

ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY



AND CONCILIATION COURTS

Turning the Kaleidoscope of Family Conflict into a Prism of Harmony



BOSTON **AFCC 54th Annual Conference**

Sheraton Boston Hotel • May 31-June 3, 2017

AFCC 54th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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**American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution
Association for Conflict Resolution
International Academy of Collaborative Professionals
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National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights**

About the Conference

AFCC strives to offer a wide range of conference 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 conference 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 conference presenters.

Turning the Kaleidoscope of Family Conflict into a Prism of Harmony

Family law-related conflict arises at many levels, including debates over legislative and policy initiatives, disputed research findings, professional practice disagreements, and most importantly, conflict between family members related to parenting time, child support, and parenting during and after separation and divorce. Although prisms of harmony will not always prevail, it is incumbent upon us to search for collaborative and effective means of resolving these conflicts. Join AFCC in Boston as we explore opportunities to resolve conflict—both our clients' and our own!

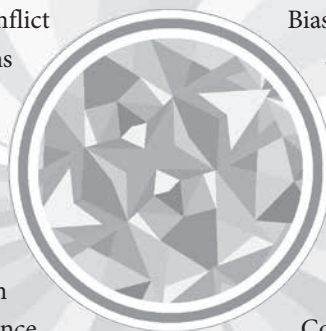
Three outstanding plenary sessions!

Online Dispute Resolution
and Access to Justice
Colin Rule and Nancy Welsh

From Bargaining in the Shadow
to Bargaining with the Devil
Robert Mnookin

Productive Conflicts about
Family Policy and Family Law
Bernie Mayer

Serving Unrepresented Litigants
Transforming Parental Conflict
Parent-Child Contact Problems
High Conflict Parents
Alienated Children
Mediation
Use of Research
Family Drug Court
Parenting Coordination
Intimate Partner Violence
Ethics, Civility, and Professionalism



Research on Trans and Gender Non-Conforming Youth
Bias in Child Custody Evaluations
Special Needs Children
Assessing Attachment
Collaborative Law
Reunification
Military Families
Peacemaking Strategies
Substance Abusing Parents
Comedy Improv and Mediation
Digital Parent-Child Relationships

- AFCC offers the best **interdisciplinary networking opportunities**, for judges, lawyers, mediators, custody evaluators, parenting coordinators, academics, researchers, mental health professionals, and students!
- **Join your international colleagues** from Australia, Canada, Israel, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden United Kingdom, and United States.
- Earn up to **20.5 hours of continuing education** for psychologists, lawyers, social workers, mediators, custody evaluators, and mental health professionals (see page 27 for details).
- **Apply for a Conference Scholarship:** AFCC will offer more than 30 scholarships for those in need of assistance to attend the conference. Apply for a scholarship online via the AFCC website at www.afccnet.org. The deadline is March 1, 2017 and recipients will be notified in mid-to-late March. See page 27 for more details.

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Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to invite you to join me, and the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, for our 54th Annual Conference, May 31-June 3, 2017, in Boston, Massachusetts. This is AFCC's first annual conference in Boston in 30 years and we are excited to be returning! The AFCC Conference Committee and Mass Chapter have been working hard to bring together

informed and cutting edge cross-disciplinary professionals. The conference theme, *Turning the Kaleidoscope of Family Conflict into a Prism of Harmony* will turn our focus to the many forms of conflict and conflict resolution that have emerged over the last several decades. These are reflected in the array of more than 100 conference sessions that will be offered, including three outstanding plenary sessions:

- Our opening session will look at modern methods of conflict resolution, as Silicon Valley's Colin Rule, founder of modria.com, and Nancy Welsh, chair, ABA Section of Dispute Resolution, discuss online dispute resolution (ODR): the associated benefits, risks, and ethical quandaries that technology brings to the table.
- Robert Mnookin, director of the Harvard Negotiation Research Project will look at four decades of family conflict from his classic 1979 co-authored article "Bargaining in the Shadow of the Law: The Case of Divorce" to his recent book, *Bargaining with the Devil*.
- Dr. Bernie Mayer, author of several groundbreaking books on conflict, will examine the challenges we must address in order to have productive conversations about conflict, within families, organizations, and as a society.

Of course, the plenary sessions are just one turn of the prism. The conference will feature more than 200 presenters from 12 countries presenting on topics such as family reunification, mediation, alienation, international child abduction, shared parenting, access to justice, relevant social science research, ethics and civility in legal practice, intimate partner violence, technology, custody evaluation, and much more.

These sessions will offer an opportunity to listen, learn, and engage with more than 1,000 colleagues from across the globe. In addition, you will have ample opportunity to network at our Opening Reception, Annual Luncheon, Annual Banquet, Silent Auction, and our famous Hospitality Suite!

The Sheraton Boston Hotel is located in the heart of Boston's Back Bay, so come early or stay late to enjoy diverse restaurants, shops, the Public Garden, Boston Common, and all that historic Boston has to offer.

The AFCC Annual Conference offers networking and learning opportunities for professionals of all disciplines and all levels of experience. I am confident that you will leave the conference re-energized with new ideas to improve your practice or your program and better ways to serve children and families.

Marsha Kline Pruett

Marsha Kline Pruett
AFCC President

Conference at a Glance

TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2017

6:00pm–8:00pm Conference Registration

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2017

7:30am–6:00pm 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
 10:30am–10:45am Break
 12:00pm–1:30pm Lunch on your own
 12:00pm–4:30pm AFCC Board of Directors Meeting
 2:45pm–3:00pm Break
 5:00pm–6:00pm New Member and First Time Attendee Orientation
 6:00pm–7:00pm Opening Reception
 7:00pm–8:00pm AFCC Awards Ceremony
 9:00pm–12:00am AFCC Hospitality Suite

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2017

6:15am–6:30am Meditation
 6:30am–7:15am Yoga
 7:30am–8:30am Chapter Council Meeting
 7:30am–5:00pm Conference Registration
 7:30am–8:45am Coffee and Rolls
 7:30am–5:00pm Exhibit Forum
 8:45am–10:00am Opening Session
 10:00am–10:30am Break
 10:30am–12:00pm Workshops 1-12
 12:00pm–1:30pm AFCC Luncheon
 1:30pm–3:00pm Workshops 13-24
 3:00pm–3:30pm Break
 3:30pm–5:00pm Workshops 25-36
 5:15pm–6:15pm International Reception
 Evening Taste of Boston
 9:00pm–12:00am AFCC Hospitality Suite

FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2017

6:15am–6:30am Meditation
 6:30am–7:15am Yoga
 7:15am–8:15am AFCC Committee Meetings
 7:30am–5:00pm Conference Registration
 7:30am–8:30am Coffee and Rolls
 7:30am–5:00pm Exhibit Forum
 8:30am–10:00am Workshops 37-48
 10:00am–10:30am Break
 10:30am–11:15am Plenary Session I
 11:15am–12:00pm Plenary Session II
 12:00pm–1:30pm Lunch on your own
 12:00pm–1:30pm *Family Court Review*
 Editorial Board Meeting
 1:30pm–3:00pm Workshops 49-60
 3:00pm–3:30pm Break
 3:30pm–5:00pm Workshops 61-72
 5:30pm–7:00pm Silent Auction and Reception
 7:00pm–9:30pm AFCC Annual Banquet
 9:30pm–12:00am AFCC Hospitality Suite

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2017

6:15am–6:30am Meditation
 6:30am–7:15am Yoga
 7:30am–12:30pm Conference Registration
 8:00am–9:00am Coffee and Rolls
 8:00am–12:30pm Exhibit Forum
 8:00am–9:00am AFCC Membership Meeting
 9:15am–10:45am Workshops 73-83
 10:45am–11:00am Break
 11:00am–12:30pm Workshops 84-93

Pre-Conference Institutes

(Separate registration fee required. Please see registration information on page 28.)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2017 9:00am-5:00pm

1. Parent-Child Contact Problems

A growing number of highly complex cases involving children resisting or refusing contact with a parent are appearing in family courts resulting from abuse, alienation, gatekeeping, and other parenting problems. Both fathers and mothers bear substantial responsibility. This institute will address the collaboration needed between lawyers, judges, and mental health professionals for effective child focused legal responses and clinical interventions. Topics covered include identification, screening, and differentiation of the various parent-child contact problems with an emphasis on family system-oriented solutions that are timely, promote accountability, and are tailored to the individual needs of each family.

