



PACE

Parents And Children for Equality

Newsletter



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Columbus, Ohio Chapter

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The "Best Parent" is Both Parents

December 2001

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Saturday, November 3, 2001

Search for truth

WorldNetDaily Editor's note: This is Kyle Williams' debut commentary for WorldNetDaily. You can find his column here each Saturday and Sunday, exclusively on WorldNetDaily.

By Kyle Williams



All over the United States, all over the world – everywhere – you can find newspapers, religions, priests, parents and politicians claiming to know the truth about issues, problems or facts. Everyone is out looking for the truth, and a lot are out there claiming to know the truth: Television shows, radio shows, Internet websites, commentary articles and newspaper stories sway public opinion.

Look back to the book of Genesis in the Bible and see how the serpent deceived Eve into eating the fruit – which had terrible consequences. Alternatively, look back to the 1930s, when Adolf Hitler began to rise to power. He brainwashed people into his regime and quickly rose to the highest position in Germany. That single man created one of the bloodiest wars in all of history, because people did not know the truth.

However, along with the subject of truth, there are also issues of honesty, integrity and character –

DECEMBER MEETING

Speaker:

**Franklin County
Domestic Court
Judge Jim Mason**

(rescheduled from November)



Location and Time:

December 17, 2001, 7:00 p.m.

Worthington Presbyterian Church

(Northwest corner of High St. and SR 161)

Director's Corner

Membership Drive

PACE memberships run are renewable in January of each year. This means that, if you haven't gotten one already, you'll get a renewal letter from me soon. We hope you will think of your PACE membership as a contribution toward the improvement of the legal system in Ohio as well as toward the education of people caught in the current, flawed system. We invite memberships at all monetary levels, including a complementary level for those who cannot afford to pay anything. (We are not able to send newsletters to those who subscribe at this level.) The basic membership is just \$20 per year. However, we encourage you to contribute to PACE at one of the higher levels. A \$50 sponsoring membership helps us to keep our basic membership fees low for those who are experiencing very

Continued on page 2

Childcare (\$1/child) is available at PACE monthly meetings.

PACE is Proud to be Affiliated with:



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A non-profit, tax-exempt educational organization supporting parents and children of divorce and separation

Parents And Children for Equality, Columbus Chapter, P.O. Box 16066, Columbus, OH 43216

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www.PACEgroup.org

Director's Corner continued



unfair court orders and high attorney fees. Those who can afford it are encouraged

to contribute at the \$100 per year sustaining member level.

Your contributions are put to good effect. All labor is contributed free by volunteers, just like you. Kathy and Jack Eshelman, at **Grade A Notes** print the newsletters at no cost to PACE. A contribution to our efforts for which we are extremely grateful. The meeting space for PACE meetings is donated by the Worthington Presbyterian Church. All of these donations keep PACE's overhead costs very low. Most of the members' fees/donations

cover postage for the newsletters and for mailings to legislators, judges and other government officials. Some of our members' fees/donations are being employed to fund the new membership initiative discussed below.

We need your financial support. Please return your membership renewal materials as soon as you can with a generous donation to PACE.

New Members Drive—Recent Progress

As a result of the efforts of Ray Davidson, John Fowler, Gil Bardige and Julie Carpenter-Hubin, we have begun sending PACE membership material to people hundreds of divorced parents in Franklin County. We have been getting copies of newly established child support

orders from the Franklin County Clerk of Courts. Ray has been entering the contact information for child support obligors into a database and John, Gil, Julie and I have helped to send out letters to these people informing them of PACE's mission and inviting them to attend meetings. We hope this will be a very effective membership effort—reaching interested people at a time when many of them have not settled their divorce or paternity issues. We hope to see a rise in new faces at future PACE meetings.

