



ASSOCIATION OF  
FAMILY AND  
CONCILIATION COURTS

**Milwaukee**

Hyatt Regency Milwaukee

**November 2-4, 2017**

## AFCC REGIONAL CONFERENCE

# Beneath the Surface of High Conflict and Troubled Families



*Alienation*

*Poverty*

*self-representation*

*Chemical dependency*

*Domestic violence*

*Trauma*

# AFCC REGIONAL CONFERENCE

## Beneath the Surface of High Conflict and Troubled Families

November 2-4, 2017 • Hyatt Regency Milwaukee • Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Separating and divorcing families bring many types of conflict to the legal system. Often, the key to identifying a solution begins with understanding what lies beneath the surface. Trauma, addiction, substance abuse, alienation, and family violence are just a few of the many underlying issues that family court professionals may uncover in highly conflicted matters. The AFCC Regional Conference will bring world leaders together for pre-conference institutes, workshops, and plenary sessions that will address practice skills, professional issues, and advanced theoretical applications. The conference is designed for judges, lawyers, mediators, custody evaluators, mental health professionals, and any professional who works with separating and divorcing families—especially high conflict families. Register today! You do not want to miss this fantastic program.

### Nearly 40 outstanding sessions over three days!

- Resistance, Refusal, and Alienation
- Strained Parent-Child Relationships
- Substance Abuse and the Family
- Parenting Plans for High Conflict Families
- Parental Gatekeeping
- LGBT Families in the Post-Marriage Era
- Collaborative Tools in Litigation
- Parenting Coaching
- Domestic Abuse Issues in Mediation
- Eldercaring Coordination
- And many, many more!

Psychologist, mental health professionals, lawyers, mediators, and others can earn up to 16.5 hours of continuing education! Details on page 8.



## Join AFCC Today and Save!

AFCC is the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts—an interdisciplinary, 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 to create a better understanding of different perspectives. Members value education, research, innovation and identifying the best practices to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and families.

**Join AFCC when you register for the conference.** Save \$10 on your first year's membership and up to \$105 by registering at the discounted member rate. Select "New Member Special" when completing the registration form.

### AFCC Member Benefits Include:

- **Family Court Review**, AFCC's quarterly academic and research journal in print and electronic format, with full access to the online archives.
- **Online member directory** of over 5,000 colleagues worldwide.
- **AFCC eNEWS**, the monthly electronic newsletter, bringing the latest developments in the field, updates, interviews, and more directly to your inbox.
- **Parenting Coordination Network Listserv** for AFCC members who are PCs or are interested in the role to share tips, advice, referrals, and network with others.
- **Substantial member discounts** on registration for AFCC conferences and trainings, new AFCC webinars, exhibits, and advertising.
- **Complete access to live AFCC Webinars and archives**, where you can watch webinars on topics such as intimate partner violence, relocation cases, parenting coordination, visitation resistance, and more.
- **Professional liability insurance** through Complete Equity Markets, Inc. for arbitrators, hearing officers, mediators, parent coordinators, and parent educators.

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

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## Conference at a Glance

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2017

6:00pm-8:00pm Conference Registration

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2017

8:00am-5:00pm Conference Registration  
8:00am-9:00am Coffee and Rolls for Institute Registrants  
8:00am-5:00pm Exhibit Forum  
9:00am-5:00pm Pre-Conference Institutes  
12:00pm-1:30pm Lunch (on your own)  
12:00pm-4:30pm AFCC Board of Directors Meeting  
5:00pm-6:00pm Welcome Reception  
9:00pm-12:00am AFCC Hospitality Suite

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2017

7:30am-5:00pm Conference Registration  
7:30am-8:30am Coffee and Rolls  
7:30am-5:00pm Exhibit Forum  
8:30am-10:00am Opening Session  
10:00am-10:30am Break  
10:30am-12:00pm Workshops 1-6  
12:00pm-1:30pm Luncheon  
1:30pm-3:00pm Workshops 7-12  
3:00pm-3:30pm Break  
3:30pm-5:00pm Workshops 13-18  
Evening Taste of Milwaukee  
9:00pm-12:00am AFCC Hospitality Suite

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2017

7:30am-3:00pm Conference Registration  
7:30am-8:30am Coffee and Rolls  
7:30am-3:00pm Exhibit Forum  
8:30am-10:00am Plenary Session  
10:00am-10:30am Break  
10:30am-12:00pm Workshops 19-24  
12:00pm-1:30pm Lunch (on your own)  
1:30pm-3:00pm Workshops 25-30

# Pre-Conference Institutes

(Separate registration fee required.)

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2017**

9:00am-5:00pm

## 1. Resistance, Refusal, Alienation: Matching the Problem to the Mental Health and Legal Intervention

Courts around the world are faced with the challenge of managing cases where children resist or refuse contact with a parent. This institute will address the collaboration needed between mental health professionals and the courts to effectively respond to this problem. Presenters will discuss identification, screening and differentiation of parent-child contact problems, and clinical and legal interventions that support accountability and address these problems based on severity and the specific needs of the family.

*Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP, William James College, Newton, MA*

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

*Arnie Shienvold, PhD, Riegler, Shienvold and Associates, Harrisburg, PA*

## 2. Developing Safe and Workable Parenting Plans in the Context of Intimate Partner Violence

The SAF<sup>e</sup>R framework and practice guides use a “no assumptions” approach to helping family law professionals screen, assess, and develop parenting plans that are tailored to meet the real world needs of families experiencing intimate partner violence. Participants will examine the range of effects that intimate partner violence sometimes has on children and parenting and explore creative ways to address family-specific problems. Part of the session will focus on adapting lessons learned from batterer intervention programs to the development of realistic parenting plans that promote safe and healthy contact with children. Family law professionals from a variety of disciplines will explore how their use of the SAF<sup>e</sup>R worksheets and practice guides can enhance the quality and efficiency of their work. Custody evaluators will be better able to use SAF<sup>e</sup>R materials to operationalize the new AFCC *Guidelines for Examining Intimate Partner Violence*.

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

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

*Nancy Ver Steegh, JD, MSW, Mitchell Hamline School of Law, St. Paul, MN*

*Melissa Scaia, MPA, Director of International Training, Global Rights for Women, Hibbing, MN*

## 3. How Our Brains Fool Us: Cognitive and Implicit Bias in Family Law Matters

Scientists have learned that neuropsychology and social cognition affect how humans make decisions. Two types of neuropsychologically rooted bias can impact how we reason, infer, and decide. Cognitive bias refers to heuristics, such as anchoring or confirmatory bias, which contribute to oversimplifying complex matters. Implicit bias refers to social attitudes that result in rapid and involuntary assessments resulting from feelings and attitudes that operate out of our awareness. Such attitudes can be associated with characteristics such as race, ethnicity, gender, age, or appearance. This institute will explore these biases and ways to manage them in family law work.

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

*Robert A. Simon, PhD, San Diego, CA*

## 4. The Far Side of Acrimony: Using Transformative Encounters in Parenting Coordination

Parenting Coordination has been utilized now for several years, but a great deal of uncertainty remains about the proper use of this ADR process and the establishment of realistic expectations. This institute will review preliminary research on the effectiveness of parenting coordination, including the use of transformative encounters as an intervention, and will present a triage model for family practice professionals. In seeking to understand what lies beneath, and hence sustains inter-parental conflict, the presenters will discuss core family dynamics that every practitioner should understand, factors behind parents' resistance to change, and techniques to increase the potential for parental teaming in development of a co-parenting alliance that prioritizes the care and well-being of their children.

*Debra K. Carter, PhD, National Cooperative Parenting Center, Bradenton, FL*

*James P. McHale, PhD, Univ. of South Florida, St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg, FL*

## 5. Family Court Services Caught in the Middle: Understanding and Solving the Dilemma of Service Relevance

How can we keep Family Court Services relevant, considering the growing number of litigants who are self-represented, indigent, and/or seem to engage only through social media? Public and private partnerships are essential to meet the needs of children and families in transition. How do we bridge the gap between court-based and community services? We invite you to be part of the solution as a ground-breaking think tank, creating solutions where Family Court Services, court administrators, community programs and private providers work collaboratively to bring effective options for the children and families we serve and for family courts of the future. **This institute is offered at a discounted registration rate of \$50 to encourage participation of Family Court Services professionals.**

*Linda Fieldstone, MEd, Family Resolutions, LLC, Miami, FL*

*Shelby Brandsma, Dodge County Family Court Counseling, Juneau, WI*

*Cori K. Erickson, MS, Center for Dispute Solutions, Inc., Boise, ID*

*Theresa Kelly-Arnes, Waukesha County Family Court Services, Waukesha, WI*

*Corinne (Cookie) Levitz, JD, Family Mediation Services, Circuit Court of Cook County, Chicago, IL*

**Save the Date!**

**AFCC 55th Annual Conference**

**June 6-9, 2018**

**Washington Hilton**

**Washington, DC**

# AFCC Regional Conference: Beneath the Surface of High Conflict and Troubled Families

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2017

8:00am-5:00pm	Conference Registration
8:00am-9:00am	Coffee and Rolls for Institute Registrants
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## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2017

7:30am-5:00pm	Conference Registration
7:30am-8:30am	Coffee and Rolls
7:30am-5:00pm	Exhibit Forum
8:30am-10:00am	Opening Session

*Welcome: Annette T. Burns, AFCC President*

### **Beneath the Surface of Strained Parent-Child Relationships: What Do You See and What Can You Do**

Separated and divorcing families frequently present strained parent-child relationships to family court professionals resulting from myriad issues that reside beneath the surface of their dispute. This plenary will explore the kinds of problems that can lead to strained parent-child relationships, and the family dynamics that keep the family entrenched in conflict and the parents and children at odds. Presenters will explore the issues of substance abuse, intimate partner violence and co-parent conflict, and the types of interventions that may help the co-parents de-escalate their conflict and reduce the strain in the parent-child relationship.