Leslie Drozd, PhD, Newport Beach, CA

Barbara Jo Fidler, PhD, Families Moving Forward, Toronto, ON, Canada

Nicholas Bala, Faculty of Law, Queen's Univ., Kingston, Canada

Commissioner Marjorie A. Slabach (Ret.), JD, CFLS, San Francisco, CA

2. Bringing the Opiate Crisis into Focus: Parenting Decisions in the Family Court

The family court is often asked to address custody and parenting issues when one or both parents struggle with substance use disorder. Judges, probation, and other involved professionals are asked routinely to find the nexus between substance use and parenting to make decisions regarding appropriate child access. This institute will provide an exploration of the brain science and treatment of substance use and how it affects the ability to parent from the perspectives of the founder of a family support group, probation, and a custody evaluator. No professional working within the context of the court should be without the knowledge base that will be offered through this institute.

Jennifer Michaels, MD, Berkshire Medical Center, Pittsfield MA

John Gilpatrick, JD, Norfolk Probate and Family Court, Canton, MA

Harry Somers, EdD, Somers Psychological Associates, North Andover, MA

Joanne Peterson, Learn to Cope, Taunton, MA

3. Advanced Institute on Evaluating Intimate Partner Violence: Implementing the AFCC Guidelines

This institute will examine recommended practices for IPV-related child custody evaluations, as promulgated by the *AFCC Guidelines for Examining Intimate Partner Violence*. The *Guidelines* 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 will invite participants to explore and discover innovative ways to implement and integrate the *Guidelines* into their daily work.

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

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

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

Karen Irvin, PhD, LMFT, St. Paul, MN

4. Getting to "Yes, And"—Learn Comedy Improv and More to Enhance Your Mediation and Collaborative Skillset

Participants in this high energy and interactive institute will learn and engage in comedy improv and other skill-building activities designed to promote conflict resolution, interpersonal acceptance, deep listening, and collaboration. Participants will explore how authentic "Yes, And" responses (the guiding principle of comedy improv) create the foundation for a more collaborative engagement and build upon this foundation with advanced skills essential for mediators and collaborative professionals. Through laughter and open exploration, come and learn the hidden skills that comedy improv groups use to co-create improv scenes on the spot and how these and other skills can be utilized to enhance conflict resolution competence.

Gregory Firestone, PhD, Tampa, FL

5. Walking a Mile in their Shoes: Creating an Empathetic, Service-Oriented Approach to the Court User Experience

Can empathy be taught? Each member of the courthouse team, from judge to clerk to court officer, must understand the complex issues underlying cases that involve domestic violence and trauma—including secondary trauma—in order to effectively address the needs of domestic violence victims and their alleged perpetrators. By creating an atmosphere of empathy in court, every member of the justice delivery team helps to instill public trust and confidence in the court system. This institute introduces interactive training modules for staff, including excerpts from online and in-person training components proven to illustrate how victims and perpetrators of domestic violence make choices as the violence escalates. The institute is for all those charged with ensuring that court users experience empathy and understanding at each and every point in the judicial process.

Chief Justice Paula M. Carey, Chief Justice of the Trial Court, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Boston, MA

Hon. Marianne Hinkle, First Justice Woburn District Court, Woburn, MA

John Laing, Chief User and Diversity Officer, Boston, MA

William Kahn, PhD, Boston, MA

6. Recalibrating Parenting Coordination Approaches: Co-Parenting and Child Adjustment as the Prime Focus

This institute highlights interventions in parenting coordination (PC) practice to benefit children through improved co-parenting by enhancing parents' child-centeredness. Feedback from parents and PCs representing 15 completed PC processes will be presented; an existing co-parenting intervention (Focused Co-parenting Consultation, or FCC) adapted to meet expressed unmet needs of parties in PC and focused on the parties' child(ren) will be outlined; and experiences of pilot families who completed the adapted FCC intervention and of the professionals who worked with them will be presented.

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

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

Pre-Conference Institutes

(continued)

7. Peacemaking Negotiation Strategies

What are the goals and tactics of negotiations in contested parenting and financial disputes beyond producing settlements and processes that prevent litigation? Can lawyers, judges, and mental health professionals transform negotiations into more long-range family modifications that include improving relationships between parties and their children, producing insight, empathy and improved behavior within the reorganized family, and designing systems to prevent and manage future conflict? This interdisciplinary, interactive institute will present cutting-edge negotiation strategies with step-by-step protocols and opportunities to practice and integrate them for immediate use in your practices and courtrooms. Some of the strategies presented will include the use of Internal Family Systems approaches, techniques based on cognitive science, as well as dealing with destructive negotiation behavior through the use of self-confrontation and structured apology.

Forrest (Woody) Mosten, JD, UCLA School of Law, Los Angeles, CA

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

David Hoffman, JD, Boston Law Collaborative, LLC, Boston, MA

8. Special Needs Children in Separation and Divorce: Unique Challenges for Family Law Professionals

Family courts have seen a dramatic rise in children diagnosed with various types of neurodevelopmental, psychiatric, and medical syndromes. In some of these separating or divorcing families with a special needs child, typical parenting plans may be inappropriate. This institute for attorneys, mediators, bench officers, and mental health professionals will describe some of the most commonly occurring childhood disorders seen in family court and offer a multi-factor risk assessment model to assist in developing effective parenting plans regarding time-share and decision-making. Gate-keeping issues that arise with these families will be discussed. Judicial and legal perspectives on the challenges in assisting these special needs families will also be addressed.

Hon. Christina Harms (Ret.), William James College, Newton, MA

Robert Kaufman, PhD, ABPP, Oakland, CA

Daniel Pickar, PhD, ABPP, Santa Rosa, CA

Join AFCC Today and Save!

AFCC is the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts—an interdisciplinary and international association of professionals dedicated to improving the lives of children and families through the resolution of family conflict. AFCC brings together members of multiple disciplines 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 annual conference and save \$10 on your first year's membership and up to \$180 on your registration.

Select "New Membership 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, and publications from AFCC and Wiley-Blackwell.
- **Complete access to new AFCC Webinar 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 educator.

www.afccnet.org

Turning the Kaleidoscope of Family Conflict into a Prism of Harmony

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2017

7:30am-6:00pm	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 (see pages 4 and 5)
10:30am-10:45am	Break
12:00pm-1:30pm	Lunch on your own
2:45pm-3:00pm	Break
5:00pm-6:00pm	New Member and First Time Attendee Orientation
6:00pm-7:00pm	Opening Reception
7:00pm-8:00pm	AFCC Awards Ceremony
9:00pm-12:00am	Hospitality Suite

“Any professional working with families in distress, and involved with the legal system, should view attendance at AFCC conferences as an obligation to those families, and to the field that the professional represents. Knowledge is increased, skills are sharpened, and thought-provoking perspectives are exchanged.”

David A. Martindale, PhD
St. Petersburg, Florida

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2017

6:15am-6:30am	Meditation
6:30am-7:15am	Yoga
7:30am-8:30am	Chapter Council Meeting
7:30am-5:00pm	Conference Registration
7:30am-8:45am	Coffee and Rolls
7:30am-5:00pm	Exhibit Forum

8:45am-10:00am Opening Session

Welcome: Marsha Kline Pruett, AFCC President

Hon. Paula M. Carey, Chief Justice, Massachusetts Trial Court, Boston, MA

Resolving Conflict and Expanding Access to Justice through Online Dispute Resolution

Online dispute resolution (ODR) is here, and increasingly, courts and legal service providers are recognizing its potential in expanding access to justice for parties involved in divorce and child custody matters. This session will introduce a variety of ODR tools—some that direct parties to information that they need, some that supplement parties’ face-to-face interactions with judges and other third parties, and still others that enable parties to reach solutions without any face-to-face assistance at all. What advantages do these innovative tools offer? What ethical issues do they introduce? Are they the future, or do they risk delivering second-class justice? Relying on recent social science research and extensive real-world ODR experience, the presenters will discuss these challenges and share ideas regarding best practices and important procedural and substantive safeguards.