January Meeting Cancelled

Speaking of future meetings, the January PACE Columbus meeting has been a problem for us for some time. The Worthington Presbyterian Church is always closed to us for that day, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. We

Organization Information:

Other PACE Chapters:

- Cincinnati**, P.O. Box 8805, Cincinnati, OH 45208, 513-624-7223
- Dayton**, P.O. Box 340126, Dayton, OH 45434, 937-285-0275
- Cleveland**, P.O. Box 32609, Cleveland, OH 44132, 1-877-581-6502,
<http://community.cleveland.com/cc/pacegroup>
- Northern Kentucky**, P.O. Box 74126, Dayton, KY 41074 606-647-2235

E-mail List: PACEOhio@groups.com (Sign up at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/paceohio>)



Columbus Meetings and Deadlines:

current **Newsletter Editor:** Scott Strohm, lovingparent@hotmail.com

Board Meeting (Last Saturday of Each Month-usually)	Newsletter Deadline (Second Sunday of Each Month-usually)	General Meeting (Third Monday of Each Month)
December 1, 2001	December 9, 2001	December 17, 2001
December 29, 2001	January 13, 2002	Cancelled
January 26, 2001	February 10, 2002	February 18, 2002
February 23, 2001	March 10, 2002	March 18, 2002
March 30, 2001	April 14, 2002	April 15, 2002
April 27, 2001	May 12, 2002	May 20, 2002

Disclaimer: The Columbus PACE Newsletter is distributed to PACE members and other interested parties for educational and informational purposes only. **Nothing in this publication should be construed as legal advice.** Consult your attorney for legal advice.

(continued from p. 2 Directors Corner)

have tried to schedule meetings in other locations, but with limited success. In light of this, we have decided to cancel the January meeting.

Our first meeting in 2002 will be on February 18th at the usual time and place.

Closing Thought

I wish you and your family very happy holidays. For those of you who can spend the holidays with your children, never forget how special these times are. For those of you who cannot share the holidays with your children, know that our hearts go out to you.

—Don Hubin

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

—Helen Keller

PACE Columbus is indebted to:
**Kathy and Jack Eshelman, of
Grade A Notes, for their generous
contribution of time and materials to
reproduce the PACE Newsletter.**



ACADEMIC SERVICES

22 E. 17th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43201
PH (614) 299-9999
FX (614) 764-9696
columbus1@gradeanotes.com
www.gradeanotes.com

PACE Web Site Recommendations

Children's Rights Council:
<http://www.goCRC.com>

National Congress for Fathers and Children:
<http://www.ncfc.net/ncfc>

Web site centered around book by K.C.:
<http://wheres-daddy.com/>

(Found this here:

<http://www.chambley.com/poetry/poems/dad.txt>)

Dad

The one who has always been there,
The one I can always count on,
Is the one that I call Dad.

A helping hand to point the way,
A loving heart to teach what's right,
A shoulder to cry on when I'm sad.

These are things that a dad gives,
Without hesitation; without delay;
Because of the love within his heart.

Sometimes understanding him is a chore,
Wondering why he says what he does,
But loving him is the easiest part.

A love and a respect,
For the man who gave me life,
Cannot be expressed enough.

One thing is certain though,
Never have I ever,
Doubted his Love!

Chambley

“Just finished reading ACES written statement to the Congressional subcommittee on Child Support and Fatherhood ~~pages~~ <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/humres/107cong/6-28-01/107-38final.htm>...After reading the ACES statement, I am making a call to all mothers who support families and children and fathers and believe that fathers are more than just a sperm donor and paycheck. These mothers need to unite to rid the world of groups like ACES from continuing their terrorist attacks on mothers and fathers. Strong language you say? Ripping children from loving fathers and denying access except by extortion is just as evil as what happened on September 11th. When are we going to wake up and see the light.”

—Contributor to eGroup

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(This information comes from a Web site: <http://wheres-daddy.com>)

What Fathers Give

Gender Sameness

We strongly endorse Cathy Young's statement (used as a chapter title) in [Ceasefire!](#): "Men Are from Earth, Women Are from Earth." The similarities between the genders far outweigh any differences. Specifically, loving your children and nurturing are not simply female traits, but human. That men do not express themselves the same way as women should never be taken as *lack* of feeling, commitment, or love.

This page cites scientific studies from among the vast body of research on fatherhood. One of America's leading researchers who has a website is [Richard Warshak, Ph.D.](#), which provides numerous supporting papers. His book, [The Custody Revolution](#) (New York: Poseidon Press, 1992) and Ross Parke's [Throwaway Dads](#) (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1999; Prof. Parke also a leading researcher into fatherhood) contributed greatly to the construction of this page.

