Children in the Court System:
Different Doors, Different Responses, Different Outcomes

Hilton New Orleans Riverside • May 27-30, 2015
Children are at the center of a variety of legal disputes and may enter the court system through a number of possible doors. Parenting time, child support, child maltreatment, guardianship, adoption and delinquency are just a few of the possibilities. Many of these issues substantively overlap, but a coordinated approach is often lacking. The entry point can therefore prove critical in determining the course of action, the availability of resources, access to justice and ultimately the fate of family members. Join AFCC in New Orleans as we examine the challenges faced by children, their parents, guardians and professionals in the court system.

This international and interdisciplinary program features the latest research, programs, policies and practice.

Keynote Address: Rediscovering the Language of Youth
Julie Kenniston, MSW, LISW, Co-author, Handbook on Questioning Children: A Linguistic Perspective

Nearly 100 sessions to choose from, including:

- Access to Justice
- Research Informed Practice
- Child Protection Mediation
- Child Development for Judges
- Children Exposed to Violence
- Managing Sexual Abuse Allegations
- Self-Care for Judges
- Online Dispute Resolution
- Children Resisting Visitation
- Lies, Damn Lies and Statistics
- The Amazing Developing Teenage Brain
- Engagement Skills for High Conflict Families

And more!

- Simply the best interdisciplinary networking around.
- More than 200 presenters from Australia, Canada, England, Israel, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, and the United States.
- Interdisciplinary faculty including leading legal, mental health and dispute resolution practitioners, policymakers, and researchers.
- Up to 20.75 hours continuing education credit for psychologists, lawyers, counselors, social workers, mediators, custody evaluators and mental health professionals (see page 23 for details).
- AFCC conferences are fun! Registration includes welcome reception, luncheon, annual banquet and entertainment, and access to the famous hospitality suite.

AFCC strives to offer conference attendees access to a wide range of existing research, advocacy positions, policies, practices and procedures both to reflect the state of the field and to encourage inquiry, discussion and debate on these matters. AFCC does not necessarily endorse or support the views of conference presenters.

Conference Scholarships are Available!
Each year, AFCC members help deserving professionals and students attend AFCC conferences by giving to the AFCC Scholarship Fund. Scholarships cover the cost of a full registration for colleagues who would otherwise not be able to join us. The scholarship application is available at www.afccnet.org; see page 23 for details. The deadline to apply for a scholarship is March 1, 2015.

Give to the AFCC Scholarship Fund
Help ensure the continued success of the AFCC Scholarship Program by giving today. Give your gift online at www.afccnet.org or include a gift with your conference registration. Your generosity helps colleagues stay informed and up-to-date, so they can provide the best service and support to families and children.

New Orleans!
Enjoy a prime downtown location at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, situated next to Harrah’s Casino, steps from the famous New Orleans streetcar lines, three blocks from the French Quarter, and on the banks of the Mississippi River. Steps away from The Shops at Canal Place; the Outlet Collection at the Riverwalk is connected to the hotel. Close to family-friendly attractions like the Audubon Nature Institute.

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Since I attended my first AFCC conference more than two decades ago, court systems around the world have changed dramatically. We have seen the development of innovative dispute resolution processes, significant advances in social science research, the development of important practice guidelines and the implementation of technology-based solutions, which have moved our field forward and helped AFCC advance our mission of improving the lives of children and families through the resolution of family conflict. I am proud to say that AFCC has been at the forefront of many of these innovations.

In recent years, we have also witnessed substantial changes in family structure, including the proliferation of never-married parents, the role of assisted reproductive technology and the continually evolving law as it relates to same-sex partners and their children. This comes at a time when court systems and state budgets are recovering and adjusting to new economic realities. Inadequate funding for even the most basic services is a challenge in some communities, leaving professionals (in both public and private sectors) fewer options for families with more demanding circumstances.

Children, who are the center of many family legal disputes, may find themselves entering the court system through one or more of the many possible doors and, as a result, experience different responses and different outcomes. This conference will give us a forum in which to ask the difficult questions and sort through the challenges we face in attempting to provide effective, efficient, coordinated services for the changing population of families entering the legal system, and creating better processes and outcomes for all.

At the heart of every AFCC conference is the opportunity to learn from our colleagues. We find new ideas and ways to improve our work by sharing our experiences and perspectives with others. In conference sessions, during coffee breaks, and even in the hotel elevator, you will have the opportunity to share perspectives with colleagues from different disciplines, different jurisdictions, and different continents. We anticipate delegates from more than 20 countries including: Israel, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Canada and the United States. AFCC attendees are leading judges, lawyers, psychologists, therapists, mediators, researchers, scholars, custody evaluators and others who work with families in the legal system.

Of course, it isn’t just about work. When you visit New Orleans, you would have to go out of your way not to have fun. Whether your passion is food, music, history, shopping or people watching, the city’s historic beauty and invigorating culture provides enjoyment for all.

I look forward to seeing you in New Orleans!

Yours truly,

Dick Altman
AFCC President
# Conference at a Glance

## TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2015
- 6:00pm–8:00pm Conference Registration

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2015
- 7:30am–6:00pm Conference Registration
- 8:00am–9:00am Coffee and Rolls for Institute Registrants
- 8:00am–5:00pm Exhibitor Forum
- 9:00am–4:30pm Pre-conference Institutes
- 10:30am–10:45am Break
- 12:00pm–1:00pm Lunch on your own
- 12:00pm–5:00pm AFCC Board of Directors Meeting
- 2:45pm–3:00pm Break
- 5:00pm–6:00pm International and New Member Orientation
- 6:00pm–7:00pm Opening Reception and Exhibitor Forum
- 7:00pm–8:00pm AFCC Awards Ceremony
- 9:00pm–12:00am AFCC Hospitality Suite

## THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2015
- 6:15am–6:30am Meditation
- 6:30am–7:15am Yoga
- 7:30am–8:30am Chapter Council Meeting
- 7:30am–5:00pm Conference Registration
- 7:30am–8:45am Coffee and Rolls
- 7:30am–5:00pm Exhibitor Forum
- 7:30am–5:00pm Poster Gallery
- 8:30am–10:00am Opening Session
- 10:30am–12:00pm Plenary Session II
- 12:00pm–1:30pm Lunch on your own
- 1:30pm–3:00pm Workshops 13-24
- 3:00pm–3:30pm Break
- 3:30pm–5:00pm Workshops 25-36
- 5:30pm–7:00pm Silent Auction and Reception
- 7:00pm–9:30pm AFCC Annual Banquet
- 9:30pm–12:00am AFCC Hospitality Suite

## SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2015
- 6:15am–6:30am Meditation
- 6:30am–7:15am Yoga
- 7:30am–12:30pm Conference Registration
- 8:00am–9:00am Coffee and Rolls
- 8:00am–9:00am AFCC Membership Meeting
- 8:00am–12:30pm Exhibitor Forum
- 8:00am–12:30pm Poster Gallery
- 9:15am–10:45am Workshops 61-72
- 10:45am–11:00am Break
- 11:00am–12:30pm Workshops 73-84

## FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2015
- 6:15am–6:30am Meditation
- 6:30am–7:15am Yoga
- 7:15am–8:15am AFCC Committee Meetings
- 7:30am–5:00pm Conference Registration
- 7:30am–8:30am Coffee and Rolls
- 7:30am–5:00pm Exhibitor Forum
- 7:30am–5:00pm Poster Gallery
- 8:30am–10:00am Plenary Session I
- 10:00am–10:30am Break
- 10:30am–12:00pm Plenary Session II
- 12:00pm–1:30pm Lunch on your own
- 12:00pm–1:30pm Editorial Board Meeting
- 1:30pm–3:00pm Workshops 37-48
- 3:00pm–3:30pm Break
- 3:30pm–5:00pm Workshops 49-60
- 5:30pm–7:00pm Silent Auction and Reception
- 7:00pm–9:30pm AFCC Annual Banquet
- 9:30pm–12:00am AFCC Hospitality Suite
1. Research-Informed Critical Decision Points for Considering Intimate Partner Violence and Alienation in Child Custody Disputes

Throughout the life of a child custody case there are various critical decision points when considering the impact of intimate partner violence (IPV), including: (1) screening for the risk of future occurrences; (2) assessing the severity, frequency and type; (3) assessing the impact of IPV on children's safety and well-being; (4) developing parenting plans; and (5) considering the evidence required by judges to make decisions. Parallel decision points occur in cases involving alienation in which a child resists contact with or rejects a parent. This institute will explore the best available social science research to guide these critical decision points.

Leslie M. Drozd, PhD, Newport Beach, CA
Jennifer Hardesty, PhD, Univ. of Illinois, Champaign, IL
Michael Saini, MSW, PhD, Univ. of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada
Hon. Thomas Trent Lewis, Los Angeles, CA

2. Client Engagement Skills for High Conflict Families

The majority of high conflict families appear to involve at least one person with a personality disorder. Professionals can learn skills for client engagement, which can help clients to calm down, communicate respectfully, make and respond to proposals, and make and accept their own agreements. Client engagement involves a paradigm shift from professionals directing, evaluating and making decisions for high conflict clients, to engaging clients to help them reach their maximum potential in making decisions and implementing them. This institute will focus on understanding five high conflict personality disorders and how to engage them.

Bill Eddy, LCSW, CFLS, High Conflict Institute, San Diego, CA

3. The Conflict Paradox: The Challenge at the Heart of Conflict

When facing intense conflict, most people tend to believe that they face either-or choices, for example, to cooperate or compete, avoid or engage, compromise or stick to principle, work on outcomes or deal with emotions. The real challenge is to move beyond these polarities and find a way to embrace seemingly contradictory approaches, which is the most effective way to influence how individuals and families approach conflict. This institute will look at how to help families be both cooperative and competitive, to avoid and engage in conflict, to compromise and to act in a principled way.

Bernie Mayer, PhD, Creighton Univ., The Werner Institute, Kingsville, ON, Canada

4. How to Analyze, Present and Challenge Forensic Reports and Testimony

This institute will focus on methods by which to analyze child custody reports, the foundational data, and the ways in which identified errors may have affected the evaluators’ opinion formulation process. The means by which a retained testimonial expert effectively explains the relevance of identified errors to triers of fact will also be examined. Finally, presenters will discuss ways in which reviewers, who subsequently function as behind the scenes consultants to retaining attorneys, can assist attorneys in formulating the most effective ways to challenge evaluators regarding identified errors in their work.

