

**BUILD,
DEVELOP,
STRENGTHEN.****Enhancing the well-being
of families**

A special focus of ERICSA is to improve communication and cooperation among states and jurisdictions for the interstate enforcement of child support obligations.

Traditionally, ERICSA brings together child support professionals from government and private agencies, the courts, and public and private attorneys from thirty-five states and territories bordering on and east of the Mississippi River, as well as several tribal nations.

Attendees to our annual training conference share expertise, shape reforms in support enforcement systems, and advance the knowledge of all persons actively participating in the establishment and enforcement of support obligations

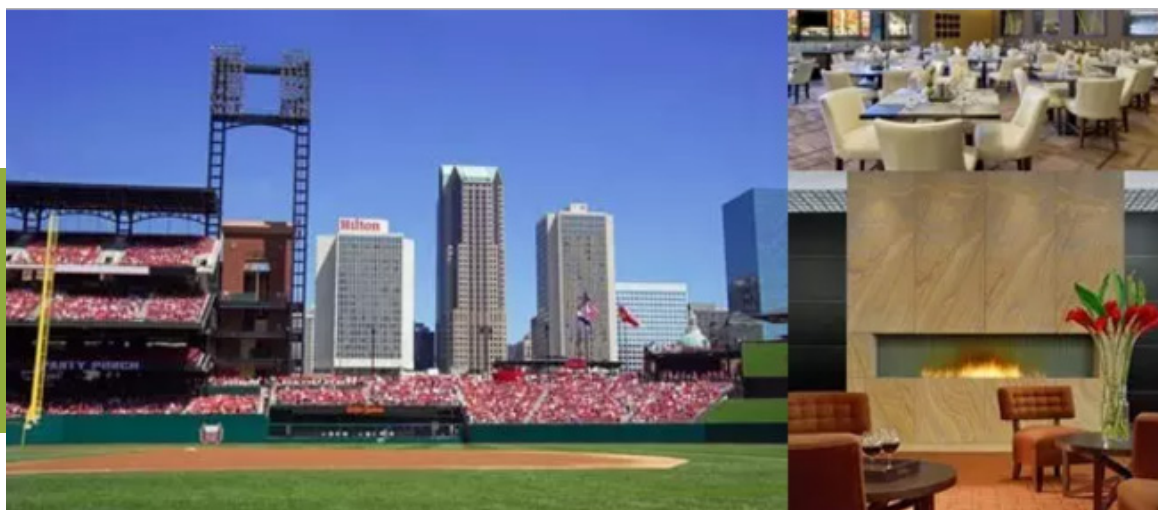
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President Terri Matson - Next Conference***Meet me in St. Louis!***

Start planning now for the 54th Annual Training Conference & Exposition of the Eastern Regional Interstate Child Support Association, May 21-25, 2017, in St. Louis, Missouri. ERICSA's next conference will be held at the Hilton at the Ballpark in downtown St. Louis, just a block away from the Arch. We have an exciting conference program and there is plenty to do in St. Louis, from Busch Stadium and Ballpark Village across the street, to the St. Louis Zoo, to the amazing and eclectic City Museum. Look for news on this site and email updates so that you can register early at discounted rates and book your hotel room. And don't forget, ERICSA offers two Gordon Moseley Rising Start scholarships every year – applications are due by March 1. This is going to be one conference you don't want to miss!

By the way, did you know that the song "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" was debuted by Judy Garland in the 1944 film, "Meet Me in St. Louis?"





Past President Margot Bean

Final Wave from the Myrtle Beach Conference

Creating Brighter Days for Families - An Amazing ERICSA Conference and Year

> My year as ERICSA President was a blend of planning for the Annual Conference, and making sure that ERICSA fulfilled our mission of building "a stronger interstate child support community by developing and advocating effective policy, facilitating communication and delivering innovative professional training in order to enhance the well-being of families." It was highlighted by the successful - and fun - 53rd Annual Conference in beautiful Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. We welcomed 494 attendees from 41 states, 23 tribes, and 1 territory (Guam), including 226 people who had never attended an ERICSA conference. From the moment we entered the hotel lobby and felt the warm ocean breeze, to the time we said goodbye following the closing Bash at the Beach CLE session, states, tribes, employers, and private sector child support specialists discussed new ideas from 46 workshops and 3 plenaries. ERICSA focuses on intergovernmental issues and cooperation - we networked during the first timers meeting and daily breaks, and continued networking after hours at two receptions and the banquet. The braver of us learned how to do the

state dance - the Shag - at the afterhours Dance Party!

