

ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY



AND CONCILIATION COURTS

# 10th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

Research and Practice:  
Bridging the Gap and Finding the Balance

November 1-3, 2012



**Arizona Grand Resort • Phoenix, AZ**

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

## 10th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations Research and Practice: Bridging the Gap and Finding the Balance

November 1-3, 2012

Social science research has become increasingly prominent in child custody evaluations creating greater demands on professionals of all disciplines. But does research give us the answers we are looking for or simply provide more fodder for disagreement? This year's Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations will help custody evaluators, judges, lawyers and all family court professionals to gain a better understanding of the latest research and its applications to child custody evaluations and to the family court process.

### Why Should You Attend this Program?

- Presentations by the leading researchers on the impact of divorce on children, child sexual abuse, intimate partner violence, fatherhood, parenting time and more!
- The latest information and innovations on addressing alienation, high conflict, domestic abuse and other challenging issues.
- Ethics and risk management.
- Participate in AFCC networking and increase your involvement with AFCC.

### Continuing Education

This conference will provide up to 16.5 hours of continuing education for psychologists, mental health professionals, mediators, and others. AFCC is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. AFCC is also approved by the California Board of Behavioral

Sciences (CA BBS) to offer continuing education for MFT and LCSW professionals in California. Applications will be submitted to the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), to the National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc. (NBCC) and the Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts toward continuing education requirements for custody evaluators under California Rules of Court, rule 5.225.

### Phoenix and the Arizona Grand

The Arizona Grand Resort is located at the base of South Mountain Preserve in Phoenix, six miles from the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. Onsite activities include a 4-star rated 18-hole golf course with practice and driving range, a 20,000 sq. ft. athletic club with a heated lap pool and full-service spa and salon, 60 miles of hiking and biking trails and dining options that include a Mexican Cantina, American Grill and authentic Western Steakhouse.

Phoenix is a mixture of cosmopolitan centers, museums and skyscrapers, hiking trails and casinos, arboretums and botanical gardens, emerald green golf courses and relaxing spas, boutiques and fashionable malls, Old West charm and Southwestern art and jewelry. You can get around downtown Phoenix and some of the area's top attractions via light rail, taxi cab or rental car. In addition to Phoenix, nearby communities include Scottsdale, Tempe, Mesa and Chandler. Phoenix is America's fifth-largest city, approximately two hours from the red rocks of Sedona and less than five hours from the Grand Canyon.

## Join AFCC Today!

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 conference, and receive a one-year membership for only \$150—a \$10 discount—and register at the AFCC member rate. Select the "New Member Special" when completing the registration form and register at the AFCC member rate. You may also register and join online at [www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org).

### 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 1963.
- **Online Membership Directory** of over 4,500 colleagues worldwide in a searchable format.
- **AFCC eNEWS**, the monthly electronic newsletter from AFCC that 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.
- **Member discounts** on AFCC conferences, training programs and publications, Wiley-Blackwell publications, and professional liability insurance from Complete Equity Markets, Inc.

[www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org)

# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

## Arizona Grand Resort Phoenix, Arizona

### AFCC 10th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

#### Wednesday, October 31, 2012

6:00pm-8:00pm Registration

#### Thursday, November 1, 2012

8:00am-7:00pm Registration  
8:30am-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  
7:00pm-8:30pm Opening Session  
8:30pm-9:30pm Welcome Reception  
9:30pm-12:00am AFCC Hospitality Suite

#### Friday, November 2, 2012

7:30am-5:00pm Registration  
8:00am-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)  
1:45pm-3:15pm Workshops 7-12  
3:15pm-3:30pm Break  
3:30pm-5:00pm Workshops 13-18  
Evening Taste of Arizona  
9:00pm-12:00am AFCC Hospitality Suite

#### Saturday, November 3, 2012

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

## AFCC Board of Directors

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### AFCC

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# 10th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

## PRE-SYMPOSIUM INSTITUTES

Separate registration required for institutes.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2012**

**9:00am–4:30pm**

### 1. Accounting for Domestic Violence in Child Custody Evaluations: Innovations in Practice

The challenge for custody evaluators in cases involving domestic violence is to identify the violence, understand its features and context, determine the implications of the violence for parenting, if any, and develop recommendations that account for those implications. This interactive institute will introduce several recently developed tools to aid evaluators and family court practitioners in addressing the needs of individual families so that children and adults are protected, abusive parents have appropriate parental access, and justice is served.