David A. Martindale, PhD, ABPP, Co-author, The Art and Science of Custody Evaluations, St. Petersburg, FL
Timothy Tippins, JD, Albany, NY
Jeffrey P. Wittmann, PhD, Author, Evaluating Evaluations, Albany, NY

5. Critical Issues in Child Development for Family and Juvenile Judges

Judges handling family law, child welfare and juvenile justice cases must make decisions about children whose lives have been impacted to varying degrees by violence, conflict, substance abuse, mental illness, and neglect. Often, those experiences lead to some level of trauma. It is critical that juvenile and family law judges understand why and how children are affected by these events so that they are able to craft orders that are effective, developmentally appropriate, and not likely to cause further trauma. This multi-disciplinary panel of judges and psychologists will explore children’s developmental needs, focusing on trauma, effects of domestic violence on children at different ages, parenting plans, overnight stays with young children, and other critical issues judges face daily.

Hon. Karen S. Adam, Tucson, AZ
Hon. Ernestine S. Gray, New Orleans, LA
Kirsten Lyons, PhD, Minneapolis, MN
Philip Stahl, PhD, ABPP, Queen Creek, AZ

6. Child Protection Mediation: Confronting the Challenges, Getting it Right

Child protection mediation (CPM) has encountered numerous challenges since it was first introduced more than 30 years ago. External influences can often exert pressure to compromise the mediation process and the integrity of mediation programs. This institute will examine how factors such as power imbalances among the parties, undue influences and pressures placed upon mediators, time limits, confidentiality limitations and decisions about who participates in CPM, challenge CPM mediators and programs. Presenters will identify best practices to address these challenges. Participants are invited to submit case examples that illustrate problems they have experienced in their practice for interactive, skill-based and solution-focused discussions.

Marilou T. Giovannucci, MS, Connecticut Judicial Branch, Wethersfield, CT
Gregory Firestone, PhD, Univ. of South Florida, Tampa, FL
Susan Storcel, JD, Circuit Court of Cook County, Chicago, IL

7. Mock Trial: Testimony and Examination Issues with Mental Health Professionals

This institute will demonstrate trial lawyers, a former judge, and mental health professionals addressing real-life case issues. Presenters will explore the differences in therapeutic and forensic roles and how those differences play out in trial settings, while exploring judicial perspectives on testimony of therapists and other mental health professionals. Participants will learn how to demonstrate whether a mental health professional has adhered to requirements in statutes, licensing rules, and professionally accepted best practices. This institute will enhance skills for all professionals who interact during direct and cross-examination.

Carrie Beard, MA, LPC, Co-Parenting Solutions, Inc., Dallas, TX
Christy Bradshaw Schmidt, MA, LPC, Dallas, TX
Jenny Gomez, MS, LPC-S, Gomez Counseling, LLC, Plano, TX
Steven (Jake) Jacobson, LCSW, CCD Counseling, PA, Denton, TX
Hon. Marilea Lewis (Ret.), Godwin Lewis PC, Dallas, TX
Hunter Lewis, JD, Kinser & Bates, Dallas, TX
Darcy Loveless, JD, Lovelace & Loveless, Denton, TX
Aaron Robb, PhD, LPC-S, Forensic Counseling Services, Frisco, TX

8. Nuts and Bolts of an Intensive Reunification Intervention When a Child Resists a Parent

Efforts to intervene with and treat families when a child resists contact with one parent and becomes aligned with the other have received heightened interest in recent years. Traditional treatment models are often unsuccessful and these families may require extensive and highly skilled services from mental health and legal professionals. This institute will examine procedures to intervene with these families including the first call and intake; deciding who to include in an intervention; strategies to create connections between parents and children; how to solicit and leverage the preferred parent’s support for the intervention; how to organize structural components of interventions including court orders and treatment teams, goals of intervention, and aftercare plans. Current knowledge and hands-on skills for mental health, legal and judicial involvement will be presented.

Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP, Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, Newton, MA
John Moran, PhD, Phoenix, AZ
Peggie Ward, PhD, Bradenton, FL
## WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2015

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## THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2015

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Welcome: Dick Altman, JD, AFCC President, Napoleon, OH  
Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson, Louisiana Supreme Court

### Keynote Address: Rediscovering the Language of Youth

Julie Kenniston, MSW, LISW, Co-author, Handbook on Questioning Children: A Linguistic Perspective, Mason, OH

The voice of the child has become an important component of many court and dispute resolution processes; however, understanding children is not so simple because children and adults do not speak the same language. Julie Kenniston, co-author of the Handbook on Questioning Children: A Linguistic Perspective, will help attendees to rediscover the language of youth by exploring child development and linguistic considerations that can assist professionals in obtaining accurate information and improve communication with children. Ms. Kenniston has conducted more than 3,000 forensic interviews of alleged child victims of sexual abuse, and has trained professionals internationally on dealing with child abuse, intimate partner violence and domestic relations matters in both civil and criminal courts.

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AFCC consistently brings together the thought leaders in handling separation and divorce, in and out of family court. The conferences always have lots of energy, friendship and a willingness to tackle the controversial issues which help our field grow.

— Bill Eddy, LCSW, Esq., CFLS, San Diego, California
10:30am-12:00pm  Workshops 1-12

1. The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: What is the Value of a Custody Evaluation?

Child custody evaluations have been characterized as expensive, intrusive and adversarial, and as just about everything that is wrong with the family law system today. Furthermore, there is the very real question of whether evaluations help families achieve (or help the court provide families with) better outcomes than if no evaluation was conducted. This interactive workshop will explore whether the benefits of custody evaluations outweigh the negatives associated with the process. Presenters will also explore the issue of whether there is a firm enough empirical basis to support the time, expense and reliance placed on evaluations by the court.

Arnold T. Shienvold, PhD, Riegler Shienvold & Associates, Harrisburg, PA

James R. Flens, PsyD, ABPP, Valrico, FL

Lawrence Jay Braunstein, JD, White Plains, NY

2. Minimizing Miscommunication in Child Interviews

Children acquire language in a cultural context. The meaning of words does not come as quickly as the use of those words when communicating. Some words, such as pronouns and prepositions, are less reliable. Other words are not reliable because the cognitive processes needed to understand their use have not been mastered by the child. This presentation will provide information on children's use of language as preschoolers and school-aged children. These concepts will be applied to the process of gathering information from children for court purposes. By understanding children's abilities to communicate, an interview can be both linguistically sensitive to the child's needs and conducted in a legally sound manner. Sponsored by the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children.

Julie Kenniston, MSW, LISW, Mason, OH


Does “research show” when joint physical custody is best for children and when it is not? This session will use research on joint physical custody to illustrate how empirical findings can be legitimately interpreted in different ways—or used to make exaggerated claims for a favored position. This problem is manifest when the empirical and skeptical Cinderella of social science is seduced by the rhetorical and certain Prince Charming of law. This session will not resolve all controversies, but it will increase awareness of the strengths and limits of existing joint custody research, aiming to help participants distinguish legitimate differences in interpretation from advocacy dressed up like science.

Robert E. Emery, PhD, Univ. of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

Marsha Kline Pruett, PhD, ABPP, Smith College, Northampton, MA

4. Preventing Abuses of the Family Court Process by Unhappy Litigants

In many jurisdictions finding custody evaluators can be a challenge. Many family court professionals are sick and tired of doing the work; some are burnt out after experiencing professional complaint processes. This workshop examines how to stop abuses of this process by disgruntled family litigants. Presenters will focus on actions different jurisdictions have taken to prevent frivolous and vexatious complaints from derailing the family court process.

Tami Moscobe, LLB, Superior Court of Justice, Toronto, ON, Canada

Barbara Fidler, PhD, Toronto, ON, Canada

Graeme Clark, Med, PhD, Edmonton, AB, Canada

Julie Jackson, Family Division, Legal Aid, Perth, WA, Australia

5. Unmarried Parents and Their Children: Review of Social Science Research and Law

Unmarried parents and their children are at risk of negative outcomes, and the family law setting provides a unique opportunity to intervene and help buffer families from those consequences. To facilitate evidence-based practices for handling cases with unmarried parents, a review of relevant social science research, law, and practice, as well as data on the characteristics of unmarried couples in a metropolitan Title IV-D Courtroom will be presented. Recommendations for future legal, social science, and policy work will be discussed.

Brittany N. Rudd, BA, Indiana Univ., Bloomington, IN

Magistrate Jason G. Reyome, Indianapolis, IN

Amy Holtzworth-Munroe, PhD, Indiana Univ., Bloomington, IN

6. In and Out in One Hearing: Volunteer Attorneys, Mediators and Child Support Staff

This workshop will examine an innovative program in the Alaska courts that helps self-represented litigants reach settlement in the early stages of their family law case. Of more than 800 cases heard, approximately 75% have settled, with parties leaving the courtroom with their final paperwork on the same day. Presenters will discuss the process used to develop the program and incremental improvements. Statistical information will be provided to demonstrate the program's efficacy.

Stacey Marz, JD, Family Law Self-Help Center, Alaska Court System, Anchorage, AK

Wendy Lyford, JD, Alaska Court System, Anchorage, AK

Suzanne Cole, JD, Alaska Court System, Magistrate Judge, Anchorage, AK

7. Addicted! Sex, Parenting and Custody Determinations

Courts must frequently address matters where questionable parenting behavior lies in the domain of sexuality. This panel will identify diagnostic considerations related to problematic sexual functioning, risks associated with sexualized behavior patterns, the impact they have on a parent's functioning, and the potential impact on the child.

Larry V. Swall, JD, MARCH Mediation, Liberty, MO

Lori Schwartz, PhD, CST, Kansas City, MO

Sherrill Roberts JD, Missouri District Court Family Court Commissioner, Liberty, MO
8. One Family, One Judge, Three Courts: Unifying an Un-Unified System

Often family law cases involve complex legal issues including child welfare, juvenile justice, and family violence. This workshop will explore the innovative one family, one judge case management approach adopted by Pima County Juvenile Court to handle cases in which families are concurrently involved in multiple courts. Participants will learn how non-unified courts can work collaboratively with stakeholders and utilize their current resources to implement one family, one judge. Speakers will discuss the practical implications and benefits of implementation.

Hon. Karen S. Adam, Pima County Superior Court, Tucson, AZ
Stacey Brady, JD, Pima County Juvenile Court, Tucson, AZ
Ken Sanders, JD, Pima County Superior Court, Tucson, AZ

9. Same-Sex, Different Experiences: Current Issues for LGBTQ Families in the Courts

LGBTQ people and their families have seen a rapid change in their status and recognition in the courts during the past few years. Marriage equality laws have changed dramatically in a relatively short time and are certain to change again soon. Those legal changes affect communities, courts and those who work in those institutions, including judges, custody evaluators, attorneys, psychologists and others as they engage with LGBTQ families. This collaborative session will explore those changes and provide tools for shifts in legal practice and judicial decision-making.