The conference started off with an inspiring Star Spangled Banner rendition by ERICSA Board members Lara Fors and Mike Moreno as the Myrtle Beach High School ROTC color guard placed the flags. South Carolina welcomed us through the IV-D Director Katie Morgan, and her boss, South Carolina Department of Social Services Director Susan Alford. We heard final thoughts from Vicki Turetsky as she completes her years of service as federal OCSE commissioner, and learned from the motivational presentation on the Upside of Fatherhood from Pat Littlejohn and Richard Barr of the Center for Fathers and Families.

New to this conference was a popular 20/20 plenary that featured a Pecha Kucha style format of 20 slides shown for 20 seconds each. The 6 speakers rose to the challenge, presenting new child support ideas in under 7 minutes each. Also new, and something I am proud that we implemented, was the creation of three Professional Excellence Recognitions,

designed to recognize child support professionals who effectively worked across our intergovernmental borders to help each other and the program improve. The winners - Jeff Cohen, Pamela Cummings, and John Vorperian - all gave gracious acceptance speeches.

I was honored to award the Felix Infausto Award to an Honorary Board Member Jim Dingeldine for his many years devoted to ERICSA's success, and was thrilled that his wife (an ERICSA Past-President Chrissy Brogdon Dingeldine) and daughter were in attendance. Through fundraising efforts by South Carolina child support offices and the ERICSA attendees we raised \$7,000 for the HALOS charity - thanks go to Elaine Poole, our fundraising chair.

Thanks to our exhibitors and sponsors - we could not put on such an excellent conference without their support! Many thanks also to the Conference Program Planning Committee led by current President, Terri Nickel Matson, the Onsite Committee led by Vice-President Tom Horan, the ERICSA Board, and all of the South Carolina volunteers.

One of the major tasks I took on during my Presidential year was finding a replacement for our long-time conference planner Tim Morrison. With the guidance and

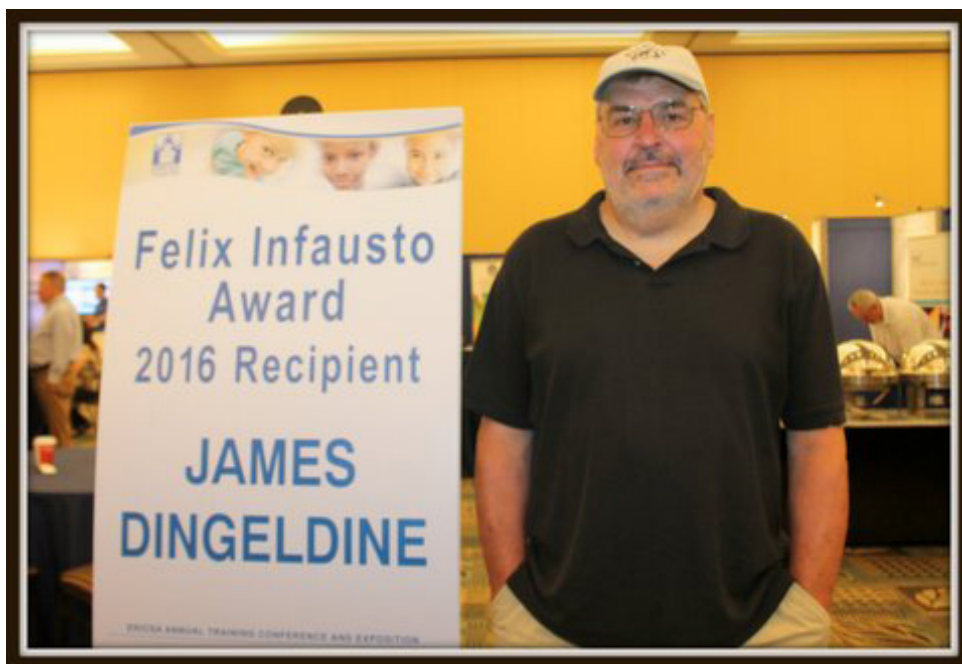
consent of the ERICSA Board, we retained Melissa Rael of MgR Associates to take over from Tim. We benefited from Melissa's planning work with our sister organization WICSEC as she brought a wealth of experience and new ideas to her role. I want to recognize and thank Melissa and her awesome team for handling all of the on the ground conference details, and Marsha Capps, who created our beautiful conference materials designs and signage.