Colin Rule, MPP, Founder and Chief Operating Officer, Modria, San Jose, CA

Nancy Welsh, JD, Professor of Law and William Trickett Faculty Scholar, Penn State Univ. Dickinson School of Law, Carlisle, PA

10:00am-10:30am Break

10:30am-12:00pm Workshops 1-12**1. Ten Years Later: Research and Practice Informed Work with High Conflict Families**

Clinicians, attorneys, and judges are stymied trying to find effective solutions for intractable conflict, children caught in the middle, and systems mired in polarization. From ten years working together with these families, these clinicians will present information from informal and formal evaluation methods and views from families served to propose what works for whom and ways to move forward. Looking in depth at interventions for mild to severe parent-child contact problems through custody change, they suggest current best solutions.

Peggie A. Ward, PhD, Co-Parenting Assessment Center, Bradenton, FL

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

Matthew J. Sullivan, PhD, Palo Alto, CA

2. What Happens If There is Presumptive 50/50 Timesharing and No More "Custody"

On January 1, 2013, Arizona family law statutes were modified to promote maximized parenting time and shared decision-making, and to remove the term "custody." No other state has passed similar legislation, and it is not known if the effects will be in the best interests of children. An interdisciplinary panel from Arizona will discuss the effects of the law from their professional perspectives.

Michael Aaron, JD, Aaron & Rogers, Tucson, AZ

Faren R. Akins, PhD, JD, Akins Law Firm, Scottsdale, AZ

Commissioner John J. Assini, Pima County Superior Court, Tucson, AZ

Tracy McElroy, MA, Family Services of the Conciliation Court, Pinal County, Coolidge, AZ

3. How Implicit Bias Impacts Conflict Mediation

This workshop will help attendees to recognize and address their implicit biases and the impact they have on the mediation process. These implicit biases inform how professionals interpret interactions and dynamics that are emotionally charged and psychologically challenging. Unprocessed, these biases can lead to feelings of guilt and micro-aggressions, potentially impacting the mediation process in a negative way.

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

Tanya Greathouse, PhD, LCSW, Metropolitan State Univ. of Denver, Denver, CO

Lori Darnel, JD, MSW, Englewood, CO

4. Assessing Attachment for Family Court Decision Making

An innovative method for assessment and formulation of attachment issues in family court decision making will be presented. Developed by the International Association for the Study of Attachment (IASA), the Family Attachment Court Protocol has been piloted before 15 judges. The clarity of the reports often resulted in out-of-court agreements that reduced overall costs. Theory, protocol, expert training, and case examples will be presented.

Susan J. Spieker, PhD, Univ. of Washington, Seattle, WA

Patricia M. Crittenden, PhD, Family Relations Institute, Miami, FL

Margaret Evans, MA, Psychology Reports, Ltd., Tasman, New Zealand

5. Applying the Kubler-Ross Stages of Grief to Cases of High-Conflict Divorce

Family law professionals should have a thorough understanding of the immense impact of grief and loss on the family system. This workshop proposes a model for treatment that presents an adaptation to Kubler-Ross's grief wheel for those who interact with families involved in high conflict divorce.

Frank Davis, PhD, Glen Ellen, CA

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

Abigail Judge, PhD, Harvard Medical School, Cambridge, MA

Jamie N. Isicoff, JD, Stable Paths, Miami, FL

6. Serving Pro Se Litigants: Adapting Our Practices to the World of Consumer Users

In today's marketplace, for-profit family law professionals must be imaginative, responsive, and adaptable to the growing numbers of self-represented litigants. By effectively providing services to self-reps, practitioners can reach more clients, increase billings, and build a thriving practice. Innovative uses of limited scope retainers and unbundled services allow professionals to create fresh service packages, using different pricing and delivery models. Practical steps will be presented, and whether current professional regulations need to be updated will be considered.

Steven Benmor, LLB, Benmor Family Law Group, Toronto, ON, Canada

Joel Miller, LLB, The Family Law Coach, Toronto, ON, Canada

Virginia Sudbury, JD, Salt Lake City, UT

7. Preventing Separation and Divorce: Scalable Approaches to Strengthening Families

This session will examine three methods for strengthening couple relationships and either preventing separation and divorce or de-escalating the conflict with a break-up. Discussions will focus on: (1) discernment counseling, a pre-couples therapy protocol for partners when at least one is ambivalent about ending the committed relationship; (2) active listening training that teaches couples to listen nondefensively to the other; and (3) an online co-parenting program that strengthens couples' relationship skills, and impacts their decision to divorce or separate.

William J. Doherty, PhD, Univ. of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

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

8. Theories, Evaluations, and Decisions with Substance Abusing Parents

Many child custody disputes contain allegations of parental substance abuse and its effect on parenting. In order to make the best practical recommendations to the court, a custody evaluation should contain thorough and correct evaluation techniques of an alleged substance abusing parent. Recommendations about access to children must be clear, concise, and based on the evidence in the evaluation. Participants in this session will learn a method to evaluate parents and how to craft recommendations based on those results.

Harry J. Somers, EdD, Somers Psychological Associates, North Andover, MA

9. An Imperfect Protection: The Case for Confidentiality in Mediation

Mediation is often a mandated pre-action process. Tensions have come to exist between mediation confidentiality and the desire of courts to have access to all available evidence. This presentation reports upon and evaluates the first comprehensive survey (169 respondents) of the attitudes of mediators to confidentiality and considers the value of confidentiality to mediation, the importance of mediation to the justice system, and the attainment of justice by individuals and that which might be lost by further eroding confidentiality.

Hon. Joe Harman, Federal Circuit Court of Australia, Parramatta, NSW, Australia

10. Parenting Coordination in Rural Areas: Identifying and Overcoming Obstacles

The crux of parenting coordination involves working with high conflict parties to help implement parenting plans that promote the best interests of children while reducing the level of conflict between the parties. This alone can be challenging; however, parenting coordinators and the judicial bench in rural settings frequently face additional obstacles. This workshop aims to identify potential obstacles, propose solutions, and provide an open forum for feedback on what has worked in other rural communities.

Allma-Tadema Miller, JD, Stiriz & Miller, LLC, Delta, OH

Stacey Stiriz, JD, Stiriz & Miller, LLC, Delta, OH

Magistrate Richard Altman, Fulton County Court of Common Pleas, Napoleon, OH

11. Flashpoint, Self-Care, and Managing Personal Risk

Family court lawyers and judges have been murdered, assaulted, run over, and harmed or harassed in a variety of ways. This presentation is about understanding potential risks to yourself and fellow workers and will consider four broad aspects: (1) how to assess imminent danger and assess the risk in a practical fashion; (2) harassment and stalking of professionals; (3) disclosure of risk when it arises; and, (4) how to diffuse and manage risk in your office with someone who is becoming dangerous.

Philip Watts, PhD, South Perth, Australia

12. Better Use of Research in Family Justice: An Observatory for England and Wales?

There is increasing demand for improved access to research evidence by family justice judges, policy makers, and practitioners to help cope with increasing caseloads and improve outcomes for children and families in public and private law. This workshop will present early findings from a scoping study to explore the feasibility of setting up a 'family justice observatory' in England and Wales. It will draw on international experience to explore possible functions and models for an observatory.

Teresa Williams, MSc, Nuffield Foundation, London, UK

Karen Broadhurst, PhD, Centre for Child and Family Justice Research, Lancaster, UK

Harriet Ward, PhD, Centre for Child and Family Justice Research, Loughborough, UK

12:00pm-1:30pm AFCC Luncheon

Presiding: Marsha Kline Pruett, AFCC President, Northampton, MA

1:30pm-3:00pm Workshops 13-24

13. The Ethics of App-Assisted Family Mediation

Do you want to improve client communication in mediation? There's an app for that. Would you like to improve documentation, conflict assessment, negotiation, problem solving, or data management? There's also an app for each of these components of mediation. But how do we know whether use of a particular app is ethical? This interactive workshop provides a framework for analyzing the use of apps in relation to confidentiality, neutrality, informed consent, dual relationships, competence, cross-jurisdictional practice, and other ethical considerations.

