

ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY



AND CONCILIATION COURTS

11th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations Examining Unintended Consequences

November 6-8, 2014



Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa • San Antonio, Texas

AFCC is an interdisciplinary and international association of professionals dedicated to improving the lives of children and families through the resolution of family conflict.

ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONCILIATION COURTS

11th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations Examining Unintended Consequences

November 6-8, 2014

Unintended Consequences

In the twenty years since AFCC held its first Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations the field has changed dramatically. Model standards and guidelines have been developed and revised by both AFCC and the American Psychological Association. Training requirements, practice models, the emergence of consultants and ongoing debates about professional roles and responsibilities have permeated discussions among family court professionals. Are these developments good for families? Or have they led to more cost, divisiveness and acrimony? Has the bar been set too high where resources are limited? Join AFCC as we explore the unintended consequences of child custody evaluations.

So many great sessions, it's difficult to choose!

- The Relocation Case in Court
- Parenting Plans for Infants and Young Children
- The Forensic Substance Use Disorder Evaluation
- When the Evaluator Can't Recommend Either Parent
- Standardized Assessment of Children and Adolescents
- Effective Use of Research in Parenting Plan Evaluations
- Collaborative Work Product Reviews: A Concept in Search of a Method
- And many, many more!

Earn up to 16.5 hours of continuing education credit!

This conference will provide up to 16.5 hours of continuing education for psychologists, mental health professionals, lawyers, mediators, counselors, social workers and others. Applications for accreditation of continuing legal education will be submitted to the Louisiana Supreme Court Committee on Mandatory Continuing Legal Education and the State Bar of Texas. See page 2 for details.

San Antonio and the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa

Step into an atmosphere of timeless charm at Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa. Conveniently located 20 minutes west of the San Antonio International Airport, the resort offers easy access to downtown San Antonio with the peaceful charm of the Texas Hill Country. Plan a day trip through Texas Wine Country or an outdoor adventure like hiking, biking, caving, white water tubing or be a cowboy for a day. Visit famous attractions in downtown San Antonio like The Alamo, the Riverwalk and McNay Art Museum. Onsite, enjoy the 27-hole championship golf course, world class full-service spa, health club, jogging and biking trails, organized activities ranging from movies on the lawn to projects for kids, and the five-acre water playground, which includes a FlowRider wave machine, three pools and a 950' Ramblin' River.

Join AFCC Today!

Save up to \$100 on registration when you pay by October 10, 2014.

Join the premier interdisciplinary and international association of professionals dedicated to the resolution of family conflict.

AFCC is the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts—an interdisciplinary and international association of professionals dedicated to improving the lives of children and families through the resolution of family conflict.

AFCC brings together members of multiple disciplines in the private, public and nonprofit sectors from all over the world. AFCC is unique in that members do not share a common profession. Instead, AFCC members share a strong commitment to education, innovation and collaboration in order to benefit communities, empower families and promote a healthy future for children.

Join AFCC when you register for the symposium—save \$10 on your first year's membership and up to \$100 on your symposium registration. Select the "New Member Special" when completing the registration form and register at the AFCC member rate.

AFCC Member Benefits Include:

- **Family Court Review**, the quarterly academic and research journal of AFCC in print and electronic format with full access to the online archives dating back to the first issue in 1963.
- **Online Membership Directory** of over 4,900 colleagues worldwide in a searchable format.
- **AFCC eNEWS**, the monthly electronic newsletter from AFCC delivers the latest developments in the field straight to your inbox.
- **Parenting Coordination Network** listserv of AFCC members to share tips, advice, referrals, and network with others who serve as PCs or are interested in the role.
- **Substantial Member Discounts** on registration for AFCC conferences and training programs; a 15% discount on AFCC publications; and 20% discount on publications from Wiley Publishing, which includes Wiley-Blackwell and Jossey-Bass.
- **Professional Liability Insurance** through Complete Equity Markets, Inc.

Add an AFCC Chapter to Your Membership!

AFCC Chapters provide an opportunity for AFCC members to network and share their interdisciplinary view of family court matters on a local level. AFCC Chapters may sponsor roundtable discussions, conferences, newsletters and additional opportunities to get together with other AFCC members. All chapter members must belong to AFCC. There are AFCC Chapters in the following locations:

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SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa San Antonio, Texas

AFCC 11th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

Wednesday, November 5, 2014

6:00pm-8:00pm Registration

Thursday, November 6, 2014

8:00am-5:30pm Registration
8:00am-5:30pm Exhibit Forum
8:00am-9:00am Coffee and Rolls for Institute Registrants
9:00am-4:30pm Pre-Symposium Institutes
12:00pm-1:00pm Lunch (on your own)
12:00pm-4:30pm AFCC Board of Directors Meeting
5:30pm-7:00pm Opening Session
7:00pm-8:00pm Welcome Reception
9:00pm-12:00am AFCC Hospitality Suite