Hon. Ramona Gonzalez, La Crosse, WI
Todd Brower, JD, LLM, Western State College of Law at Argosy Univ., Fullerton, CA

10. Special Needs Children in Family Court: A Risk Assessment Model for Crafting Parenting Plans

Family courts have seen a dramatic rise in children diagnosed with various types of neurodevelopmental, psychiatric and medical syndromes. Commonly recommended developmentally-based parenting plans may be inappropriate with special needs children; therefore, professionals face complex challenges in crafting appropriate parenting plans. This workshop presents a systematic approach to analyzing the risk and protective factors that should inform parenting arrangements with this varied population. The risk assessment model will be illustrated by application to two common neurodevelopmental disorders, namely, autistic spectrum disorders and ADHD.

Daniel Pickar, PhD, ABPP, Santa Rosa, CA
Robert Kaufman, PhD, ABPP, Oakland, CA

11. Supervised Visitation: A Therapeutic Bridge for Relationship Building

Therapeutic efforts in an office setting to reintegrate estranged parents and children in even the mildest alienation cases often fail short. Facilitated supervised visitation in the field creates a unique environment through which the estranged child can have a voice, not about whether they see their parent, but about how. Efforts are focused on opening a fresh dialogue, creating new memories and reinventing a relationship based upon new experiences rather than by repeating familiar patterns.

Ann Ordway, JD, PhD, Fairleigh Dickinson Univ., Madison, NJ
Ruth Moore, PhD, LPC, Walden Univ., Savannah, GA
Arielle Feldman, MA, Madison, NJ

12. Fragile Narcissism: A Forensic Challenge

This workshop will focus on understanding and working with narcissistic individuals in the family court system. Personality traits/disorders may be exacerbated by the divorce process; narcissistically fragile individuals often engage in ongoing legal conflict, or high conflict custody cases. Narcissism will be defined and illustrated, how narcissism manifests in family relationships (co-parenting and parenting) will be explored, and ways in which mental health and legal professionals can manage high conflict cases involving narcissistic adults will be discussed. Case vignettes will highlight challenges and strategies.

Suzanne C. Klenck, PhD, LCP, New Orleans, LA
Sarah Hinshaw-Fuselier, PhD, LCSW, Metairie, LA
Karen VanBeyer, PhD, LCSW, Metairie, LA
Anna Wellman, JD, LCSW, New Orleans, LA

Assessing allegations of sexual abuse in the context of a child custody evaluation is challenging and there is a risk of damage whether one is right or one is wrong. Presenters in this workshop will discuss processes and procedures to minimize bias and prevent evaluator error. Recent research on memory, interviews, and family dynamics will be integrated with practical suggestions on how to manage these cases, as well as recommendations that address both safety and maintaining relationships.

S. Margaret Lee, PhD, Mill Valley, CA
Nancy W. Olsen, PhD, San Rafael, CA
Leslie M. Drozd, PhD, Newport Beach, CA


This workshop provides a robust example of mature, streamlined and judicially managed doctoral level assessment services by psychologists for the juvenile court. The model guides the assessment and reporting process from its inception among the parties during a court action; this includes the definition of the issues to be assessed, the selection of the expert, and guidelines for the report itself to ensure it is both responsive to the needs of the court and forensically defensible and understandable.

David M. Mantell, PhD, Teachers College, Columbia Univ., New Britain, CT
Marilou T. Giovannucci, MS, Connecticut Judicial Branch, Wethersfield, CT


Adolescence marks the beginning of the journey toward autonomy, and often tests adult patience and self-management. This stage of brain change is pivotal and impactful to the development of the person. This practical workshop will inspire constructive thought about decisions and choices, the role of chemistry, and the functionality of the brain’s growth in collaboration with psychological milestones. The construction of the mind will be explored and the implications this knowledge holds for mediators, therapists, evaluators and all of those who coach, guide and facilitate the development of parenting plans.

Jennifer Kresge, MA, St. Helena, CA

18. Evaluation Outcomes of Nebraska’s Parenting Act: 2015 Research Findings

What impacts have Nebraska’s 2007 Parenting Act reforms had on parents and children’s well-being, the justice system and society? To address this question, the Nebraska Supreme Court engaged a team of researchers to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the act. This session shares findings and policy implications from the National Center for State Court’s analysis of 600 custody cases; stakeholder and parent focus group interviews and surveys; analysis of court educational literature, parenting classes and parenting plans; and data on the acts cost efficiencies.

Debora Denny, JD, Office of Dispute Resolution, Nebraska State Court Administrator’s Office, Lincoln, NE
Hon. Gary Randall, Douglas County District Court, Omaha, NE
Cynthia G. Lee, JD, MPP, National Center for State Courts, Williamsburg, VA
Michael Saini, MSW, PhD, Univ. of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada

19. Working with Fathers to Improve the Well-Being of Children Exposed to their Abuse

Allegations of intimate partner violence (IPV) are common in custody disputes. While professionals are often trained to assess abuse by scrutinizing the victim-parent’s credibility, they are seldom taught to examine the allegedly abusive-parent’s attitudes, behaviors and beliefs. Little guidance exists to engage abusive parents in appropriate intervention efforts. This presentation is designed to enhance capacity to recognize IPV-related parenting problems and introduce an intervention program that helps fathers end abusive parenting, build healthy father-child relationships, and appreciate the impact of violence on children.

Larry V. Swall, JD, MARCH Mediation, Liberty, MO
Katreena Scott, PhD, C Psych, Univ. of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada
Loretta M. Frederick, JD, Battered Women’s Justice Project, Minneapolis, MN
Gabrielle Davis, JD, Battered Women’s Justice Project, Minneapolis, MN


The composition of families who appear in family court has changed dramatically in recent decades. In addition to resolving conflicts between divorcing parents, courts now routinely address child-related disputes involving unmarried parents, stepfamilies and third-party caregivers, many of whom are unrepresented. This program will explore changes in family structure and analyze the implications for family dispute resolution. Recent initiatives to address parenting time issues in state-initiated child support proceedings—programs that both respond to the “new family” and pose risks for some family members—will be discussed.

Jane C. Murphy, JD, Univ. of Baltimore School of Law, Baltimore, MD
Jana B. Singer, JD, Univ. of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Baltimore, MD
Lisa V. Martin, JD, Catholic Univ. of America Columbus School of Law, Washington, DC

Just an outstanding conference, my understanding of the field increased tenfold. I am bringing back much to my province to consider as our program development moves forward. I was very impressed with the “common ground” afforded by the conference for judges, lawyers, clinicians and academics.

— Ron Stanley, MSW, RSW, Family Court Counselor’s Office, Prince Edward Island, Canada
21. Courthouse Dogs Provide Emotional Support for Children in the Court System

This workshop will explore best practices for incorporating a dog into working with children in the court system. Courthouse dogs can provide emotional support to abused and neglected children as they navigate the criminal justice and social welfare systems or calm nerves during a custody interview, in camera interview, a juvenile’s court appearance or just walking through the court waiting room. Handled by a professional staff member, the dog provides a welcome distraction and a calming influence in stressful situations.

**Ellen O’Neill-Stephens, JD, Courthouse Dogs, Bellevue, WA**

**Celeste Walsen, DVM, Courthouse Dogs, Bellevue, WA**

**Hon. Deborah Alspach, Marion County Family Court, Marion, OH**

**Kathy Clark, MSW, PhD, Marion County Family Court, Marion, OH**

22. Giving Voice to the Adolescent Community through Youth Court Models

Youth courts are a unique diversion program in the juvenile justice system based on restorative justice models and using the power of peer influence to translate the voice of the community into the language of youth, and involve parents, schools and communities in a conversation that leads to positive outcomes. This workshop will examine six different models of youth courts found in a major metropolitan area, examining the considerations that led to their varying models and providing insights into their effectiveness.

**Mary Kay Kisthardt, JD, LLM, Tiera M. Farrow Faculty Scholar, Univ. of Missouri Kansas School of Law, Kansas City, MO**

**Daniel D. Fines, Kansas City Youth Court, Kansas City, MO**

23. Placement Considerations for Special Needs Children

Children with disabilities require special considerations in determining proper placement schedules. The needs of children with various types of disabilities will be discussed as well as implications for parenting schedules. Attendees will also learn how to help their clients obtain resources and support in the community. Issues related to child support, spousal support, and special needs trusts will be addressed. Unique areas of inquiry for custody evaluators and attorneys will also be discussed.

**Sol R. Rappaport, PhD, ABPP, Counseling Connections, Libertyville, IL**

**Carlton Marcyan, JD, Schiller, DuCanto & Fleck, Lake Forest, IL**

24. Opening the Door to Resolution by Listening to the Child’s Voice

This workshop reports on the effectiveness of the Child’s Voice Toolkit for supporting child participation in three different contexts: (1) a child protection agency; (2) a court-mandated family assessment agency; and (3) a mediation agency. Case studies generated in each of these contexts illustrate how the effective use of child participation establishes an important and necessary foundation for understanding the impact of a particular dispute on a child. The case studies explain how this understanding can be used to design and implement focused interventions embedded in the reality of the child’s experiences.

**Ronel Duchen, MA, D Litt et Phil, Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa**

**Irma Schutte, MA, Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa**

3:00pm-3:30pm   Break

3:30pm-5:00pm   Workshops 25-36

25. 1-800-SKYPE-ME: Access Disputes When Distance is the Issue

In today’s mobile society, long-distance parenting has moved from the exception to the norm. Family law professionals increasingly face cases where: (1) parents never resided in the same jurisdiction; (2) one parent relocates and an access dispute arises; and (3) the mobility/access issue is highly contested within the courts. This session provides insight from the judicial, legal and mental health perspectives into the challenges posed by these cases and includes creative solutions that consider children’s relationship and developmental needs.

**Andrea Himel, LLB, MSW, Toronto, ON, Canada**

**Hon. Debra Paulseth, Ontario Court of Justice, Toronto, ON, Canada**

**Philip Stahl, PhD, ABPP, Queen Creek, AZ**

26. Rules Rather Than Roles: Ethics for Privately Retained Experts

“Don’t think great thoughts, read the rules!” reflects the motto of privately retained experts adopting a rules-based practice style. This session will outline the contractual, ethical, legal, and moral obligations outlined in the legal and ethical rules for experts and attorneys, then review how these might change or shift at different points in the legal process. The mental health professional’s obligations as the agent of the attorney will be articulated. Differences between rules-based and roles-based practice styles will also be presented.