Finally, I want to thank the ERICSA Board and the entire membership for a truly wonderful year as your president. The ERICSA family is one that I treasure - together we are committed to providing outstanding training for all child support professionals, collaborating across state lines, providing input to child support laws and regulations, and supporting each other.

2016 Felix Infausto Award Recipient

Previous Felix Infausto Award Recipients

2015 -- Susan Schroeder
2014 -- Cyndy Lucas
2013 -- Nancy Crawford
2012 -- John Graham
2011 -- Robyn Large
2010 -- Jeff Ball
2009 -- Lee Sapienza
2008 -- Sara McCollum
2007 -- Christine Brogdon Dingeldine
2006 -- J. Gordon Moseley
2005 -- Mary Ann Nore
2004 -- Yvette Hilderson Riddick
2003 -- Ruth Bell Clark
2002 -- Catherine Bayse
2001 -- Arlene L. Robinson
2000 -- Margaret Campbell Haynes
1999 -- Paula Haedel
1998 -- Gloria Harrelson
1997 -- Vernon Drew
1996 -- Hugh O. Stevenson
1995 -- Steve Grossbard /
Sarah Cooper
1994 -- Joseph DiPrimio
1993 -- Susan Paikin
1992 -- Gordon F. Bailey, Jr.
1991 -- Delores Van Horn
1990 -- Anthony J. Voci
1989 -- Evelyn Green
1988 -- Judge Robert D. Thompson
1987 -- Anita Crawford
1986 -- Judge Joseph M.F. Ryan, Jr.
1985 -- John Bischoff
1984 -- John Sylvester
1983 -- Felix Infausto



James Dingeldine - Felix Infausto Award Winner

Margot Bean:

It was my honor as ERICSA President to select the winner and to present ERICSA's highest award and most prestigious honor to Jim Dingeldine at the 2016 conference. Jim was chosen as the recipient of the Felix Infausto Award, which honors a founding father of the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement Support Act (URESA.) Mr. Infausto was an attorney who was instrumental in the development of interstate and international case law. He served as the first president of ERICSA's founding organization, the Northeast Regional Conference on URESA in 1960.

From the inception of the Award in 1983 – bestowed first on Felix Infausto – the list of past recipients reflects people who have shaped ERICSA and the child support program into one of the best programs in the nation. This award is presented to a member who has demonstrated the highest quality of leadership and contributions to the organization.

Jim Dingeldine has been in the child support program in two states over 30 years. His child support program focus has ranged from leading a state's Central Registry to implementing the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Requirement Act (PRWORA) System requirements.

He has participated in ERICSA for 18 years, providing "behind the scenes" conference support and serving as a member of the Board. The Board roles include Exhibitors and Sponsors committee, Food & Beverage coordination for the conference, and Honorary Board Membership. Jim is known for providing the right advice at the right time. For years, he has been part of a "dynamic duo" that coordinates the signage at the Annual Conference.

Jim met his spouse, Chrissy Brogdon Dingeldine, at an ERICSA Conference, and deepened that relationship while she mentored him as a new board member. Their marriage resulted in the birth of a beautiful little girl that we lovingly call "ERICSA's Child."

Hardworking, earnest, thoughtful, fun-loving, with the best West Virginia accent I have heard, I am pleased to honor the 2016 Felix Infausto Award Winner, Jim Dingeldine.

Gordon Moseley Rising Star Scholarship Winners



Terence O'Halloran, Chairman, and recipients Leshia Leaphart, Jayleen Jamison, and Kayla Jackson.

Jayleen Jamison

Family Support Supervisor

Clark County District Attorney, Las Vegas, Nevada

"It was an extreme honor to be chosen as the lone scholarship recipient from outside South Carolina for the 2016 ERICSA conference in Myrtle Beach. It was great networking with so many people from different states and jurisdictions. All of the plenary sessions were very informative. I was able to bring back some pertinent information to our upper management team. Thank you to the ERICSA scholarship committee for selecting me for this great opportunity!"