Friday, November 7, 2014

7:30am-5:00pm Registration
7:30am-5:00pm Exhibit Forum
7:30am-8:30am Coffee and Rolls
8:30am-10:00am General Session
10:00am-10:30am Break
10:30am-12:00pm Workshops 1-6
12:00pm-1:30pm Lunch (included)
1:30pm-3:00pm Workshops 7-12
3:00pm-3:30pm Break
3:30pm-5:00pm Workshops 13-18
5:15pm-6:15pm Open Forum—Custody Evaluation and Domestic Violence Task Force
Evening Dine Arounds
9:00pm-12:00am AFCC Hospitality Suite

Saturday, November 8, 2014

7:30am-12:00pm Registration
7:30am-12:00pm Exhibit Forum
7:30am-8:30am Coffee and Rolls
8:30am-10:00am Workshops 19-24
10:00am-10:30am Break
10:30am-12:00pm Workshops 25-30

11th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

PRE-SYMPOSIUM INSTITUTES

Separate registration fee required for institutes.

Thursday, November 6, 2014

9:00am–4:30pm

1. The Relocation Case in Court: Legal and Psychological Issues

Relocation disputes have been increasing in recent years as a result of changing parental roles, challenging economic factors and an increasingly mobile society. This interdisciplinary faculty will explore statutory and case law review of relocation across the United States; the social science literature on relocation; the role of child custody evaluations and expert witness testimony; effective ways in which the parties can present and discuss relocation pre-litigation; how and what evidence needs to be presented in these disputes; the potential for ADR options pre- and post-trial; and ideas for helping long-distance parents work together for the well-being of their children.

Philip M. Stahl, PhD, ABPP, Queen Creek, AZ

Michael Kretzmer, JD, Manhattan Beach, CA

Hon. Mark Juhas, Los Angeles, CA

2. Using Gatekeeping as a Framework to Assess and Describe Family Dynamics within the Context of Parenting Plan Evaluations

Gatekeeping has been used as a theory to describe family dynamics in separation and divorce. Originally focused on maternal behaviors that facilitate or restrict the involvement of fathers with the children, attention has shifted toward a more gender neutral framework for assessing how parents' attitudes and actions affect the involvement and quality of the relationship between the other parent and child. Rather than a set of hardline rules that govern behaviors, gatekeeping requires working hypotheses to consider the various factors that may contribute to both adaptive and maladaptive gatekeeping responses. This institute will emphasize the distinction between protective and restrictive gatekeeping. Strategies to promote facilitative gatekeeping will be discussed as well. Presenters will clarify the current trends, debates and research regarding gatekeeping and will provide participants with concrete tools to consider the various factors involved in family dynamics post separation.

Leslie M. Drozd, PhD, Newport Beach, CA

Michael A. Saini, PhD, MSW, Univ. of Toronto, ON, Canada

Nancy W. Olesen, PhD, San Rafael, CA

3. The Unintended Consequences of Performing Custody Evaluations without Using the Rorschach

Many child custody evaluations that appear to be using multiple assessment methods are actually overly reliant on self-report methods (clinical interviews, psychosocial histories, questionnaires, MMPI-2, PAI, MCMI-III), which share too much "method co-variance" to provide meaningful multiple perspectives. Using performance-based methods is essential to conducting a balanced, multi-method personality assessment. Although the Rorschach is widely used in child custody evaluations, its contributions are often underestimated. As an evidence-supported, performance-based assessment tool, it adds incremental validity to findings obtained by self-report methods. But some evaluators hesitate to use the Rorschach due to concerns about reliability, validity and insufficient training. This institute will demonstrate how the recently developed Rorschach Performance Assessment System (R-PAS) shows particular promise in addressing

such concerns. Topics will include an introduction to learning and using R-PAS in child custody evaluations, the scientific underpinnings of the R-PAS system, the particular advantages of using the Rorschach in conducting evaluations, how to cope with challenges to the admissibility and weight of R-PAS based testimony, and how to present R-PAS effectively to lawyers and judges. An illustrative case will be presented.

Robert E. Erard, PhD, Psychological Institutes of Michigan, Bloomfield, MI

4. Writing the Child Custody Evaluation Report: Integrating Forensic and Clinical Perspectives

The absence of a practical and theoretical framework for report writing is a glaring omission in the child custody evaluation field. This institute presents a framework for report writing that integrates forensic and clinical perspectives, while addressing the multiple client systems served by the report. Emphasis is given to creating a "usefulness" standard that not only serves the court, but also enhances settlement possibilities and assists the family to move forward after the completed evaluation. The institute will also offer pragmatic guidance for report writing, including approaches to organization and content, reporting of psychological test data, and ways to avoid the appearance of bias. Both comprehensive and brief focused evaluation reports will be discussed.

Daniel B. Pickar, PhD, ABPP, Santa Rosa, CA

Robert L. Kaufman, PhD, ABPP, Oakland, CA

Continuing Education Credits

AFCC will provide a certificate of conference attendance for a processing fee of \$15 for members and \$20 for nonmembers. *The certificate will verify attendance at conference sessions and may be used to apply for continuing education credits with the registrant's accrediting institution.* A complete list of conference sessions eligible for continuing education credits will be available at the AFCC registration desk.