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

**Chic Dabby**, Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence, San Francisco, CA

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

**Nancy W. Olesen, PhD**, San Rafael, CA

### 2. Custody Evaluations and Risk Management

This institute, which will be useful to both new and experienced evaluators, focuses on adherence to professional standards and guidelines; minimizing litigant animosity; meeting the needs of the family, the court, and the attorneys, and, thereby, reducing the risk of complaints. From initial pre-evaluation contact through the evaluator's appearance as an expert witness, specific risk-reduction procedures will be presented in detail. Extensive written material will also be provided. Topics include: preparation of agreements for the evaluation and testimony; selection of assessment instruments; effective use of available records; dealing with non-party participants (significant others); and preparing reports likely to be useful either in settlement endeavors or at trial. The American Professional Agency offers a 5% premium reduction to attendees.

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

### 3. Advanced Testing: Using Research to Guide the Use of Psychological Testing in Custody Cases

This advanced institute will focus on how research helps inform the test selection and test interpretation in family law cases. The institute will begin with a discussion of the anatomy of a research study to develop a framework from which to appraise such studies focusing on psychological testing. Discussion will include the latest research regarding reliability and validity of commonly used psychological tests for family law cases, with the ultimate goal of providing interpretations that are research-based and can withstand evidentiary challenges (i.e., *Daubert*). Participants should have a working knowledge of research methodology and psychological test usage.

**James R. Flens, PsyD, ABPP**, Brandon, FL

### 4. Evidence and Testimony in Child Custody Evaluations

Participants in this institute will learn about the fundamental rules of evidence and related concepts that govern how forensic psychologists present their work and opinions via sworn testimony. Topics include: introductory concepts and legal terminology, the hearsay rule and the exceptions most commonly encountered by expert witnesses, the general rules governing expert testimony, issues of evidentiary reliability under *Frye* and *Daubert*, the purpose and scope of direct and cross-examination, and effective strategies for communicating one's expert opinions in legal proceedings.

**Timothy M. Tippins, JD**, Albany, NY

## Continuing Education Credits

AFCC will provide a certificate of conference attendance for a processing fee of \$15 for members and \$20 for nonmembers. Attendees requesting a certificate of attendance must also fill out and return a verification of attendance form that will be provided at the conference. The certificate will verify attendance at conference sessions and may be used to apply for continuing education credits with the registrant's accrediting institution.

**Psychologists:** AFCC is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. AFCC maintains responsibility for the program and its content. All pre-conference institutes and sessions are eligible for continuing education for psychologists. Psychologists who wish to receive continuing education credits must register for the certificate of attendance and sign in and out in the back of the session room.

**Lawyers:** The State Bar of Arizona does not approve or accredit providers or programs. Arizona attorneys should sign up to receive a certificate of attendance in order to self-report hours via affidavit. Out of state conference attendees 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. Pre-conference institutes qualify for 6 hours and the Symposium program qualifies for up to 10.5 hours toward continuing education required by CA BBS. Continuing education approval from the National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc. (NBCC) is pending.

**Custody Evaluators:** California custody evaluators may satisfy part of the 8 hours of annual continuing education required under California Rules of Court, rule 5.225. 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 CA or the Administrative Office of the Courts.

# 10th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2012

- 8:00am–7:00pm**      **Registration**  
**8:30am–9:00am**      **Coffee and Rolls for Institute Registrants**  
**9:00am–4:30pm**      **Pre-Symposium Institutes**  
**7:00pm–8:30pm**      **Opening Session**

*Welcome: Arnold T. Shienvold, PhD, AFCC President, Harrisburg, PA*

### Utilizing Research in Practice: Family Law's Catch 22

Knowledge of relevant, quality research is an essential component of good practice in child custody evaluations. However, relevance and quality may not be as straight forward as would be desired and this raises many questions. For example, what is meant by *quality* research? Can anyone other than a trained social scientist understand and apply the research? Is the research really relevant to the question before the court? In the final analysis, when extant theory and practice collide, can the judge rely on the research? This session will use a case study approach to examine the twists, turns and possibilities of social science in child custody disputes.

*Donald S. Eisenberg, JD, Long Beach, CA*

*Hon. Dianna Gould-Saltman, Los Angeles, CA*

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

*Matthew Sullivan, PhD, Palo Alto, CA*

*Moderator, Arnold Shienvold, PhD, AFCC President, Harrisburg, PA*

- 8:30pm–9:30pm**      **Welcome Reception**  
**9:30pm–12:00am**      **AFCC Hospitality Suite**

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2012

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

### A Roadmap to Research in Child Custody Evaluations

Once upon a time, the use of research was the road less traveled. Suddenly that road became a congested highway. Today one can find support on Google for almost any theory and, therefore, a roadmap is needed to help practitioners make sense of the research and to distinguish between junk science and high quality evidence. Using the "Research Decision Tree," the presenters will provide a roadmap for the systematic and ethical use of research for parenting plan evaluations.