*Melissa Scaia, MPA, Director of International Training, Global Rights for Women, Hibbing, MN*

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

*Leslie Drozd, PhD, Newport Beach, CA*

*Moderator: Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP, William James College, Newton, MA*

10:00am-10:30am Break

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

### **1. Lawyer-Mediators as Neutral Drafters: A New Way to Help Self-Represented Parties**

The Wisconsin Supreme Court approved a Rule permitting lawyer mediators to draft and file legal documents as a neutral in family cases. This groundbreaking Rule will substantially change the practice of mediation and family law in Wisconsin. This workshop will provide the rationale for the Rule, the process by which it was enacted, and its potential impact. The presenters will engage participants in discussing the ways this Rule can help self-represented parties, and the concerns and challenges it may present.

*Hon. Michael J. Dwyer, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, Milwaukee, WI*

*Susan A. Hansen, JD, Hansen & Hildebrand, S.C., Milwaukee, WI*

### **2. Substance Abuse and the Family: Addressing Addiction in Troubled Families**

Substance abuse is becoming ever more prevalent in our society. Especially hard hit are families, where addiction can break up marital relationships and put a strain on parent-child bonds. This workshop brings participants face-to-face with two judges who deal with such issues on a regular basis as well as a parent in recovery and a treatment provider who helps families heal. Presenters will delve into the problems faced by families struggling with addiction and the solutions that can be fashioned by informed courts.

*Hon. Thomas Walsh, Brown County Circuit Court, Green Bay, WI*

*Hon. Mary Triggiano, Brown County Branch 13, Milwaukee, WI*

*Sarah Joyce, MA, Meta House, Inc., Milwaukee, WI*

*Robin Ellis, Milwaukee, WI*

### **3. Four-Steps to SAF<sup>e</sup>R Best Interest Recommendations in Domestic Violence-Related Custody Cases**

Family law decisions are generally guided by a standard that prioritizes the best interests of the child. However, studies show that beliefs and biases about domestic violence and parenting often shape the way family law practitioners assess the best interests of the child, sometimes in the face of countervailing experiences of abuse. This workshop describes how the Wisconsin Governor's Council on Domestic Abuse and End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin responded to this challenge—by producing a handbook for *guardians ad litem* that encourages application of a SAF<sup>e</sup>R approach for developing court recommendations to address the best interest of children.

*Tess Meuer, JD, End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin, Madison, WI*

*Hon. Denise McColley, Napoleon, OH*

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

**4. Parenting Plans: A Focus on High Conflict Families and Mental Health Problems**

Children who are at perhaps the greatest risk of negative life outcomes are those from high conflict families and those with child and/or parental psychological difficulties. It is crucial for these children that high-quality parenting plans are developed. There are multiple challenges, such as: how to protect child and parent safety while facilitating positive child relationships with both parents? How can psychological dysfunction be productively considered in the planning? Which therapy referrals are likely to be beneficial versus counterproductive? How can practitioners use sound judgment instead of intuition? This workshop will focus on scientific, conceptual, and practical factors.

*Daniel J. Hynan, PhD, ABAP, Naperville, IL*

**5. Winning Negotiation and Mediation Strategies: A Game Theory Analysis**

This workshop analyzes the traditional family law system with game theory concepts. The assumptions undergirding the system, and the procedures that inevitably flow from those assumptions, “trick” parties into engaging in unnecessary and counter-productive conflict. Changing or adding additional procedures does not change the fundamental problem. An alternative bargaining model undergirded by game theory is proposed for use in lawyer-lawyer negotiations and mediation.

*Kenneth H. Waldron, PhD, Monona Mediation and Counseling, LLC, Monona, WI*

**6. Collaborative Partnerships for Dispute Resolution with your Child Support Agency**

Need an option in your community to help low-income, self-represented parents resolve family court-related disagreements without going to court? This workshop examines a partnership between Milwaukee County Child Support Services, the Milwaukee Justice Center (self-help center) and Marquette University Law School Dispute Resolution Program, which developed a moderated settlement conference program using volunteer attorney facilitators and law students to help parents negotiate with each other and, when necessary, the child support agency.

*Katie Murphy, JD, Milwaukee County Child Support Service, Milwaukee, WI*

*Mary L. Ferwerda, MS, JD, Milwaukee Justice Center, Milwaukee, WI*  
*Natalie Fleury, JD, Marquette Univ. Law School, Milwaukee, WI*

<p><b>12:00pm-1:30pm Luncheon</b></p> <p><b>Luncheon Speaker:</b></p> <p><b>Justice Janine Geske (Ret.), Distinguished Professor of Law, Marquette Univ., Milwaukee, WI</b></p>
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1:30pm-3:00pm Workshops 7-12

**7. Mapping the Success of Interventions for Strained Parent-Child Relationships**

Several interventions have been developed to address children’s resistance and/or refusal to have contact with a parent post-separation and divorce. There remains little agreement, about how best to evaluate the success of these approaches. This workshop will review the empirical evidence of published studies, highlight the measures used to assess the effectiveness of these approaches, and then introduce both a clinical checklist for assessing success and a research tool for evaluating the efficacy of interventions for strained parent-child relationships.