Psychologists: AFCC is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. AFCC maintains responsibility for the program and its content. The program is eligible for up to 16.5 hours of continuing education for psychologists.

Lawyers: Applications for accreditation of continuing legal education activity will be submitted to the Louisiana Supreme Court Committee on Mandatory Continuing Legal Education and the State Bar of Texas. Lawyers may use the certificate of attendance to apply to their individual state for credit.

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

Mental Health Professionals: Continuing education approval from the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) will be submitted for up to 16.5 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-symposium institutes provide 6 hours and the conference program provides up to 10.5 hours toward continuing education required by BBS.

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 16.5 hours may be earned.

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.

11th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2014

- 8:00am–5:30pm** **Registration**
8:00am–5:30pm **Exhibit Forum**
8:00am–9:00am **Coffee and Rolls for Institute Registrants**
9:00am–4:30pm **Pre-symposium Institutes**
(separate registration fee required)
- 5:30pm—7:00pm** **Opening Session**

Welcome: Richard L. Altman, JD, AFCC President, Napoleon, OH

Town Hall Meeting: Examining the Unintended Consequences of Child Custody Evaluations

The growth and development of the custody evaluation process has resulted in a more mature field of practice. Model standards of practice, training programs and requirements, emerging consulting roles, and a wide body of professional literature have provided much grist for the mill. But what are the unintended consequences? Do these developments produce wiser parenting plans or freeze one set of policy choices as the only ethical or professional sound model—limiting innovation and different policy choices? Have they increased the time, cost and rancor involved in child custody disputes? Is the bar set too high for those in jurisdictions where the resources for comprehensive evaluations are lacking? Are retained experts just dueling hired guns exploiting parents and confusing judges or do they inform and improve self-ordering and adjudication? AFCC wants to hear from members on the current and future state of the custody evaluation field. Join us for a town hall style meeting and let your voice be heard!

Aaron Robb, PhD, Forensic Counseling Services, Frisco, TX

Hon. Dianna J. Gould-Saltman, Pasadena, CA

Jeffrey P. Wittmann, PhD, Author, Evaluating Evaluators, Albany, NY

Leslie Ellen Shear, JD, CFLS, Encino, CA

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

- 7:00pm–8:00pm** **Welcome Reception**
9:00pm–12:00am **AFCC Hospitality Suite**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2014

- 7:30am–5:00pm** **Registration**
7:30am–5:00pm **Exhibit Forum**
7:30am–8:30am **Coffee and Rolls**
8:30am–10:00am **General Session**

The Activities and Roles of Consultants: How Many is too Many?

Over the last decade the issue of role delineation and the activities of retained mental health experts in child custody litigation has provoked much discussion, but has escaped consensus. This is especially true when considering the roles and activities of mental health professionals retained by attorneys to assist in testimonial and non-testimonial capacities. The session will feature discussion by participants with differing positions on these issues. Is it advisable for one consultant to provide litigation support services and also provide testimony? What are the roles beyond trial consultant and testifying expert and what are the pitfalls? Can an expert remain objective and effective when performing more than one activity or role? The panel will discuss these and other critical questions.

David A. Martindale, PhD, ABPP, St. Petersburg, FL

Milfred "Bud" Dale, PhD, JD, Topeka, KS

Robert A. Simon, PhD, Del Mar, CA

S. Margaret Lee, PhD, Mill Valley, CA

Moderator: Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, Newton, MA

10:00-10:30am Break and Exhibitor Forum

10:30am-12:00pm Workshops 1-6

1. Parenting Plans for Infants and Young Children: A Case Study Approach

While the ideological debate about parenting plans for young children continues, practitioners in the trenches must make difficult decisions about how to approach these challenging cases. This session will employ a case study approach to using the integrated framework developed by McIntosh, Kline Pruett and Kelly for helping to determine parenting plan recommendations/decisions for infants and young children. Presenters will examine the specific factors and clinical support for their assessment that together lead them to consider different parenting plans for different families.

Marsha Kline Pruett, PhD, MSL, Smith College for Social Work, Northampton, MA

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

B.F. "Biff" Pennypacker, III, JD, Wilson, Pennypacker & Thomson, San Antonio, TX

Save the Date!
AFCC 52nd Annual Conference

May 27-30, 2015
Hilton New Orleans Riverside
New Orleans, Louisiana

11th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

2. Children Resisting Contact with a Parent: The Application of Intensive Residential Interventions

Intensive interventions for high-conflict shared custody situations, where children are resisting or refusing contact with a parent, have been developed to address cases where traditional legal and therapeutic interventions have failed. This workshop will provide clinicians and court-based professionals practical approaches and strategies to work with these vexing cases more effectively.

Matthew J. Sullivan, PhD, Palo Alto, CA

Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, Newton, MA

Rebecca Bailey, PhD, Glen Ellen, CA

3. The Forensic Substance Use Disorder Evaluation

Allegations of substance use are playing an ever-widening role in family law cases, especially as they pertain to the best interests of minor children relative to parenting time. The most basic question is whether or not a substance use problem or disorder exists. It is in such cases that a forensic substance use disorder evaluation serves the essential role of informing and guiding the court and counsel in addressing this potential risk.

