

ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY



AND CONCILIATION COURTS



# **12th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations**

**Abuse, Alienation  
and Gatekeeping:  
Critical Issues for  
Family Court  
Professionals**

**Sheraton Atlanta Hotel • November 3-5, 2016**

# ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONCILIATION COURTS

## 12th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations Abuse, Alienation, and Gatekeeping: Critical Issues for Family Court Professionals

November 3-5, 2016

### Abuse, Alienation, and Gatekeeping: Critical Issues for Family Court Professionals

Cases involving abuse, alienation, and gatekeeping are often the most intractable. They create enormous challenges for all professionals involved in the family court process, especially during custody evaluation. The AFCC 12th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations will bring together world leaders in these topics for pre-symposium institutes, workshops, and plenary sessions that address specific practice skills, professional issues, and advanced theoretical applications. The symposium is designed for custody evaluators, judges, lawyers, mediators, and any professional who works with separating and divorcing families. Register today. This is a program that you will not want to miss!

### Nearly 40 outstanding sessions over three days!

- Advanced Psychological Testing
- Challenges with Parent-Child Contact
- AFCC's New Guidelines on Intimate Partner Violence
- Relocation and Child Custody Evaluation
- Developing Skills as a Testifying Expert
- Advanced Issues in Mediation
- Virtual Gatekeeping
- And many, many more!

### Earn up to 16.5 hours of continuing education credit!

This symposium will provide up to 16.5 hours of continuing education for psychologists, mental health professionals, lawyers, mediators, counselors, social workers and others. Applications for accreditation of continuing legal education will be submitted to Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas. See page 2 for details.

### About the Symposium

AFCC strives to offer a wide range of symposium sessions highlighting different research, advocacy positions, policies, practices, programs, procedures, and ideas. Some programs may be evidence-based while others may report on works in progress, emerging practices, or policy initiatives. The goal of the symposium is to enhance learning while encouraging respectful inquiry, discussion and debate consistent with AFCC organizational values. AFCC does not necessarily endorse or support the views of the symposium presenters.

### Sheraton Atlanta Hotel

Just a short walk from the Centennial Olympic Park, the Georgia Aquarium, and the World of Coca Cola, the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel is in the heart of the central business district. Enjoy the Garden Courtyard heated pool that features a retractable roof, or the fitness center. Wireless internet is included in the \$169 room rate. The Sheraton Atlanta Hotel is located 10 miles from the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

## Join AFCC Today!

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 symposium.** Save \$10 on your first year's membership and up to \$100 by registering at the discounted member rate. Select "New Member Special" when completing the registration form.

### 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 member directory** of more than 5,000 colleagues worldwide in an easily searchable format.
- **AFCC eNEWS**, the monthly electronic newsletter from AFCC delivers the latest developments in the field, updates, interviews, and more directly to your inbox.
- **NEW! AFCC webinars** provide members with convenient access to the latest educational programs taught by leaders in the field.
- **Substantial member discounts** on registration for AFCC conferences, trainings and webinars, exhibits and advertising, and publications from AFCC and Wiley Publishing.
- **Professional Liability Insurance** for arbitrators, hearing officers, mediators, parenting coordinators and education through Complete Equity Markets, Inc.

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

## AFCC Board of Directors

Marsha Kline Pruett, PhD, MSL Northampton, MA	<b>President</b>
Annette T. Burns, JD Phoenix, AZ	<b>President Elect</b>
Hon. Dianna Gould-Saltman Compton, CA	<b>Vice President</b>
Matthew J. Sullivan, PhD Palo Alto, CA	<b>Secretary</b>
Mindy F. Mitnick, EdM, MA Edina, MN	<b>Treasurer</b>
Hon. Peter Boshier Wellington, New Zealand	<b>Past President</b>
Richard L. Altman, JD Napoleon, OH	
Hon. Dolores A. Bomrad West Bend, WI	
Hon. Diana Bryant, AO Melbourne, VIC, Australia	
patti cross, JD Toronto, ON, Canada	
Milfred Dale, PhD, JD Topeka, KS	
Larry Fong, PhD Calgary, AB, Canada	
Jacqueline C. Hagerott, JD, LLM Nelsonville, OH	
Kelly Browe Olson, JD, LLM Little Rock, AR	
Ann M. Ordway, JD, PhD Signal Mountain, TN	
Stacey Platt, JD Chicago, IL	
Michael Saini, PhD Toronto, ON, Canada	
Robert A. Simon, PhD San Diego, CA	
Larry V. Swall, JD Liberty, MO	

## Conference Program Committee

Hon. Denise McColley	Co-chair
Matthew J. Sullivan, PhD	Co-chair
Lawrence Braunstein, JD	Milfred Dale, PhD, JD
Daniel Pickar, PhD, ABPP	Michael Saini, PhD
Arnold T. Shienvold, PhD	

## AFCC Staff

Peter Salem, MA	<b>Executive Director</b>
Leslye Hunter, MA, LMFT	<b>Associate Director</b>
Chris Shanahan, BA, CPA	<b>Business and Administrative Director</b>
Dawn Holmes	<b>Operations Administrator</b>
Nicole Ellickson, CMP	<b>Meeting Manager</b>
Carly Marco, BA	<b>Program Coordinator</b>
Corinne Bennett, BA	<b>Program Coordinator</b>
Patrick Sommer, BA	<b>Program Assistant</b>