*Leslie Drozd, PhD, Newport Beach, CA*

*Michael Saini, PhD, Univ. of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada*

**8. Domestic Violence Against Transgender People: Unique Challenges and Concrete Tools**

Transgender individuals are increasingly visible in America. They access the legal system, including domestic violence institutions. Gradually the courts have come to recognize the challenges posed by LGBT domestic violence. However, grouping trans people with LGB communities sublimates unique dynamics and barriers in domestic violence against transgender people. Although similarities exist between LGB violence and violence against trans people, ignoring the differences between those two situations may further victimize transgender survivors in the legal system. This workshop includes an overview of transgender demographics, useful terminology, and specific transgender domestic violence information, including barriers and challenges for trans survivors, and their batterers’ tactics.

*Todd Brower, LLM, JD, UCLA School of Law, Los Angeles, CA*

**9. Daubert Hearing Regarding Parental Alienation: Do or Die**

Family courts increasingly recognize that parental alienation is a serious family dynamic that affects thousands of families in shared custody arrangements in the US and in other countries. Despite this widespread acceptance of the prevalence and harm to children of this type of parent-child contact problem, many respondents to surveys of mental health and legal professionals say that the concept of parental alienation does not fulfill *Daubert* and *Frye* standards for testimony in court. This workshop will present and discuss information regarding parental alienation from the legal and social science literature to make the case that courts in the US and Canada should find that the concept of parental alienation meets their respective *Daubert*, *Frye*, and *Mohan* standards.

*William Bernet, MD, Vanderbilt Univ. School of Medicine, Nashville, TN*

*Demosthenes A. Lorandos, PhD, JD, Lorandos Joshi Law Firm, Ann Arbor, MI*

*Discussant: Matthew J. Sullivan, PhD, Palo Alto, CA*

**10. Cultural and Religious Factors in Custody Evaluations**

This workshop presents the interdisciplinary perspectives of a forensic evaluator an attorney, and a psychologist, about how cultural issues, and their applications have an impact in custody determination. The panel, using fact patterns, will look at basic custody factors, current case law, as well as the effect of cultural and religious factors on the divorce proceeding when a spouse changes beliefs during the course of the marriage.

*Martin E. Friedlander, JD, Rabbinical Ordination, Martin Friedlander PC, New York, NY*

*Marvin J. Aronson, PhD, Aronson Psychological Services, PLLC, Garden City, NY*

*Leah Younger, PsyD, Aronson Psychological Services, PLLC, Garden City, NY*

*Hon. Matthew F. Cooper, New York State Supreme Court, New York County, NY*

**11. Gender and Negotiation**

People often have false assumptions about gender and negotiation: that women do not negotiate at all; that women should not negotiate (or face backlash); and that women cannot effectively negotiate. In fact, these are problematic myths often used to maintain the status quo. Recent research debunks these assumptions and more, as this session examines gender and its role in negotiation. The presenter will also focus on successful strategies to negotiate on your own behalf.

*Andrea Schneider, JD, Marquette Univ. Law School, Milwaukee, WI*

**12. Micro-Interventions for a Growing Threat to Families: That of Unemployed Fathers**

Paternal unemployment in intact families poses risks to children as great as those from divorce. These fathers, especially African Americans, suffer from loss of self-esteem. The time they spend with their children is only marginally greater than for employed dads. Their risk for family breakup, domestic violence, and substance abuse is increased due to unemployment. This workshop describes some inexpensive micro-interventions using advanced technology that can reduce their stress and increase mindful presence with their children and partners

*Don Gordon, PhD, Center for Divorce Education, Ashland, OR*

*Zenell Brown, JD, 3rd Judicial Circuit Court, Detroit, MI*

**3:00pm-3:30pm Break**

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

**13. Parental Gatekeeping and the Social Capital Perspective: Applications to the Relocation Context**

Presenters in this workshop will describe the parental gatekeeping forensic model, its supporting research, and how it is used as complementary to the relocation risk assessment and Integrated Forensic Model for relocation. This model allows the evaluator to take a systematic approach to relocation.

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

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

**14. Use of Triage, Evaluation, and Mediation to Effectively Resolve Family Law Cases**

This workshop will explore the specialized program for high conflict family law cases in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County, Maryland. The program allows parties to access numerous services and resources prior to mediation. Collaboration between the family law magistrate, social workers, and on-staff mediators creates an opportunity for parties to resolve their disputes as early as possible with a range of services that provide parties with the experience, education, and information they need to work out solutions without a trial.

