



February 2023
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AFCC 60th Anniversary Conference

60 Years of Asking the Difficult Questions

May 31-June 3, 2023

Westin Bonaventure

Los Angeles, California

Join us as we celebrate 60 years of AFCC in the birthplace of AFCC.

Read the Conference Brochure!

See what we have in store for this conference! The conference [brochure](#) provides a complete breakdown including pre-conference institutes, workshops, presenters, schedule, CE information, and registration information. Peruse the [schedule](#) and [register](#) soon.

Plenary Session

Resolving parenting time disputes has evolved over the last 60 years into a complex process that requires professionals to possess a nuanced understanding of many facets. This plenary session will feature an expert panel moderated by Robert Emery, PhD. Panelists will engage in lively conversation to examine the many difficult questions that have emerged over six decades of family law. [See the panel.](#)

Scholarships

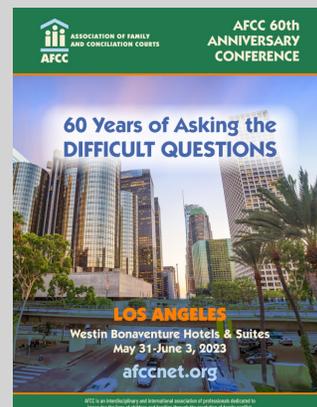
The Fundamentals of Conducting Parenting Plan Evaluations

March 13-16, and
March 20-22, 2023

60th Anniversary Conference

May 31-June 3, 2023

Los Angeles, California



Conference Sponsors



Thanks to the generosity of donors to the AFCC Scholarship Fund, AFCC will offer several scholarships for the 60th Anniversary Conference. Each scholarship includes conference registration, one pre-conference institute, a certificate of attendance, and meal functions, including the Welcome Reception, Luncheon, and Annual Banquet. A limited number of scholarships will include travel stipends. The application deadline is March 8, 2023. [Apply now!](#)

Exhibit, Sponsor, and Advertise

If your business caters to the needs of family law professionals, please consider exhibiting with us in Los Angeles! Confirming early lets you take advantage of lower prices, secure a better table location, and more. Read the [exhibitor prospectus](#) for more details and contact [Abby Rebholz](#) to sign up.

Reserve Your Room Today!

Book your room early at the Westin Bonaventure Los Angeles today. You can make your reservations [online](#) or over the phone by calling 800-937-8461 or 888-627-8520. Do not delay as AFCC room blocks frequently sell out.

Silent Auction

After a three-year hiatus, the AFCC silent auction returns to the 60th Anniversary Conference. The auction will take place on Friday night of the conference. The proceeds raised from the auction help fund essential AFCC projects and initiatives. To donate an item to the Silent Auction, please contact Abby Rebholz at arebholz@afccnet.org or at 608-664-3750.

[Register Now!](#)



Conversation Corner with Robert Emery

Robert Emery, PhD, will moderate the plenary session at the AFCC 60th Anniversary Conference, 60 Years of Asking Difficult Questions. Dr. Emery is

Professor of Psychology and Director of the Center for Children, Families, and the Law at the University of Virginia. He has been an active AFCC member since the early 1980s when he conducted a landmark study on mediation. He has authored over 175 scientific publications, and several books on divorce, and received AFCC's Stanley Cohen Distinguished Research Award in 2002 and served as Social Sciences Editor for Family Court Review. Dr. Emery maintains a practice as a clinical psychologist, divorce mediator, and parenting coordinator. His wife Kimberly is Assistant Dean for Pro Bono at University of Virginia Law School, and he is the father of five children.

AFCC: How did you first get involved with AFCC?



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[ProperComm](#)

Silver Sponsors
[Tony Pelusi & Associates](#)

[Bridging Parental Conflict](#)

[AFCC-AAML Joint Conference](#)
Washington, DC
September 28-30, 2023

[AFCC Fall Virtual Conference](#)
November 1-3 & 6-7, 2023

[AFCC Chapter Conferences](#)

[AFCC Louisiana Annual Conference](#)
March 3-4, 2023
Baton Rouge, LA

[AFCC Alberta Annual Conference](#)
March 16 & 17, 2023
Edmonton, AB, Canada

[AFCC Minnesota Spring Conference](#)
March 24, 2023
Virtual

[AFCC Ohio Annual Conference](#)
March 29, 2023
Westerville, OH

RE: I became interested in mediation when I was in graduate school at SUNY-Stonybrook, around 1979, when John Haynes spoke about it at my research lab. I was interested in studying conflict in married and divorcing families, and a light bulb just went on.