## AFCC

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

## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Sheraton Atlanta Hotel • Atlanta, Georgia

## AFCC 12th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

### Wednesday, November 2, 2016

6:00pm-8:00pm Registration

### Thursday, November 3, 2016

7:30am-5:15pm Registration  
7:30am-5:15pm Exhibit Forum  
7:45am-8:45am Coffee and Rolls for Institute Registrants  
8:45am-4:45pm Pre-Symposium Institutes  
12:00pm-1:30pm Lunch (on your own)  
12:00pm-4:30pm AFCC Board of Directors Meeting  
5:15pm-6:45pm Opening Session  
6:45pm-7:45pm Welcome Reception  
9:00pm-12:00am AFCC Hospitality Suite

### Friday, November 4, 2016

7:30am-5:00pm Registration  
7:30am-5:00pm Exhibit Forum  
7:30am-8:30am Coffee and Rolls  
8:30am-10:00am General Session  
10:00am-10:30am Break  
10:30am-12:00pm Workshops 1-6  
12:00pm-1:30pm Lunch (included)  
1:30pm-3:00pm Workshops 7-12  
3:00pm-3:30pm Break  
3:30pm-5:00pm Workshops 13-18  
Evening Taste of Atlanta  
9:00pm-12:00am AFCC Hospitality Suite

### Saturday, November 5, 2016

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

# 12th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

## PRE-SYMPOSIUM INSTITUTES

Separate registration fee required for institutes.

**Thursday, November 3, 2016**

**8:45am–4:45pm**

### 1. Putting the New *Guidelines* for Evaluating Intimate Partner Violence to Work

The AFCC Board of Directors recently approved a set of guidelines that describe recommended practices for IPV-related child custody evaluations. The *Guidelines* themselves reflect aspirational goals for IPV-related custody evaluations, but do not endorse specific tools, protocols, or models to achieve those goals. This hands-on, interactive institute is led by four members of the *Guidelines* drafting committee – two evaluators and two attorneys – who invite participants to explore and discover innovative ways to implement and integrate the *Guidelines* into their daily work.

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

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

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

*Arnold T. Shienbold, PhD, Riegler, Shienbold & Associates, Harrisburg, PA*

### 2. Use of Psychological Testing in Parenting Plan Evaluations: An Advanced Institute

This advanced institute will focus on selection, administration, scoring, interpretation, and integration of test data within the overall assessment process. With increasing frequency, critics of psychological testing in custody cases have demanded that evaluators justify the decision to test, articulate the bases on which specific tests were selected, and candidly discuss the limitations of their test data. This program will examine how the appropriate instruments can directly and indirectly shed light on parenting and co-parenting issues. The interpretation of psychological test data in these evaluations requires specialized knowledge of a parent's unique motivations and other context-driven behaviors that may affect test results. Emphasis will be placed on choosing tests that conform to legal standards of admissibility, understanding how response style affects the confidence and certainty that can be placed in interpretations of the test data, and using context-specific normative data in custody evaluations.

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

### 3. Custody Assessment Analysis

This institute is intended for custody evaluators at all levels, attorneys, and judges. The presenters will employ the *Custody Assessment Analysis System*, developed by presenter Wittmann, to address preparation for custody work, effective management of pre-evaluation contacts with attorneys, litigants, and the court; the development of a detailed statement of understanding; forensic interviewing of adults and children; formal psychological assessment, report writing, and testimony.

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

*Jeffrey P. Wittmann, PhD, Albany, NY*

### 4. Advanced Issues in Mediation

This two-part institute will examine advanced issues in mediation. The morning session will focus on team mediation, a newly developed model, and a spin-off of collaborative practice. In this model, two mediators (generally mental health professionals) work together, each aligning with one of the parties in a process that provides each party with their "own" mediator. The afternoon session examines new research in mediation and intimate partner violence. Presenters will offer findings from a study concluding that some risk factors between the parties appear to be more worrisome in negatively impacting settlement and satisfaction than others. Participants will learn how this information can be used to help screen out parties that are unlikely to benefit from mediation.

*Howard Drutman, PhD, Atlanta Behavioral Consultants, Rosewall, GA*

*Marsha Schechtman, PhD, Atlanta Behavioral Consultants, Rosewall, GA*

*Susan Raines, PhD, Kennesaw State Univ., Acworth, GA*

*Jeju Choi, MS, Kennesaw State Univ., Kennesaw, GA*

## Continuing Education Credits

AFCC will provide a certificate of attendance for a processing fee of \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Attendees may access their certificate of attendance at [www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org) after the symposium concludes. *The certificate will verify attendance at symposium sessions.* Instructions for obtaining your certificate will be available at the AFCC registration desk, along with a list of symposium sessions eligible for continuing education credit.

**Psychologists:** AFCC is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. AFCC maintains responsibility for this program and its content. The program is eligible for up to 16.5 hours of continuing education for psychologists. All sessions are eligible except for workshops 18, 24, and 27.

**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 credits; however, individuals will need to verify approval with their credentialing or licensing boards.