*Magistrate Catherine F. Woods, Circuit Court for Baltimore County, Towson, MD*

*Wendy L. Sawyer, JD, Circuit Court for Baltimore County, Towson, MD*

*Mary McNeish Stengel, MSW, Circuit Court for Baltimore County, Towson, MD*

**15. LGBT Families in the Post-Marriage Era: Advances Create New Struggles**

LGBT issues in family courts continue to challenge and confound. Today, courts are not only grappling with marriage and divorce issues for LGBT people, but also the emergence of a new gender paradigm that rejects the more traditional binary perspective on gender. People from younger generations are more likely to identify as transgender or queer, blurring the lines of conventional notions of gender and creating challenges for many families. This workshop will address LGBT issues affecting families and how courts can best serve these communities.

*Robert Salem, JD, Univ. of Toledo College of Law, Toledo, OH*

*Maara Fink, JD, Univ. of Toledo College of Law, Toledo, OH*

**16. Using Collaborative Tools in Litigation**

Child specialists and other neutrals are not just for non-litigated collaborative family law cases anymore. This workshop will examine how the roles of collaborative divorce professionals can be used in litigated cases to reduce conflict and move the family forward. The emphasis will be on using child specialists in litigated cases to provide tools for parents and professionals to promote on-going healthy family relationships, and to assist parents in understanding and addressing their children's unique needs and interests.

*Hon. Dolores A. Bomrad, Washington County Circuit Court, West Bend, WI*

*Casey A. Holtz, PhD, Milwaukee, WI*

*Gregory M. Hildebrand, JD, MSW, Hansen & Hildebrand, SC, Milwaukee, WI*

*Daniel P. Bestul, JD, Duxstad & Bestul, SC, Monroe, WI*

**17. Developing a High Conflict Structured Intervention Program**

Family conflict-resolution services within England are seeking significant innovation to empower families to resolve high conflict cases in a timely and sustainable way, to improve child outcomes. This workshop will demonstrate some of the research, social work techniques, and pilots informing the development of a High Conflict Structured Intervention within Cafcass (a national public-sector social work organization). It will consider best practice approaches and seek participant-discussion on promoting change within entrenched parental conflict.

*Sarah Parsons, MSW, Cafcass, London, England*

*Holly Jeapes, Cafcass, London, England*

# SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2017

## 18. Unleashing the Power of Court/Community Partnerships: Complex Problems, Practical Solutions

How can we make the family court system more accessible to users? What role does technology play? How are family court users brought into the design of innovative services? These questions and others will be tackled to reenergize our commitment to children and families with court related issues. The presenters will explore recent shifts in family court, community, and legal services, as well as how partnerships can be forged to improve access for families in transition, while maintaining the integrity of our court system and the families it serves.

*Linda Fieldstone, MEd, Family Resolutions, Miami, FL*

*Cori Erickson, MS, Center for Dispute Solutions, Inc., Boise, ID*

*Dona Playton, Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System, Denver, CO*

5:00pm-6:00pm      **Open Forum—Parenting Coordination Guidelines Task Force**

**Open Forum—Task Force on Guidelines for Use of Research in Family Law**

Evening              **Taste of Milwaukee**

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

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2017

7:30am-3:00pm      **Conference Registration**

7:30am-8:30am      **Coffee and Rolls**

7:30am-3:00pm      **Exhibit Forum**

8:30am-10:00am      **Plenary Session**

*Welcome: Matthew Sullivan, PhD, AFCC Vice President*

## Beneath the Surface of High Conflict and Troubled Families: A View from the Bench

The challenges impacting high conflict and troubled family court users often touch multiple professionals before landing in front of judicial officers. What issues do judicial officers find most troublesome? How do they glean information and expertise to make decisions? Are there creative methods to resolve issues in collaboration with other family court professionals? This session will feature interactive discussion among experienced judicial officers who will share how they address the most difficult issues they experience.

*Hon. Carl Ashley, Milwaukee, WI*

*Hon. Dolores A. Bomrad, West Bend, WI*

*Hon. Michael J. Dwyer, Milwaukee, WI*

*Hon. Nancy Katz (Ret.), Chicago, IL*

*Hon. Thomas Walsh, Green Bay, WI*

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

10:00am-10:30am      **Break**

10:30am-12:00pm      **Workshops 19-24**

## 19. Dynamic Family Restructuring and Reconnection Therapy: A Practical Approach

This workshop will help participants to: analyze cases for critical factors to consider in making dramatic shifts in parenting time; apply specific guidelines for generating a risk-benefit analysis; and, convey to involved mental health and legal professionals potential harm and benefits of possible outcomes as it relates to the factors identified in the deliberation process.

*Shawn McCall, PsyD, San Francisco, CA*

*Ellen Mauldin, MFT, Campbell, CA*

## 20. Special Considerations for Working with Families with a Child with a Disability

This workshop will provide participants with information on the development of parenting plans for families where a child has special needs, such as autism, bipolar disorder, ADHD, learning disabilities, and other behavior or mental disorders. Participants will also be challenged to consider their own biases and values when working with families. Innovative options for families with special needs will be discussed as well as legal and financial considerations, such as the development of trusts for children with special needs. Deviations from ordinary child support will also be addressed.