*Leslie Drozd, PhD, Co-editor, Parenting Plan Evaluations, Newport Beach, CA*

*Nancy W. Olesen, PhD, San Rafael, CA*

*Michael Saini, PhD, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada*

- 10:00am–10:30am**      **Break**

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

### 1. Integrating Parenting Time Research into Child Custody Evaluations

Few family law issues stir more controversy than parenting time. What is the balance between children's needs, parents' rights, and a practical parenting time schedule? Does more time result in better child outcomes or is it the quality of the time that matters? How do practitioners cope with research that seems contradictory? What can judges do when following research is contradicted by the law? Are there developmental guidelines that should be followed or should an equal time sharing be presumed when parents cannot agree? This session will examine research on parenting time, followed by a discussion of how this information can be best used in family court processes.

*William Fabricius, PhD, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ*

*Larry Fong, PhD, Fong Ailon, Calgary, AB, Canada*

*Hon. Denise McColley, Napoleon, OH*

### 2. What Bodyguard? Safety and Security for Custody Evaluators

Custody evaluators work with highly emotional and sometimes volatile family situations and may find themselves subject to threats and stalking. Evaluators may work in isolated and unknown situations, with little or no security protection. Participants in this workshop will learn the principles of personal security applied to the custody evaluator, including environmental awareness, site security and violence prevention. Considerations such as office layout, home security and backup precautions will be addressed. Practical exercises will be included.

*Gary L. Schreiner, JD, Ammon, ID*

### 3. Ethics, Adjudication and Child Custody

How risky are today's child custody roles? How does one find an ethical resolution while also protecting oneself? Through presentation of American Psychological Association ethics adjudication data, state licensing board information and interactive short vignettes to facilitate audience discussion, participants will learn to manage anxiety by increasing their knowledge of the APA Ethics Code and ethics adjudication process. Presenters will help participants strengthen their conceptualization of ethical dilemmas via active demonstration of a decision-making model that includes risk management.

*Lindsay Childress-Beatty, JD, PhD, Deputy Director and Director of Adjudication, American Psychological Association Ethics Office, Washington, DC*

*James Bow, PhD, ABPP, Livonia, MI*

*Robin Deutsch, PhD, Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, Boston, MA*

*Nancy Ann McGarrah, PhD, Atlanta, GA*



# 10th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

## 4. Research Update: Evaluating Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse in High Conflict Cases

This session presents an update on research related to pertinent issues when evaluating allegations of child sexual abuse in high conflict divorce. Characteristics of children most at risk to be sexually abused, incidence and prevalence of perpetrators' relationships with children they abuse, and the relevance of this data to high conflict cases will be discussed. Current research on sexually abused children's disclosure, recantation and symptoms, and the effect of suggestive interviewing and trauma on children's memory will be presented.

*Kathryn Kuehnle, PhD, Indian Shores, FL*

*Deborah O. Day, PsyD, Winter Park, FL*

## 5. Operationalizing the Best Interests of the Children Standard

Child custody evaluations (CCEs) have been criticized for lack of scientific merit. This workshop will present an empirically-based, conceptual scheme for conducting evidence-based child custody evaluations. Participants will be presented an organized, empirical methodology for operationalizing CCEs, including organization, gathering and analysis of CCE data consistent with the *AFCC Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluation*. Commonly available, empirically-validated tools for assessment of CCE elements and their application will be presented.

*Marvin W. Acklin, PhD, ABPP, Honolulu, HI*

## 6. Research and Practice: Relocation Disputes

Judges and evaluators seem to agree that relocation custody disputes are the most difficult cases. Inherent dilemmas exist with competing interests and constitutional rights of parents: one parent's desire to pursue new opportunities or need to relocate for work versus the other's desire to be consistently and regularly involved in the child's life. Such cases have the appearance of "winner take all" but may have no good solution from the child's perspective. This workshop will review relevant research on relocation and mobility, including emerging studies on families involved in legal relocation disputes. A forensic approach to a relocation evaluation will be presented, including the relocation risk assessment model. Practical issues involved in crafting long distance parenting plans will be discussed, including how to manage the risk to the non-moving parent-child relationship.