Gregg Benson, MA, LCADC, Morristown, NJ

4. Effective Report Writing

This session will help participants learn how to write a useful and complete custody evaluation report allowing them to feel confident on the witness stand and ready to meet challenges from any attorney. Presenters will focus on the use of templates and other tools to ensure that every report meets the jurisdiction's standards, as well as statutes and regulatory board requirements, and best practices noted by professional organizations.

Aaron Robb, PhD, Frisco, TX

Christy Bradshaw Schmidt, MA, LPC, Dallas, TX

Blake Mitchell, PhD, Frisco, TX

5. Getting it Right: A Sophisticated Approach to Engaging IPV Perpetrators' Diverse Forms of Coercive Control and Parenting Capacities

After decades of research and practice, family court professionals generally agree that intimate partner abuse comes in many different shapes and sizes and impacts families in many and varied ways. The challenge comes in differentiating the nature, context and implications of abuse—and accounting for those differences in family court decision-making. This interactive workshop explores the contours of coercive controlling abuse and distinguishes coercive control from other forms of abuse. It suggests strategies for accounting for the unique implications of coercive control for parenting, co-parenting, and the health, safety and welfare of parents and children who are affected by it.

Gabrielle Davis, JD, Battered Women's Justice Project, Minneapolis, MN

Loretta M. Frederick, JD, Battered Women's Justice Project, Minneapolis, MN

Fernando Mederos, EdD, Massachusetts Department of Children & Families, Jamaica Plain, MA

6. Advances in the PC-3: Research Update and Future Directions

This session will focus on current progress and future directions of the Parenting Competence 3 (PC-3), a previously published parenting skills assessment model. Since its original publication, the PC-3 has evolved into a structured professional judgment tool format that incorporates additional factors and evaluation considerations. The new tool is currently being empirically evaluated in a pilot study to ensure the feasibility and appropriateness of the re-conceptualized measurement domains. The presenters will provide an overview of this comprehensive approach to child custody evaluations and its potential uses, as well as discuss the pilot study and future research directions. This session will also include a discussion of the importance of assessing the unique needs of each child, specific parent attributes and deficits, and how those factors impact parenting and parent-child fit.

David Weinstock, JD, PhD, Scottsdale, AZ

John Moran, PhD, Phoenix, AZ

Amanda D. Zelechowski, JD, PhD, Valparaiso, IN

12:00pm–1:30pm Lunch (included)

1:30pm–3:00pm Workshops 7-12

7. When the Evaluator Can't Recommend Either Parent

This workshop will address an unintended outcome of a custody evaluation, when both parents are significantly compromised in parenting abilities and the evaluator cannot recommend shared parenting or either parent for custody of their children. The presentation will bridge the gap between custody evaluations and evaluations for child maltreatment by identifying risk factors, psychopathology, substance abuse, test results, extant research and treatment provider's reports to be used in formulating an empirically informed recommendation for the court.

Frank R. Ezzo, PhD, ABPP, Cleveland, OH

8. Courtroom Psychology: How to be a Good Witness and Survive in the Courtroom

Mental health professionals are increasingly being called upon to testify in court as evaluators, or as experts retained to review a colleague's work or to provide didactic testimony to the court. How well the mental health professional is prepared is often critical to the court's perception of the credibility of the testimony. This workshop is designed to demystify the trial process. Presenters will address issues such as body language and its perception; importance of what is said and how it is said; demonstrative evidence and its effective presentation; the trial as theatre; establishing a level of comfort in the courtroom; preparation for direct examination; responding to vigorous cross examination and protecting yourself in the witness box (when no one else will).

Lawrence Jay Braunstein, Esq., White Plains, NY

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

11th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

9. Collaborative Work Product Reviews: A Concept in Search of a Method

Negative work product reviews presented by persuasive retained reviewers may result in the wholesale rejection of findings, some of which might have been helpful to the court. When this occurs judges are left to either make their decisions, unassisted by evaluator input, or to authorize the performance of another evaluation. Presenters will introduce the concept of the collaborative work product review, discuss the obstacles to implementing such a process, and seek means by which to overcome these obstacles.

David A. Martindale, PhD, ABPP, St. Petersburg, FL

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

10. Beyond Diagnoses: The Meaning of Mental Problems in Custody Disputes

Contested custody/parenting time cases often include concerns about parents' mental health. This workshop, intended for attorneys, mediators, evaluators and judicial officers, will focus on the impact of mental health issues on parenting. The implications for parent-child relationships and the recommendations that need to be included in the evaluation report will be examined. Presenters will also discuss effective representation of clients with mental health issues and how judicial officers can best utilize information provided to them.

Mindy Mitnick, EdM, MA, Edina, MN

Kevin McGrath, JD, Minneapolis, MN

Scott Rodman, JD, Minneapolis, MN

11. In the Best Interest of Whom? When the Disclosures of Children are Exposed

Interviews with children are important in child custody outcomes. Children are reluctant to disclose sensitive information due to their fear of hurting feelings or retaliation. These fears are not unfounded since parents and their attorneys may have access to final reports containing the very information that should be protected for the sake of the child. This session will explore the inherent dilemma associated with handling children's disclosures, particularly when the information could cause problems in the family system.