Allan E. Barsky, JD, PhD, Florida Atlantic Univ., Lauderdale by the Sea, FL

14. Why Therapists Can't Do It All: A Brief on Clinical, Ethical, and Legal Arguments

Therapists are often asked to do more than therapy with the parents and children involved in custody disputes. Despite consensus among mental health professionals that this is inappropriate, the parties, attorneys, and even courts continue to ask therapists for custody, residency, and parenting time recommendations. Designed as a supplement to the *AFCC Guidelines for Court-Involved Therapists*, the "Why therapists can't do it all" brief will review the clinical, ethical, and legal arguments why therapists should remain focused on behavioral change and emotional support rather than making recommendations. Data from a survey of mental health licensing boards will also be presented.

Milfred (Bud) Dale, PhD, JD, Topeka, KS

Larry Swall, JD, Swall, Hutchings and Associates, LLC, Overland Park, KS

Dane Frazier, BCM, Topeka, KS

15. Reunification Therapy: An Integrative Approach

This workshop describes an integrated approach to reunification therapy involving the family, reunification therapist, and legal counsel within the context of litigation. The proposed model follows a Parent-Child Interaction Therapy structure with a Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) focus that progresses through two phases: Child-Directed Interaction and Parent-Directed Interaction interweaving the development and practice of DBT skills. This wrap-around approach both educates the parents about the reunification process and aims to assemble the requisite environment for a successful reunification process. Presenters will discuss the clinical and legal implications of this model, as well as the limitations of the model and reunification therapy in general.

Kristin Doeberl, JD, Verrill Dana, LLP, Boston, MA

Liana Shelby, PsyD, Child and Family Evaluation Service, Newton, MA

16. New Strategies for Transforming Parental Conflict

This workshop will present novel approaches for transforming parental conflict in high conflict cases: (1) a structured approach to bringing children's voices into the process; (2) a strength-based focus that keeps the ego out of the process; and, (3) an innovative advanced technology in an online program that teaches parents about neuroscience and the health aspects of conflict, while promoting communication and emotional regulation skills during and after program completion. Preliminary effectiveness data will be presented.

Melissa Sulkowski, RN, MA, Nurturise Counseling and Wellness, Erie, PA

Louise Phipps Senft, JD, Baltimore Mediation, Baltimore, MD

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

17. Ethics, Civility, and Professionalism: The True Practice of Family Law

A renewed commitment to ethics, civility, and professionalism is sweeping through the legal community. This session will present participants with simple guidelines to help family lawyers work effectively and efficiently with clients, experts, the courts, and opposing counsel.

Norman I. Jacobs, JD, Esdaile, Barrett, Jacobs & Mone, Boston, MA

Lesley Goldsmith, JD, Norfolk Probate and Family Court, Canton, MA

Hon. Kevin Connelly, Middlesex Probate and Family Court, Cambridge, MA

18. Borrowing Without Blurring: Applying Legal Counseling Concepts to Mediation

Mediators in parenting cases have a challenging task to respect parent's self-determination while they balance a duty to assure a fair, child-centered outcome. They are not alone. Good lawyers representing parents face similar tensions when counseling their clients to put their children's needs first, while respecting the parents' autonomy. This session will identify the methods that good legal counselors use and explore how those methods can help mediators balance parent autonomy with their children's best interests.

Carolyn Wilkes Kaas, JD, Quinnipiac Univ. School of Law, Hamden, CT

Kelly Browe Olson, JD, LLM, William H. Bowen School of Law, Little Rock, AR

19. Balancing Stepfamilies and Families of Origin

High conflict families are complicated enough without adding a stepfamily dynamic into the mix. A stepfamily presents multiple additional layers for professionals to sort through. Evaluators, parenting coordinators, and others working with court-involved families often include new partners and their children in the process for good reasons. But it is critical to understand implications associated with the new family mixing with the old and how to balance competing interests in the management and resolution of conflict. Join this session to learn more about this critical subject.

Ann M. Ordway, JD, PhD, Univ. of Tennessee-Chattanooga, Signal Mt., TN

Ruth O. Moore, PhD, Lamar Univ., Savannah, GA

20. See U Online: Relocating to Digital Parent-Child Relationships

The rapid increase in online communications has opened access to online worlds, including social networking, gaming sites, in-apps, virtual worlds, video sites, and blogs. These technologies have also created new ways children can stay connected with their parents. Although the literature has pointed to some positive benefits of digital relationships, this workshop will focus on new challenges for children's internet safety, both within parental relationships and within broader digital networks, especially in the context of relocation disputes.

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

Leslie Drozd, PhD, Newport Beach, CA

Nancy Olesen, PhD, San Rafael, CA

"I leave the seminars feeling inspired and enthusiastic. I have already made improvements in the way I describe information in my reports based on what I have learned from legal professionals at the AFCC conference. I learned far more than I anticipated I would. I so enjoy the multidisciplinary aspect of the conference, with mental health practitioners, lawyers, judges, and evaluative psychologists working together to help us understand how all those disciplines play a role in the process of family law."

Tamara Taylor, PhD
Tacoma, Washington

21. Degree of Separation: Intimate Partner Violence

This workshop will compare laws in Australia and the United States concerning intimate partner violence. The review of legal and psychological research in both countries will assist family law practitioners and mental health providers to better identify and to understand the implications of intimate partner violence. During this program, the 15-minute film, *Degree of Separation*, will be shown to illustrate how intimate partner violence permeates the practice of all professionals working with families.

Darren Mort, Barrister at Law, Melbourne, VIC, Australia

Stacy Heard, JD, Seattle, WA

Elizabeth Picker, Barrister at Law, Sydney, NSW, Australia

22. Interdisciplinary Perspectives on a Custody Trial

The presenters will discuss a child custody trial from initial client intake through trial from the perspective of the participants in the trial. Topics will include applicable law, current protocols for custody evaluations and ethical standards, as well as trial strategies for handling difficult issues such as sexual abuse allegations, parental alienation, mental illness of a parent, and relocation.

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

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

Sherill Sigalow, PhD, New York, NY

Karen Rosenthal, JD, Bender and Rosenthal, LLP, New York, NY

23. Dilemmas in High Conflict Divorce: A Multidisciplinary Dialogue from Australia

In high conflict matters, parents frequently present very different opinions about their children's experiences and views. Children may feel enormous pressure from their parents. The voice of the child can be heard in a variety of ways but rarely directly from the child. This workshop will explore the complex and difficult issues facing the court in high conflict matters from the perspective of the judicial officer, the court expert, and the independent children's lawyer.

Hon. Alexandra Harland, Federal Circuit Court, Melbourne, VIC, Australia

Brigid Jenkins, LLM, Victoria Legal Aid, Melbourne, VIC, Australia

Lisa Bottomley, BSW, Family Law Parent Centre, Highett, VIC, Australia

24. Conflict on the Home Front: What Works in Supporting Military Families?

Drawing on practice, research, and policy from across the globe, this presentation will involve participants in discussions regarding their understanding of the challenges of parenting in military and veteran families, ways to address them, and how to choose evidence based interventions in practice. These challenges will be explored through the viewpoint of family court professionals, forensic evaluators, and therapists.

Gabriela Misca, PhD, MSc, Univ. of Worcester, Worcester, UK

3:00pm-3:30pm Break

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

25. Managing Special Needs Issues in Custody Disputes: Practical Strategies

This session will present a "ground up" model for managing children's special needs in the context of parental conflict. Early intervention, focused on practical issues, may both support children and reveal much about children's needs and resources that each parent can contribute. Presenters will discuss the risks of premature assumptions about parenting plans, components of consistency, effective interaction with systems and professionals important to children, diagnostic or treatment disputes, and time-sensitive intervention.

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

Eve Lopez, JD, CFLS, Lopez Law Group, Los Angeles, CA

26. A Study of Mediation in Cases with Intimate Partner Violence: Midway Review

This session will present mid-study outcomes and experiences from an ongoing study of mediation for cases with high levels of IPV. In this study, cases are randomly assigned to shuttle or video-conferencing mediation or returned to court for traditional litigation. Presenters will discuss the controversy surrounding mediation for these cases, the models of mediation developed for the study, and the program's staff and director's experiences with helping to conduct research in their center. Available outcome data will be presented.