*William G. Austin, PhD, Evergreen, CO*

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

**12:00pm–1:30pm Lunch (included)**

### Save the Dates!

**AFCC 50th Anniversary Conference**

May 29-June 1, 2013

JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE

Los Angeles, California

**1:45pm–3:15pm**

**Workshops 7–12**

## 7. Quality of Parenting: Research and Practice

A large body of research has demonstrated that the quality of parenting from both the mother and the father is one of the best predictors of child well-being following divorce. There is also considerable research on parenting skills training programs demonstrating improved outcomes for children following divorce, as well as the limitations of parent training for various age groups, populations and behavior problems. Therefore, an understanding of parenting skills is important for child custody evaluators. This workshop will present findings from the research on quality of parenting and child well-being following divorce and examine how to assess parenting skills data from the multiple procedures employed during a family evaluation. These assessment procedures profile the strengths and weaknesses of parent/child interactions using multiple methods. The effects of quality of parenting in the context of other issues in custody evaluation such as parent psychopathology, substance abuse, domestic violence and sexual misconduct will also be discussed.

*Irwin Sandler, PhD, Arizona State University Center for Prevention Research, Tempe AZ*

*David Weinstock, JD, PhD, Scottsdale, AZ*

*John A. Moran, PhD, Phoenix, AZ*

## 8. Practical Ways to Apply Alienation Research in Custody Cases

Parenting plan evaluations involve complex issues that are often over-simplified. Issues presented as polarized, gender-based and over-generalized are not helpful to courts. It therefore becomes daunting to coherently describe the research about complex issues such as alienation. This workshop will highlight some of the controversies, contextual factors and empirical evidence related to alienation. Presenters will explore ways to integrate findings to make the research more accessible to judges.

*Mike Saini, PhD, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada*

*Leslie M. Drozd, PhD, Newport Beach, CA*

*Hon. R. John Harper, London, ON, Canada*

## 9. Temporary Orders of Custody/Visitation and Domestic Violence: Risks and Benefits

Orders of temporary custody and visitation can have a powerful impact on children, on the progression of the custody case and on the custody evaluation, especially when domestic violence is an issue. This workshop will address the implications of temporary orders with the presenters drawing from actual cases to illustrate the effects temporary orders may have on the progression and final outcome of a case.

*Mark J. Rand, PhD, MPH, Brooklyn, NY*

*Kim Susser, JD, New York, NY*

*Philip C. Segal, JD, New York, NY*

# 10th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

## 10. What Lawyers and Judges Need to Know About Psychological Research

This interdisciplinary panel will present a “consumers’ view” of understanding and applying research based on the real-world dilemmas faced by current family courts. The challenge is not just to recognize and incorporate the best science into decision making, but to help decision making be more concrete given the challenges presented to the families in transition and the courts charged with creating practical solutions.

*Lyn R. Greenberg, PhD, Los Angeles, CA*

*Mary Catherine Bohan, JD, Los Angeles, CA*

*Hon. Harvey A. Silberman, LA Superior Court, Pasadena, CA*

## 11. An Integrated Model for Child Custody Evaluation Reports

The use of scientifically-informed methodology in conducting child custody evaluations has garnered great attention in recent years and more limited consideration has been given to how to craft a high-quality written report. This workshop presents a framework for report writing that integrates forensic and clinical perspectives and addresses the multiple client systems served by the report. Emphasis is given to creating a “usefulness” standard that not only serves the court, but enhances settlement possibilities and assists the family to move forward after the completed evaluation.

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

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

## 12. “Who me?” Dealing with the Defensive Client

Family law professionals must all manage difficult clients. Most are familiar with common personality disorders, but since many family law clients do not have a personality disorder, focusing on patterns of defensiveness can be extremely helpful in understanding clients’ emotional and behavioral reactions to the stress of separation and divorce. This workshop will assist therapists, evaluators, mediators, attorneys and judges in working effectively with the defensive client. Through case examples, demonstrations and interactive exchanges, this workshop will explore the dynamics of the defensive client as well as the skills needed to treat, evaluate, mediate with and represent the defensive client.

*Mindy Mitnick, EdM, MA, Edina, MN*

*Susan Lach, JD, St. Paul, MN*

*Kevin McGrath, JD, Minneapolis, MN*

**3:15pm–3:30pm      Break**

**3:30pm–5:00pm      Workshops 13–18**

## 13. Research and Practice: Gatekeeping

This workshop will introduce gatekeeping as a continuum of parental attitudes and behaviors toward the other parent that influences that parent-child relationship. The research and real-world applications will be described and participants will apply the concepts to time-sharing and relocation cases. Participants will also learn about the relevance of gatekeeping in IPV, child alienation and parental substance use situations. A *Bench Book on Gatekeeping* will be presented as a practical tool to help participants to apply this concept to cases with custody disputes and parenting plan issues.