[Continue Reading](#)

**AFCC North Carolina
Inaugural Conference**
March 31, 2023
Greensboro, NC

**AFCC Massachusetts
Annual Conference**
March 31, 2023
Weston, MA

**AFCC Missouri
Annual Conference**
April 14, 2023
Virtual

**AFCC Colorado
Spring Conference**
April 28 & 29, 2023
Denver, CO

**AFCC Utah
2nd Southern Utah
Symposium**
April 28, 2023
Washington, UT

**AFCC Florida
Advanced Education**
October 4-6, 2023
Orlando, FL

AFCC Online Training Programs

The Fundamentals of Conducting Parenting Plan Evaluations

March 13-16, and March 20-22, 2023

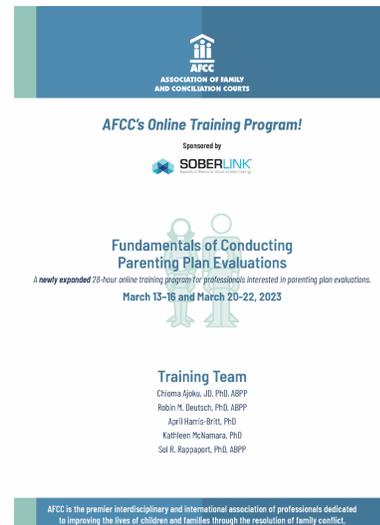
This program will incorporate a complete overview of the parenting plan evaluation process, including the definition and roles of the parenting plan evaluator, as well as, the specifics of the evaluation process, including interviewing, recordkeeping, use of technology, and best practices for report writing and testifying.

Participants will learn the difference between a forensic role and a clinical role, how to review court orders and determine what information should be obtained, strategies for interviewing adults and children, how to assess co-parenting issues, how to develop and test multiple hypotheses, and how to craft recommendations.

Training Team:

- Chioma Ajoku, JD, PhD, ABPP
- Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP
- April Harris-Britt, PhD
- Kathleen McNamara, PhD
- Sol R. Rappaport, PhD, ABPP

Planning to attend the online PPE training program in March? Consider joining us also for the in-person pre-conference institute *Advanced Training in Parenting Plan Evaluations* at



The graphic features the AFCC logo at the top, followed by the text 'AFCC's Online Training Program!' and 'Sponsored by SOBERLINK'. Below this is the title 'Fundamentals of Conducting Parenting Plan Evaluations' with a note that it is a newly expanded 78-hour program. It lists the dates 'March 13-16 and March 20-22, 2023' and the 'Training Team' members: Chioma Ajoku, JD, PhD, ABPP; Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP; April Harris-Britt, PhD; Kathleen McNamara, PhD; and Sol R. Rappaport, PhD, ABPP. At the bottom, a small text box states: 'AFCC is the premier interdisciplinary and international association of professionals dedicated to improving the lives of children and families through the resolution of family conflict.'

[View the program brochure!](#)

[Register Now](#)

the 60th Anniversary Conference in Los Angeles on May 31st, 2023. Can't attend the online training? Contact AFCC to find out more about how to view the recording afterwards in order to be able to join us for this special pre-conference institute.

AFCC Fall 2023 Virtual Conference

November 1-3 and 6-7, 2023

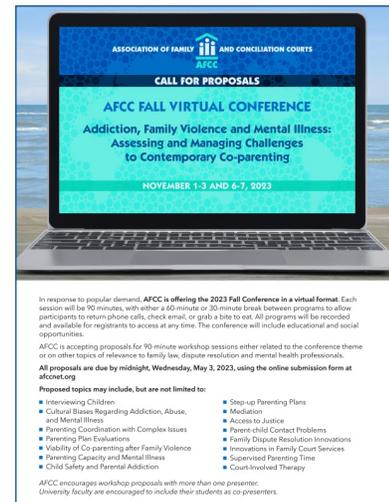
AFCC Fall 2023 Virtual Conference Call for Proposals

Addiction, Family Violence, and Mental Illness Assessing and Managing Challenges to Contemporary Coparenting November 1-3 and 6-7, 2023

In response to popular demand, AFCC is offering the 2023 Fall Conference in a virtual format. If you'd like to present at an AFCC conference from the comfort of your home or office, **we are accepting proposals for 90-minute workshop sessions**. See the [Call for Proposals](#) for complete instructions. Proposals must be submitted using the [online form](#) by the deadline on **Wednesday, May 3, 2023 by midnight**.

Proposed topics may include but are not limited to:

- Interviewing Children
- Cultural Biases Regarding Addiction, Abuse, and Mental Illness
- Parenting Coordination with Complex Issues
- Parenting Plan Evaluations
- Viability of Co-parenting after Family Violence
- Parenting Capacity and Mental Illness
- Child Safety and Parental Addiction
- Step-up Parenting Plans
- Mediation
- Access to Justice
- Parent-child Contact Problems
- Family Dispute Resolution Innovations
- Innovations in Family Court Services
- Supervised Parenting Time
- Court-Involved Therapy



AFCC strongly encourages workshop proposals with more than one presenter and including presenters representing diverse perspectives. University faculty members are encouraged to involve students as co-presenters.