Ann Ordway, JD, PhD, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison, NJ

Ruth O. Moore, PhD, LPC, Savannah, GA

Arielle C. Feldman, Madison, NJ

12. When Child Welfare Comes Knocking

Child abuse is a growing concern in our society and child welfare agencies are quick to investigate abuse allegations. Allegations of child abuse are not unusual in high conflict custody cases, which can lead to many unintended consequences. Sometimes the reporting parent becomes the person of interest. In many cases, the child abuse investigator recommends and implements a child safety plan with no court oversight. How do you deal with the case if your client has restricted access to the child? How do you work with investigators who refuse to talk to parent attorneys?

Judith A. Algeo, MA, JD, Eastburn & Gray, Doylestown, PA

John Shanken-Kaye, PhD, Associates for Counseling and Educational Services, Doylestown, PA

3:00pm–3:30pm Break and Exhibit Forum

3:30pm–5:00pm Workshops 13-18

13. Working Across Disciplines: Conversations from the Task Force on Domestic Violence and Child Custody Evaluation

An interdisciplinary group of family law professionals began meeting in 2011 for the purpose of writing intimate partner violence-related guidelines to supplement the *AFCC Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluation*. During regular meetings, conference calls, and email exchanges, task force members gained awareness of the different ways that mental health professionals, domestic violence advocates, and lawyers frame their work. In this session, task force members will explore tensions, assumptions, and misunderstandings that came to light in the context of custody evaluations involving intimate partner violence—these include different understandings of vocabulary, analytical processes, roles, and areas of expertise.

Facilitator: Nancy Ver Steegh, JD, MSW, Reporter, Task Force on Domestic Violence and Child Custody Evaluations, St. Paul, MN

14. Religious and Cultural Issues in Custody and Parent Time Disputes

Cross-cultural custody disputes require a thorough understanding of psychological issues that is often beyond the experience of the involved professionals. Using a recent case in which a court was called upon to resolve a custody dispute between FLDS (Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints) mothers and a former member father, this workshop will use the presenters' real-world experiences to help professionals develop and implement culturally competent plans of action applicable to all custody and parenting time disputes.

Rodney Parker, JD, Snow, Christensen & Martineau, Salt Lake City, UT

Matthew Davies, PhD, Murray, UT

15. Executive Function and Emotional Intelligence of Parents and Children

This workshop will describe both clinical and child custody theory and research on executive function and emotional intelligence. These constructs add valuable information to child custody evaluations and parenting plan assessments. The measurement of these constructs avoids the pitfalls associated with the typical self-report psychological test used in evaluations and assessments. Participants will learn how to implement the research support for appropriate measurement of executive function and emotional intelligence of parents and children.

Allan Posthuma, PhD, ABPP, Vancouver, BC, Canada

16. The Rorschach? Seriously!

The Rorschach is frequently used in custody evaluations, but some evaluators have doubts about whether using it is worth the trouble and worry of facing challenges to admissibility or vigorous cross-examination because of published criticisms of the instrument. This workshop will provide an introduction to the new Rorschach Performance Assessment System, demonstrate how it addresses such concerns, describe its unique contributions in child custody evaluations, explain how to cope with challenges to R-PAS guided testimony, and provide a case example.

Robert E. Erard, PhD, Psychological Institutes of Michigan, Bloomfield, MI

S. Margaret Lee, PhD, Mill Valley, CA

Daniel Pickar, PhD, ABPP, Santa Rosa, CA

11th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

17. Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse in Custody Litigation: Memory and Behavior

Custody evaluators commonly use varying knowledge bases to assist them. Some knowledge bases that might be of help in assessing allegations of child sexual abuse; however, are less typically employed. Among these are research on the substantial and growing literature on child cognition and memory, and base rates of behavior problems demonstrated by children. Ways in which the most recent developmental research in these areas can be addressed in evaluations for child custody with sexual abuse allegations will be examined.

Kathryn Kuehnle, PhD, Evanston, IL

Pamela Ludolph, PhD, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

18. From Informed Consent to Final Report: The Nuts and Bolts of Custody Evaluations

Developing a system for custody evaluations is necessary to produce quality work that will both minimize ethical troubles and maintain a stream of ongoing referrals. This beginner-level workshop takes participants through crafting a detailed informed consent agreement, following structured interviews, and developing a format for writing a comprehensive, yet succinct report.

Todd Bennett, PhD, Cornerstone Psychological Associates, Boise, ID

5:15pm–6:15pm **Open Forum—Custody Evaluation and Domestic Violence Task Force**

Evening **Dine Arounds**

9:00pm–12:00am **AFCC Hospitality Suite**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2014

7:30am–12:00pm **Registration**

7:30am–8:30am **Coffee and Rolls**

8:30am–10:00am **Workshops 19-24**

19. Access to Forensic Reports: Due Process and Dangerous Dissemination

In the context of a bill pending in New York State to facilitate greater transparency of child custody evaluations, this workshop will compare and contrast the unintended consequences of both restricting access to forensic reports and allowing litigants full access to these evaluations, including the potential risks of internet publication. This issue will be considered from the judicial, mental health and legal perspectives, informed by a survey of worldwide practices. The rights of parents and needs of children will be examined.