- Infants form close attachments to their fathers (bonding) as readily and deeply as, and at the same time as, their mothers.
- Fathers are as excited as mothers over their newborns, and bond to them at the same time and pace. Fathers hold and rock more than mothers, and equal mothers in talking, kissing and imitating.
- Fathers are as sensitive as mothers to their baby's signals, and as competent as caregivers.
- Even male college students are as sensitive as women to infant crying patterns.
- "We know for certain that men can be competent, capable, creative caretakers of newborns. This is all the more remarkable given that most men are typically raised with an understanding that they are destined through some natural law to be ineffective nurturers. . . . The research on the subject, some of it now decades old, says this assumption is **just not so**. And it says it over and over again, in data from many different disciplines."
- Men's hormone levels change on the birth of their children.

Gender Difference

But denying the however subtle differences between the genders is equal folly. Each gender has things about which to take pride, and in which the other should equally rejoice. Fathers have been found to be particularly important in developing social skills, independence, a strong moral sense, and intellectual skills:

Social Development

- ". . . high paternal expectations derived from a context of a warm father-daughter relationship are conducive to the development of autonomy, independence, achievement, and creativity among females."
- Among the women who credit their fathers with inspiring their achievements: anthropologist Margaret Mead, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, psychoanalyst Anna Freud, Congressman Shirley Chisholm, opera star Beverly Sills, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.
- "In general, girls who have a warm relationship with their father and feel accepted by them are more likely to feel comfortable and confident when relating to the opposite sex. . . . During the teen years and later, a girl who has not had a rewarding relationship with her father is apt to feel insecure around males. She may feel unattractive as a woman, doubt that any man could love her for herself, and distrust men in general."
- Even at five months, the boys who have more contact with their father are more sociable with a stranger.
- "When fathers are away for long periods of time, as in the case of sailors at sea, their boys are less popular with classmates and do not enjoy friendships as much as do boys who have more contact with their fathers."
- Fathers do more physical play. When two-and-a-half-year-olds want to play, more than two thirds of the time they will choose their father over their mother.
- A lot of physical father play corresponds to better, deeper friendships with peers among children. Children learn self control, how to manage and express their emotions and recognize others' cues.
- Girls whose fathers play with them a lot tend to be more popular with peers and more assertive in their interpersonal relationships throughout their lives.
- Men and women who have had warm paternal relationships have better, longer marriages and engage in more recreation.

Moral Development

- The best predictor of empathy in adult men and women is the amount of time spent with their father while growing up.

(Continued on next page)

PACE, CAPRA and the OBA Meet with Representative Fessler

by Don Hubin

On Wednesday, December 5, representatives of Parents And Children for Equality, the Children And Parents' Rights Association (CAPRA) and the Ohio Bar Association met with Representative Diana Fessler (R, Miami) to discuss a bill to enact the recommendations of the Ohio Supreme Court Task Force on Family Law and Children.

Mark Inzetta, Chairman of CAPRA and Bob Wistner, Chair of the Ohio Bar Association Family Law Committee, joined PACE Columbus Director Don Hubin in the meeting with Representative Fessler, who chairs the Children and Family Services Subcommittee. The discussion focused on how the recommendations of the Task Force would benefit



Ohio's children by reducing the cost and acrimony associated with divorce and paternity actions. The report of the Task Force is available on the PACE web site at www.PACEgroup.org.

"We understand that these recommendations are not a cure-all for the problems that divorcing parents and their children face in Ohio," said Hubin. "But, if they are followed in spirit as well as to the letter,

they could produce a significant benefits for divorced and never-married parents and their children."

The recommendations include provisions to reduce the "winner/loser" attitude that currently plays too large a role in the legal approach to parenting children separately. In particular, the recommendations call for removing the terms of empowerment and disempowerment that currently characterize custody decisions.

"The idea that the custody of children is to be awarded to one parent and denied the other is an archaic approach that treats children as property. What is most important to children is their continuing relationship with both parents, provided they are both fit and loving," Hubin said. "However, for too long, our legal system has, largely from laziness, continued to try to determine which parent is better and then to assign all parental rights to that parent—in the process, making the other parent nothing more than a visitor in the child's life."