The deadline to submit your proposal is Wednesday, May 3, 2023 by midnight.

You will be notified of the status of your proposal by mid-June 2023.

[Submit Your Proposal](#)

Webinar Corner

Coping Abilities Children Need (And How to Ensure They Get Them) Lyn Greenberg, PhD, ABPP

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

1:00pm – 2:00pm Eastern Time (US/Canada)

Registration will close on March 6, 2023 at 9:00am Eastern Time US/Canada.



Much has been written about the direct effects of parental conflict, including long-term exposure to toxic stress and other traumatic effects. Less has been written on the devastating effect that these dynamics can have on normal child development and the child's ability to learn the critical coping abilities needed for the rest of the child's life. Parents' concerns tend to be louder and attracting of the most professional attention, which may lead to the child's needs being overlooked. Children need to learn to form healthy independent relationships, which may be all the more critical if the parents aren't functioning well. Healthy adjustment requires that they be able to accurately perceive information and interactions, separate their own feelings from those of others, manage arousal and emotional distress, accurately identify danger and appropriate ways of seeking help, focus, follow rules, master new abilities, achieve emotional independence and, in some cases, separate themselves from dysfunctional dynamics in their families. This workshop will focus on these critical coping skills and the paths through which children can attain them. Dr. Greenberg will address the challenges faced by decision-makers and parenting coordinators, as well as other legal and mental health professionals, in recognizing children in trouble and creating the circumstances that will give them a better chance at healthy development. The role of children's engagement in other systems, and appropriate selection of services, will be addressed.

Lyn R. Greenberg, PhD, ABPP has over 30 years' experience working with court-involved children and families. She provides parenting plan coordination, specialized treatment, consultation, training, and expert witness services. She is the lead author and editor of Evidence Informed Intervention for Court-Involved Families and has been recognized by both AFCC and the American Psychological Association for her work.



Registration

Members: \$15

Non-Members: \$50

Certificate of Attendance

Members: \$15

Non-members: \$20

[Register Now!](#)

More Upcoming Webinars!

Gender and Sex in Family Law: How to Work with a Gender Diverse Population (DE&I Series)

Rebecca Stahl, JD LLM

April 12, 2023

Group to Individual Inference in Scientific Testimony

Chancellor & Dean David Faigman; Professor Michael Saini

April 18, 2023

The Impact of Intimate Partner Violence on Young Children

Kate Wurmfeld, JD; Kiran Malpe, LCSW, BS

May 10, 2023

The Work Before the Work

Sol Rappaport, PhD, ABPP

June 22, 2023

AFCC-AAML Joint Conference Advanced Issues in Child Custody

September 28-30, 2023
Washington, DC

AFCC-AAML Joint Conference

Advanced Issues in Child Custody

Capital Hilton
Washington, DC
September 28-30, 2023

The **Association of Family and Conciliation Courts** and **American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers** are excited to be hosting their first completely in-person joint conference in four years! Leading family law experts will offer extended institutes and breakout sessions that address the most challenging issues faced by lawyers, judges, psychologists, custody evaluators, parenting coordinators, mediators, therapists, arbitrators, educators, and others.

Brochure coming soon!

Donate to the AFCC Scholarship Fund

The AFCC Scholarship Committee provides financial support to help family law professionals from all corners of the world convene at AFCC conferences. These scholarships enable access to some of the best continuing education along with an amazing network of collegial professionals. With your help, the Scholarship Committee can extend opportunities to more professionals.

Wouldn't you want your next opposing counsel, custody evaluator, and/or judicial officer to have the knowledge and appreciation of the research, practice, and approach of the system that you do?

[Donate Now](#)

AFCC Member News

AFCC members **Forrest Mosten** and **Elizabeth Potter Scully** have co-authored *Effectively Representing Clients in Mediation*, with Lara Traum. The book, which is published by the American Bar Association, provides lawyers with advice about selecting a mediator, preparing clients for mediation, and coaching clients through the negotiation process to a settlement. It offers wise perspectives, case examples, and bullet-point practice tips. For more information go to americanbar.org/products/inv/book/427801723/

Effectively
Representing Clients in
Family Mediation



Forrest S. Mosten
Hon. Elizabeth Potter Scully
Lara Traum



Nicole Sodoma, AFCC member from North Carolina recently published a book titled ***Please Don't Say You're Sorry***. In her book, Nicole dispenses empowering advice on how to sustain a real and happy marriage, recognize when that's just not possible, and know what to expect and do from there.



AFCC eNEWS

The *AFCC eNEWS* is the monthly e-newsletter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. The *eNEWS* provides up-to-date information for professionals including practice tips, international news, and the latest initiatives in family law and conflict resolution. The *AFCC eNEWS* is provided at no charge to you; anyone can subscribe.

[Subscribe here.](#)

AFCC members are free to share eNEWS content.

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