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

Connie J.A. Beck, PhD, Univ. of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Fernanda S. Rossi, BA, Indiana Univ., Bloomington, IN

Jeannie M. Adams, MA, Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC

27. In Pursuit of the Prism of Harmony: A New Approach to Family Law Conflict

The presenters will describe their unbundling the elements of a collaborative approach and working as neutral advisors to parties prior to their deciding which lawyer will represent which party. They will describe how this facilitative mediation process engenders trust. This different approach will build trust with the other lawyer and, as allies, can make a critical difference in the parties' approach to conflict.

Jennifer L. Hetherington, LLB, Annerley, Queensland, Australia

Kay Feeney, LLB, Milton, Queensland, Australia

28. How to Deal with Clinical Issues, Clinical Evidence, and Clinical Experts

This workshop is for both expert witnesses and attorneys who deal with mental health and other clinical issues in court. The emphasis will be on practical tips, specific techniques, and common errors. Specific topics will include deposition issues, trial strategy, framing issues, opening and closing arguments, direct and cross examination, use of the clinical literature, impeaching experts, dealing with psychological testing, and addressing psychopathology such as mental illness and personality disorders.

Steven G. Miller, MD, *The Massachusetts Medical Education Group, LLC, Waltham, MA*

29. An Attachment-Based Model of Parental Alienation: Diagnosis and Treatment

The pathology traditionally called “parental alienation” is not a new syndrome, but instead represents a manifestation of well-established and defined forms of existing pathology involving the transmission of attachment trauma from the childhood of the allied parent to the current family relationships, mediated by parental personality disorder pathology. An attachment-based reformulation for the pathology of “parental alienation” offers new clinical and evidence-based approaches for assessment, and emerging brief-intensive interventions offer new alternatives to traditional psychotherapy for resolving the pathology.

Craig Childress, PsyD, *Claremont, CA*

Dorcy Pruter, *Conscious Co-Parenting Institute, Redondo Beach, CA*

30. FRSC: A Community-Based Problem-Solving Specialty Court for Families in Conflict

The Family Resolutions Specialty Court in Northampton, Massachusetts is a new, groundbreaking, community-based, problem-solving court modeled on Australia's Less-Adversarial Trial. The FRSC was recently created with input by professionals in the community involved with family disputes—current and retired judges, court officials and staff, mental health professionals, academics, lawyers, mediators and conciliators, and community service providers—to encourage child-focused co-parenting and reduce the harmful effects of conflict on children.

Hon. Linda Fidnick, *Hampshire Probate and Family Court, Northampton, MA*

Hon. Gail Perlman (Ret.), *Hampshire Probate and Family Court, Northampton, MA*

Leslie Brown, JD, *Northampton, MA*

Noelle Stern, JD, *Hampshire Probate and Family Court, Northampton, MA*

31. New Research on Trans and Gender Non-Conforming Youth

Trans and gender non-conforming youth and their families are increasingly present in family courts. Accordingly, judges, custody evaluators, and family court professionals must have a clear picture of who trans and gender non-conforming youth are and how these identities present during the stages of childhood and adolescence. This interactive session will provide participants with the very latest, accurate data on trans and gender non-conforming youth, and explore demographics, best practices, and current research on outcomes for children in these families.

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

32. Family Court Enhancement Project: Improving Access to Justice

Minnesota's Fourth Judicial District is one of four sites awarded federal funding from the Office on Violence Against Women to participate in the Family Court Enhancement Project. This presentation will share data resulting from the Child-Related Relief Order for Protection calendar pilot.

Shannon M. Wachter, JD, *Fourth Judicial District, Minneapolis, MN*

Mary E. Madden, *Referee, Fourth Judicial District, Minneapolis, MN*

Hon. Anne K. McKeig, *Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court, St. Paul, Minnesota*

33. Bias in Custody Evaluations: Solutions for Evaluators and Attorneys

A hallmark of forensic work is an objective approach to litigants, data-gathering, and the interpretation of that data. Evaluator biases can seriously derail this important goal and negatively affect families. Wittmann's previously published bias-typology, along with suggestions for diminishing its effects on the forensic process will be presented. This will be followed by an outline of legal strategies that can be used when evaluator bias has tarnished a forensic work-product and when it threatens to distort the fact-finding process.

Jeffrey P. Wittmann, PhD, *The Center of Forensic Psychology, Albany, NY*

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

Timothy M. Tippins, JD, *MatLaw Corp, East Greenbush, NY*

34. Beyond the Law: What Children's Representatives Must Know

This workshop addresses the many dimensions of representing children, including but not limited to, the role(s) of the representative, the many ways that lawyers help children, the importance of understanding child development and challenging psychological problems associated with domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, very high conflict between divorcing parents, trauma, and their effects on children. Presenters will share an overarching model for representing children in any system based upon these non-legal issues.

Rebecca M. Stahl, JD, LLM, *Children's Law Center of California, Monterey Park, CA*

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

35. Mediator Resilience and Effective Work with High Conflict in Family Mediation

In order to avoid impasse in high conflict cases it is essential that the parties feel that professionals understand and care about them. Yet the openness required to make empathic connection leaves mediators vulnerable to the toxicity that is often present in such cases. This workshop will explore ways in which family mediators can increase their capacity to tolerate high levels of emotional stress while remaining open and present, as well as proven interventions that can be made from a stance of non-defendedness.

Stephen H. Sulmeyer, JD, PhD, Corte Madera, CA

36. Judicial Officers Forum: Judicial Settlement Innovations and Procedural Justice

Many courts have incorporated empirically-based procedural justice principles into their training and feedback for judges. Simultaneously, courts are introducing innovative procedures to increase access to justice for self-represented litigants and generally reduce litigants' costs and time to disposition. Many of these innovations require judges to facilitate litigants' settlement discussions or provide expedited evaluations that will influence settlement. How do procedural justice principles apply to such procedures? This session will focus on judicial settlement innovations in Massachusetts' probate and family courts and consider examples from other states. Using an interactive approach, the workshop then will apply procedural justice principles, as well as judicial ethics, to a series of scenarios involving these judicial settlement procedures. **Participation is limited to Judicial Officers only.**

Hon. Paula M. Carey, Chief Justice of the Trial Court, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Boston, MA

Hon. Angela Ordoñez, Chief Justice of the Probate and Family Court, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Boston, MA

Nancy Welsh, JD, Professor of Law and William Trickett Faculty Scholar, Penn State Univ. Dickenson School of Law, Carlisle, PA

5:15pm-6:15pm International Attendee Reception

Evening Taste of Boston

9:00pm-12:00am Hospitality Suite

"I always enjoy coming to the annual conference where I see friends from previous conferences, get to hear updates on research topics that are applicable to my professional life and get to enjoy a beautiful and interesting city."

Edie Croxen, JD
Phoenix, Arizona

FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2017

6:15am-6:30am	Meditation
6:30am-7:15am	Yoga
7:15am-8:15am	Committee Meetings
7:30am-5:00pm	Conference Registration
7:30am-8:30am	Coffee and Rolls
7:30am-5:00pm	Exhibit Forum
8:30am-10:00am	Workshops 37-48

37. Getting Past "Yes" as Measure of Mediation Success in Family Court

When does "Getting to Yes" sacrifice self-determination in family mediation? Many states mandate mediation and measure program success through settlement rates. Presenters in this workshop will examine research on mediation outcomes. They will then work with participants on composite cases, discussing how to measure success, help parties maintain self-determination in court based, time and fee limited mediations, and court programs can ensure that the benefits of mediation aren't lost in the rush to settlement.

Kelly Browe Olson, JD, LLM, UALR Bowen School of Law, Little Rock, AR

Alexandra Crampton, PhD, Marquette Univ., Milwaukee, WI

38. Unified Family Courts: Fostering Resilience in High-Conflict Families

This workshop will examine how Unified Family Courts (UFCs) provide a framework for an interdisciplinary service-oriented approach to high conflict cases. Panelists will focus ways in which the UFC model empowers judges, court staff, attorneys, court users, and services providers to arrive at effective solutions to the problems that bring the children and families to court. A new pilot program will be highlighted as an example of a collaboration between a family court and a service provider that addresses the needs of high conflict families.