"We know this system isn't working well," Hubin continued. "Children are not property to be awarded to one parent. Children need both parents. The Task Force recognizes this. Instead of trying to find out which parent is better, it's time we all recognized the important truth in PACE's slogan: The "Best Parent" is *Both Parents!*"

(conclusion of article continued from previous page, [What Fathers Give](#))

- For boys, there is a very strong positive correlation between moral development (sense of right and wrong) and a positive father relationship comprised of validating feelings and encouragement.
- Boys and girls with an involved father accept responsibility for their own behaviour, and behave more responsibly. They are less likely to blame others or "bad luck," and have a greater sense of their own potency.

Intellectual Development

- Children whose fathers spend the most time with them consistently score higher on SAT, verbal skills, and problem-solving tests, and perform above their grade level in school.
- Baby boys who have frequent father contact have more precocious mental skills and curiosity than those with less contact.
- Girls' intellectual development is enhanced if their father provides much verbal stimulation and responds to her overtures for social contact.
- A strong father-child relationship, even in infancy, facilitates intellectual competence.

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(From *wheres-daddy.com*)

Some Statistics

- 60% of marriages in the United States end in divorce
- 67 to 75% of all divorces are initiated by the female partner: 74 to 80% of unilateral (non-mutual) divorces. (Percentages vary only slightly from the US to Australia to Germany and from study to study.)
- No gender difference in the number of divorce filings appears for grounds of violence (6% of filings), “exploitation” (one contributing more than receiving—20%), or adultery. “The question of custody absolutely swamps all the other variables. Children are the most important asset in a marriage, and the partner who expects to get sole custody is by far the most likely to file for divorce.” Women are much more willing to divorce because they rarely fear losing custody of the children. Usually it gives them control over them. “If you remove that distortion, it’s apt to change the way men and women relate to each other and to their kids. Fathers are likely to spend more time with kids if they can expect to still see them if the marriage doesn’t work out.

Women will be more likely to see men as parenting partners, and less likely to use divorce as a power play.”

- U.S. states with high levels of joint custody (> 30% of divorces) have significantly lower divorce rates four years later. Their four-year decline in divorce rates is double that of states with medium levels of joint custody arrangements (10 - 30%), and over four times that of states having low levels of joint custody (< 10%).

“It would be very easy to reduce the divorce rate. Rather than wagging our moral fingers at those who divorce, punishing those with legitimate cause along with those with selfish ones, we might accept responsibility for our social context and:

- a) Remove the incentives for divorce (implement a level playing field so there is no “winner”).
- b) If society did more to honour, respect, and protect blood ties such as parental ones, the next generation’s marriages would last longer as those people would enter their social ties with less neediness and fewer false expectations.

People walk in and out of your life,
but your parents leave footprints in
your heart.

(Excerpted from story by...)

John Leo, December 3, 2001,

Hell’s litigants

Biggo Whopperos

Court investigators concluded that Los Angeles judge Patrick Couwenberg had falsified much of his academic and military background, then lied to the governor about it to improve his chances for a judicial appointment. Couwenberg replied that he was suffering from a medical condition called “pseudologia fantastica,” which compels victims to tell tall tales and mix fiction with fact. (In alternate psychiatric terminology, this little-known malady might also be called “biggo whopperos.”) The condition, the judge explained, pushed him toward falsely claiming that he had earned a master’s degree in psychology, fought in Vietnam, and worked for the CIA.

The worst torture for many fathers
victimized by the “family court
system” is to see the ones you love
and were born to nurture and
protect, being abused and in danger,
yet being helpless to intervene.

(Excerpt from The Columbus Dispatch, letter to the editor found here:

<http://www.dispatch.com/editorials-story.php?story=dispatch/news/editorials01/nov01/958597.html>)

Politicians are the real threat to justice system

Monday, November 26, 2001

When Ohio Attorney General Betty D. Montgomery attacks a public defender, saying he "has fostered the philosophy that the end justifies any means, no matter how antithetical to the integrity of the judicial system," the lady doth protest too much, methinks ("Public defender's job in hands of state board," Dispatch article, Nov. 15).

"It is alarming that those charged with enforcing the laws of this state are ignoring them."

said Dispatch Editor Benjamin J. Marrison about Columbus City officials including the Police Division. See story in The Columbus Dispatch: <http://www.dispatch.com/news-story.php?story=dispatch/news/news01/nov01/920741.html>

Certainly, public defenders provide a service toward maintaining the integrity of the justice system.