AFCC is an NBCC-Approved Continuing Education Provider (ACEP™), #6571, and may offer NBCC-approved clock hours for events that meet the National Board of Certified Counselor requirements. The ACEP is solely responsible for all aspects of the program. Up to 15 hours may be earned. All sessions are eligible except for the opening session, and workshops 18, 23, and 27.

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

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

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

**US Lawyers:** An application for program approval will be submitted to the State Bar of Georgia, the Florida Bar, the North Carolina State Bar, the State Bar of Texas, and the Supreme Court of South Carolina Commission on CLE.



# 12th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2016

- 7:30am–5:15pm**      **Registration**  
**7:30am–5:15pm**      **Exhibit Forum**  
**7:45am–8:45am**      **Coffee and Rolls for Institute Registrants**  
**8:45am–4:45pm**      **Pre-symposium Institutes**  
**12:00pm–1:30pm**      **Lunch** (on your own)  
**5:15pm–6:45pm**      **Opening Session**

*Welcome: Marsha Kline Pruett, PhD, MSL, AFCC President, Northampton, MA*

## Town Hall Meeting

### Task Force on Guidelines for Examining Intimate Partner Violence

In 2016, the AFCC Board of Directors approved *Guidelines for Examining Intimate Partner Violence*. The *Guidelines* were developed as a supplement to the *AFCC Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluation* and were designed to assist members of AFCC, and others who conduct child custody evaluations, in examining how to identify the occurrence of intimate partner violence and its effects on children and parenting. This Town Hall Meeting will provide an opportunity for a conversation between the Task Force members who developed the guidelines and symposium attendees to examine the process and address questions or concerns.

*Members of the AFCC Task Force on Guidelines for Examining Intimate Partner Violence*

*Moderator: Hon. Gail Perlman (Ret.), Task Force Co-chair, Northampton, MA*

- 6:45pm–7:45pm**      **Welcome Reception**  
**9:00pm–12:00am**      **AFCC Hospitality Suite**

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2016

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

### Parent-Child Contact Problems: News You Can Use

Over the last decade, headline stories in family law have focused on the marked proliferation of processes and programs designed to address post-separation parent-child contact problems. This panel will deliver front-page reports on conceptual developments, the state of social science research, and special considerations for child custody evaluators in these challenging cases. Presenters will examine editorial views on the spectrum of interventions available to address children's resistance and refusal to have a relationship with a parent post-separation. Join us to learn about whether a measure can differentiate between alienated and estranged children, whether the DSM-5 is relevant, and what's new with intensive interventions to address entrenched contact problems.

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

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

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

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

### 10:00am–10:30am      **Break**

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

#### 1. Alienation and Estrangement from a Forensic, Therapeutic, and Legal Point of View

Presenters in this workshop will use hypothetical examples to describe the dynamics and challenges of high conflict families in which there are parent-child contact problems, including alienation and realistic estrangement that interfere with co-parenting. These challenges will be explored through the viewpoint of forensic evaluators, therapists, and legal professionals. The presenters will involve the participants in discussion regarding their understanding of the challenges and ways to address them. This workshop is relevant for judges, court personnel, attorneys, clinicians, and parenting coordinators.

*Lawrence J. Braunstein, JD, Braunstein and Zuckerman, White Plains, NY*

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

#### 2. Developing your Skills as a Testifying Expert

This session will use examples drawn from transcripts of testimony to examine those elements of experts' testimony that increase or decrease the effectiveness of the testimony. This workshop is intended for new evaluators, experienced evaluators, retained experts, court-involved therapists, and those whose apprehension regarding offering testimony has caused them to avoid becoming involved, in any manner, in litigated custody disputes.

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

## Save the Date!

**AFCC 54th Annual Conference**  
**Turning the Kaleidoscope of Family Conflict**  
**into a Prism of Harmony**

**May 31-June 3, 2017**  
**Sheraton Boston Hotel**  
**Boston, Massachusetts**

# 12th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

## 3. Knowing More, Doing Better, Accounting for Domestic Violence: A Panel Discussion

Presenters from Multnomah County, Oregon, including a family court judge, a custody evaluator, and the family court enhancement coordinator, will present their strategies for engaging the entire family court community in improving identification of domestic violence and evaluation of the impact of the violence on parenting and child well-being. Lessons learned from their efforts to improve the protocols and tools guiding their work will be shared, and the challenges of knowing more and doing better will be discussed.

*Jenny Woodson, MPA, Oregon Judicial Department, Portland, OR*

*Hon. Katherine Tennyson, Oregon Judicial Department, Portland, OR*

*Wendy Bourg, PhD, Portland, OR*

## 4. Understanding Parental Gatekeeping in Families with a Special Needs Child

Parental gatekeeping can take unique forms in separated or divorced families with a special needs child. In such families, restrictive gatekeeping may sometimes be justified based on safety or protection of the child, or when the other parent is passive, unavailable, or resistant to making sure their child receives appropriate services. Conversely, the parent who considers him or herself the "expert" regarding their child's disorder may seek to exclude a very capable parent from their child's life. This workshop will apply constructs of adaptive and maladaptive gatekeeping to developing parenting plans for special needs children and supporting needed interventions.