**Milfred Dale, PhD, JD, Topeka, KS**

**Jonathan W. Gould, PhD, ABPP, Charlotte, NC**

27. Collaborative Decision-Making in Child Welfare: Where Do We Go from Here?

Child protection mediation, family group conferencing, family team meetings, and other child welfare collaborative decision-making processes are effective in helping families, child welfare officials, and courts in reducing and eliminating disputes in child protection matters. Yet the number of programs has declined and emphasis on these processes is diminishing. Join the presenters in a “World Café” discussion format in exploring what is needed, next steps and how to get there.

**Susan Storcel, JD, Circuit Court of Cook County, Chicago, IL**

**Kelly Browe Olson, JD, LLM, Univ. of Arkansas Bowen School of Law, Little Rock, AR**

**Perri Mayes, JD, Milwaukee, WI**
The presenters will provide a protocol for understanding and assessing risk in a variety of settings, using the newest model of structured and standardized professional judgment. Discussion of the Historical Clinical Risk Management-20 (HCR 20) and the Stalking Assessment and Management models will further participants understanding of risk and stalking.

Larry Fong, PhD, Fong Ailon, Calgary, AB, Canada
Susan Clark, PsyD, Fong Ailon, Calgary, AB, Canada
Terra Taylor, Fong Ailon, Calgary, AB, Canada
Sgt. Bruce Walker, Calgary Police Service, Calgary, AB, Canada

29. Spilling Your Guts: The Impact of Disclosure on Interventions
Professionals working with court-involved children and families must pay special attention to the potential impact of disclosing, or declining to disclose, information about their intervention. This workshop will examine the impact of clinical disclosure on various legal processes and interventions, including parenting coordination, individual and family therapy and reconciliation therapy. Presenters will explore methods to maintain the therapeutic relationship with children and families and discuss how to frame the relevant clinical information in a way that mitigates damage of the intervention and maximizes usefulness to the courts.

Michelle Hayes, MSW, Successful Families, Hamilton, ON, Canada
Lourdes Geraldo, MSW, AccFM, Hamilton, ON, Canada

30. Evaluation of an Online Divorce Decision-Aiding Program
A study was conducted to assess the impact of a preparatory online decision-aiding tool for divorcing parents, in terms of reducing the demand on legal professionals and improving the outcome of divorce decisions for the long-term benefit of the children involved. This workshop will guide participants through the eight interactive modules assessed, while presenting the clinical applications and associated research results generated by representative samples of legal professionals and family counselors.

Lawrence Katz, PhD, US Dept. of Veteran Affairs, Dothan, AL
Audrey Silcox, MEd, Dothan, AL

31. Passing the Baton: Aftercare Following Intensive Family-Based Interventions
Children who resist post-separation contact with a parent present significant challenges to mental health professionals and court personnel. One trend in this area of practice is intensive, time-limited, family interventions. Aftercare is a critical aspect of program effectiveness, but considerable challenges exist when the baton is passed from intensive programs to outpatient teams. This workshop, featuring clinicians from a program specializing in family-based reunification, will discuss barriers to aftercare planning, complex case dilemmas, and strategies for overcoming these challenges.

Rebecca Bailey, PhD, Transitioning Families, Glen Ellen, CA
Cynthia Psaila, MS, Transitioning Families, Glen Ellen, CA
Abigail Judge, PhD, Cambridge, MA

32. Referral Pathways for Vulnerable Families: Court-Based Models in Australia
Relationships Australia provides information and referral services within two courts: a rural court and an urban family court. Attending families may be categorized as vulnerable, due to the presence of domestic violence. Evaluation findings indicate that referrals are more robust and that the model helps to locate and engage clients who would not have considered using a support service previously. In this workshop, the range of outcomes associated with the referral services at court will be discussed.

Silvie Calder-Hickey, Relationships Australia, Sydney, NSW, Australia
Leona Bishop, Relationships Australia, Sydney, NSW, Australia

33. Family Focused Divorce: Value of a Child Specialist
This workshop describes the function of the child specialist in the context of a variety of divorce processes, including mediation, collaborative and court-based processes. The child specialist is a mental health professional with specific training and expertise in child psychology, development and family systems, whose role is to assist parents in understanding and addressing their children’s unique needs and interests. The child specialist also provides tools to parents to promote ongoing healthy family relationships. The child specialist serves as a neutral advocate for the interest of the child and helps discern and share the child's feelings, needs and preferences in the process—supporting the concept of “voice not a choice” in the family transition and legal process.

Casey A. Holtz, PhD, Milwaukee, WI
Susan A. Hansen, JD, Hansen and Hildebrand, SC, Milwaukee, WI
Commissioner Dolores Bonrad, West Bend, WI

34. Two Program Models and Research on Parenting and Co-Parenting Skills
This workshop focuses on two methods of teaching parenting and co-parenting skills that have been implemented and studied in the US and Canada. The Supporting Father Involvement and the New Ways for Families models offer community-building and skills to families before and after separation. Program evaluations from Alberta highlight impressive results for parents and children. Presenters will discuss how these approaches to teaching parents skills can be used by judges, lawyers and communities.

Marsha Kline Pruett, PhD, ABPP, Smith College, Northampton, MA
Bill Eddy, LCSW, CFLS, High Conflict Institute, San Diego, CA
Lisa Matthews, JD, New Orleans, LA

35. Intimate Partner Violence: Guidelines for Child Custody Evaluation
AFCC, in partnership with the Battered Women’s Justice Project and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, appointed a task force to draft intimate partner violence-related guidelines for child custody evaluation. During this session participants will explore the content of the guidelines and examine the thinking behind them. Task force members will welcome questions and feedback.

Nancy Ver Steegh, JD, MSW, William Mitchell College of Law, St. Paul, MN
36. Judicial Officers Forum
Balancing a Life on the Scales of Justice: Judicial Wellness
Judges are affected by contested custody disputes, acrimonious partners, victims at risk of harm and worse. Not to mention the stress of heavy caseloads. The real costs of decision fatigue, stress, and vicarious trauma are an unstated toll of the position. In this upbeat session, attendees will learn about judicial wellness in real-life terms and learn practical ideas, large and small. The neuroscience of resilience, proven ways of reducing stress and practical ways that other judges have adopted will be the highlights of the session. Participation is limited to judicial officers.
Hon. Janice M. Rosa (Ret.), Denver, CO
Moderator: Hon. Emile Kruzick, Toronto, ON, Canada

5:15pm-6:15pm Open Forum
Child Welfare Collaborative Decision Making Network Open Forum
This Open Forum is hosted by the Child Welfare Collaborative Decision Making Network Steering Committee. All conference attendees are invited to discuss how the network can enhance and support work being done in the US and internationally to promote and sustain child protection and dependency mediation, family group conferencing, family teaming and other collaborative decision-making processes in the child welfare system. The Open Forum will be followed by an optional dine-around for those interested. Taste of New Orleans sign-up will be available near the AFCC Registration desk beginning Thursday morning. Early sign-up for the Taste of New Orleans portion is strongly encouraged, space is limited.

8:30am-10:00am Plenary Session I
Welcome: Hon. Peter Boshier, AFCC President Elect, Wellington, New Zealand
Children in the Court System: Different Doors, Different Responses, Different Outcomes
Children are at the center of a variety of legal disputes and may enter the court system through a number of possible doors. Parenting time, child support, child maltreatment, guardianship, adoption and delinquency are just a few of the possibilities. Many of these issues substantively overlap, but a coordinated approach is often lacking. The entry point can therefore prove critical in determining the course of action, the availability of resources, access to justice, and ultimately the fate of family members. This session will take a case study approach to look at how children’s futures are impacted by the door through which their family enters.
Melissa Peper Firestone, JD, Napoleon, OH
Hon. Karen Howze, Superior Court, Washington, DC
Mindy Mitnick, MEd, MA, Minneapolis, MN
Moderator: Hon. Ramona Gonzalez, La Crosse, WI

10:00am-10:30am Break
10:30am-12:00pm Plenary Session II
Welcome: Marsha Kline Pruett, PhD, ABPP, AFCC Vice President, Northampton, MA
Access to Justice: Different Strokes for Different Folks
Universal access to justice has not been achieved in most jurisdictions, but before this need can be addressed, a consensus definition of “access to justice” is needed. Does the willingness and ability to pay lawyers, mediators and custody evaluators guarantee access to justice? Does poverty necessarily preclude it? Can justice be adequately delivered by a website, a mobile phone or other technology? Can a limited relationship with a lawyer help obtain a fair result or comport with court and ethical requirements? How is sufficient access to justice measured? This panel will examine the challenges facing family members and professional communities as they strive to provide effective, affordable access to justice.
Jacquelyn L. Boggess, JD, Center for Family, Policy and Practice, Madison, WI
Hon. Peter Boshier, Family Court Judge and Law Commissioner, Wellington, New Zealand
David A. Martindale, PhD, ABPP, St. Petersburg, FL
Forrest Mosten, JD, Los Angeles, CA
Jin Ho Verdonscot, PhD, The Hague Institute for the Internationalisation of Law, The Hague, The Netherlands
Moderator: William Howe, III, JD, Gevurtz, Menashe, Larson & Howe PC, Portland, OR

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2015

6:15am-6:30am Meditation
6:30am-7:15am Yoga
7:15am-8:15am AFCC Committee Meetings
7:30am-5:00pm Conference Registration
7:30am-8:30am Coffee and Rolls
7:30am-5:00pm Exhibitor Forum
7:30am-5:00pm Poster Gallery
37. ODR and Family Justice Technology
Technology is changing every area of society, including the way we divorce. This session will connect the latest advances in online dispute resolution (ODR) to evolving best practices for family justice. This workshop will focus on the new Rechtwijzer, an end-to-end online platform for divorce and separation co-developed by The Hague Institute for the Internationalisation of Law and Modria for the Dutch Legal Aid Board. Using the Rechtwijzer as an example, presenters will discuss lessons learned from the project, as well as chart out future directions for family ODR. A primary focus of the session will be to offer insights and advice for ADR practitioners.

Jin Ho Verdonschot, PhD, The Hague Institute for the Internationalisation of Law, The Hague, The Netherlands
Colin Rule, MPP, Modria, San Jose, CA

38. Eldercaring Coordination: Opening the Door to ADR Options for Elders
As baby boomers reach age 65, the courthouse doors are likely to become jammed with more cases involving elders. The Florida Chapter of AFCC and the Association for Conflict Resolution are attempting to resolve this issue by rolling out an ADR process specific to the care and safety of elders. Using parenting coordination as a model, two task forces developed guidelines of practice, training protocols, a court project proposal, and project evaluation to responsibly initiate this dispute resolution option for elders and their families.