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

Risa J. Garon, MSW, MEd, National Family Resiliency Center, Columbia, MD

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

39. Randomized Control Trials of Interventions for Understudied Groups in Family Law

This workshop will review research on online interventions for understudied groups in family law: an online stress inoculation program for young adults whose parents have divorced in the past year, and online parent education programs. A research strategy, randomized control trials (RCTs) and how to use RCTs to evaluate interventions will be described. RCTs in the family court setting for treatment evaluation will be encouraged.

Connie J.A. Beck, PhD, Univ. of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

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

Caroline E. Shanholtz, MC, Univ. of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Brittany Rudd, Indiana Univ., Bloomington, IN

40. A Model for Deciding Whether to Participate in ADR in the Context of IPV

Decisions about participation in ADR processes are often based on assumptions about the characteristics of domestic violence or the labels ascribed to ADR processes. Sometimes, those assumptions don't match up with the true nature and context of abuse or the way specific ADR processes are actually carried out. This session explores a court model and practice guides that support parties in making informed and reality-based choices about participation based on their own experiences and accurate information about the ADR options available to them.

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

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

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

41. Cooperation Teams as Child-Centered Early Intervention in Separated Families

The Ministry of Social Affairs has given the Children's Welfare Foundation of Sweden the assignment to form coordinated multi-disciplinary cooperation teams. The purpose is to mitigate conflicts between parents and promote effective parental cooperation in families burdened by intimate partner violence, substance abuse, and mental health problems using DOORS (Detection of Overall Risk Screen) to assess the children's and parents' situation. This workshop will present the cooperation model and results from the evaluation study, including children's and parents' experiences.

Marianne Gabrielsson, SW, The Children's Welfare Foundation Sweden, Stockholm, Sweden

Linnea Bruno, PhD, Univ. of Gothenburg, Stockholm, Sweden

42. Over the Moon and Back: Separation and Parenting Strategies (35 Years Later)

In 1982, the film *Shoot the Moon* exploded into movie theaters and ignited discussions about separation, conflict, parenting, re-partnering, and domestic violence. Building on various clips and themes that arise from this film, attendees will be provided practical advice to assist their clients following relationship breakdown. Topics will include: ethics and responsibility, confidentiality, giving advice, taking instructions, defining and practicing good client advocacy, estrangement and reconciliation, and identifying and addressing risk.

Andrea Himel, LLB, MSW, Himel Mediation and Family Law Services, Toronto, ON, Canada

Howard Hurwitz, MSW, RSW, Family Solutions, Toronto, ON, Canada

Deborah Zemans, LLB, Toronto, ON, Canada

Justice Roselyn Zisman, Ontario Court of Justice, Toronto, ON, Canada

43. A View into a Mediation Program at a Massachusetts Probate and Family Court

This workshop will provide information about how a Probate and Family Court in Massachusetts established an onsite mediation program at their court with services provided without cost to litigants. Presenters will discuss the programs successes, challenges, and ideas on how and why to start a mediation program in your jurisdiction.

Josh Hoch, MWI, Boston, MA

Donna Feinberg, LICSW, Norfolk Probate and Family Court, Canton, MA

Hon. John D. Casey, Norfolk Probate and Family Court, Canton, MA

John Fiske, Esq., Healy, Fiske, Richmond and Matthew, Cambridge, MA

44. Resolving Financial, Parenting, and Forum Disputes with IT-Assisted Arbitration

Arbitration is a useful exit ramp off the litigation freeway. When parties cannot agree within a reasonable timeframe on the issues in dispute, arbitration offers a means of providing a quick and relatively inexpensive resolution. This session will examine developments in Britain, Australia, and elsewhere to provide arbitration of family law disputes-both financial and parenting-taking advantage of smart online technologies to lay the groundwork for the arbitration. The session will also reveal new strategies to use arbitration to resolve forum disputes for international families.

Patrick Parkinson, MA, LLM, Univ. of Sydney Law School, Sydney, Australia

David Hodson, LLB, International Family Law Group, London, England

45. The Future of Unbundled Legal Services

The rise of self-represented litigants has brought about a number of reforms initiated by courts, non-profits, and the legal profession. Recent unbundling reforms are impacting family courts, professional practices, and policy initiatives. This workshop will present several of these key reforms and how they can be replicated in your jurisdiction and impact your work as a family professional.

Forrest (Woody) Mosten, JD, UCLA School of Law, Los Angeles, CA

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

William J. Howe III, JD, Gevurtz Menashe, Portland, OR

46. Sometimes You Just Gotta Go to Court: The Case for a Process that Involves Adjudication

“Appropriate” (as opposed to “alternative”) dispute resolution means that the process embarked upon must be one that provides parties, children, and society at large with the justified belief that all aspects of the process were fair, and that justice was properly done as reflected in the result. Based on this functional analysis, litigation and court adjudication is the most appropriate method for resolving many family law disputes, in preference to other options. This session will examine when litigation is the most appropriate option.

Hon. George Czutrin, Ontario Superior Court of Justice, Toronto, ON, Canada

Brian Burke, LLB, Epstein Cole LLP, Toronto, ON, Canada

Irwin Butkowsky, PhD, Toronto, ON, Canada

47. Honor Thy Children: Jewish Parenting Through a Divorced Lens

Learn about the practical and emotional aspects of a family going through a divorce in a Jewish context. This workshop will address issues around “Shalom Bayit” (keeping peace in the home), how single parent families fit into the organized Jewish community, law and tradition surrounding divorce, and the role of rituals in divorce.

Jody Comins, MSW, A Better Way: Divorce Mediation, Framingham, MA

Rabbi Daniel Liben, Temple Israel of Natick, Natick, MA

48. Court Mandated Small Group Classes for High Conflict Parents

William James College’s three-year-old psycho-educational program consists of 27 hours of class time (nine three-hour evening sessions) mandatory attendance of both parents together at all nine sessions taught by a gender mixed and interdisciplinary two-person team of facilitators. The structure of the program, skills taught, and techniques used to maximize participation and positive outcomes will be reviewed, as well as results of pre-post surveys and preliminary results of follow-up contacts with participants.

Christina Harms, JD, William James College, Newton, MA

Heidi Wells, PsyD, Waban Hall Psychologists, Newton, MA

Hon. John Smoot, Quincy, MA

10:00am-10:30am Break

10:30am-11:15am Plenary Session I

Welcome: Annette T. Burns, AFCC President Elect, Phoenix, AZ

From Bargaining in the Shadow to Bargaining with the Devil: Implications for Family Practitioners

Negotiating separation, divorce, and other family conflicts raises extraordinary challenges for family practitioners of all disciplines. This keynote features Professor Robert Mnookin, Samuel Williston Professor of Law and Director of the Harvard Negotiation Project. Professor Mnookin will examine negotiation and conflict resolution within the family over the last four decades, beginning with his classic 1979 article “Bargaining in the Shadow of the Law: The Case of Divorce” through his recent book *Bargaining with the Devil*.

Robert H. Mnookin, LLB, Director, Harvard Negotiation Project, Cambridge, MA

11:15am-12:00pm Plenary Session II

Welcome: Hon. Dianna Gould-Saltman, AFCC Vice President, Los Angeles, CA

Can We Talk? What We Have Learned About How to Have Productive Conflicts About Family Policy and Family Law

AFCC has been involved in a number of important and challenging dialogues about contentious issues in family law. What have we learned about how to work on our differences in a frank, productive, and authentic way—and what do we still have to learn? How do our struggles with these issues reflect the success (or lack thereof) of our capacity to deal with critical conflicts within families, organizations, communities, and as a society? As a long term member of the AFCC and the facilitator of two of AFCC’s most ambitious efforts at professional dialogue, and as the author of many respected books about conflict and conflict intervention (most recently *The Conflict Paradox*), Professor Bernie Mayer is uniquely suited to address these questions. Dr. Mayer is a Professor of Dispute Resolution at The Werner Institute, Creighton Univ. School of Law, and a founding Partner of CDR Associates in Boulder Colorado.

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

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

12:00pm-1:30pm Family Court Review
Editorial Board Meeting

1:30pm-3:00pm Workshops 49-60**49. PC to EC: Bringing Harmony to Families**

Prominent US, Canadian, and Florida organizations have spearheaded the development of eldercaring coordination as a dispute resolution option for high conflict families regarding the care of elders. Eldercaring coordinators were trained and qualified to serve pilot sites in Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Minnesota, and Ohio. Learn about the progress in the first year of implementation, including barriers and challenges met, and how to bring eldercaring coordination into your community as a humane response to cases regarding elders.

