

Hello, my name is Sidney Buckman and I am your current AzAFCC Chapter President. First, I want to thank Norma Izzo, our Immediate Past President, for navigating our Chapter through difficult times during the COVID-19 pandemic. She provided steady and calm leadership during her two year Presidential tenure. Thank you Norma.

I am writing to you to introduce myself and provide information regarding our chapter activities, in these very different and difficult times. This is my second time as Chapter President. My first time was during 2001 - the year when 911 occurred. I am honored to once again be the Chapter President

I am the Conciliation Court Coordinator in Coconino County. I manage two mediation programs, perform custody evaluations and mediations. I have been a custody evaluator for 28 years.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to cancel our 2021 Annual Chapter Conference, which was to be held, as usual, in January in Sedona. For those of you who have attended our past conferences, you know it is a great time to network, participate in inspiring presentations, enjoy delicious food, stay at a wonderful hotel, be in beautiful Sedona and meet your Board of Directors. We have a very dedicated Board that works hard, throughout the year, to provide you the Annual Conference, the mid-year conference and other events each year.

During the past several months, we have provided webinars on various important topics, which we hope you have attended. We plan other webinars so watch your email for other announcements.

We intend to have the 2022 Annual Conference in Sedona, early next year. Our Executive Committee has discussed whether to have the Conference in person or via Zoom. We have not decided what platform to use because we are monitoring COVID-19 statistics, including the infection rate and the viability of having an in person conference. In prior years, we have had attendance numbers in the hundreds, so our primary consideration is the safety and well-being of our attendees. Please stay tuned for more information from us, regarding the 2022 Annual Conference.

The call for proposals for the 2022 Conference has been disseminated and you should have received this request via email and our Facebook page (please "Like" if you haven't already). If you are interested in presenting at the 2022 Annual Conference or know someone who is, please respond to the call for proposals and send us a proposal, with the required information, as soon as possible, so we can consider your proposal at our Annual Board of Directors retreat (to be held virtually this year). We will have an Annual Conference in 2022 and its success depends on providing excellent presentations. Continuing on the subject of presentations, if you have topics you would like to have for a webinar or have any other matter for my attention regarding our chapter, please email me at sbuckman@courts.az.gov. Take care, stay healthy and I hope to see you in Sedona in 2022.

Sidney Buckman, MA