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

*Kara Anast, PsyD, Counseling Connections, Libertyville, IL*

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

## 21. You Have the Right to an Attorney—Except When You Don't

This workshop will present an overview of the laws related to, and research on, the appointment of counsel for low income litigants in family court. The panel will discuss the arguments for the appointment of counsel in family court and how it can ease the burden high conflict cases place on the courts. The workshop will focus on the creative strategies which advocates in Wisconsin have employed to advocate for the appointment of counsel.

*Korey Lundin, JD, Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc., Madison, WI*

*Roberta Rieck, JD, Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc., Milwaukee, WI*

*Amanda Aubrey, JD, Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc., Racine, WI*

## 22. Effects of Parental Incarceration on Long-Term Functioning of Family Members

When parents face criminal charges, family and child welfare issues also frequently present themselves to multiple courts. Using several prototypical cases as examples, this workshop will review what is known about how incarceration affects families, and what options exist to allow for better coordination among courts for the thoughtful resolution of such cases in ways that minimize long-term harm to parents and children.

*Cecelia Klingele, JD, Univ. of Wisconsin Law School, Madison, WI*

*James J. Bolgert, JD, Bolgert Mediation, Sheboygan, WI*

## 23. Match Game: ADR Triage for Better Outcomes in Child Custody Litigation

This workshop will share more than two years' worth of successes and challenges, data-based insights, and lessons learned from the Community Mediation Center of the Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution. The Dispute Resolution Triage Program features an assessment tool unique in Kansas (adapted from Connecticut) that is used to match disputing parents with one of several dispute resolution service options.

*Kirsten Zerger, JD, Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, North Newton, KS*

*Dan P. Wassink, MA, Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, North Newton, KS*

## 24. Parent Coaching—An Overview

Parent coaching creates an empowering relationship between a professional and relatively healthy client or clients whereby the coach and client(s) co-create goals and action steps to improve functioning and decision making. The parent coach is trained not to direct or impose any specific outcomes on clients. The parent coach asks key questions, and facilitates conversations that promote parent growth, related to several key areas including positive behavior management and communication skill-building. This workshop provides an overview of parent coaching, resources for development of coaching skills, and indicators for when coaching may be a good fit for a client.

*Amy Armstrong, MSW, The Center for Family Resolution, Worthington, OH*

12:00pm-1:30pm      Lunch (on your own)

1:30pm-3:00pm      Workshops 25-30

## 25. Addressing Domestic Abuse Issues in Mediation

Domestic abuse often lies beneath the surface of family conflicts. This workshop addresses dynamics of intimate partner abuse and how it impacts mediation and best practices for working with parties who have a history of domestic abuse. Participants will look at various aspects including: screening mediation parties and ways to improve screening tools and protocols; assessing parties' capacity to mediate and deciding whether a case is appropriate for mediation; and employing techniques to safely mediate and terminate mediation.

*Perri Mayes, JD, Milwaukee, WI*

*Marya Cody Kolman, JD, Columbus, OH*

## 26. The Millennials are Coming

Millennials are the largest, most populous generation in American history, outpacing baby boomers 2:1. While the group is not monolithic, these socially connected, digital natives are driving seismic change in every industry, sector, and community. It is becoming increasingly clear that as millennials approach their age of 'conscious uncoupling', family courts will be expected to change to meet the expectations of this generation. This workshop will provide information on how innovative courts, mediators, and co-parenting professionals are modifying their services and practices to serve the unique needs of this demographic.

*Julia F. Weber, JD, MSW, CoParenter, San Francisco, CA*

*Jonathan Verk, CoParenter, San Francisco, CA*

*Jonathan Mooney, CoParenter, San Francisco, CA*

## 27. Early Neutral Evaluation to Identify and Work with High Conflict Families

As part of Minnesota's Family Court's early case management program, many parents opt to participate in the early neutral evaluation process (ENE), with a male-female team of family court professionals. ENE is a short-term dispute resolution process designed to help parents resolve parental decision-making and parenting time disputes early in the court process. ENE can be utilized to identify high conflict family situations. This workshop will help participants to successfully intervene in these types of family situations, to identify family situations that are likely to remain chronically conflicted, and to determine the types of services and resources that will help these families manage their future conflicts as successfully as possible.

*Beth Painter Harrington, PhD, Eagan, MN*

*Jim Goetz, MSW, JD, Savage, MN*

## 28. Therapeutic Supervised Visitation: Optimizing Safety and Repairing the Family Bond

This workshop will give an overview of therapeutic supervised visitation (TSV) services and the advantages of employing a therapeutic approach. It will highlight The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children's TSV program and features which can be replicated or adapted to improve and enhance existing or start-up visitation programs. This will also include a discussion of how trauma-based theories of treatment inform the visitation clinician's work with parents and children who have a trauma history independent of, or as a basis for, the supervised visitation referral.

*Stephen Forrester, JD, The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, New York, NY*

*Mariel Berry, LMSW, The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, New York, NY*

## 29. How Joint and Co-Parenting Sessions Resolve High Conflict Cases

This workshop examines an innovative, child-centered approach to helping high conflict families resolve disputes. Kids First Law Center settles almost 90% of their high conflict custody cases. Children's attorneys conduct co-parenting sessions in cases where they have been appointed. In other cases, a Kids First therapist leads joint parenting sessions. Both techniques effectively incorporate children's input.