Linda Fieldstone, MED, Family Court Services, Miami, FL
Sue Bronson, LCSW, Milwaukee, WI
Hon. Michelle Morley, Fifth Judicial Circuit Court, Bushnell, FL

This workshop will discuss the process of reuniting a parent and child after a period of limited or suspended contact. Family court judges now order these interventions with increasing frequency. The interventions are varied and include an understanding of each individual’s perspective about the parent/child relationship followed by careful preparation and coaching of all parties. Ways in which these cases present in different settings, and how the court’s relationship with the family and therapist might bring about different outcomes will be highlighted.

John E. Baker, PhD, Cambridge, MA
Robert Coutu, PhD, Belmont, MA
Hon. Edward F. Donnelly, Jr., Middlesex Probate and Family Court, Cambridge, MA

40. Toward a Uniform Model of Screening and Safety Planning in Mediation
The presence of family violence is likely to create power differentials that make mediation more challenging. The misuse of power and control within intimate partner relationships can make any negotiation of future parenting arrangements impossible. This workshop seeks to compare models of screening and safety planning best practices from across Australia and Canada. Theory will be outlined and case examples provided of a model for ensuring safer post-separation family mediation processes.

Hilary Linton, LLM, AccFM, Riverdale Mediation, Toronto, ON, Canada
Elizabeth Hyde, LLM, AccFM, mediate393, Toronto, ON, Canada
Jon Graham, LLB, Institute of Specialist Dispute Resolution, Five Dock, NSW, Australia
Carol W. Hickman, LLM, QC, New Westminster, BC, Canada

41. Imposed Outcomes for Children: Facilitation and Arbitration in Family Law
The question of whether decisions should be imposed in relation to child-related disputes is highly divisive in both South Africa and England. This workshop explores the practical and ethical boundaries surrounding dispute resolution processes that offer imposed outcomes for children. This workshop considers why the issue gives rise to such controversy across borders, and seeks to answer some of the questions troubling these dispute resolution communities.

Felicity Shedden, BA, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, United Kingdom
Astrid Martalas, MA, Cape Town, South Africa

42. Opening the Door to Solutions in the Parenting Coordination Process
High conflict parents struggling with co-parenting adversities are often overwhelmed, desperate and stuck in what can appear to be never-ending problems. This workshop provides parenting coordinators with tools that lead to solution-focused, goal-oriented outcomes. Through exploring the parents’ interests, rather than focusing on positions, the PC helps parents learn that they have the resources and strengths to generate solutions and solve problems. The PC can help parents develop solutions that will bring on realistic, reasonable relief as quickly as possible.

Ann Marie Termini, EdS, MS, Cooperative Parenting Institute, Clarks Summit, PA
Bradley Craig, LMSW-IPR, CFLE, Between Two Homes, Grand Prairie, TX

43. Colliding Principles: Ethical Challenges in Family Mediation
What’s a mediator to do when the deal on the table seems to be terribly unbalanced, when there is a threat of violence in mediation, or when people not at the table might be harmed by the agreement? How do our core values of mediation help us when confronted with such situations? How do the model standards of practice for mediators help us to solve them? Join this workshop for an interactive discussion of ethical dilemmas and responsible mediation.

Rebecca T. Magruder, MSW, JD, St. Charles, MO
44. Unified Family Courts: The Door to One-Stop Shopping for Children and Families

This workshop will examine the theories and values that undergird Unified Family Courts (UFCs) and will explain how UFCs are designed to efficiently address the needs of families and children in court. Panelists will focus on the interdisciplinary nature of UFCs and how the UFC model empowers judges, court staff, attorneys, and court users to arrive at effective solutions to the problems that bring children and families to court.

Barbara A. Babb, MS, JD, Univ. of Baltimore School of Law, Baltimore, MD

Gloria H. Danziger, M.Phil, JD, Univ. of Baltimore School of Law, Baltimore, MD

Hon. Cathy H. Serrette, Upper Marlboro, MD

45. Advocating for Children in Parental Child Abduction Cases

The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction seeks to secure the prompt return of children wrongfully removed across international borders and to ensure that custody and access rights are effectively respected amongst contracting states. With a focus on expediency, children’s rights of participation may not be fully engaged. This workshop will explore how children’s voices may be heard, meaningful procedural protections, and advocacy tips when considering the exceptions to return under the convention.

Caterina Tempesta, LLB, Office of the Children’s Lawyer, Toronto, ON, Canada

Katherine Kavassalis, LLB, Office of the Children’s Lawyer, Toronto, ON, Canada

46. An Improved Multi-Systems Approach for Children Involved in Court Proceedings

The presenters will offer an interdisciplinary perspective on how the government services envisioned to help children and youth thrive can disadvantage those they are intended to help due to lack of communication among services. This issue comes to the forefront where court proceedings are involved. This paradox will be illustrated through snapshots of youth/children’s engagement with the child protection, youth criminal justice, education and healthcare (especially mental health-related) regimes in St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada.

Riley M. Moss, LLB, Newfoundland and Labrador Aid Commission, St. John’s, NL, Canada

Jennifer Curran, MA, LLB, Newfoundland and Labrador Aid Commission, St. John’s, NL, Canada

Ellie Jones, MEd, Thrive Community Youth Network, St. John’s, NL, Canada

47. Approaches to Parenting Time and Co-Parenting for Unmarried Parents

This workshop focuses on parents who were not married at the time of their children’s birth, the challenges they face with parenting time and co-parenting and the approaches that courts and child support agencies have developed to meet their needs. Presenters will provide: (1) an overview of the demographic characteristics of never-married parents, their parenting, and co-parenting characteristics; (2) information on how Texas addresses parenting time through the routine use of universal plans that are applied on a presumptive basis; and (3) outcome information on the Co-Parent Court in Hennepin County, which helps unmarried parents develop parenting plans as part of a comprehensive array of services that includes assistance with employment, education and case management.

Jessica Pearson, PhD, Center for Policy Research, Denver, CO

Cynthia Osborne, PhD, Univ. of Texas, Austin, TX

Alicia Key, JD, Xerox Corporation, Austin, TX

Kjersti Olson, PhD, Univ. of Minnesota Extension, St. Paul, MN

48. Unbundling Legal Services

The family law system faces a crisis in access to justice reflected in the growth of self-represented litigants in divorce and parenting disputes. Unbundled legal service—in which lawyers provide services to clients on a task-by-task basis—is an important response to this problem. This workshop will focus on the impact of unbundled legal services on family courts and private sector professional practices. Presenters will address key trends, public policy challenges and opportunities for practice development created by unbundled legal services. Participants will have an opportunity to offer input for replicable unbundling models and developments that can be part of an access to justice reform agenda.

Forrest Mosten, JD, Los Angeles, CA

Andrew Schepard, JD, Hofstra University School of Law, Hempstead, NY

Hon. Janice Davidson (Ret.), Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System, Denver, CO

3:00pm-3:30pm Break

3:30pm-5:00pm Workshops 49-60

49. Judicial Settlement Conferencing: Incorporating Early Brain and Biological Development and Addictions

This workshop will feature the video, Thinking about Your Thinking, a demonstration of a judicial settlement conference between high conflict parents, their attorneys and experts, and with a judge. The video is intended to educate the public, parents, helping professionals, educators, conflict resolvers, lawyers and judges. It provides an example of how to incorporate problem-solving skills into an early court response to a high conflict family situation with child welfare involvement.

Hon. Nancy Flatters, President, Association for Conflict Resolution, Calgary, AB, Canada
50. Including Children: A Child-Centered Continuum Model from Canada and Australia

This workshop will provide participants with an overview of a child-centered continuum model of child participation from a Canadian and Australian collaborative perspective. Participants will review four levels of child participation in non-court based interventions and learn about the strategies, skills, strengths and limitations of each level of inclusion through case examples.

Lorri Yasenik, PhD, Calgary, AB, Canada
Jon Graham, LLB, Institute of Specialist Dispute Resolution, Five Dock, NSW, Australia

51. A Pro Bono Collaborative Divorce Project

Children are often at the center of the divorce maelstrom and frequently without a voice. Low-income families have virtually no options in the divorce process. Legal aid is often unavailable and, if it is, time is limited. This session focuses on a collaborative option for low-income families. The presenter will cover how to establish a pro bono collaborative divorce project, how to staff it, how to find clients, and how to provide children a voice in the collaborative divorce process.

Joryn Jenkins, JD, Open Palm Law, Tampa, FL

52. Protective Gatekeeping, IPV and Custody Evaluation

This workshop applies the protective gatekeeping aspect of the parental gatekeeping forensic model to the context of custody disputes involving allegations of intimate partner violence. Presenters will describe how the gatekeeping analysis needs to be modified to develop parenting plans when there has been severe and/or coercive control. Coercive co-parenting will be described in terms of a restrictive gatekeeping analysis.

William G. Austin, PhD, Lakewood, CO
Susannah Smith, PhD, Telluride, CO

53. How Expert Should the Expert Be? Knowledge, Ethics, Practical Implications

Experts frequently offer opinions on service plans for families, including recommending interventions or reviewing the performance of therapists or other professionals who are already involved. What should the minimum knowledge base be for offering opinions on these issues? What should experts know about the educational, therapeutic, program/activity, and milieu approaches, and the applicable research? How can judges spot inadequate opinions on these issues, and what questions should they ask? This interdisciplinary panel will explore best practices, as well as ethical and real-world implications.

Lyn Greenberg, PhD, Los Angeles, CA
Hon. Dianna J. Gould-Saltman, Compton, CA
Larry Fong, PhD, Fong Ailon, Calgary, AB, Canada

54. Only One Childhood: Skills-Based Parent Education for Mid-Conflict Parents

Concerned that many parents mired in ongoing mid-level conflict continue to need help even after they complete the initial mandatory parent education program, a Hampshire County, Massachusetts court initiative, known as Only One Childhood, provides post-divorce and never-married parents a second didactic and experiential opportunity to develop their co-parenting skills. Parents work on their own problems with group support. Implementing the curriculum, administering the program, and program results will be discussed.

Hon. Beth A. Crawford, Greenfield, MA
Mark I. Nickerson, MSW, LICSW, Amherst, MA
Debra Quinn, MSW, JD, Springfield, MA
Hon. Gail Perlman (Ret.), Northampton, MA

55. It's All in the Architecture: A Blueprint for Successful Reunification Therapy

Court ordered reunification therapy is tough. Given the multiple obstacles inherent to the core resistance characteristic of this therapy, tactical steps both prior to and during the process, will increase the possibility of a successful outcome: a meaningful relationship for children and both their parents. This workshop will provide a blueprint for building a strong foundation and for structuring therapeutic sessions. Presenters will illustrate how appropriate design components act to support and strengthen challenging reunification therapies.