Kayla Jackson

Human Services Specialist II

South Carolina Department of Social Services, Columbia, South Carolina

"Being awarded the ERICSA scholarship to attend the 2016 conference in Myrtle Beach was not only an incredible honor, but also an amazing experience. The amount of knowledge that I gained from all the different seminars available was invaluable and I have been able to use the knowledge I gained to better serve the families of South Carolina. I was able to meet and connect with child support professionals from many different states and gain their perspective and also share my own. I am immensely proud to have been chosen to receive this award and I know that the knowledge and experience I gained will stay with me in my career in child support and beyond."



2016 Professional Excellence Recognitions

Jeff Cohen

ERICSA's Award of Professional Excellence—Manager or Supervisor

Jeff Cohen, IV-D Director (retired) for the Vermont Office of Child Support won the first “Award of Professional Excellence—Manager/Supervisor” award at the 2016 conference. Jeff’s storied career in the child support program touched many in the intergovernmental child support community through his “ability to recognize that certain practices and technological advances that are utilized in the business world could be equally useful in the world of child support.” As noted in his nomination “Jeff has been on the forefront of growth and innovation” who “never lost sight of the affected parent.”

Pamela Cummings

ERICSA's Award of Professional Excellence for Intergovernmental Cooperation

The winner of our first Award of Professional Excellence for an individual who has significantly contributed to the child support program through intergovernmental cooperation was Pamela Cummings, Program Coordinator for the South Carolina Department of Social Services Child Support Services Division. She was recognized during the 2016 annual training conference. In her nomination, it was noted that Pam understands the frustrations that states encounter on a daily basis when dealing with intergovernmental cases and does what it takes to work with other states for the benefit of all parties involved. Pam is known for going out of her way to find ways to break down barriers, create a direct line of communication between states, and improve case management performance on shared cases.

John Vorperian

ERICSA's Award of Professional Excellence - Frontline Child Support Professional

The first Award of Professional Excellence for a frontline child support professional was presented to John Vorperian. He is the Assistant County Attorney with the Westchester County Law Department’s Family Court Bureau in the State of New York. In his acceptance during the 2016 Annual Training Conference, John noted that “in life you can do well or you can do good” and encouraged everyone involved with ERICSA to keep doing good.

Tim Mose

**Division Director, South Carolina Child Support Service
South Carolina - Host of the 2016 Conference**

South Carolina was the host state for the 53rd Annual Training Conference and Exposition of the Eastern Regional Interstate Child Support Association in beautiful Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. It’s often said that a job-well done is its own reward. However, on behalf of our State, we want to thank our staff, volunteers, vendors, and the entire ERICSA team, for all of your hard work to make this conference a success for the children and families. To the ERICSA team, we also thank you for selecting South Carolina as the host site, and we invite you to come back again.



Elaine Poole
HALOS Fundraiser

Thanks to everyone that attended the Myrtle Beach conference and so generously contributed to the raffle to benefit HALOS of South Carolina. Many people donated wonderful items for the raffle, which was a highlight of the break times for the attendees. We can't underestimate the contribution of the people who bought raffle tickets! A check for \$7,000 was presented to Kim Clifton of HALOS on Thursday morning.



ERICSA Names in the News

> **Rob Velcoff**

Congratulations to Rob Velcoff, former ERICSA president and current Board member, for being the recipient of the 2016 President's Award from Domestic Relations Association of Pennsylvania (DRAP) for his leadership and support in the areas of child support policy and intergovernmental processes! Rob is a veteran of the New York State Division of Child Support Enforcement. The award was presented at the 2016 DRAP conference.

> **John Vorperian**

After winning the ERICSA Professional Excellence Award, John Vorperian was interviewed on the Westchester County, NY local TV station. To recognize his ERICSA award, May 22, 2016 was named "John Vorperian Day" in Westchester County.

> **Lara Fors**

Congratulations to Lara Fors, former ERICSA president and current Board member, on her selection for the Public Service Practitioner Award during the 18th Annual Women's Justice Awards 2016 hosted by the Missouri Lawyers Weekly!



On September 7, 2016, the United States deposited our Instrument of ratification of the Hague Convention of 23 November 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance with the Foreign Ministry of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, signifying the last legal formality in a process which began in 2003. On January 1, 2017, the multilateral treaty comes into force and for the first time in our nation's history, the United States of America is a party to a multi-lateral treaty regarding family support.