Paul Hymowitz, PhD, New York, NY

Hon. Jane Pearl, NY State Family Court, New York, NY

Karen B. Rosenthal, JD, Bender, Rosenthal, Isaacs, Richter, LLP, New York, NY

Sherill R. Sigalow, PhD, New York, NY

20. Assessment of Child Protection Risk: Never Just a Yes or No Question

Family courts and child protection services are increasingly making use of parenting assessments in situations where there are elements of risk that impact the parent's ability to provide safe and responsible care for the children. This workshop challenges a prevalent all-or-nothing concept of child protection risk, favoring instead the concept of degrees and nuances of risk. It offers a theoretical approach focused on situation-specific variables and factors to underpin assessment recommendations in order to manage risk.

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

21. Effective Use of Research in Parenting Plan Evaluations

Evidence based on the best available social science research should be the foundation for testing hypotheses within parenting plan evaluations. Although methodological perfection is not a realistic threshold for determining the inclusion scientific evidence, evaluators need critical tools to distinguish evidence from junk science, pseudoscience and advocacy-scholarship when making inference of the research to a specific case. This workshop will assist evaluators to probe behind the numbers, identify advocacy-based research and to consider the transferability and generalizability of findings relevant to parenting plan evaluations in general and to a specific case. Strategies will be offered to augment research literacy and evidence-based decision making.

Leslie M. Drozd, PhD, Newport Beach, CA

Nancy W. Olesen, PhD, San Rafael, CA

Michael A. Saini, PhD, MSW, Univ. of Toronto, ON, Canada

22. Recognizing the Chameleon Child: A Process-Oriented Evaluation Protocol

Conventional focus on a child's presentation within each of a series of interviews and observations fails to account for how the child manages change. This workshop introduces a protocol of back-to-back interviews which afford both content (within) and process (between) observations that can be critical to custody assessment. Case examples are provided so as to illustrate the needs of the "chameleon child."

Benjamin D. Garber, PhD, Nashua, NH

23. Ethical Controversies in Child Custody Cases: Missing the Forest for the Trees

When do our narratives and interpretations color our attention to core ethical issues? What is the range of guidelines, standards, professional literature and law that we should consider when defining our own roles and responding to the work of others? What precautions are needed to avoid perceptual errors and bias? The presenters will examine core ethical and professional practice concepts, applying them to current controversies and suggesting a decision-making process to promote high level practice while minimizing harm and unintended consequences.

Lyn Greenberg, PhD, ABPP, Los Angeles, CA

Larry Fong, PhD, Calgary, AB, Canada

Eric J. Bernstein, PsyD, Pittsburgh, PA

11th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

24. General Practice Child Custody Work in Rural or Large Geographic Areas

Child custody evaluations and other work in the best interests of children of separation and divorce may be complicated by distance, small town cultures, long-standing clan alignments, low income, a judicial system with no family courts, and the relative lack of experts. These problems can be overcome by creative long-distance communication systems, careful preparation, a well-defined pre-evaluation memorandum of understanding, and a realistic utilization of the community resources that are available.

Christopher P. Hahn, PhD, Bozeman, MT

10:00am–10:30am Break and Exhibitor Forum

10:30am–12:00pm Workshops 25-30

25. Seen but Not Heard: Moving Beyond Quieted Children in the Middle

This multidisciplinary panel will explore the complex subject of child participation in court processes, provide insights and techniques for mediators, mental health professionals, lawyers and judges, and examine questions including: What should be considered in deciding whether to interview a child? What interview techniques are available? How does participation in court processes affect children? What role should mental health professionals play in getting children's voices to courts? How should we balance protection of children from litigation against their desire to be heard? How can we provide for safe child participation while respecting parents' due process rights?

Stacey Platt, JD, Loyola Univ. Chicago School of Law, Chicago, IL

Melanie R. Bennett, MS, LAMFT, Arizona Superior Court, Pima County, Tucson, AZ

Hon. Dean Christoffel, Arizona Superior Court, Pima County, Tucson, AZ

26. Case Review and Analysis: A Cost Effective Means of Custody Dispute Resolution

Litigants often wish for the services of an expert, but do not have the means to engage either a custody evaluator or a consultant to conduct an extensive work product review. This workshop will describe a service for such litigants that combines document review with instruction in regard to the professional literature. The expert may provide this service either directly to the retaining attorney or in appropriate testimony to the court. The advantages and limitations of the service will be explicated.