*Jenny Schulz, JD, Kids First Law Center, Cedar Rapids, IA*

*Laura Ebinger, JD, Kids First Law Center, Cedar Rapids, IA*

*Laura Martin, MSW, Kids First Law Center, Cedar Rapids, IA*

## 30. Eldercaring Coordination: A New ADR Process to Assist in the Care of Elders

Eldercaring coordination is a new ADR process for elders and the high conflict families who care for them. This workshop will explore the role of the judge, attorneys, eldercaring coordinators, and mediators, as well as the court's responsibility in this emerging court-connected program. Learn from the research results from early cases and various models across the country about how to establish a successful program in your area. Participants will also learn about eldercaring coordination in the context of a recent Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling.

*Sue Bronson, LCSW, New Prospects, Milwaukee, WI*

*Jacqueline Hagerott, JD, New Albany, OH*

# Travel and Lodging Information

## Hotel Information

Hyatt Regency Milwaukee  
333 W. Kilbourn Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53203  
414-276-1234  
milwaukee.regency.hyatt.com

Enjoy the Midwest charm and big city feel that Milwaukee boasts of, with views of Lake Michigan and a vibrant downtown life. With over 150 restaurants, 25 theaters, 150 parks, and 130 miles of bike trails, there is something for everyone. Take a walk to the Milwaukee Public Museum or visit the Harley-Davidson Museum, just a mile away from the Hyatt!

**Make your reservation today!** The Hyatt Regency is offering a special rate to conference attendees of \$139/night for single or double occupancy. On October 7, 2017, any unreserved rooms in the AFCC block will be released and the special rate will no longer be guaranteed. **Rooms frequently sell out before the room block is released!** Make your reservation online at <https://aws.passkey.com/go/AFCC2017> or call 1-888-421-1442 and mention group code AFCC. Attendees are responsible for making their own hotel arrangements.

## Ground Transportation

A taxi from the Milwaukee General Mitchell International Airport to the Hyatt Regency costs approximately \$35 and takes 15-20 minutes, depending on traffic. Taxis are available outside baggage claim 3. Uber and Lyft are located next to baggage claim 2. GO Riteway Transportation Group offers shuttle service from the airport to the Hyatt Regency, approximate cost is \$15, for more information visit [www.goriteway.com](http://www.goriteway.com).

## Parking

Valet parking is available at the Hyatt Regency for \$31/night with in and out privileges. Self-parking garages are located nearby, visit <https://milwaukee.regency.hyatt.com/en/hotel/our-hotel/parking.html> for locations and rates.

## Climate

In early November, temperatures in Milwaukee range from a high of 40-50°F to a low of 30-37°F. Meeting rooms and hotel facilities can be cold, so bring a light jacket or sweater.

# Of Special Note

## Continuing Education Credits

AFCC will provide a certificate of attendance for a processing fee of \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Attendees may access their certificate of attendance online after the conference concludes. *The certificate will verify attendance at conference sessions and may be used to apply for continuing education credits with the registrant's accrediting institution.* A complete list of conference sessions eligible for continuing education credits will be available at the conference 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. All sessions are eligible except for Institute 5, Workshop 1, 6, 18, and 21.

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

**Mental Health Professionals:** An application for continuing education approval from the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) will be submitted for up to 16.5 CE hours; however, individuals will need to verify approval with their credentialing or licensing boards. An application for continuing education approval from the Wisconsin Association for Marriage and Family Therapy will be submitted for up to 16.5 CE hours.

**Lawyers:** An application for CLE approval will be submitted to the Supreme Court of Wisconsin Board of Bar Examiners, the MCLE Board of Supreme Court of Illinois, the Minnesota State Board of Continuing Legal Education, the Indiana Commission for CLE, the Commission on CLE of Supreme Court of Iowa, and the Supreme Court of Ohio. Attorneys from other states may use the AFCC Certificate of Attendance to verify attendance and apply for credit in their state.

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

## Conference Scholarships

AFCC will offer a limited number of scholarships for the conference. Scholarships include a pre-conference institute registration, a full conference registration, welcome reception, luncheon, access to the 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](http://www.afccnet.org). **The scholarship application deadline is September 8, 2017.** Recipients will be notified mid-to-late September.

## Exhibit Forum

The Exhibit Forum will be open during conference hours. If you are interested in an exhibit table or distributing materials to conference attendees, please contact AFCC Program Coordinator, Corinne Bennett, at 608-664-3750 or [cbennett@afccnet.org](mailto:cbennett@afccnet.org).

## Conference Bookstore

Unhooked Books will sell books in the Exhibit Forum during the conference. If you would like to have your book displayed or have book recommendations, please submit them at: <http://bit.ly/2g3JM6o> or contact Myke Hunter at [myke@unhookedbooks.com](mailto:myke@unhookedbooks.com) with book title, publisher name, and/or ISBN by September 1, 2017, with "AFCC Bookstore" in the subject line.