*Linda Fieldstone, MEd, Miami, FL*

*William G. Austin, PhD, Evergreen, CO*

*Marsha Kline Pruett, PhD, MSL, Northampton, MA*

## 14. Research and Practice: Intimate Partner Violence

With intimate partner violence (IPV) allegations in more than half of child custody disputes, it is vital that evaluators are aware of the latest research on IPV. Equally important is an understanding of what research is applicable, how research is applied to individual situations and how to deal with what seem to be contradictory findings. This session will provide a review of IPV research and examine its use and potential misuse and abuse in child custody evaluations and court processes.

*Amy Holtzworth-Munroe, PhD, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN*

*Steven Friedlander, PhD, San Francisco, CA*

*Hon. Karen S. Adam, Tucson, AZ*

## 15. Best Interests of Young Children

This workshop will elucidate conceptual and empirical advances in evaluating the best interests of young children, using research concerning family ecology, social capital and attachment. The presenters will discuss a paradigm that is responsive to the increasing diversity of family forms and to judicial requests for comprehensive parenting plans. They will comment on the appropriateness of the best interests standard to meet these challenges and to address legal requirements like cooperative and friendly parenting standards.

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

*Pamela S. Ludolph, PhD, Ann Arbor, MI*

## 16. Reviewing our Colleagues’ Work and Joining the Litigation Team: Ethical Issues

While forensic mental health professionals (FMHPs) are providing more consulting services to attorneys, little has been written about the ethical and professional considerations in these situations. This workshop will raise challenging questions about what attorneys and FMHPs should consider when an independent review of a child custody evaluation is needed. This includes approaches to navigating difficult issues among professionals, while focusing on providing useful information to the court and maintaining constructive relations among family law professionals.

*S. Margaret Lee, PhD, Mill Valley, CA*

*Robert Kaufmann, PhD, ABPP, San Rafael, CA*

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

# 10th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

## 17. Custody Evaluation Reports

A well-written and lucid analysis of the data is key to an informative and useful child custody evaluation. Linking the data to relevant law and to the specific issues for the family in question increases the helpfulness of the written report. A clearly articulated and well-developed analysis of the data should lead to the recommendations that follow. There should be no “surprise endings.” This workshop will focus on the analysis of the data and the deliberative process of the evaluator writing the report.

*Robert Simon, PhD, Del Mar, CA*

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

## 18. Ethical Issues for Family Law Professionals

The practice of family law has always been a minefield of ethical dilemmas, but today's professionals face a growing and even more complex set of challenges. New technology and social media, emerging professional roles and social changes have created a new set of issues that create potential obstacles and dilemmas. This workshop will explore how emerging trends such as social media and child custody evaluation consultants have created new ethical dilemmas for family law professionals. The tension between a child's best interests and zealous advocacy, and the ethical questions that arise from that tension, will also be examined.

*Samuel J. Ferrara, JD, Lake Success, NY*

*Hilary Casper, JD, Lake Success, NY*

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

**Evening**                      **Taste of Arizona**  
**9:00pm–12:00am**        **AFCC Hospitality Suite**

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2012

**7:30am–12:00pm**        **Registration**  
**8:00am–8:30am**        **Coffee and Rolls**  
**8:30am–10:00am**       **Workshops 19–24**

## 19. Understanding How Children of Divorce Add Fuel to the Fire

This workshop is designed for experienced custody evaluators, lawyers and court judges who want to explore, understand and learn how to assess the subtle and not-so-subtle contributions children make to high-conflict cases. The presenter will examine examples of children's statements made during forensic interviews and court testimony using vignettes from audio and video recordings, as well as children's behaviors before and during court-ordered evaluations.

*H.D. Kirkpatrick, PhD, Charlotte, NC*

## 20. Evaluating Families with Young Children

This session will examine the thorny issues inherent in conducting custody and access evaluations with families who have young children. Methods of improving observational techniques and parent interviews while relying on empirically-based concepts will be presented. Presenters will consider inventories that assess the individual characteristics of these children as well as others that measure the relationships between young children and their parents, with some emphasis on the recently developed *Parenting Stress Index-4*.

*Pamela S. Ludolph, PhD, Ann Arbor, MI*

*James R. Flens, PsyD, ABPP, Brandon, FL*

## 21. Child Custody Evaluation Reports and Feedback Sessions

A child custody evaluation may be thought of as a process of data gathering and analysis, concluding with the evaluator's findings in the form of a report. Reports vary in length, the types and level of detail of information provided, to whom they are issued and whether they are provided in writing and/or orally. This workshop will present an overview of the various models of feedback provisions and discuss the ethical, legal and practical implications of these approaches.