Too often, politicians, such as Montgomery and State Treasurer Joseph T. Deters, the former Hamilton County prosecutor, focus on the political benefits of a conviction, just or unjust, regardless of how that might affect the integrity of the system.

In the past year, we have read of the release of hundreds of innocent people imprisoned by an overly rabid "justice" system. How many guilty people have been acquitted through the efforts of overworked, poorly funded public defenders?

Attorney general, heal thyself!

Tom Harker, Circleville

(From http://dailynews.yahoo.com/htx/nm/20011209/od/life_sweden_sperm_dc_2.html)

Sunday December 9 9:34 AM ET

Sperm Donor Must Pay Child Support - Report

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) - A court in Sweden has ruled that a man who donated sperm for artificial insemination, enabling a lesbian couple to have three children, must pay child support after the two women separated, a Swedish newspaper reported on Sunday.

The regional daily Nerikes Allehanda said on its Internet Web site a county court ruled that the man was undoubtedly the children's biological father and hence obliged to pay child support of \$265 per month after the women's 10-year relationship broke up.

The verdict poses a legal dilemma, however, because under Swedish law a sperm donor is not regarded as the legal parent of children conceived with the help of his semen.

Sperm donors, however, are normally strictly anonymous, while in this case the man was a friend of the couple and his identity as the father is in no doubt.

The man has appealed.

Book Review

Sometimes, nothing serves as a better review of a book than a few paragraphs from the text itself. The following text is from a book by Dudley Gray & Arthur Lyons entitled "How NOT TO GET SCREWED BY YOUR ATTORNEY: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF," published by Carol Publishing Group. I saw it for sale on the Web at amazon.com for \$12.95 new (\$6.50 used). Chapter 11 (Divorce) had information dealing with "Doing it Yourself" (or Pro Se), Mediation, A more detailed section dealing with Picking your Attorney, Whom to Retain, Whom to avoid, What to Ask, Temporary Relief (e.g., "Temporary" Orders), Negotiation and Settlement (including a bullet point list of Negotiating Rules to Live By), and brief description of Trial (if necessary) and the "Never-Ending Story" of a parents legal life thereafter.

Barry and Marjorie Macklin, like many couples, had their problems after twelve years of marriage. They seemed to have grown apart, their silences grew longer, the sex was almost nonexistent. The intimacy and mutual admiration that they had felt in the beginning of their marriage had waned, leaving both of them to wonder if there was not something better out there waiting for them. Still, it was a shock to Barry when Marjorie told him over breakfast one day that she wanted a divorce.

Barry tried to talk her out of it. He thought divorce a drastic step that they would both regret, particularly when he thought about being apart from his three children. He suggested that they separate and seek counseling, but Marjorie was adamant. She informed him that she had already hired an attorney and then put in front of Barry what the attorney had informed her was a fair settlement of their \$150,000 estate.

She would get the house, the furnishings, one automobile, half of the money in the bank accounts, and custody of the children. Barry would get the boat and his car, and would pay \$1,500 a month in child support as well as \$900 a month in alimony for six years. Visitation rights for the children would be every other weekend.

In spite of the fact he didn't want to battle his wife in court, Barry, feeling there was a gun pointed at his head, hired his own attorney. The attorney look at what was being offered and shook his head. "She wants too much," he told Barry. "The child support arrangement is out of line for starters. You can do much better."

If Barry was shocked when his wife told him she wanted to bail out, he was even more surprised when he got his attorney's first bill—\$15,000 for "research." In the meantime, the attorney had not even filed a response to the divorce petition. What he had done was make a counteroffer to Marjorie Macklin" attorney which was so low that when she heard it, she became incensed. She told her attorney to go to war.

When the smoke of battle cleared, Barry Macklin's attorney's fees totaled \$55,000. What that \$55,000 bought his was child support payments within \$95 of what his wife's lawyer had been asking, worse visitation rights, and a \$5,000 difference in the property settlement—in *his wife's favor*.

(Continued from cover story, page 1, Search for Truth)

all of which we need in our political and religious leaders, teachers and parents. I believe that an honest man will refuse to lie, steal or deceive in any way. To be honest is to have an upright character – this is something that is extremely lacking in our society today. Integrity is especially lacking in our government. A man with integrity is someone who has sound convictions and moral values. Last, I look at character: Merriam-Webster's dictionary says, "[A man with character is someone with] moral excellence and firmness."