At present, and until 12:00:01 a.m. on January 1, 2017, the United States has twenty-five bi-lateral reciprocity agreements with individual countries and Canadian provinces. Many states also have state level reciprocity arrangements with nations who are not parties to a bi-lateral agreement with the United States. At the moment the Convention comes into force, we operate under federal bi-lateral agreements with three countries and eleven Canadian provinces and territories, as well as the thirty-two other nations which have ratified the Convention. These countries include the entire European Union, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro (for whom the treaty also comes into force on January 1, 2017), Norway, and Ukraine. On February 1, 2017, Turkey will become a convention country. (To see the latest listing of who are parties to the Convention, go to <https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/status-table/?cid=131>) Your state will also maintain individual reciprocity agreements for any country or Canadian province which currently exists where that country is not a party to the Convention.

In reviewing the list of those nations which are parties to the convention, outside of the United States, they all have one thing in common. They are all European nations. In fact, the only European nations which are not yet parties to the Convention are Belarus, the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Russia, Serbia, and Switzerland. Although the African nation of Burkina Faso signed the Convention on January 7, 2009, that nation has not yet ratified the Convention.

No Asian nation has signed or ratified the convention. In order to promote the Convention to Asian-Pacific nations, the Hague Conference on Private International Law and the Ministry of Justice of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China sponsored a three day conference at the University of Hong Kong. A total of 155 child support experts from twenty-seven nations, two special administrative regions and the Hague Conference itself gathered to exchange experiences, ideas and questions surrounding local child support practices, the experiences of those nations which have already implemented the Convention, and how we can work together to further the goal of regular financial support for the children of the world.

The "Global Conference on Child Support and Family Maintenance in Asia-Pacific and Worldwide" was held in the Hong Kong SAR of the People's Republic of China from November 9 through November 11, 2015. One plenary session and ten parallel workshops were offered. OCSE Commissioner Turetsky was a featured speaker in the plenary session. Workshop speakers from the United States included Diane Potts, Laura Rosenak, Maureen Leif, Alisha Griffin, Gary Caswell and Nicholas Palos. Presentations were also offered by speakers from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Croatia, England, the European Union, Germany, Hong Kong SAR, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nigeria, New Zealand, Norway, The People's Republic of China, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, and South Korea. During the course of the conference, we heard from Asia-Pacific participants with unique problems: how do you locate someone when your nation is comprised of over 7,000 islands; what do we do when we don't even have a reliable postal system with definitive addresses for people; religious law does not provide for recognition of, and support for, children born out of wedlock. While it became clear that each of the Asia Pacific nations have to confront unique issues, the professionals who were present clearly wanted to find a way to make it all work, but acknowledged that they may not be ready to join the Convention in the near future.

To conclude the conference, participants discussed and adopted series of recommendations. (The text of the Conclusions and Recommendations can be found at https://assets.hcch.net/upload/20151111hk_concl.pdf) As a follow-up to the 2013 Heidelberg Conference, the 2015 Hong Kong Conference exposed the Asia Pacific region to the Convention and to different approaches in more advanced countries, while reminding us how far we have come and how much more work is needed.

The Hong Kong Conference is a reminder that the Convention's coming into force as regards the United States is not an end in itself. While we in the United States will work our way through implementation, we are part of a larger, but rapidly shrinking world. For further information regarding international enforcement of family support please consider signing up for the Newsletter of the Child Support Worldwide Network (<http://www.childsupport-worldwide.org/contact.html>) In addition to the newsletter, the sponsors of the Network have developed a Web Guide containing useful information on the legal systems of most of the nations of the world.



President-Elect Pam Sala Meet ERICSA in St. Louis for “Gateway to New Frontiers for Families”

On September 22-23, a group of over 40 child support professionals from around the country gathered in St. Louis to begin planning the program for our 54th Annual Training Conference. The goals of the meeting were to select the conference theme and artwork, to select workshops to be presented at the conference, and to make recommendations on possible speakers and workshop coordinators for each workshop. Prior to the meeting, requests for workshop suggestions were sent to ERICSA committee chairs, the ERICSA board, and members of the Program Planning Committee. This process supplied the committee with over 90 suggestions to review prior to arriving in St. Louis. At the meeting, additional workshops were suggested, many from our host state of Missouri.

Once all workshops had been presented and discussed, the committee members voted on which workshops they felt should be included in our 2017 Conference. The workshops suggestions that received the most votes were the ones selected. I am pleased to say we have 45 fantastic workshops planned for our 54th Conference, “Gateway to New Frontiers for Families.”