Hanita Dagan, MA, Fong Ailon, Calgary, AB, Canada
Eileen Ailon, MA, Fong Ailon, Calgary, AB, Canada

56. Parenting Capacity Assessment in CPS Cases: Evaluating the “Good Enough” Parent

Parenting capacity assessments (PCAs) are used routinely by child protection services and family courts to inform decisions about safe, responsible care of children. The cases are very often complex, involving invasive risk elements (e.g., cognitive limitations, mental illness, addictions, DV, lifestyle instability) requiring a unique approach to assessment. This session explores assessment designs to address risk elements that interfere with safe parenting, as well as the role that PCAs can play in assessing and guiding the process of restoring capacity to a “good enough” level.

Dave MacLeod, MSc, Western Psychology Services, Calgary, AB, Canada

57. Off the Mat: Yoga for Daily Professional Practice

This experiential workshop will provide self-care yoga techniques including breathing, postures, meditation, and teachings to help participants take back their physical and mental health. After discussing current research on the deleterious effects stress has on the body and mind, the participants will learn simple techniques they can implement during the day to reduce stress and restore health and vitality.

Rebecca M. Stahl, JD, LLM, Pima County Office of Children’s Counsel, Tucson, AZ
Sherry Cassedy, MA, JD, Threshold Resources, Palo Alto, CA
58. Divorce Conflict and Your Brain: Keys to Effective Couple Strategies

Couples in conflict and under stress when separating and divorcing often feel helpless to change their experience. Neuroscience findings using functional MRIs in the last decade have advanced our understanding of why conflict becomes unproductive and what might be done to harness different parts of the brain. This workshop presents implications for interacting with these litigants for judicial officers, mediators, parenting coordinators, and parent educators. Video examples of parent-teen conflict with explanations involving brain science for families experiencing stress will be shared.

Donald A. Gordon, PhD, Center for Divorce Education, Ashland, OR

59. Do Mediated Agreements Promote Shared Parenting?

This workshop will present analysis of the data from phase I and phase II of an Irish family mediation pilot 2013-2015, incorporating family mediation innovations from Canada, New Zealand and the US. The presenters will examine parenting arrangements pre-mediation and post-mediation, and discuss the factors that impact shared parenting following the breakdown of the relationship/marriage.

Roisin M. O’Shea, PhD, Waterford Institute of Technology, Waterford, Ireland
Shane M. Dempsey, MSc, Arc Mediation, Waterford, Ireland

60. When is Pornography a Risk in Family Assessments?

Allegations of the father using internet pornography, making him a risk to the children, are becoming increasingly common. Issues may vary from excessive viewing of adult pornography to specifically viewing child pornography. Using case scenarios, the known research on both child and adult pornography viewing and when it is likely to be a risk factor in child related matters will be summarized. This presentation will be candid, but tastefully presented.

Philip Watts, PhD, Univ. of Canberra, South Perth, WA, Australia

61. Children’s Voices in Divorce Cases: Online, in Court and on Camera

California law has changed resulting in greater awareness of the role children might play in divorce cases, including providing testimony. Professionals are recognizing the need for more resources on how to involve children; many see the policy changes as an opportunity to help parents better understand their children’s needs. Presenters will show the film Split featuring children talking about their experiences; demonstrate a free, extensive judicial branch-developed online parent education program; and discuss how the courts are hearing from children.

Julia F. Weber, MSW, JD, San Francisco, CA
Hon. Mark Juhas, Los Angeles Superior Court, Los Angeles, CA
Ellen Bruno, The SPLIT Outreach Program, San Francisco, CA

62. Military Families: Special Considerations in Custody Litigation

With the increased deployment of our armed services abroad, the needs of military families have become more prominent in our consciousness. This workshop will explore special considerations that are present when military families interact with family law courts and child custody is at issue.

Robert A. Simon, PhD, San Diego, CA

63. Spotlighting Children in Parenting Coordination: Research and Interventions

This workshop highlights interventions in parenting coordination practice to benefit children through improved co-parenting with a specific focus on enhancing parents’ empathy. Feedback from 30 parents and PCs regarding their experiences in completed PC processes will be presented. An existing co-parenting intervention adapted to meet the expressed unmet needs of parties in PC, with the focus on the parties’ child(ren) will be outlined. Experiences of the pilot families who took part in this intervention and professionals who worked with them will be presented.

Debra K. Carter, PhD, National Cooperative Parenting Center, Bradenton, FL
James P. McHale, PhD, USF St. Petersburg Family Study Center, St. Petersburg, FL
64. IPV and Secondary Abuse Redux
There is a misconception among some that intimate partner violence (IPV) occurs outside the awareness of the household's children. IPV affects children via secondary abuse manifested in post-traumatic stress disorders, behavioral problems, self-blame, low self-esteem, and later delinquent behaviors. This workshop will examine what constitutes a child custody evaluation that effectively evaluates the potential for secondary abuse.

Barry T. Hirsch, PhD, Marina del Rey, CA

65. Compassion Fatigue and the Reflective Brain
Stressors for family court professionals include the ever-present challenge of self-care. Family court-related professionals face daily onslaughts of unhappy clients, dysfunctional patterns of relating and pressing schedules as well as the collateral damage of stress affecting one's home life. Join a lively and interactive discussion of the intentional practice of reflection and self-care to combat the serious side effects on compassion fatigue in our work. Exercises will help participants assess temperament, life stage and career coping styles to achieve a more balanced, rewarding life, both professionally and individually. Presenters will explore the current research and work in neurobiology with specific application exploring the reflective brain and care of the soul.

Nan Waller Burnett, MA, Dispute Resolution Professionals, LLC, Golden, CO
Leslie Todd, LCSW, Strategies for Change, Baton Rouge, LA

This session will explore the results of a study observing live court-ordered parenting mediations and analyzing the impact of specific mediator strategies on outcomes, such as: (1) rate, quality and compliance with agreements; (2) parents' ability to work together; (3) parents' helpfulness about co-parenting; and (4) future rates of litigation. Special attention will be given to what these results mean for court and program administrators managing parenting mediation programs, and mediators themselves.

Lorig Charkoudian, PhD, Community Mediation Maryland, Takoma Park, MD

67. Therapeutic Reunification in Cases of Alleged Abuse: Two Child-Centered Models
Allegations of physical and sexual abuse, domestic violence, and substance abuse are often the cause of a breach in contact between the alleged perpetrator and their child(ren), and are increasingly common in high conflict divorces. Cases such as these add an extra dimension to the goal of reunification in families experiencing estrangement and alienation. Two models of therapeutic healing that were originally developed to support children and their families in other contexts are offered in this workshop as a unique adaptation for the area of estrangement and high conflict divorce. Presenters will discuss Joana Hindman's clarification model for healing the relationship between perpetrator and child, and Sandra Hewett's model, which is especially relevant where allegations were never proven and the alleged perpetrator desires a relationship with the child.

Beth H. Winters, MA, Esperero Family Center, Tucson, AZ
Susan Winder, MSW, Tucson, AZ

68. Parenting Capacity Assessments and Autism Spectrum Disorder
What is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)? How do we differentiate the impact of trauma and ASD on the child? How do we assess what the child would like? What additional skills do parents of children with ASD need to have? How best do we assess these skills? Can service involvement reduce risk? These are among the questions that this workshop will address.

Janina Szyndler, DClinPsychol, Apex Psychology, Summer Hill, NSW, Australia

69. Diverse Tools for Diverse Families: Interface of Technology and Mental Health
This workshop will focus on culture with an eye towards helping diverse families including ethnic minorities, transnational families, self-representing litigants, and same gender families. The presenters will delineate how technology can help and hinder diverse families as they experience separation and divorce. Participants will learn about a range of educational tools and mobile technologies, and how to use technology effectively.

Gitu Bhatia, PsyD, Los Angeles, CA
Linda Bortell, PsyD, South Pasadena, CA

70. Substance Abuse and Parenting: When Enough is Enough
Judges, evaluators and lawyers frequently are called upon to resolve whether there is a substance abuse issue and, if so, how it impacts parenting abilities. This workshop will examine how to assess the level of substance use and when it becomes abusive and/or addictive. Presenters will discuss the impact of substance abuse on parenting, common methods used to circumvent court oversight and testing, and how to assess the true status of a parent's "recovery."

Dawn Smith, JD, Smith & Lake, LLC, Decatur, GA
Kimberly Oppenheimer, PhD, Atlanta, GA

71. Views of the Child Report: Lawyers and Mental Health Professionals Reporting on Children's Perspectives
A Views of the Child Report (VOCR) is prepared to report on one or more interviews with a child by a lawyer or mental health professional; it is not a full assessment, but is relatively brief, focused and less expensive. The presenters will review practice methods, and report on the results of their survey of Canadian lawyers and mental health professionals who prepare such reports. Presenters will propose best practices for the preparation of VOCRs.

Rachel Birnbaum, PhD, LLM, King's Univ. College, London, ON, Canada
Nicholas Bala, LLB, LLM, Queen's Univ., Kingston, ON, Canada
John-Paul Boyd, MA, LLM, Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family, Calgary, AB, Canada
Arlene H. Henry, QC, LLB, Vancouver, BC, Canada
72. Advocacy in Child Protection Mediation: Training Toward Attorney/GAL Competencies

Attorneys and guardians ad litem must actively participate in, encourage and support parents, children, foster and adoptive parents, and others to engage and fully participate in mediation of child protection issues. This workshop will explore the essential knowledge, skills, abilities and behaviors attorneys and advocates need to effectively contribute in child protection mediation. Presenters will examine rationales for in-depth mediation advocacy training, explore curriculum elements, training delivery and outcomes, and consider how to effectively transfer learning from training to actual practice.

Laura Bassein, JD, Univ. of New Mexico School of Law, Albuquerque, NM
Beth Gillia, MA, JD, Univ. of New Mexico School of Law, Albuquerque, NM

10:45am-11:00am Break

11:00am-12:30pm Workshops 73-84

73. Diverse Gender Identity in Children: The Pitfalls of Legal Regulation

Gender dysphoria refers to an extreme unhappiness with one’s natal sex. For some child sufferers, hormone therapy is recommended. In Australia, the family court regulates access to this treatment for children under 18, regardless of the desire of parents, medical practitioners, and of course, children themselves. In pursuit of protecting children, the court creates a significant obstacle to accessing treatment. These cases demonstrate the potential pitfalls of well-intentioned legal regulation.

Felicity J. Bell, LLB, Univ. of Sydney, Sydney, NSW, Australia

74. Conflicted Custody: The Unfolding of a Professional Problem-Determined System

The custody investigation is a constantly evolving problem-determined system. The benefits of thinking consciously and in a considered manner will be explored in this session. The presenter will examine: (1) the role of the investigator in child custody evaluations with regard to the expectation of objectivity, neutrality, and professionalism; (2) the role of the “expert” versus the “expert-learner;” and (3) the investigator as participant observer and as part of the ecosystem that is under investigation. The potential of a team approach to investigations will also be explored.