*Daniel Pickar, PhD, ABPP, Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, Santa Rosa, CA*

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

## 5. Ethical Issues in Child Custody: Evaluation, Consultation, Parenting Coordination

What are the hidden ethical obstacles when working in today's child custody roles? How does one navigate to an ethical resolution? Using vignettes to facilitate audience discussion, panelists will actively demonstrate an ethical decision-making approach that considers ethical, legal, clinical, and risk management issues. Participants will increase their conceptualization of mental health ethical dilemmas, gain substantive familiarity with relevant ethics standards and practice guidelines, and strengthen their conceptualization of ethical dilemmas, via an active demonstration of a decision-making model.

*Nancy A. McGarrah, PhD, Cliff Valley Psychologists, Atlanta, GA*

*James N. Bow, PhD, ABPP, Wayne State Univ., Livonia, MI*

*Lindsay Childress-Beatty, JD, PhD, APA Ethics Office, Washington, DC*

## 6. Effectively Treating Alienation in an Outpatient Setting

Successful treatment of parental alienation is often only achieved with a complete change in time-sharing, which may result in the child still having contact with only one parent. Using a court-ordered, structured psycho-educationally based intervention, where time-sharing is determined by the parent's participation, can be an effective way of working toward a more balanced resolution for the best interests of the children. The intervention includes individual sessions with each parent and the children on a regular basis over several weeks. While ideally a change in the parents' behavior is sought, the primary focus is on helping the family members, particularly the children, identify the problematic behaviors and cope accordingly so that the children can ultimately have some level of meaningful contact with both parents.

*Vanessa Archer, PhD, Archer Psychological Services, Coral Gables, FL*

**12:00pm–1:30pm      Lunch (included)**

**1:30pm–3:00pm      Workshops 7-12**

## 7. How Our Brains Fool Us: Keeping Cognitive Bias from Leading You Astray

Child custody evaluations are incredibly complex. Research shows that humans tend to oversimplify thinking as issues become more complex. Using videos to help explain, this interactive workshop will focus on critical heuristics associated with oversimplification and explain ways to reduce the risk of being negatively influenced by the way we think and approach complex cases. The presenters will focus on common heuristics and explain how to manage and control for these bias effects.

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

*Robert Simon, PhD, San Diego, CA*

## 8. Developing Forensic Psychological Opinions

Increasingly, legislators, judges, and our professional regulatory boards are requiring forensic examiners to provide the research upon which their opinions are based. There is no consensus, however, amongst the forensic evaluators on how this research should be integrated into the reports. Should custody evaluation reports follow the publication standards of the mainstream research journals? Would the reports include a 10- to 30-page bibliography supporting the opinions given? If so, does this require robust, empirical, replicated research studies and not opinion papers supportive of the opinions offered? Finally, to what extent is expertise required in the relevant case law on the questions, facts, and documents upon which the opinions are based?

*Allan Posthuma, PhD, A.B. Posthuma and Associates, Vancouver, BC, Canada*

*Jonathan W. Gould, PhD, Charlotte Psychotherapy and Consultation Group, Charlotte, NC*

*Hon. Dianna J. Gould-Saltman, Los Angeles Superior Court, Compton, CA*

# 12th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

## 9. Relocation and Child Custody Evaluation: Integrated Forensic Framework

This workshop will present a revised relocation risk assessment forensic model for a child custody relocation case, in combination with an integrated forensic framework. The forensic structure serves as a heuristic for judges and other family law professionals, as well as for evaluators. The research basis for the model and the effects of relocation on children of divorce will be briefly presented. Practical application with audience participation will demonstrate the utility of the model and expanded framework.

*William G. Austin, PhD, Austin Child Custody Services, Lakewood, CO*

*Deborah Day, PsyD, Psychological Affiliates, Winter Park, FL*

## 10. Identifying IPV and Crafting Appropriate Parenting Plans for the Court

This interdisciplinary panel will use intimate partner violence (IPV) subtype descriptors to examine clarifying the language, when assessment is needed, and what indicators to look for when conducting custody evaluations where there is IPV. Presenters will discuss how to develop the resulting parenting plan, appropriate referrals, methods of ongoing monitoring, and the presentation of the results to the court.

*Barrie Alexander, PhD, Cliff Valley Psychologists, Atlanta, GA*

*Nancy McGarrath, PhD, Cliff Valley Psychologists, Atlanta, GA*

*Daniel Bloom, JD, Richardson, Bloom and Lines, LLC, Atlanta, GA*

*Hon. Jane Barwick, Fulton County Family Court, Atlanta, GA*

## 11. It's Not the Gate, It's What's on Either Side

In recent years, family law professionals have begun to incorporate gatekeeping into assessment of co-parenting relationships. This session will explore the assumptions that underlie the concept of gatekeeping and examine the limitations and consequences of inserting the gatekeeping inquiry into child custody decision-making. Participants will evaluate the extent to which use of a gatekeeping frame helps or hinders direct examination of the context in which parenting occurs.

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

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

## 12. Clinical vs. Forensic Roles of Mental Health Professionals in Evaluations

This workshop will explore the potential risks and ethical implications of mental health professionals involved in custody evaluations when making recommendations and providing collateral evidence. The differences in clinical and forensic roles and how legal professionals and evaluators should consider such roles will be explored. Potential consequences of inappropriate use of these roles and the ethical violations involved will be illustrated with case scenarios, including those that involve allegations of abuse and cases with suspected parental alienation.