## AFCC Hospitality Suite

The AFCC hospitality suite will be open for informal networking and refreshments Thursday and Friday from 9:00pm-12:00am. Please wear your name badge.

## Taste of Milwaukee

Friday evening is your opportunity to dine out with friends and colleagues. Sign up onsite before 1:00pm on Friday to join a group of 8-12 for dinner at a local restaurant. Participants are responsible for food, beverage, and transportation costs.

# 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 membership special rate on the registration form. *The new membership special rate is available only to first-time AFCC members.*

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

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

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

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

**Certificate of Attendance:** AFCC will provide a certificate of attendance for a processing fee of \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members.

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

*No personal audio/video recording or photographing of sessions is permitted.*

# Registration Form

**AFCC Regional Conference • November 2-4, 2017  
Hyatt Regency Milwaukee • Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

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

*Please register by October 2, 2017, to ensure that your name appears on the list of conference attendees in the conference materials.*

**1 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**2** Please circle appropriate amount(s)  
Below and total at the bottom

**New Member Special**

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

	Paid By Oct. 2	Paid After Oct. 2
<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150

**Pre-Conference Institutes Registration Rates**

Full Day Institute 1-4 – AFCC Member

\$140       \$160

Full Day Institute 1-4 – Non-member

\$175       \$195

Full Day Institute 5

\$ 50       \$ 60

**Conference Registration Rates**

Conference Registration – AFCC Member

\$295       \$325

Conference Registration – Non-member

\$360       \$395

Conference Presenter – AFCC Member

\$210       \$220

Conference Presenter – Non-member

\$225       \$240

Full-Time Student – AFCC Member

\$125       \$150

*(ID required. No meals included.)*

Full-time Student, AFCC Non-member

\$150       \$175

*(ID required. No meals included.)*

Certificate of Attendance – AFCC Member

\$ 15       \$ 15

Certificate of Attendance – Non-member

\$ 20       \$ 20

**TOTAL:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**3 Pre-Conference Institute Selections – Thursday, November 2, 2017  
9:00am-5:00pm**

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

- 1. Resistance, Refusal, Alienation
- 2. Developing Safe and Workable Parenting Plans
- 3. How Our Brains Fool Us
- 4. The Far Side of Acrimony
- 5. Family Court Services Caught in the Middle

**4 Conference Workshop Selections**

Seating is first-come, first-served and is not guaranteed. Your selections will ensure that sessions with more attendees are scheduled in larger meeting rooms. *(Please write in one session number per time slot)*

- |                      |                 |                |       |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------|
| Friday, November 3   | 10:30am-12:00pm | Workshop 1-6   | _____ |
| Friday, November 3   | 1:30pm-3:00pm   | Workshop 7-12  | _____ |
| Friday, November 3   | 3:30pm-5:00pm   | Workshop 13-18 | _____ |
| Saturday, November 4 | 10:30am-12:00pm | Workshop 19-24 | _____ |
| Saturday, November 4 | 1:30pm-3:00pm   | Workshop 25-30 | _____ |

**5 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**You may register online at [www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org)  
or return the completed form and payment to:**

AFCC  
6525 Grand Teton Plaza  
Madison, WI 53719  
Phone: 608-664-3750  
Fax: 608-664-3751  
[afcc@afccnet.org](mailto: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 9, 2017, will be issued a full refund minus a \$75 service fee. Written notice received by October 19, 2017, will have the \$75 service fee deducted and balance issued as a credit for future AFCC conferences, publications or membership dues. **No refunds or credits will be issued for cancellations received after October 19, 2017.**



6525 Grand Teton Plaza  
Madison, WI 53719

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

**Regional Conference**

**Milwaukee**

**Beneath the Surface of High Conflict  
and Troubled Families**

Hyatt Regency Milwaukee  
November 2-4, 2017

### Conference Sessions Include:

- Resistance, Refusal, Alienation: Matching the Problem to the Mental Health and Legal Intervention
  - Substance Abuse and the Family:  
Addressing Addiction in Troubled Families
- Four-Steps to SAF<sup>ER</sup> Best Interest Recommendations in Domestic Violence-Related Custody Cases
- Parenting Plans: A Focus on High Conflict Families and Mental Health Problems
- Parental Gatekeeping and the Social Capital Perspective: Application to the Relocation Context
  - Use of Triage, Evaluation, and Mediation to Effectively Resolve Family Law Cases
- Special Considerations for Working with Families with a Child with a Disability
  - Effects of Parental Incarceration on Long-Term Functioning of Family Members
- Therapeutic Supervised Visitation: Optimizing Safety and Repairing the Family Bond
  - Early Neutral Evaluation to Identify and Work with High Conflict Families



ASSOCIATION OF  
FAMILY AND  
CONCILIATION COURTS

**Milwaukee**

Hyatt Regency Milwaukee  
**November 2-4, 2017**

### AFCC REGIONAL CONFERENCE

**Beneath the Surface of High Conflict  
and Troubled Families**



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

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