Robyn Lesley Fasser, MA, D Litt et Phil, Sandton, Gauteng, South Africa

75. Moving Families Forward: A Program for Parental Alienation and High Conflict

This workshop will present strategies that move even the most difficult cases forward. The presenters will familiarize the participants with the Family Forward Reunification Program, a coordinated non-residential program for parental alienation, estrangement and high conflict. This solution is designed to provide containment, facilitate change and deal with the reality of these challenges while keeping the best interests of the child as the guiding principle. Practical tools and protocols that develop structure and movement, even in the most difficult cases, will be shared.

Alyson G. Jones, MA, Alyson Jones & Assoc., West Vancouver, BC, Canada
Shelley P. Hardy, MA, Alyson Jones & Assoc., West Vancouver, BC, Canada
Rebecca Smyth, MA, Alyson Jones & Assoc., West Vancouver, BC, Canada

76. One Family Many Doors: A Hybrid Legal Response Provides a Single Holistic Exit

This workshop will present a contested custody case during a divorce, guardianship with a relative, and a third-party custody case brought by guardians. Presenters will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the one Judge, one family rule, one evaluation, and complex mediation by a referee. The interdisciplinary panel will share their perspectives on the difficulty of resolving the case in the best interests of the children within the legal framework of conflicting statutes.

Hon. Carol Kuhnke, 22nd Judicial Court, Washtenaw County, Ann Arbor, MI
Cynthia Bostwick, JD, Ann Arbor, MI
Eugenia Patru, AM, MSW, Ann Arbor, MI

77. The LGBTQ Competency Toolbox for Family Law Professionals

When family law professionals are competent with LGBTQ issues, their competence is invisible. When they are not, their deficits are glaring, and can cause additional pain for already stressed families. This workshop is designed to help mitigate both the overt and inadvertent harm professionals can do to their clients by equipping participants with increased comfort, an ease with language, and an understanding of relevant issues. Through interactive exercises, group work and candid discussions, attendees can gain more understanding, comfort, and tools to address common issues including working with same-sex clients, clients undergoing gender transitions, gender non-normative children, and separation as a result of “coming out.”

Christine Kim, MSW, Riverdale Mediation, Toronto, ON, Canada
Karen B.K. Chan, Fluid Exchange, Toronto, ON, Canada

Save the Date!
AFCC-AAML Conference
October 1-3, 2015
Capital Hilton
Washington, DC
78. Clinical Reasoning, Problem Solving and Decision Making: Key Concepts

This workshop will present recent developments in the field of clinical reasoning, clinical problem solving and clinical decision making as they pertain to clinical and forensic mental health practitioners. Areas of emphasis will include common cognitive, clinical, and forensic errors. The session will be case-based and interactive.

Steven G. Miller, MD, Massachusetts Medical Education Group, LLP, Waltham, MA
Douglas C. Darnall, PhD, PsyCare, Youngstown, OH

79. Stepfamily Plan: Beyond the Parenting Plan

How does a stepfamily plan differ from a parenting plan? What are the different dynamics involved? At what point can the plan be introduced or be helpful? Who are the participants in creating this plan? Which extra skills does the mediator need? Come join an interactive discussion about these issues.

Kitty Duell, MAS, MediationKit, The Hague, The Netherlands

80. Is it Live or is it Memorex?

How can professionals best equip today’s parents to develop successful co-parenting business relationships? What techniques and topics help the most? What are the advantages and disadvantages of a live presentation versus an online program? Join this discussion designed to be helpful for referring judges, court staff, social workers, counselors and mediators.

Susan J. Burchfield, MS, LPCC, Van Wert, OH
Jules G. Krizan, MA, LPCC, Van Wert, OH

81. Child of Two Countries: How to Determine Where Best Interests Lie

Balancing the human rights of children not to be separated from their parents, unless their best interests require separation (UN Convention on the Rights of Children), with policies relating to immigrants and refugees, is a complex and challenging issue in custody and access as well as child protection proceedings. These children face problems regarding their custody and access, and a further dilemma concerning which country they will call home in the future. This workshop will present perspectives on issues faced by citizen children when one or both of their parents are non-status. The presenters will provide a description of the issues and possible resolutions that take best interests into account.

Catherine Bellinger, LLB, Office of the Children’s Lawyer, Toronto, ON, Canada
Ermelinda Nogueira, LLB, Toronto, ON, Canada
Maureen Silcoff, LLB, Silcoff Shacter, Toronto, ON, Canada

82. Divorce in Ireland: Children's and Young Persons’ Perspectives

This workshop will set out the historical and cultural context of divorce in Ireland and will present the findings from two research projects undertaken in Ireland, in which children and young people were asked to provide details of their experiences of parental separation and divorce, and the family re-ordering that followed. Some of the young people experienced their parents’ separation soon after divorce legislation changed in Ireland, others’ experience is more recent. Presenters will link the research findings to international literature, discuss the policy implications and lessons that can be learned from international practice as Ireland enters a third decade of divorce.

Connie Healy, LLB, PhD, Univ. of Limerick, Limerick, Ireland
Ann O’Kelly, MA, National Univ. of Ireland, Galway, Ireland

83. Two Goals: Retraining Family Lawyers and Teaching Co-Parenting in Child Custody

What makes this co-parenting class uniquely effective? Parents and attorneys both benefit. Parents learn sound co-parenting skills from attorney-teachers who know courtrooms from the inside out and discourage litigation by supporting the parents as decision-makers in the lives of their children. Attorneys learn by teaching parenting skills and guiding parents to becoming collaborative problem solvers, not just litigants.

Stephen W. Thompson, EdD, Conflict Resolutions, LLC, Hammond, LA
Patricia Hicks, JD, Conflict Resolutions, LLC, Hammond, LA
Rykert O. Toledano, Jr., JD, Toledano and Herrin, Covington, LA
Hon. Mary Clemence Devereux, 22nd Judicial District Court, Covington, LA

84. Beyond Apples and Oranges: When Domestic Relations and Child Protection Mediators Come Together

Mediators are a lot more alike than we think. Whether discussing parenting time or post-adoption contact, mediators rely on similar tools. However, more often than not mediators on one side of the courthouse don’t realize that mediators on the other side can be a valuable resource. Join mediators with experience in child protection and domestic relations, as they present scenarios that arise in both realms of family mediation and invite participants to share their own strategies and experiences.

Stephanie Senuta, MS, Cook County Child Protection Mediation and Facilitation Program, Chicago, IL
Andrew Starr, MILR, Cook County Child Protection Mediation and Facilitation Program, Chicago, IL

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July 15-17: Dallas, TX (20-24-26 hr.)
August 20-22: Australia (20 hr.)
Sept. 17-19: Las Vegas, NV (20-24-26 hr.)
Nov. 5-7: Atlanta, GA (20-24-26 hr.)
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Select “New Member Special” when completing the registration form or registering online, then register at the AFCC member rate (see page 24 for details).

In addition to these substantial savings, you will enjoy a year of AFCC member benefits including a subscription to *Family Court Review*, discounts on registration for conferences and trainings, AFCC publications, and much more!
**Important Conference Information**

**Continuing Education Credits**
AFCC will provide a certificate of attendance for a processing fee of $15 for members and $20 for non-members. Attendees may access their certificate of attendance at www.afccnet.org after the conference concludes. The certificate will verify attendance at conference sessions and may be used to apply for continuing education credits with the registrant's accrediting institution.

Instructions for obtaining your certificate will be available at the AFCC registration desk, along with a list of conference sessions eligible for continuing education credit.

**Psychologists:** AFCC is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. AFCC maintains responsibility for this program and its content. The program is eligible for up to 20.75 hours of continuing education for psychologists. All sessions are eligible except for Workshops 14, 36, 48, 72, and the Open Forum.

**Mental Health Professionals:** An application for continuing education approval from the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) will be submitted for up to 20.75 CE credits; however, individuals will need to verify approval with their credentialing or licensing boards.

AFCC is approved by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences to offer continuing education for MFT and LCSW professionals in California, PCE#4630. The pre-conference institutes provide 6 hours and the conference program provides up to 14.75 hours toward continuing education required by BBS.

**Psychologists:** AFCC is an NBCC-Approved Continuing Education Provider (ACEP#) and may offer NBCC-approved clock hours for events that meet the National Board of Certified Counselor requirements. The ACEP# is solely responsible for all aspects of the program. Up to 20.5 hours may be earned. All sessions are eligible except for Workshops 14, 36, 48, 72, and the Open Forum.

**Mediators:** All conference sessions are eligible for continuing education units through the Association for Conflict Resolution.

**California Custody Evaluators and Mediators:** Applications will be submitted to the Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts. The views expressed in the program are those of the faculty and do not necessarily represent the official positions or policies of the Judicial Council of California or the Administrative Office of the Courts.

**Ontario Lawyers and Paralegals:** An application will be submitted to the Law Society of Upper Canada to accredit the educational program content for professionalism hours (Continuing Professional Development or CPD) for lawyers.

**US Lawyers:** An application for approval of CLE credit will be submitted to The Supreme Court of Louisiana, The State Bar of Texas, The Arkansas CLE Board and the Mississippi Commission on CLE. US lawyers may use the certificate of attendance to apply to their individual state for credit.

**Audio Recording**
Conference sessions will be recorded by Digital Conference Providers, Inc. MP3 files of the session recordings may be purchased on site at the DCP exhibit table or ordered online at www.dcpprovidersonline.com/afcc after the conference concludes. No personal audio or video recording of sessions is permitted.

**Silent Auction**
The 17th Annual AFCC Silent Auction will take place Friday, May 29, immediately before the Annual Banquet. Auction proceeds help support AFCC projects and initiatives. Contributions will be recognized in the silent auction catalog and in the AFCC eNEWS. If you would like to donate an item, please contact Erin Sommerfeld at esommerfeld@afccnet.org or 608-664-3750.

**Conference Scholarships**
For more than ten years, AFCC members have helped deserving professionals and students attend AFCC Conferences by giving to the AFCC Scholarship Fund. Scholarships include pre-conference institute registration, conference registration, welcome reception, luncheon and annual banquet tickets, access to the AFCC hospitality suite, and a certificate of attendance. A limited number of scholarships include stipends to help offset the cost of travel and accommodations for recipients. Preference for scholarships with stipends is given to applicants with higher travel costs, international applicants and those who demonstrate financial need. The scholarship application is available on the AFCC website: www.afccnet.org. The application deadline is March 1, 2015. Recipients will be notified mid-to-late March.