Linda Fieldstone, MEd, Miami, FL

Sue Bronson, LCSW, New Prospects, Milwaukee, WI

Hon. Michelle Morley, 5th Judicial Circuit, Sumter County, Bushnell, FL

Jacqueline Hagerott, JD, LLM, Hocking College, Nelsonville, OH

50. Children Ready to Speak, Parents Ready to Hear: The Child/Youth Readiness Scale

Presenters will outline two scales for use by ADR practitioners. The New Child and Youth Readiness Scale (CYRS) and the Parent Readiness Scale (PRS) can assist practitioners in providing appropriate child centered ADR practice. Based in attachment, development and temperament, the CYRS is a new scale evaluating a child's readiness to be involved in their parent's ADR process. The PRS is based in parent/child, parent/parent, and individual parent factors, and evaluates each parent's level of readiness to hear their child's voice. Case examples will be provided.

Lorri A. Yassenik, PhD, MSW, Rocky Mountain Psychological & Mediation Services, Calgary, AB, Canada

Jonathan M. Graham, LLB, Five Dock, NSW, Australia

51. Researcher and Academic Colloquium Exploratory Meeting

This session is designed for academics and researchers to explore an AFCC researcher and academic colloquium at the annual conference on an ongoing basis. Participants will discuss ideas related to the potential structure, target audience, goals, and possible outcomes, and whether such a colloquium makes sense to pursue.

Facilitators:

J. Herbie DiFonzo, JD, PhD, Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra Univ., Hempstead, NY

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

52. Mandatory Mediation is Not an Oxymoron

This workshop describes the first Massachusetts mandatory mediation pilot program, begun in 2014 as a collaborative effort of the court, a community mediation group and since 2015, a law school. The panelists include a judge, a court ADR coordinator, the mediation provider, and the law school professor/mediator who oversees the clinic. Outcomes to date will be discussed.

Jocelyn I. Axelson, JD, Hampden Probate and Family Court, Springfield, MA

Oran Kaufman, JD, Western New England Univ. School of Law, Amherst, MA

Hon. David G. Sacks, Hampden Probate and Family Court, Springfield, MA

Betsy Williams, BA, The Mediation and Training Collaborative, Greenfield, MA

53. Helping Targeted Parents and their Adult Alienated Children

This workshop will provide the rationale and an overview of the Restoring Family Connections program. This outpatient therapeutic model was designed to fill a need for treatment services for families affected by alienation in which the alienated child is over 18 years of age. The workshop will present 16 core foundational beliefs and 12 clinical principles, as well as an overview and example of some of the activities.

Amy J. Baker, PhD, Teaneck, NJ

54. Singapore's Multidisciplinary Approach to Addressing Domestic Violence

The Singapore Family Justice Court system has developed a program to work holistically with domestic violence victims. From the perspectives of the judges in charge of the hearings and a court counselor, the presenters will share perspectives on (1) what domestic violence victims want from court processes; (2) the courts' experience in designing collaboration with stakeholders in the community; and (3) a range of holistic solutions designed to strengthen the use of multidisciplinary efforts to support victims, rehabilitate perpetrators and strengthen families.

Hon. Joyce Low, Family Justice Courts of Singapore, Singapore

Hon. Wendy Yu, Family Justice Courts of Singapore, Singapore

Cynthia Teo, BSc, Family Justice Courts of Singapore, Singapore

55. Use of Probation Officers in the Family Court: An ADR Model

In Massachusetts, guardianship, divorce, paternity, and other types of cases are routinely referred to the Probation Department of the Probate and Family Court for dispute intervention on issues such as custody, parenting time, and support. This session will describe the dispute intervention process, which is different from a courtroom proceeding because the formal rules of evidence and rules of court do not apply. This allows litigants to participate more fully in their case. The probation officer, who is an officer of the court and under the direction of a judge, serves as an impartial party in negotiations. In addition to dispute intervention services, probation officers conduct custody and parenting investigations and supervision on cases.

Richard O'Neil, MA Probation Service, Boston, MA

Michele Mullin, MA Probation Service, Boston, MA

Sondra McMillan-King, MA Probation Service, Boston, MA

Hon. Lee Peterson, Trial Court of Massachusetts, Cambridge, MA

56. Protecting Children and Families by Using the Collaborative Law Principles

This workshop will show how, in family law, using a collaborative law process to create a prism of harmony is a means of reducing the stress of divorce on families and children. Participants will learn techniques on how to effectively work with coaches, financial professionals, and collaboratively trained attorneys to resolve disputes in a kinder and gentler way.

Linda Cohan, MSW, Gloucester, MA

David Goodman, MBA, CPA, Milton, MA

Justin Kelsey, JD, Framingham, MA

Debra L. Smith, JD, Watertown, MA

57. On Two Fronts: Culture, Custody and Courts

In this workshop participants will hear from presenters working with families from different cultures, their commonality being custody rights according to American Rule of Law. Each presenter will share how the clash of culture and court intervention has shaped the work they do with families. Discussion will center on Muslim families, immigrant families assimilating in the US, and how they navigate judicial systems, from seeking help for a family crisis to custody battles.

Hon. George Phelan, Norfolk Probate and Family Court, Canton, MA

Suaad Allami, Women for Progress NGO, Baghdad, Iraq

Tannaz Saponaro, JD, Verrill Dana, Boston, MA

Eva Miller, MIRA Coalition, Boston, MA

58. Parenting Apart: The Challenges of International Cases

International cases present professionals with some of the most vexing challenges. Participants in this workshop will learn how to develop parenting plans to address the much longer distances between homes, differing cultures of the parents, and how to honor each parent's relationship with the child while supporting the child's education, peer relationships, and extracurricular interests in the international context.

Valerie Arnold, MA, JD, Arnold, Rodman and Kretchmer, Bloomington, MN

Mindy Mitnick, EdM, MA, Uptown Mental Health Center, Edina, MN

Richard Stebbins, JD, Hennepin County Family Court, Minneapolis, MN

59. Intra-Family Adoption Mediation

Intra-family adoption presents unique challenges in mediation. Emotional and legal concerns that often present in these mediations will be addressed and the presenters will provide insight into how mediators can be an agent of healing in this process. They will offer an overview of state laws regarding post adoption contact between birth parents and children, and the pertinence to mediation. Finally, the workshop will address ethical concerns in adoption mediations.

Kevin J. Chafin, MA, Kansas City, MO

Jill M. Katz, Esq., Krigel and Krigel, Kansas City, MO

60. International Approaches to Financial Issues

Financial issues such as adjusting property interests, maintenance, and child support can place huge strains on parents and, in turn, their children. There can be similarities but also significantly different approaches taken in different jurisdictions. This workshop will examine these issues by comparing the approaches of Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore.

Hon. Alexandra Harland, Federal Circuit Court, Melbourne, VIC, Australia

Hon. Valerie Thean, Family Justice Courts, Singapore

Simon Jefferson, QC, Trinity Chambers, Auckland, New Zealand

3:00pm-3:30pm

Break

3:30pm-5:00pm Workshops 61-72

61. Assessing Allegations of IPV in Custody Evaluations: Revised Forensic Model

An initial step in the forensic evaluation of child custody cases involving allegations of intimate partner violence (IPV) is to assess the credibility (or believability) of both the allegations, and denials of allegation. This assessment is part of the evaluator's investigative function in forensic evaluation. This workshop presents the revised Six Factor Forensic Model. Audience participation is encouraged on fact patterns that will be examined. The IPV pattern of coercive control with little or no physical violence will be discussed.

William G. Austin, PhD, Lakewood, CO

James R. Flens, PsyD, Valrico, FL

62. Playing Within the Rules: Evidence for Non-lawyers

This workshop brings together mental health and legal practitioners to help ensure that reports that are written are admitted into evidence without being redacted or outright rejected. The presenter will provide a crash course for custody evaluators and attorneys challenging or defending the evaluation report.