Pamela S. Ludolph, PhD, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

William G. Austin, PhD, Lakewood, CO

27. Standardized Assessment of Children and Adolescents in Child Custody Evaluations

Standardized tests can improve the custody evaluator's understanding of the psychological and developmental needs of children and adolescents. This workshop will review the administration, scoring, and interpretation of commercially available instruments such as the BASC-2, CBCL, and PARQ in child custody evaluations. The importance of using multiple raters in child assessment will be discussed as well as the pros, cons and admissibility of these tools.

Karen K. Shelton, PhD, Charlotte, NC

Sol Rappaport, PhD, ABPP, Libertyville, IL

28. Counselors in the Courtroom: How to Survive and Thrive in the Courtroom

This workshop is designed to provide general professional knowledge about the many legal implications of a counselor's professional therapeutic relationship with clients, and to assist with their role as an expert and non-expert witness at trial. Presenters will discuss how to prepare for court and other hearings, understand and avoid dual professional roles in the courtroom, understand the trial process and the counselor's role in legal proceedings. Tips on how to prepare for hearings and provide effective testimony will be discussed.

Michael Puhl, JD, Puhl, Berbarie & Hewett, McKinney, TX

Sean Stokes, PhD, LPC-S, Lifeway Counseling Center, Denton, TX

29. Countertransference Challenges in Conducting Child Custody Evaluations

This workshop will address the emotional challenges that custody evaluators face. Specifically, it will examine the enormous pressures that feuding parents place on custody evaluators, and how the structure of these evaluations and their implied impartiality can lead evaluators to underplay the emotional forces that affect them. The workshop will use detailed vignettes from three different custody evaluations to illustrate the issues at hand.

Joshua Ehrlich, PhD, Ann Arbor, MI

30. Parent Experiences in Shared Parenting: Implications for Custody Investigations

This presentation represents the findings of a phenomenological study that explored the experiences of separated and divorcing parents to understand how they perceive and experience their ability to make decisions together as it concerns child custody. The five themes that emerged from the analysis are presented in a framework. The findings of the study are then compared and contrasted with the methods used in custody and access investigations, illuminating the role of power.

Beth Archer-Kuhn, MSW, Windsor, ON, Canada

Julie Carter, MSW, Windsor, ON, Canada

Of Special Note

Audio Recordings

Conference sessions will be recorded by Digital Conference Providers, Inc. MP3 downloads of the sessions may be ordered online at www.dprovidersonline.com/afcc after the conference concludes. No personal audio or video recording of sessions is permitted.

Scholarships

A limited number of scholarships are available. Scholarships include pre-symposium institute registration, symposium registration, welcome reception, Friday's luncheon, the AFCC hospitality suite and a certificate of attendance. Recipients are responsible for funding any additional expenses including travel and lodging. The scholarship application is available on the AFCC website: www.afccnet.org. **The application deadline is September 4, 2014.** Recipients will be notified mid-to-late September.

Registration Information

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

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

Symposium Registration: Includes all conference sessions, electronic conference materials, refreshment breaks, welcome reception, Friday's luncheon and AFCC hospitality suite. *Pre-symposium institutes require a separate registration fee.*

Travel and Lodging Information

Hotel Information

Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa
9800 Hyatt Resort Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78251
Phone: 210-647-1234
Toll free: 888-421-1442

Step into an atmosphere of timeless charm at Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa. Built on 300 acres of the historic Rogers-Wiseman family ranch, the resort offers casual luxury—the perfect blend of AAA Four Diamond pampering and the natural beauty of the Texas Hill Country.

Make your reservations today! Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa is offering a special rate of \$159 per night for single or double occupancy. The resort fee is waived for reservations made under the AFCC special rate and includes in-room wireless and wired internet, access to the health club and tennis courts, local and toll-free phone calls, bicycle rental, chipping and putting greens, golf club storage, full access to the golf practice facility, preferred golf tee times, complimentary personalized golf bag tag (claim at the golf shop), outdoor activities, and complimentary self-parking. On October 11, 2014, any unreserved rooms in the AFCC block will be released and the special AFCC rate will not be guaranteed. Hotel rooms may sell out before the reservation deadline. Make your reservations by calling 888-421-1442 and requesting the AFCC special rate or reserve online by visiting www.afccnet.org and clicking the reservations link. AFCC attendees are responsible for making their own lodging arrangements.

AFCC Hospitality Suite

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

Dine Arounds

Friday evening is your opportunity to dine out with friends and colleagues. Sign up on site before 1:00pm on Friday and join a group of 8-10 for dinner at a local restaurant. Participants are responsible for food, beverage and transportation costs.

Special Needs

If you have dietary restrictions or other special needs, please note this on the registration form. The Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa meeting facilities, its guest rooms, common areas and transportation services are in compliance with the public accommodations requirements of the ADA.

Symposium Presenter Registration: Available only to symposium presenters. Includes all conference sessions, electronic conference materials, refreshment break, welcome reception, Friday's luncheon and AFCC hospitality suite. *A separate registration fee is required for presenters who wish to attend pre-symposium 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. *Separate registration is required for pre-symposium institutes.*

Certificate of Attendance: AFCC will provide a certificate of attendance for a processing fee of \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. You will receive instructions for obtaining your certificate at the AFCC registration desk, along with a list of conference sessions eligible for continuing education credit.

