

## A Review of Several Key Events in 2018

### **January: ALFRA facilitated the introduction of bipartisan and pro-family legislation.**

- Bipartisan, pro-family legislation was introduced in both the Alabama Senate (10 sponsors) and House of Representatives (36 sponsors). The [Children's Equal Access Act](#) aims to maximize a child's time with both parents during a divorce or separation.

### **March: The Children's Equal Access Act passed the Senate for the first time since 2011.**

- The Children's Equal Access Act, legislation passed in the Senate, but stalled in the House prior to the end of the 2018 legislative session.
- While this may be disappointing to many, we consider this year's legislative efforts very productive.
- The legislative process is challenging and requires dedicated advocates throughout the year. We thank everyone that participated in calling and emailing the legislators this last legislative session.

### **April: ALFRA encouraged the entire state of Alabama to participate in "Parental Alienation Awareness Day/Prevention Week".**

State executive and local branches of government signed proclamations calling on community and state leaders to support shared parenting because of its benefits for children.

- The Governor and more than sixty (60) Alabama mayors proclaimed April 22–28, 2018 as Parental Alienation Prevention Week and April 25, 2018 as Parental Alienation Awareness "Bubbles For Love" Day.
- In honor of all suffering children, over 25 individual Parental Alienation Awareness "Bubbles For Love" events were hosted throughout the state of Alabama.
- The largest Parental Alienation Awareness "Bubbles For Love" event was during the Birmingham Barons baseball pre-game ceremony. Activities included distribution of 3,000 bottles of soap bubbles, and blowing of Bubbles For Love during a musical tribute by recording artist and songwriter, C. LaFaye.

### **September: ALFRA encouraged the entire state of Alabama to participate in this year's "Family Day/Week".**

State executive and local branches of government signed proclamations calling on community and state leaders to support shared parenting because of its benefits for children.



---

Working to preserve, promote, and protect family relationships

- The Governor and sixty-seven (67) Alabama mayors proclaimed September 24, 2018 as Family Day and September 23 through September 29, 2018 as Family Week.

**September 28<sup>TH</sup>: ALFRA developed and hosted our 4<sup>th</sup> CLE/CEUs for the legal community and social workers.**

- Fifty-nine individuals earned credits for attending "The Best Interest of the Child and Family Law" seminar in Pelham, Alabama.
- Speakers included: Hon. Lara Alvis, Judge – Shelby County Circuit Court and Hon. Bill Lewis, Judge – Elmore, Autauga, and Chilton Counties Circuit Court; Attorneys Austin Burdick, Melissa Isaak, Jeremy McIntire, and Meredith Carpenter.

**November: ALFRA facilitated the introduction of Resolution 2 to the Alabama Baptist State Convention.**

- The Alabama Baptist State Convention (representing the largest Christian population in the state) passed Resolution 2, acknowledging that *children have a God-given right to be loved and supported by both parents and their extended families; and that both fathers and mothers play a vital role in giving their children the best possible start in life; and that children who lack a consistent presence of both parents suffer both in the long and short term.*

On behalf of the entire ALFRA family, I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday season and a wonderful start to the New Year. We look forward to continuing the good work together in 2019!

**Sincerely,**

Kenneth Paschal

State President  
Alabama Family Rights Association

US Army First Sergeant, Retired