The truth is something that is essential in our society today ... and lacking. The founding fathers of this great nation believed that only men with high moral character, integrity and honesty should hold the presidency or any other public office. John Adams, the nation's second president, said, "Our Constitution was made only for moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

This week, I asked five people how they could tell if someone was not telling them the truth or the whole truth. I got five answers back saying they could not. I also asked the same five if they trusted the media in telling them the whole truth and not fabrications. I got five answers back saying they did not trust the media. In addition, I asked them if they believed the politicians and the now-elected officials in public office. Some said it depended on the party, some said it depended on the person, and one stated, "50-50."

One word comes to mind: vulnerability. If the citizens of America rely on the biased media and politicians, with their own agenda, that leaves us extremely vulnerable.

It's a perfect example of the boy who cried wolf. If, for example, you lie to your friend and he becomes aware it was a lie, your friendship is over, or that trust you once had is gone. However, we can't leave the media; we rely on them to give us the news, and there aren't any other options.

When Pilate was judging Jesus, Jesus said, "Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." "What is the truth?" Pilate asked. Little did he know that the truth was standing right before him. Sometimes the truth is standing right before us, and we cannot even see it because the person telling it is biased or not telling the real story.

I try to cut through the rhetoric and get the real story. My column title, "Veritas," is Latin for "the truth." This is my area not only to voice my opinion, but to try my best to get to the truth. This is also a column where you can have a unique view from an aware 12-year-old.

Growing up in a family that is anchored, that taught me right from wrong and good moral values, I am thankful. I base my values on what my parents taught me, as well as the Bible. I have a God-given talent, and I am using it to the best of my ability.

I picked the name Veritas, because I feel that in the world there is a lot of deceit, especially when it comes to handling the news. I want the real story – I always have, and I always will.

Kyle Williams is 13 years old, home-schooled and lives in a rural community in America's heartland. His column title, "VERITAS," is Latin for "truth." He particularly enjoys following current news events – and writing about them – and is extremely interested in politics. Kyle believes he may one day have a career in journalism. For now, he offers his unique perspective to the readers of WorldNetDaily.

(Continued from page 12, *Parental Priorities*)

You have three tasks, all of which are important—but they must be kept separate and prioritized properly.

First: You must be the best parent to your children that you can be within whatever constraints you are operating. Some people are falsely accused of abusing their children. They can't see their children at all or can see them only a few hours a month under the supervision of a stranger. Some parents' children have been moved far away from them, making ordinary parent/child interactions impossible. Some parents are living at near or below the poverty level because of unfair child support or spousal support orders and crushing legal fees they must pay to try to maintain their relationship with their children. Most divorced and unmarried parents have a better situation than this. But whatever your situation in terms of contact with your children or financial resources to provide for your children, you need to put your children first. That means spending every minute you can with them—really with them.

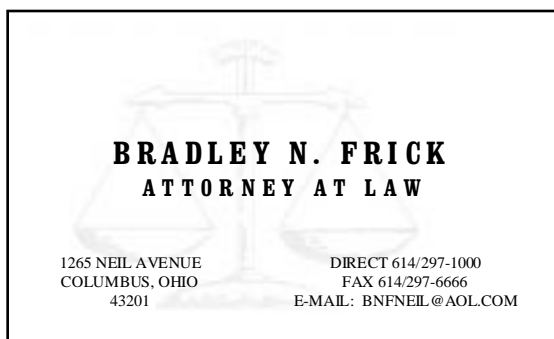
No matter how unfair Ohio's divorce system has been to you, *it is not your children's fault!* They want and deserve you to be there for them. Don't spend time you could be with your children doing things like working on your case or trying to change the system. These are important things to do, but they come after your relationship with your children.

Second: Work to make your legal situation as good as possible for your children. For some, that means fighting for more time with their children. For others, it means fighting just to have time with their children

that is not supervised by strangers. For many of you, it means fighting a very unfair child support system to retain some of the child support resources for you to spend on your children while they are in your care. Sometimes this means collaborating with your attorney: keeping the required records, maintaining logs, and so forth, for your attorney to use to help you and your child in court. For others, who are representing themselves, it means learning the law, typing motions, affidavits, and such.