*Susan Dwyer, PhD, Fort Wayne, IN*

*Robert Simon, PhD, Del Mar, CA*

*Jordan Steinberg, JD, Newport Beach, CA*

*Hon. Harvey A. Silberman, LA Superior Court, Pasadena, CA*

## 22. Conducting a Substance Abuse Evaluation

Custody evaluators must often evaluate allegations of parental substance abuse. This workshop will review information about substances and behavioral effects on parenting, as well as the latest trends in substance abuse testing. Skills and strategies for interviewing parents, children and collateral witnesses will be discussed, as will treatment options.

*Harry J. Somers, EdD, North Andover, MA*

## 23. Symbol Supported Assessment

Children can provide accurate reports of their experience if prompted carefully. This workshop will explore assessment methods that use pictures or symbols as prompts to elicit children's perceptions of family members' behavior and relationships. Such symbol-supported methods engage children and maintain their interest while collecting systematic data. The presenter will review methods used most commonly by custody evaluators, methods for assessing attachment in elementary-age children, and promising new approaches, including the *SCARF (Structured Child Assessment of Family Relationships)*.

*Angus M. Strachan, PhD, Santa Monica, CA*



# 10th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

## 24. Critical Data for Special Needs Children and Divorce

About one in 88 children have autism spectrum disorder (ASD). As the likelihood increases that a professional in the custody field will be involved with a parent of a special needs child, it is critical that the professional have a knowledge base and understanding of special needs and divorce issues. This program will explain ASD, describe effective and evidence-based treatments, discuss essential parenting skills and propose parenting plan provisions that further a special needs child's best interests.

*Carlton Stansbury, JD, Burbach & Stansbury, Milwaukee, WI*

*Christopher Smith, PhD, Phoenix, AZ*

**10:00am–10:30am Break**

**10:30am–12:00pm Workshops 25–30**

## 25. Memory, Reasoning and Decision-Making Skills across Childhood and Adolescence

Designed for beginning practitioners, this workshop will review the current literature on memory, reasoning and decision-making skills of children and adolescents from ages 3–18. Development of these skills will be reviewed from a biological, emotional and social context. This workshop will apply developmental principals to children's abilities to report events from memory and to make decisions about current and future situations. Application of these skills across various stages of development in the context of child custody and GAL interviews will be reviewed. Complicating factors (e.g., coaching, alienation) will also be discussed.

*April Bradley, PhD, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND*

*Roni Mayzer, PhD, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND*

*Andrew Gerde, BS, Grand Forks, ND*

## 26. Assessing Post-Separation Risk

Visitation and shared custody are the most common contexts for re-assault in the post-separation period. Court visitation risk assessors, judges and practitioners must be familiar with child development, trauma and domestic violence research including abusers' patterned parenting, the child's role and other factors contributing to aggravation, mitigation and risk reduction in order to make recommendations and determinations. Using an ecological framework analysis, presenters in this session will discuss the identification of risk factors and dangerousness level determinations.

*David M. Broselli, MS, CPM, Assistant Chief, Administrative Office of the Courts, Trenton, NJ*

*Cynthia Wilcox Lischick, PhD, LPC, Director of Psychological Health, NJ National Guard, Bordentown, NJ*

## 27. From Access Denial to Parental Abductions: Evaluation, Prevention and Resolution

Providing services for parents engaged in conflicts ranging from child support matters and denied access through the devastation of a parental abduction, Child Find of America's Parent Help program explores methods for gathering a comprehensive family "story." These stories assist in the safest and most appropriate resolution. This workshop is intended to hone skills when gathering information about a family dynamic, assess safety risks, as well as learn about measures to prevent and resolve loss of contact with a parent.

*Shari Doherty, Program Director, Child Find of America, Inc., New Paltz, NY*

*Donna Linder, Executive Director, Child Find of America, Inc., New Paltz, NY*

## 28. Testifying in Child Custody Cases

Testifying in court can be daunting, even for the most experienced professional. Rules of testimony and evidence can be confusing. Dealing with aggressive cross examinations can make things worse! Join this fun, interactive, and informative workshop and learn the tricks for getting through it and staying on track.

*Susan I. Tucker, MSW, Akron, OH*

*Robin Tener, PhD, Cuyahoga Falls, OH*

*Donald J. Malarcik, JD, Akron, OH*

## 29. Multidisciplinary Team Approach to Custody Evaluations

The *AFCC Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluations* permit the use of team approaches to custody evaluations. Complex cases that require special expertise, such as those with medical or abuse concerns, may require more than one evaluator. However, problems may arise in the defense of a team evaluation regarding who is responsible for specific content. Difficulties may also occur because of the diversity of team members; however, these differences in orientation or profession may create richer considerations in the evaluations of these cases, having the benefit outweigh the risk. This workshop will describe a multidisciplinary team approach to custody evaluations and address potential challenges.