*Heather N. Bohn, PhD, Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court, Cleveland, OH*

*Frank R. Ezzo, PhD, ABPP, Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court, Cleveland, OH*

**3:00pm–3:30pm      Break**

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

## 13. Virtual Gatekeeping: Structuring Online Parenting Plans

Virtual gatekeeping is a useful framework for assessing parental behaviors and attitudes about the use of technologies (e.g. videoconferencing, email, text messaging) that can facilitate, protect, or restrict virtual parenting time. With the recent increase in the use of technologies as a medium for parent-child interactions, there is a growing need to consider strategies to facilitate positive online parent-child interactions without the interference of the other parent, while ensuring that these interactions are safe and in the child's best interest.

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

*Leslie Drozd, PhD, Newport Beach, CA*

## 14. A New Set of Reins: Education for the Preferred Parent

Engaging the preferred parent in high conflict divorce scenarios where contact resistance, contact refusal, or alienation exists presents a challenge for courts and mental health professionals. If therapy is not indicated, what interventions may be helpful? Are psycho-educational programs with a reporting feature an answer? Video vignettes, case studies, and literature review will be presented. The focus of this presentation is to provide solution-focused education to those populations that may lack insight into their behavior and may be resistant to accepting accountability.

*Rebecca Bailey, PhD, Transitioning Families, Glen Ellen, CA*

*Carol Golly, LCSW, RPT-S, Stable Paths, Miami, FL*

*Giselle Faubel, PsyD, Stable Paths, Miami, FL*

## 15. To Believe or Not Believe: Handling Allegations of Abuse in Child Custody Cases

Children who experience traumatic events such as physical/sexual abuse, domestic violence, or alienation/estrangement from a parent are often reluctant to disclose sensitive information. Court professionals interview these children when determining potential safety risks or when making visitation, custody, and placement decisions. However, when traumatized children are interviewed, they often remain silent, provide one-word utterances, or give blanket statements that lack credibility. This workshop will explore creative interviewing strategies that can be used by court professionals when interviewing traumatized children.

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

*Ann Ordway, JD, PhD, Univ. of Tennessee, Signal Mountain, TN*

## 16. Conducting Effective Collateral Interviews with Reluctant Sources

Presenters in this workshop will discuss a variety of methods of collecting collateral input, the potential risks and benefits to the sources who are questioned, and the likelihood of obtaining useful information from reluctant sources. Ethical issues involved in questioning collaterals – particularly when the source has an ongoing relationship with one or both of the parties – will be explored. Presenters will also address how to enhance the likelihood of obtaining useful information from sources that may have reasons to protect themselves, and assess their credibility.

*Beth Lieberman, LCSW, Colorado Springs, CO*

*Kathleen McNamara, PhD, Fort Collins, CO*

# 12th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

## 17. How Australian Family Reports and US Child Custody Evaluations Deal with IPV: A Trans-Pacific Dialogue

This presentation will outline the findings from two studies from Australia and the US that investigated report writing practice involving allegations of intimate partner violence, identifying some similar problems and seeking to identify best practices.

*Zoe Rathus, LLB, Griffith Univ. Law School, Brisbane, Australia*

*Samantha Jeffries, PhD, Griffith Univ., Brisbane, Australia*

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

## 18. A Dozen Things Lawyers and Judges Should Know About Custody Evaluations

This session will help lawyers and judges act wisely when appointing evaluators and working with child custody evaluations in settlement and adjudication. Presenters (a family court judge and lawyer) will discuss differences between forensic and clinical roles, role conflicts, specialized expertise required, the multi-modal method, orders appointing evaluators, purpose and scope of evaluations, transparency, family privacy, use of a scientific mindset, role of research, analysis and recommendations, and the role of reviewing experts.

*Leslie Ellen Shear, JD, Encino, CA*

*Hon. Denise McColley, Napoleon, OH*

**Evening**

**Taste of Atlanta**

**9:00pm–12:00am**

**AFCC Hospitality Suite**

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2016

**7:30am–12:00pm**

**Registration**

**7:30am–12:00pm**

**Exhibit Forum**

**7:30am–8:30am**

**Coffee and Rolls**

**8:30am–10:00am**

**Workshops 19-24**

## 19. From Research to Practice: Intimate Partner Violence

There is a growing body of social science related to intimate partner violence (IPV), and the implications for evaluators and other family law professionals are critical. For example, what do studies say about: risk factors for IPV and types of IPV; the effects of IPV on children; the effects of IPV on parenting; and how to best screen and assess IPV? Presenters in this interdisciplinary session will provide an overview and update on the latest IPV research. Participants will then explore how to effectively and appropriately employ the science in their practice.

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

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

*Hon. William C. Fee, Angola, IN*

## 20. Now What? Evaluating Interventions When Attachment Disruption Is Identified

This practical presentation will discuss the steps that should be taken when a child is found to be alienated or estranged from a parent following separation. The presenters will outline the various intervention models presently available for the therapeutic treatment of attachment disruptions and introduce a tool to assist judges, lawyers, and mental health professionals identify credible programs that are the best fit for the separated family.

