

## Richard S. Victor elected a Diplomate of the American College of Family Trial Lawyers



**Pictured (left to right) are Richard Victor, his wife Denise, and ACFTL President Ronald Anteau of Beverly Hills, Calif., who represented actress Jennifer Lopez in her divorce case.**

Nationally known family law attorney Richard S. Victor, senior partner of Victor & Victor in Bloomfield Hills, recently was elected as one of only 95 attorneys in the country to the American College of Family Trial Lawyers (ACFTL) and was inducted into the College at its annual meeting in New Orleans. A past president of the Michigan chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Victor served on the National Board of Governors of the Academy. He has been the national chair person of the AAML's CLE (Continuing Legal Education) programs, as well as serving as chair for CLE for the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan from 1985-95, co-chairing CLE for the Michigan chapter of the American Academy from 1995-2010. In 2006, the National AAML presented Victor with its coveted National Fellow of the Year Award. He was elected chairperson of the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan and received its highest honor, the Lifetime Achievement Award, in 1999. In 2000, upon his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of graduating from Michigan State University College of Law, he was honored with the National Alumni of the Year Award. In 2004, the State Bar of Michigan presented him with the Champion of Justice Award, honoring him for his work on behalf of families and children. Victor is listed in Best Lawyers in America; and has been named a Super Lawyer by Michigan Super Lawyers Magazine every year, since its inception and was featured on the cover of the publication with a special feature story in 2008. In addition, he was named as one of the top 10 lawyers in Michigan by Michigan Lawyers Weekly and was awarded the Meritorious Service to the Children of America Award by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in 1993. He is the coauthor of the three-volume treatise, "Michigan Family Law and Practice" (West Publications), and the nationally recognized children's book, "You and MeMake Three." In 1982, he founded the Grandparent Rights Organization and has served, pro bono, as its executive director since its inception. He also founded the national nonprofit Victor Smile Foundation, providing benefits to children of divorce. He, along with Judge Edward Sosnick of the Oakland County Family Court, created the SMILE (Start Making It Livable for Everyone) program (an educational program for divorcing parents) for both the state of Michigan and other states across the U.S., as well as for Australia. The American College of Family Trial Lawyers is a select group of 100 of the top family law trial lawyers from across the United States. The American College was formed in 1993 to bring together some of the top trial lawyers in America practicing sophisticated and complex family law and matrimonial matters both domestically and abroad, ranging from dissolution of marriage (divorce), paternity, palimony, child abduction and domestic torts. Diplomates, all members of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, are chosen based upon their recognized litigation skills and courtroom abilities. Victor, who practices with his sons Daniel and Ronald, "believes and has taught both lawyers and judges that divorcing couples must realize that divorce is an emotionally draining experience, born from loss, which usually does not allow individuals to think and act logically and emotionally at the same time." Said Victor: "By creating the concept of a more honest, personalized and direct way to practice family law, we can instill a new philosophy to bring integrity to the practice." Over the course of his career, Victor has appeared on various national television shows, including "Oprah," and his work has been featured in three movies.