*Helen T. Brantley, PhD, Chapel Hill, NC*

*David Bartholomew, MD, Butner, NC*

*Katrina N. Kuzyszyn-Jones, PsyD, Durham, NC*

## 30. Crafting Developmentally Sensitive Parenting Plans for Young Children

Crafting a developmentally sensitive parenting plan for infants and toddlers requires divorcing couples to balance the child's immediate need for predictable and continuous care with the child's right to equal access to each parent. Using video and discussion, this workshop will offer tools for recognizing infant distress and specific strategies for helping infants transition between households and build positive relationships with alternate caregivers. Participants will have specific guidelines for crafting developmentally sensitive parenting plans for infants and toddlers.

*Evelyn Wotherspoon, MSW, Calgary, AB, Canada*

# Of Special Note

## Audio Recordings

Conference sessions will be recorded and MP3 downloads of the sessions will be available at the conference and may be ordered online at <http://www.dcpvidersonline.com/afcc/> after the conference concludes. No personal audio-recording of sessions is permitted.

## Scholarships

Thanks to the outstanding support of AFCC members who contributed to the AFCC Scholarship Fund, scholarships will be awarded for the AFCC 10th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations. Scholarships include registration fees for the conference, one full-day pre-conference institute, Friday's lunch, AFCC hospitality suite and a certificate of attendance. Recipients are responsible for funding any additional expenses including travel, lodging, meals and related expenses. The scholarship application is available on the AFCC website at [www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org). **The application deadline is September 4, 2012.** Recipients will be notified mid-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 circle the New Member Special rate on the conference registration form. *The New Member Special is available only to first time AFCC members.*

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

**Symposium Registration:** Includes all conference sessions and materials, conference proceedings on USB flash drive, refreshment breaks, welcome reception, Friday's luncheon and AFCC hospitality suite. *Pre-symposium institute registration requires a separate registration fee.*

# Travel and Lodging Information

## Hotel Information

Arizona Grand Resort  
8000 South Arizona Grand Parkway  
Phoenix, Arizona 85044  
Phone: (602) 438-9000

The Arizona Grand Resort is located just six miles from Sky Harbor International Airport in Phoenix and sits on 164 landscaped acres at the base of the South Mountain Preserve. Guest rooms are two-room suites, each with its own bedroom, separate living area and private patio or balcony. For more information and a map of the resort, go to <http://ArizonaGrandResort.com>. For information about Phoenix and surrounding communities, go to [www.visitphoenix.com](http://www.visitphoenix.com).

AFCC attendees are responsible for making their own lodging arrangements and will receive the special rate of **\$159/single or double occupancy** per night. The resort fee is waived for reservations made at the AFCC special rate and includes valet and self-parking; unlimited local calls; unlimited access for credit card, toll-free and collect phone calls; incoming/outgoing faxes; one daily in-suite pot of coffee; and newspaper delivery Monday-Friday. Call the Arizona Grand for guest room reservations at (602) 438-9000 or toll free at (877) 800-4888. If you prefer to make your reservation online, go to the conference page of the AFCC website and click on the link for hotel reservations. All reservations will be charged a one night room deposit, refundable up to seven nights prior to arrival. *The AFCC block of rooms will be released to the public for general sale on Monday, October 1, 2012, and the special group rate will not be guaranteed after that date or if the hotel sells out early, so please make your reservations now.*

## AFCC Hospitality Suite

AFCC's Hospitality Suite will be open in the evening for informal networking and refreshment. The Hospitality Suite is a great place to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Please wear your name badge. The Hospitality Suite location will be posted at the AFCC registration desk.

## Taste of Arizona

Sign up on site and join a group of 8-10 for dinner at a local restaurant. Friday evening will be your opportunity to dine with friends and colleagues. Restaurant descriptions and sign up sheets will be available in the conference registration area. Participants are responsible for food, beverage and transportation costs.

## Special Needs

If you have special meal requests (e.g., vegetarian, gluten-free or allergic to certain foods) or other special needs (e.g., access), please note this on the registration form.

**Symposium Conference Presenter Registration:** Available only to Symposium conference presenters. Includes all conference sessions and materials, 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 admission to all conference sessions only. Meal functions are not included. *Separate registration is required for pre-symposium institutes.* Registration must include proof of full-time student status.