**Exhibitor Forum**
The Exhibitor Forum will be open during conference hours and provides an opportunity to meet face-to-face with representatives and discuss your needs for products and services. AFCC publications will be available for purchase. If you are interested in renting exhibit space or distributing materials to conference attendees, please contact AFCC Marketing and Communications Manager, Erin Sommerfeld at esommerfeld@afccnet.org or 608-664-3750.

**Conference Bookstore**
UnHooked Books will sell books in the Exhibitor Forum during the conference. If you would like to have your book displayed, please contact Megan Hunter at megan@unhookedbooks.com by March 31, 2015, with “AFCC Bookstore” in the subject line.

**AFCC Hospitality Suite**
The AFCC hospitality suite will be open for informal networking and refreshment Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00pm–12:00am and Friday from 9:30pm–12:00am. Please wear your name badge. The hospitality suite location will be posted at the AFCC registration desk.

**Taste of New Orleans**
Thursday evening is your opportunity to enjoy the area with friends and colleagues. Sign up before 1:00pm Thursday and join a group of 8–12 for dinner at a local restaurant. Restaurant menus and sign-up sheets will be available onsite. Participants are responsible for food, beverage and transportation costs.

**Meditation and Yoga**
Start your day in the right frame of mind for concentration and learning! Join AFCC colleagues for morning meditation and yoga, led by AFCC members and certified yoga instructors Sherry Cassedy and Rebecca Stahl. Meditation is from 6:15am–6:30am and yoga is from 6:30am–7:15am, Thursday-Saturday mornings. Please bring your yoga mat if you have one.
Registration Information

Please read before completing your conference registration form!

AFCC Members Save up to $175 on Registration Rates:
Register and pay by March 7, 2015, to receive the lowest rates for the conference! The early bird special rates are available only to AFCC members. Not a member? Read the New Membership Special information below.

New Membership Special: Join AFCC when you register for the conference and receive a twelve-month membership for $150—a $10 discount—and save up to $175 by registering at the AFCC member rate! To join, simply select the new membership special rate on the registration form. The new membership special rate is available only to first-time AFCC members.

Pre-conference Institute Registration: Includes attendance at a pre-conference institute, refreshment breaks and institute materials. Institute registration is a separate fee from registration for the full conference.

Conference Registration: Includes all conference sessions, electronic conference materials, refreshment breaks, opening reception, luncheon, annual banquet and AFCC hospitality suite. Pre-conference institutes require a separate registration fee.

Spouse/Guest Registration: Available only to a spouse or significant other, not a business associate or staff colleague, accompanying a full-conference registrant. Includes plenary sessions, opening reception, luncheon, silent auction, annual banquet, and AFCC hospitality suite.

Conference Presenter Registration: Available only to conference presenters. Includes all conference sessions, electronic conference materials, refreshment breaks, opening reception, luncheon, annual banquet and AFCC hospitality suite. A separate registration fee is required for presenters who wish to attend pre-conference institutes.

Full-Time Student Registration: Includes all conference sessions and electronic conference materials. Meal functions are not included; however, meal tickets may be purchased separately. Registration must include proof of full-time student status. A separate registration fee is required for pre-conference institutes.

Certificate of Attendance Registration: AFCC will provide a certificate of attendance for a processing fee of $15 for members and $20 for non-members. Attendees may access their certificate of attendance at www.afccnet.org after the conference concludes. Instructions for obtaining your certificate will be available at the AFCC registration desk, along with a list of conference sessions eligible for continuing education credit.

Additional Luncheon Ticket
The luncheon is included in the conference registration fee. Additional tickets are available for $70 until May 2 and $80 after May 2. Meal ticket prices reflect the estimated cost to AFCC.

Additional Annual Banquet Ticket
The annual banquet is included in the conference registration fee. Additional tickets are available for $90 until May 2 and $100 after May 2. Meal ticket prices reflect the estimated cost to AFCC.

Special Needs
If you have dietary restrictions or other special needs, please note this on the registration form. The Hilton New Orleans Riverside’s meeting facilities, its guest rooms, common areas and transportation services are in compliance with the public accommodation requirements of the ADA.

AFCC reserves the right to cancel or substitute any presenter or session should circumstances arise beyond our control.

Travel and Lodging Information

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Make your reservations today! The Hilton New Orleans Riverside is offering a special rate to AFCC attendees of $178 per night for single or double occupancy. One night deposit plus tax is required by the hotel for all reservations. Deposits are fully refundable if cancelled 72 hours prior to your arrival date. On April 28, 2015, any unreserved rooms in the AFCC block will be released and the special AFCC rate will no longer be guaranteed. Rooms frequently sell out before the room block is released! Make your reservation online at https://resweb.passkey.com/go/afccnola2015 or call 1-800-445-8667 and request the AFCC special rate. AFCC attendees are responsible for making their own hotel arrangements.

Climate
In late May, temperatures in New Orleans range from a high of 85°F to a low of 65°F (29°/18°C) and humid. Meeting rooms and hotel facilities can be cool, so take a light jacket or sweater.

Air Travel Information
The Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY) is located approximately 15 miles from the Hilton New Orleans Riverside. International and major airline carriers provide service to the New Orleans International Airport. For more information, visit www.flymsy.com.

Ground Transportation
A taxi from the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport to the Hilton New Orleans Riverside costs approximately $33 (for 1-2 people) and takes 25-35 minutes, depending on traffic. Taxis are available outside baggage claim. New Orleans GO Airport Shuttle (airportshuttleneworleans.com) provides transportation to and from the airport. The cost is currently $20 one way or $40 round trip to the Hilton New Orleans Riverside. Tickets are sold in advance online or in the baggage claim area.

Rental Car Information
The following rental car companies are located onsite at the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport: Alamo, Avis, Budget, Dollar, Enterprise, Hertz, National, Payless, and Thrifty.

Parking
Parking rates at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside are currently $44 per night for valet with unlimited in/out privileges. Self-park is currently $35 per night with unlimited in/out privileges. Hourly parking rates are also available for attendees driving to the hotel each day.
Conference Registration Form

AFCC 52nd Annual Conference • May 27-30, 2015 • New Orleans, LA

Please register by April 24, 2015, to ensure that your name appears on the list of conference attendees included in the electronic conference materials.

Register online at www.afccnet.org

1 Please type or print clearly. This form may be duplicated.
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<td>Conference Registration – Non-member</td>
<td>$575</td>
<td>$575</td>
<td>$650</td>
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<td>Conference Presenter Rate – AFCC Member</td>
<td>$275</td>
<td>$275</td>
<td>$290</td>
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<td>Full-time Student Rate – AFCC Member (ID required. No meals included)</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$175</td>
<td>$200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full-time Student Rate – Non-member (ID required. No meals included)</td>
<td>$175</td>
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<td>$225</td>
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<td>Other Registration Rates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certificate of Attendance – AFCC Member</td>
<td>$15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certificate of Attendance – Non-member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Luncheon Ticket</td>
<td>$70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Banquet Ticket</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse/Guest Registration Rate (Meals and plenary sessions only)</td>
<td>$265</td>
<td>$265</td>
<td>$280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship Fund Donation</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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</table>

3 Institute Selections—Wednesday, May 27, 2015
If you have registered for an institute, please check only one of the following boxes:

- Pre-conference Institutes 9:00am–4:30pm
  - 1. Research-Informed Critical Decision Points for Considering IVP and Alienation in Child Custody Disputes
  - 2. Client Engagement Skills for High Conflict Families
  - 3. The Conflict Paradox: The Challenge at the Heart of Conflict
  - 4. How to Analyze, Present and Challenge Forensic Reports and Testimony
  - 5. Critical Issues in Child Development for Family and Juvenile Judges
  - 6. Child Protection Mediation: Confronting the Challenges, Getting it Right
  - 7. Mock Trial: Testimony and Examination Issues with Mental Health Professionals
  - 8. Nuts and Bolts of an Intensive Reunification Intervention When a Child Resists a Parent

4 Conference Workshop Selections
Seating is not guaranteed and will be first-come, first-served. Your selections will ensure that sessions with more attendees are scheduled in larger meeting rooms.

(Please write in one workshop number per time slot)

- Thursday, May 28 10:30am–12:00pm
  - 1–12
- Thursday, May 28 1:30pm–3:00pm
  - 13–24
- Thursday, May 28 3:30pm–5:00pm
  - 25–36
- Friday, May 29 1:30pm–3:00pm
  - 37–48
- Friday, May 29 3:30pm–5:00pm
  - 49–60
- Saturday, May 30 9:15am–10:45am
  - 61–72
- Saturday, May 30 11:00am–12:30pm
  - 73–84

5 Conference Registrant Meals
To ensure sufficient space and quantities, while reducing waste, please indicate which meals you will attend:

- Wednesday Opening Reception
  - Yes
  - No
- Thursday Luncheon
  - Yes
  - No
- Friday Annual Banquet
  - Yes
  - No

6 Method of Payment
Registrations must be paid in full prior to attendance.

- Payment of $ __________ is enclosed (US currency only please)
- Please charge $ __________ to my □ Visa □ MasterCard □ American Express □ Discover
- Card Number ___________________________
- Exp. Date _____ / _____ / ____
- Security Code ________________________
- Card Holder’s Signature ________________________

Cancellation Policy: Transfer of registration to another person may be done once, at any time without a fee. All requests for refunds must be made in writing. Written notice of cancellation received by fax or postmarked by May 4, 2015, will be issued a full refund minus a $75 service fee. Written notice received by fax or postmarked by May 15, 2015, will have the $75 service fee deducted and balance issued as a credit for future AFCC conferences, publications or membership dues. No refunds or credits will be issued for cancellations received after May 15, 2015.

You may register online at www.afccnet.org or return the completed form and payment to:
AFCC • 6525 Grand Teton Plaza • Madison, WI 53719
Phone: 608-664-3750 • Fax: 608-664-3751 • afcc@afccnet.org

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Phone: 608-664-3750 • Fax: 608-664-3751 • afcc@afccnet.org
Association of Family and Conciliation Courts
AFCC 52nd Annual Conference

NEW ORLEANS

Children in the Court System:
Different Doors, Different Responses,
Different Outcomes
Hilton New Orleans Riverside
May 27-30, 2015

Conference Sessions Include:

- Access to Justice
- Research Informed Practice
- Child Protection Mediation
- Child Development for Judges
- Children Exposed to Violence
- Managing Sexual Abuse Allegations
- Children Resisting Visitation
- Lies, Damn Lies and Statistics
- Self-Care for Judges
- Online Dispute Resolution
- The Amazing Developing Teenage Brain
- Engagement Skills for High Conflict Families

Diamond Sponsor:
OurFamilyWizard.com

Register online at www.afccnet.org