Air Travel Information

The San Antonio International Airport (SAT) is located approximately 17.5 miles from the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa. The airport has 2 terminals, 13 domestic and international airlines provide regular commercial service and over 30 non-stop domestic and international destinations. Airport information can be found at www.sanantonio.gov/sat.

Ground Transportation

A taxi from the San Antonio International Airport to the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa costs approximately \$35 and takes 20-30 minutes, depending on traffic. Taxis are available on the lower level, outside baggage claim. San Antonio GO Airport Shuttle (www.citytoursinc.com/airport-shuttle) provides transportation to/from the airport. The cost is approximately \$42 one way or \$68 round trip to the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa. Tickets are sold in advance online or at the baggage claim area.

Rental Cars

The following rental car companies are located near the San Antonio International Airport: Advantage, Alamo, Avis, Budget, Dollar, Enterprise, Firefly, Hertz, National and Thrifty. Car rental counters are located in Terminal A and provide shuttle service to the car rental facility.

Parking

Valet parking is \$21 per night for overnight guests and \$11 for day only. Day parking allows for up to 4 hours. Parking beyond the 4 hours is subject to the full rate of \$21. One complimentary self-park space is available per paid occupied room. For driving directions to the resort, visit hillcountry.hyatt.com/en/hotel/our-hotel/map-and-directions.html.

Climate

In early November, average temperatures range from the high 70s to low 50s. Meeting rooms, restaurants and hotel facilities can be cool, so take a light jacket or sweater.

Registration Form

AFCC 11th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations • November 6-8, 2014 Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa • San Antonio, Texas

Register online at www.afccnet.org

Please register by October 10, 2014, to ensure that your name appears on the list of Symposium attendees in the conference materials.

Please type or print clearly. This form may be duplicated.

First Name, (Dr./Mr./Ms./Judge) _____ M.I. _____ Last Name _____ Degree _____

First Name or Nickname (As you would like it to appear on your name badge) _____

Title/Profession _____ Organization _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Country _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Is this your first AFCC Conference? Yes No Do you have any dietary restrictions or other special needs? Luncheon Access Other

Please provide details: _____

Please select appropriate amount(s) when making your selection and total at the bottom

**Paid by
Oct. 10** **Paid After
Oct. 10**

New Member Special

Join AFCC for 12 months and register at AFCC member rates! For first time members only.

\$150 \$150

Pre-symposium Institutes (separate registration required)

Pre-symposium Institute, AFCC Member

\$150 \$170

Pre-symposium Institute, Non-Member

\$180 \$210

Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

Symposium, AFCC Member

\$305 \$335

Symposium, Non-Member

\$370 \$385

Symposium Presenter, AFCC Member

\$215 \$235

Symposium Presenter, Non-Member

\$225 \$245

Friday's Lunch: Additional Ticket

\$ 50 \$ 50

Full-time Student, AFCC Member
(ID required, meals not included)

\$135 \$160

Full-time Student, Non-Member
(ID required, meals not included)

\$160 \$185

Certificate of Attendance, AFCC Member

\$ 15 \$ 15

Certificate of Attendance, Non-Member

\$ 20 \$ 20

TOTAL: \$ _____ \$ _____

Pre-symposium Institute Selections (separate registration required)

Thursday, November 6, 2014, 9:00am-4:30pm

If you have registered for an institute, please check only one of the following boxes:

- 1. The Relocation Case in Court: Legal and Psychological Issues
- 2. Using Gatekeeping as a Framework to Assess and Describe Family Dynamics within the Context of Parenting Plan Evaluations
- 3. The Unintended Consequences of Performing Custody Evaluations without Using the Rorschach
- 4. Writing the Child Custody Evaluation Report: Integrating Forensic and Clinical Perspectives

Symposium Workshop Selections (Please write in one workshop number per time slot)

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.

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------|
| Friday, November 7 | 10:30am-12:00pm | Workshop 1-6 | _____ |
| Friday, November 7 | 1:30pm-3:00pm | Workshop 7-12 | _____ |
| Friday, November 7 | 3:30pm-5:00pm | Workshop 13-18 | _____ |
| Saturday, November 8 | 8:30am-10:00am | Workshop 19-24 | _____ |
| Saturday, November 8 | 10:30am-12:00pm | Workshop 25-30 | _____ |

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 _____

Purchase Order # (if applicable) _____

**You may register online at www.afccnet.org
or return completed form and payment to:**

AFCC

6525 Grand Teton Plaza
Madison, WI 53719
Phone: 608-664-3750
Fax: 608-664-3751
Email: afcc@afccnet.org

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 October 13, 2014, will be issued a full refund minus a \$60 service fee. Written notice received by fax or post-marked by October 27, 2014, will have the \$60 service fee deducted with the balance issued as a credit for future AFCC conferences, publications or membership dues. No refunds or credits will be issued for cancellations received after October 27, 2014.

AFCC

6525 Grand Teton Plaza
Madison, WI 53719

**AFCC 11th Symposium on
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**11th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations
Examining Unintended Consequences**

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