**Certificate of Attendance:** AFCC will provide a certificate of total hours attended at the conference opening session, workshops and institutes for a minimal processing fee of \$15 for members and \$20 for nonmembers. To sign up, simply circle Certificate of Attendance on the conference registration form. Please complete a verification of attendance form at the conference.

## Airline Travel

The Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX) is located approximately 6 miles from the Arizona Grand Resort. The airport has 3 terminals and is served by all major commercial carriers. Airport information can be found at <http://skyharbor.com>.

## Ground Transportation

Recommended transportation between the airport and the Arizona Grand is by taxi and the cost is \$16-\$20. There is no courtesy shuttle service. Taxi terminal access is as follows: Terminal 2: North curbside; Terminal 3: North curbside; and Terminal 4: Level 1, North curbside. Three taxi companies are contracted to pick up passengers and prices are the same regardless of company, number of passengers and number of bags.

## Rental Cars

The Rental Car Center accommodates all airport rental car companies and is located within its own building. If you plan to rent a car at the airport, make a reservation as vehicles are limited for walk-up customers. The Rental Car Shuttle continuously stops every 5-10 minutes at the curb on the baggage claim levels of each terminal.

## Parking

There is no charge for parking at the Arizona Grand Resort. For driving directions to the resort, go to <http://www.arizonagrandresort.com/phoenix-resort-directions.php>.

## Climate

Average daytime temperatures in early November will range from 60°F to 70°F, dropping lower in the evening. Be sure to take a light jacket or sweater, as meeting rooms and restaurants may be air conditioned.

# Registration Form

**AFCC 10th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations • November 1-3, 2012**

**Arizona Grand Resort • Phoenix, Arizona**

**Register online at [www.afcnet.org](http://www.afcnet.org)**

*Please register by September 28, 2012, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Information: 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 special needs?  Meals (vegetarian, food allergies)  Access  Other

Please provide details: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle appropriate amount(s) below, indicate choices, and total at the bottom

**Paid by  
Oct. 5**      **Paid After  
Oct. 5**

**New Member Special** (First-time members only)

Join AFCC for one year and register at the AFCC member rates below!

\$150      \$150

**Pre-Symposium Institutes** (separate registration required)

Pre-Symposium Institute, AFCC Member

\$140      \$160

Pre-Symposium Institute, Non-Member

\$170      \$190

**Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations**

Symposium AFCC Member

\$295      \$325

Symposium Non-Member

\$360      \$380

Symposium Conference Presenter

\$195      \$205

Friday's Lunch (included):  I plan to attend

\$ 00      \$ 00

Friday's Lunch: Additional ticket

\$ 50      \$ 50

Full-time Student (I.D. required, meals not included)

\$195      \$205

Certificate of Attendance, AFCC Member

\$ 15      \$ 15

Certificate of Attendance, Non-Member

\$ 20      \$ 20

**TOTAL:**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Pre-Symposium Institute Selections** (separate registration required)

**Thursday, November 1, 2012, 9:00am-4:30pm**

If you have registered for a Pre-Symposium Institute, please check only one of the following:

- 1. Accounting for Domestic Violence in Child Custody Evaluations. . .
- 2. Custody Evaluations and Risk Management
- 3. Advanced Testing: Using Research to Guide the Use of Psychological Testing. . .
- 4. Evidence and Testimony in Child Custody Evaluations

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

Friday, November 2	10:30am-12:00pm	Workshop 1-6	_____
Friday, November 2	1:45pm-3:15pm	Workshop 7-12	_____
Friday, November 2	3:30pm-5:00pm	Workshop 13-18	_____
Saturday, November 3	8:30am-10:00am	Workshop 19-24	_____
Saturday, November 3	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

*Credit card transactions will be processed in US dollars; exchange rate on day of transaction will apply.*

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase Order # (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

**You may register online at [www.afcnet.org](http://www.afcnet.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@afcnet.org](mailto:afcc@afcnet.org)

**Cancellation Policy:** Transfer of registration to another person may be done 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 15, 2012, will be issued a full refund minus a \$60 service fee. Written notice received by fax or post-marked by October 22, 2012, 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 22, 2012.

**AFCC**

6525 Grand Teton Plaza  
Madison, WI 53719

**AFCC 10th Symposium on  
Child Custody Evaluations**

November 1-3, 2012

**Arizona Grand Resort  
Phoenix, Arizona**



**10th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations**  
**Research and Practice:**  
**Bridging the Gap and Finding the Balance**

**November 1-3, 2012**



**Arizona Grand Resort • Phoenix, Arizona**  
**Register online at [www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org)**