*John-Paul Boyd, MA, LLB, Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family, Calgary, AB, Canada*

*Alyson Jones, MA, Alyson Jones and Associates, West Vancouver, BC, Canada*

## 21. Isn't the Court the Gatekeeper? Court-Ordered Plans and Allegations of Gatekeeping

Doesn't a court-ordered parenting plan define the relationship between the parents with respect to parenting time? Can a parent who is following the parenting plan be labeled a gatekeeper, as if they were an unfriendly parent? Using case examples, this session examines post-decree dynamics, cooperative and parallel parenting plan approaches, and cases where conflicts and pre-divorce dynamics persist after the court orders a parenting plan.

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

*Larry V. Swall, JD, Swall, Hutchings and Associates LLC, Overland Park, KS*

## 22. Overcoming the Co-Parenting Impasse: Negotiating Parent-Child Contact Problems

This workshop will provide a detailed, practical guide for structuring interventions to overcoming parent-child contact problems. Key dynamics will be examined including: (1) the parents' shared motivation to nurture and protect the child; (2) parental preoccupation with what went wrong and blame; (3) common cognitive biases and communication errors; and (4) resentment and the development of fixed, rigid, harsh belief systems. The Overcoming Barriers' model presented includes disengaged parallel co-parenting, organized both in cyberspace and at co-parent business meetings, and guidelines for common scenarios.

*John Moran, PhD, Overcoming Barriers, Phoenix, AZ*

*Shawn McCall, PsyD, San Francisco, CA*

## 23. New Developments in LGBT Parenting

LGBT people and families are increasingly present in family courts. Accordingly, custody evaluators, judges, and family court professionals require a clear picture of who these families are rather than relying on media depictions or questionable information. This interactive session will provide participants with the very latest, accurate data on LGBT parents and parenting, and explore demographics, family composition, financial, and other resources and the outcomes for children in these families.

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



# 12th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations

## 24. The Meaning of Money

Disagreements about money are known to be a leading cause of divorce. Once in the dissolution process, however, money becomes a factor in nearly every aspect of the divorce including the obvious (child and spousal support) as well as the not-so-obvious, such as how money changes the dynamics between parents, the way money influences decisions, and the use of money in harmful ways (such as to influence children's preference and to control children and former spouses). This advanced workshop, intended for attorneys, evaluators, mediators, and judicial officers, will explore how parents' views about money affect their interactions with each other in custody evaluations and ADR processes. The messages children receive from their parents about money and the impact of those messages on children of all ages will also be discussed. Moving the conversation with parents from feelings-based positions to shared interests in reducing the family's financial stress will be explored.

*Mindy F. Mitnick, EdM, MA, Uptown Mental Health Center, Edina, MN*

*Susan M. Lach, JD, Tuft, Lach, Jerabek and O'Connell, Maplewood, MN*

*Kevin McGrath, JD, McGrath Dispute Resolution, Minneapolis, MN*

**10:00am–10:30am Break**

**10:30am–12:00pm Workshops 25-30**

## 25. Reunification Therapy and Court Orders: Best Practices to Be on the Same Page

Professionals often end up working at cross purposes, which makes things difficult under the best of circumstances. Judges, attorneys, evaluators, therapists, and other experts frequently lack a shared language regarding how to categorize, order, triage, and treat cases in need of reunification therapy. This interactive presentation will focus on: (1) how important early steps impact the process of reunification therapy; (2) phases for moving through reunification; and (3) the importance of clear expectations and communication between the therapist and the court.

*Hon. Emily Miskel, 470th District Court of Collin County, McKinney, TX*

*Susan Fletcher, PhD, Plano, TX*

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

*Christy Bradshaw Schmidt, MA, LPC, Dallas, TX*

## 26. From Chaos to Stability in Substance Abuse Cases

There are proven methods of evaluation, intervention, and monitoring that work to stabilize and even heal co-parent relationships that have been fractured by addiction and divorce. There are effective ways to intervene and pull the parties out of the "cat and mouse" game of substance abuse allegations, using standardized methods of evaluation, intervention, and monitoring. The focus of this workshop will be on identifying what to expect from a substance abuse evaluation, how to have conversations with the user and the concerned parent that make a difference, developing effective random test schedules, identifying interventions specific to the substance of use, and the efficacy of abstinence and recovery monitoring.

*Colleen Moore, LMFT, MAC, More Than Recovery, Roseville, CA*

## 27. Child Development for Legal Professionals

During a divorce, lawyers typically focus on their clients and the resolution of conflict between the parents. Consequently, the child's voice may be silenced in the process. From a psychological perspective, some professionals demonstrate a lack of knowledge on the development of children, the attachment style of the child and parents, and the needs associated with each developmental phase. This workshop is designed to provide an overview of child development for legal professionals.

*Karin Meyer, MA, PhD, Child Care Centre, Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa*

## 28. Conceptualizing and Conducting Family Forensic Evaluations as a Human Enterprise

Differences in family forensic evaluations arise from variations in evaluators' training, knowledge base, and professional orientation. This presentation explores how we acquire knowledge about other persons and their relationships, and the process at the heart of the family forensic evaluation. The nonverbal and verbal interactions between family members, and between the forensic evaluator and the family, will be addressed. Interview methodology with parents that helps them move beyond making allegations toward taking responsibility for the family's dysfunction will be illustrated. Presenters will address three specific questions: (1) What is the value in a family forensic evaluation of using a clinical model based upon use of the self as an alternative to a "scientific" methodology borrowed from the physical sciences? (2) Is it not incumbent upon the forensic evaluator to understand the pre-verbal child's "voice"? (3) Have we considered alternative interview methodologies in order to get more substantive disclosures from parents?

