfund.org/italy.



“Civility is a display of respect, professionalism, and courtesy to others.”



MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS — NEW BOARD MEMBERS TO JOIN IN APRIL



Pictured on the left: Dana Dean Doering, Dr. Daniel Rybicki, Dr. Ellie Sternquist, and Camille Schaefer. On Right: Dr. Natalie Novick Brown. Not Pictured: Dr. Jennifer Wheeler, Margo Waldroup.



Dr. Natalie Novick Brown who, with her committee, is gathering information to develop training and quality assurance standards for Guardian Ad Litem and Psychological Parenting Evaluation Services. Data from the recent statewide survey will assist this group in forming a slate of suggestions which may be delivered to WSBA or the Washington State Administrative Office of the Court to assist in developing new training programs and methods of ensuring that families being evaluated for the Court will receive the highest quality of service from GALs and mental health providers.

Behind the scenes of your WA AFCC are the dedicated professionals who make decisions to chart the course for the organization. These Board members are also the group from which the Officers are selected to serve as President, VP/Treasurer, and Secretary. In addition to holding at least two meetings per year, the Board members have been active in work groups and committees such as the work of Camille Schafer and her team that developed the By Laws for our WA AFCC. Currently at work is

New Board Members will be added to the current slate of Directors with an election to be held at the April Conference. We are still taking Nominations via email at info@wa-afcc.net

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