

## Welcome New Board Members

### Honorable Ellen L. Koblitz, P.J.A.D. (Ret.)

***The Honorable Ellen L. Koblitz, P.J.A.D. (Ret.)*** joined the NJ-AFCC before the group officially became a chapter of the AFCC in 2002, when she was the Presiding Family Judge in Bergen County. She was elected vice-president and remained in that office until she was transferred out of the Family Part. As a sitting judge, she was not permitted to have her name on chapter stationery, nor ever become the president of the organization. Judge Koblitz views becoming vice-president of the NJ-AFCC once again as not only an honor, but also a homecoming.

Judge Koblitz spent thirteen years as a Family Judge, ten of them as Presiding Judge. She was Chair of the statewide Conference of Family Presiding Judges, Chair of the Children in Court Improvement Committee, vice-chair of the Supreme Court Family Practice Committee and Chair of the Supreme Court Judicial Education Committee. She spent ten years in the Appellate Division, writing numerous opinions in the area of Family Law. After twenty-seven years on the bench, including two as Presiding Judge in the Appellate Division, she retired and became special counsel in the Alternative Dispute Resolution, Appellate Advocacy, and Family Law practice at Pashman Stein Walder Hayden. She focuses her practice on mediation and arbitration of Family, Chancery and Civil matters. In addition, she advises attorneys and clients on appellate matters in all areas, including reviewing appellate briefs and conducting moot court appellate arguments. Judge Koblitz is a qualified NJ Ct. R. 1:40-12 Civil and Family mediator.

After graduating from Yale Law School, Judge Koblitz began her legal career in the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender and rose to the position of deputy public defender in charge of the Hudson and then the Bergen County regional office.

Judge Koblitz passes her legal knowledge on to others through service as an Adjunct Professor at Rutgers University School of Law and presenter of numerous continuing legal education courses.

### Eileen A. Kohutis, Ph.D.

***Eileen A. Kohutis, Ph. D.*** has a private practice in Livingston, NJ, where she conducts evaluations for child custody, relocation, risk assessment and other assessments in family matters, and serves as a parenting coordinator and a reconciliation therapist. She also conducts capacity evaluations of elderly or disabled persons. Dr. Kohutis received her masters and doctoral degrees in psychology from Yeshiva University. While working in various health care settings, she became interested in the mind-body relationship and began taking classes in psychodynamics. This led to her enrolling in a psychoanalytic institute and earning a certificate in psychodynamic psychotherapy and a certificate as a psychoanalyst. Some of her research on the mind-body relationship has been published in psychoanalytic journals and presented at various psychoanalytic conferences.

Endeavoring to expand her skill set, Dr. Kohutis took courses in collaborative law and mediation. In 2008, she joined the New Jersey Collaborative Law Group, where she met Phil Sobel, one of the founding members of our NJ-AFCC Chapter. She joined AFCC in 2008, and recalls Sunday morning meetings at Phil's office that included an abundance of bagels, various spreads, and coffee. From 2009-2012, she was the Program co-chair of NJ-AFCC, and in 2019, she rejoined the NJ-AFCC Board as a Director and currently serves on the Program Committee.

Dr. Kohutis is a member of the American Psychological Association (Division 41—Law Society; Division 42—Independent Practice), a member of the New Jersey Psychological Association, a Trustee of the New Jersey Psychological Association Foundation, and on the Medical Staff at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, New Jersey. She is a former co-chair of the Forensic Interest Group of the New Jersey Psychological Association.

She has presented at local, national and international conferences on issues in child custody evaluations, psychological testing, and post-traumatic stress disorder, and she has authored several articles on custody, psychological testing, malingering, somatic disorders and factious disorders imposed on another (formerly Munchausen syndrome by proxy). In her spare time, Dr. Kohutis enjoys hiking, golfing, and reading mysteries.