*Peter F. Wolf, PhD, Riverdale, NY*

*Linda Gunsberg, PhD, New York, NY*

*Mark J. Rand, PhD, MPH, New York, NY*

## 29. When the Rubber Meets the Road: Drozd, Olesen, and Saini PPE Processes in Practice

This workshop focuses on clinicians' practical experiences utilizing the methods and processes described by Drozd, Olesen, and Saini in their book, *Parenting Plan & Child Custody Evaluations: Using Decision Trees to Increase Evaluator Competence & Avoid Preventable Errors*. This participatory workshop will highlight the triumphs and challenges of these methods, illuminate obstacles to effective implementation, and spark discussion on the tension between best practices and time/effort/money.

*Jennifer Keilin, MSW, Bellevue, WA*

## 30. Children First: A Novel Approach to Parenting Evaluations

This workshop presents a detailed "child first" evaluation model, which emphasizes evaluating the child first and generating parenting hypotheses from that data. The presenter proposes that current evaluation practices are "upside down" and create a high risk for finding parenting problems that don't exist, confirmatory bias based on hypotheses generated for individual parents, and failure to accurately assess the child's needs within the family context. By evaluating the child first, an individualized design for the evaluation can be developed based first and foremost on the child's functioning, which is consistent with legal standards, ethical guidelines, and other types of forensic evaluation.

*Sheba Katz, PhD, Katz Psychology Center, Fort Myers, FL*

*Jill Sanders, PhD, Fort Myers, FL*

## Of Special Note

### Scholarships

A limited number of scholarships are available. Scholarships include pre-symposium institute registration, symposium registration, welcome reception, Friday's luncheon, access to the hospitality suite and a certificate of attendance. Recipients are responsible for any additional expenses including travel and lodging. The scholarship application is available on the AFCC website: [www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org). **The application deadline is September 2, 2016. Recipients will be notified mid-September.**

### AFCC Hospitality Suite

The AFCC hospitality suite will be open for informal networking and refreshment on Thursday and Friday from 9:00pm–12:00am. Please wear your name badge. The hospitality suite location will be included in attendee emails and onsite room assignment information.

### Taste of Atlanta

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

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

## Registration Information

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

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

**Symposium Registration:** Includes all symposium sessions, electronic access to symposium materials, refreshment breaks, welcome reception, Friday's luncheon and access to the AFCC hospitality suite.

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

**Full-Time Student Registration:** Includes all symposium sessions and electronic access to symposium materials. Meal functions are not included; however, Friday's luncheon tickets may be purchased separately. Registration must include proof of full-time student status. *Separate registration is required for pre-symposium institutes.*

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

## Travel and Lodging Information

### Hotel Information

Sheraton Atlanta Hotel  
165 Courtland Street Northeast  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
404-659-6500

**Make your reservations today!** The Sheraton Atlanta Hotel is offering a special rate to AFCC attendees of \$169/night for single or double occupancy. On October 4, 2016, 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, so we encourage you to make your reservation early! Make your reservation by calling 1-800-833-8624 and request the AFCC special rate or reserve online by visiting [www.afccnet.org](http://www.afccnet.org) and clicking the reservations link. AFCC attendees are responsible for making their own hotel arrangements.

### Air Travel Information

The Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) is located approximately 11 miles from the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel. International and major airline carriers provide service to the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. For more information, visit [www.atlanta-airport.com](http://www.atlanta-airport.com).

### Ground Transportation

A taxi from the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport to the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel costs approximately \$30 and takes 25–30 minutes, depending on traffic. Taxis are available outside of baggage claim. Atlanta SuperShuttle provides transportation to and from the airport. The cost is approximately \$16.50 one way or \$25 round trip to the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel when booked online or at the airport. For more information, visit [www.supershuttle.com](http://www.supershuttle.com).

### Parking

Parking rates at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel are currently \$22 per night for self-parking and \$32 per night for valet with unlimited in/out privileges.

### Climate

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

# Registration Form

AFCC 12th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations • November 3-5, 2016

Sheraton Atlanta Hotel • Atlanta, Georgia

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

Please register by October 3, 2016, to ensure that your name appears on the list of symposium attendees in the symposium materials.