This is important work. In a system that is often biased against fathers, it is especially important for fathers to be sure that they have "all their ducks in a row" when they go into court. But the system mistreats many mothers, too, so mothers often need to work just as hard to make sure the court doesn't destroy their relationship with their children. But, don't let the time you are putting into "your case" take away from the time you can put in with *your children*. Don't spend time writing a motion or keeping a telephone log when you could be playing ball with your child, or helping your child with homework, or reading a bedtime story to your child. The years of childhood are brief and time lost with your child can never be replaced. Remember that what most of us are fighting for is to be a real parent to our children. Don't let the fight to be a real parent interfere with the opportunities you have to be a parent. Your children don't know and don't care about the legal battles. They want to be kids who are loved and cared for by both parents.

Third: Because our legal procedures and institutions for dealing with child custody are so flawed—infused with unconscious biases, based on harmful adversarial practices, and populated with some people who don't understand that children need both parents—the legal system needs to change. The laws of Ohio need to change, the rules of Ohio courts need to change, many of the judges and magistrates who make decisions about our children's futures need to change (or be changed), and the approach that many attorneys take to resolving family law problems needs to change. PACE is working to change these things.



(Continued on next page)

PACE Mission Statement

The mission of Parents And Children for Equality is to provide education, advocacy and support to parents and children experiencing loss of traditional parent-child relationship due to separation or divorce and to promote for children equitable access to both parents, and for parents reasonable sharing of rights and responsibilities.

PACE Columbus Meetings

Normally Meetings: **3rd MONDAY of the month, 7:00 p.m.**
at the Worthington Presbyterian Church, 773 N High St.
(NW Corner of State Route 161 and N. High Street)
Phone: (614) 885-5355

Our meetings typically consist of:

- Tips for newcomers
- Legislative updates
- Guest speaker such as attorney, legislator or psychologist
- Attorney to answer legal questions at **no charge.**

Membership in P.A.C.E.-Columbus is open to men and women: single, married or divorced.

Dues are **\$20 per year**, the cost of a 5-min phone call to an attorney.

PACE-PAC: PACE's Political Action Committee

Help PACE influence the political process to promote our children's interests. We know that children need two parents. So do some judicial and legislative candidates. Help us help them get elected. In politics, money talks. Let's continue to make sure our politicians hear us.

Contribute to PACE-PAC, PACE's political action committee. Make your check payable to: "Parents And Children for Equality—PAC" and send it to:

Parents And Children for Equality - PAC
Peggy Houston-Nienaber, Treasurer
8190 Beechmont Ave #163
Cincinnati, OH 45255-6117

www.PACE-PAC.org
for more information

Please be sure your check includes your telephone number.

(Continued from page 10, conclusion of article on Parental Priorities)

I would never suggest that this isn't a crucially important task. But this task, as important as it is, is third in the three priorities I've listed.

Work as hard as you can to help change this system. If we don't change it, our children will face the same terrible system we faced. But don't allow your fight for a fairer, more child-centered system, to interfere with your being a parent to your child, or with your work to get the best legal situation with your child.

I spend many hours every week working to change the divorce/custody system in Ohio. I hope you will devote time to changing this system, too. But do it in the hours when you can't be with your children because of the unfair court decisions or malicious actions of your child's other parents. Take some of the time you can't be with your children, and devote it to changing the system that took your

children from you. But never take time from your children. There's time enough for changing the system when our children aren't with us.

Three jobs, separate, and in order:

1. Raising our children and developing the best relationship we can with them;
2. Improving our legal situation with respect to our children; and,
3. Changing the legal system that treats parents unfairly and destroys children's relationships with their parents.

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Hubin's Hints on Parental Priorities

In my time being involved with PACE and the Children's Rights Council, I've talked to hundreds of parents who are struggling to be good parents

Three jobs, separate, and in order:

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to their children despite unfair court decisions or vindictive ex-spouses. These parents are often operating under very difficult conditions and I've sometimes seen them confuse their priorities. Over the years, I've distilled a message that I've repeated often. Here, with apologies to anyone who has heard this rap before, is the Hubin message about parental priorities.

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PACE

Parents And Children for Equality
P.O. Box 16066
Columbus, OH 43216



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