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

First Name (Dr./Mr./Ms./Judge) \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

First Name or Nickname (as you would like it to appear on your name badge) \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Profession \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**Paid by  
Oct. 3**      **Paid After  
Oct. 3**

## New Member Special

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

\$150      \$150

## Pre-Symposium Institutes Registration Rates

Full Day Institute - AFCC Member      \$150      \$170

Full Day Institute - Non-member      \$180      \$210

## Symposium Registration Rates

Symposium Registration - AFCC Member      \$320      \$350

Symposium Registration - Non-member      \$385      \$425

Symposium Presenter - AFCC Member      \$215      \$235

Symposium Presenter - Non-member      \$250      \$275

Full-Time Student - AFCC Member  
(ID required. No meals included.)      \$135      \$160

Full-time Student - AFCC Non-member  
(ID required. No meals included.)      \$160      \$185

Certificate of Attendance - AFCC Member      \$15      \$15

Certificate of Attendance - Non-member      \$20      \$20

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

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

Thursday, November 3, 2016, 8:45am-4:45pm

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

- 1. Putting the New *Guidelines* for Evaluating Intimate Partner Violence to Work
- 2. Use of Psychological Testing in Parenting Plan Evaluations: An Advanced Institute
- 3. Custody Assessment Analysis
- 4. Advanced Issues in Mediation

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

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

Friday, November 4	10:30am-12:00pm	Workshop 1-6	_____
Friday, November 4	1:30pm-3:00pm	Workshop 7-12	_____
Friday, November 4	3:30pm-5:00pm	Workshop 13-18	_____
Saturday, November 5	8:30am-10:00am	Workshop 19-24	_____
Saturday, November 5	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 \_\_\_\_\_

**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 3, 2016, will be issued a full refund minus a \$75 service fee. Written notice received by October 20, 2016, 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 20, 2016.

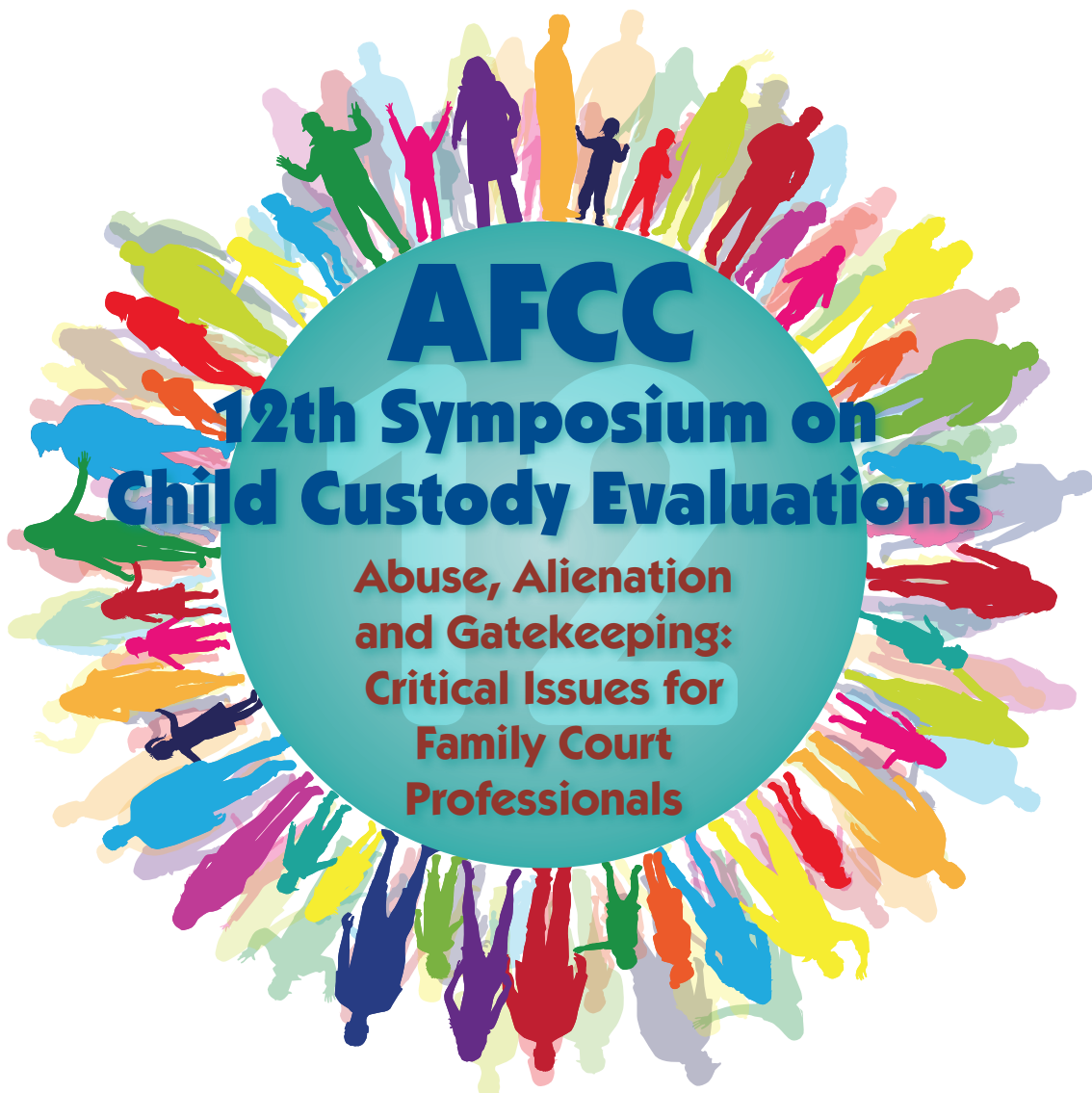
**AFCC**

6525 Grand Teton Plaza  
Madison, WI 53719

**AFCC 12th Symposium on  
Child Custody Evaluations**

November 3-5, 2016

**Sheraton Atlanta Hotel**



**Sheraton Atlanta Hotel • November 3-5, 2016**

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