Paul M. Kane, JD, McGrath and Kane, Boston, MA

63. Calling a Truce: A New Zealand Family Court Perspective

As practitioners working with the kaleidoscope of conflict issues, we are often "experts" in spotting the problem but less proficient when it comes to identifying or accessing solutions that promote harmony. This workshop will explore the current approaches taken by professionals working in the family court when identifying and tackling issues of conflict and alienation. Out of court options will also be discussed.

Michelle Duggan, LLB, Nelson, New Zealand

Annette Gray, LLB, Wellington, New Zealand

Melanie Baker, LLB, Lower Hutt, New Zealand

64. At the Cutting Edge of Conflict Resolution: A Pioneering Client-Focused Approach

This workshop will demonstrate a unique, innovative online service at the cutting edge of conflict resolution for separating families in the UK. It will present the findings of an extensive pilot, designed to provide a trusted one-stop shop that coordinates and streamlines access to a wide range of professional support proven to aid faster, fairer, and more affordable dispute resolution and decision-making. Age-appropriate information is also available online for children and young people, enabling them to have a voice in the process.

Janet Anne Walker, OBE, BPhil, Newcastle Univ., Fairlight, East Sussex, England

Chris Sherwood, BA, Relate, London, UK

65. There Oughta Be a Law: How to Draft and Pass Effective US Family Law Legislation

Learn insights and techniques to move a piece of legislation from an initial idea to your state's governor's desk for signature. Participants will explore ways to work with their state bar associations, identify all interested stakeholders, and draft legislation in a manner that will increase the likelihood that it will become law.

Diana Friedman, JD, Goransan Bain, Dallas, TX

Christy Bradshaw Schmidt, MA, Dallas, TX

66. A Hybrid Approach to Parenting Coordination

This workshop will introduce a new parallel model of parenting coordination. The parallel model involves a hybrid of joint and individual sessions accompanied by a high conflict assessment tool designed to assist in determining which families should be shifted to the parallel model. This model decreases resistance, interrupts the blame game, increases personal responsibility and compels the parents to develop more effective behaviors.

Susan Boyan, MEd, LMFT, Cooperative Parenting Institute, Atlanta, GA

Ann Marie Termini, EdS, Cooperative Parenting Institute, South Abington Township, PA

67. Equal Shared Parenting as a Norm: Are Swedish Kids Different?

Equally shared parenting arrangements are more common in Sweden than in any other country. This workshop will present results from the Elvis Project on parents' reasons for having equal joint physical custody for their 0-4 year olds and epidemiological results on how Swedish children 3-18 years of age fare in equal shared parenting arrangements.

Malin Bergstrom, PhD, Karolinska Institute, Bromma, Sweden

Emma Fransson, PhD, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden

68. Family Drug Court: A Non-Adversarial Way to Address Substance Abuse Disorder

In response to the opioid epidemic, a family court in western Massachusetts developed a family systems model of addressing parental substance use disorder. Parents receive judicial oversight and support in their recovery, children receive trauma assessments and any follow-up treatment, and the children's caregivers are provided with supports necessary for them to care for the children. Recovering parents, caregivers and children all learn about the disease model of addiction in order to lessen the stigma associated with substance use disorder. Join this workshop to learn about this innovative program.

Hon. Beth Crawford, Franklin Probate and Family Court, Greenfield, MA

Jodie Nolan, JD, Franklin Probate and Family Court, Greenfield, MA

Bette Babinski, Franklin Probate and Family Court, Greenfield, MA

Alexandra Flanders, JD, Franklin Probate and Family Court, Greenfield, MA

69. Yes You Can: Addressing Complex Child Interests in Peacemaking Processes

Peacemaking practices can include many strategies for facilitating the successful resolution of child interests. This workshop will identify attorney beliefs and practices with respect to child concerns and then provide an explanation of the role, function, and creative services of the mental health professional in addressing those concerns in the peacemaking process. The goal is to enhance and expand the peacemaking practice of attorney and mental health professionals alike by facilitating their collaboration.

Gary Direnfeld, MSW, Interaction Consultants, Dundas, ON, Canada

Robert J. Merlin, JD, Coral Gable, FL

70. Thinking Critically: The AFCC Task Force on the Use of Social Science in Family Law

AFCC has convened an interdisciplinary task force to develop *Guidelines for Critical Thinking Concerning the Use of Social Science Research in Family Law*. The *Guidelines* are intended to help judges, lawyers, mediators, custody evaluators and other navigate the challenging terrain of social science in the courtroom, mediation, parent education programs, and elsewhere. This session will provide an opportunity for participants to hear about the progress of the *Guidelines*, ask questions, and share any challenges or concerns about the work of the task force.

Hon. William C. Fee, Steuben Superior Court, Angola, IN

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

Hon. R. James Williams, Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, Halifax, NS, Canada

71. Developing an Out of Court Pathway for Families in Conflict

Family conflict resolution services within England are seeking significant innovation to empower families to resolve issues away from court and improve child outcomes. This workshop will demonstrate some of the pilots and research informing new service development within Cafcass (a national public-sector social work organization). It will consider collaborative stakeholders working to amend policy and build a new private law pathway. Further, it will seek participant discussion on alternative out-of-court resolution models, and explore the challenges of generating family law culture change.

Carole Goodman, Cafcass, Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne, England

Rebecca John, Cafcass, London, England

72. Enforcement of Parenting Time Schedules: An Interjurisdictional Comparison

This workshop will present a comparative analysis of enforcement of parenting time schedules, or court ordered access, in family courts in Israel and Ireland. Presenters will discuss cases where one parent prevents the other's parenting time, and where parents choose not to exercise their parenting time. The presenters will identify barriers to improving compliance with parenting time schedules and propose a range of responses.

Yoav Mazeh, PhD, Ono Academic College, Ono, Israel

Roisin O'Shea, PhD, Arc Mediation, Waterford, Ireland

5:30pm-7:00pm

Silent Auction and Reception

7:00pm-9:30pm

AFCC Annual Banquet

9:30pm-12:00am

Hospitality Suite

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2017

6:15am-6:30am

Meditation

6:30am-7:15am

Yoga

7:30am-12:30pm

Conference Registration

8:00am-9:00am

Coffee and Rolls

8:00am-12:30pm

Exhibit Forum

8:00am-9:00am

AFCC Membership Meeting

9:15am-10:45am

Workshops 73-83

73. The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction: What Mental Health Professionals Need to Know

Society is becoming increasingly global and inevitably family relationships have become international and diverse. But when parents or other family members come from different jurisdictions and have different ideas about where and how children should be brought up, some resort to non-judicial solutions and effectively kidnap their children. Almost 100 countries worldwide have adopted the Hague Convention since it was adopted in 1980. But many judges and practitioners are not very familiar with the treaty or how to implement it when they are asked to return a child. Reliance on mental health professionals is often crucial when the defense of grave risk of harm or exposure to an intolerable situation is raised. Participants attending this workshop will have a more complete understanding of the treaty and how it is applied.

Anne L. Berger, JD, Lynnfield, MA

Suzie S. Thorn, JD, San Francisco, CA

74. Dual Parenting Coordination Model for Mega-Conflict Parents

Parenting coordination (PC) can be unsuccessful with very high conflict parents. This new approach uses two PCs, each of whom work with an individual parent and then together render a joint binding recommendation when needed. The presenters will describe this model from both a single and interdisciplinary basis and present a case vignette. They will discuss how this model can help parents address conflict and comply with court orders. Practical, financial, and ethical issues associated with this intervention will be addressed.

Jeffrey Zimmerman, PhD, ABPP, Katonah, NY

Lauren Behrman, PhD, Katonah, NY

William RJP Brown, JD, Waterbury, CT

75. Special Needs and Divorce

This workshop will discuss the financial implications, as well as parenting time considerations and legal custody/shared decision-making required for divorcing or separating parents of children with disabilities. Additionally, the presenters will describe an innovative and collaborative program being implemented in the Massachusetts Probate & Family Courts to assist young adults on the autism spectrum, and with related disabilities, gain essential vocational skills in preparation for planning for after they reach age 22.

Danielle M. Slaney, Norfolk Probate and Family Court Probation Dept., Canton, MA

Marie MacLean, EdD, BCBA-D, Boston Behavior Learning Centers, Boston, MA

Vanda M. Khadem, JD, Autism Higher Education Foundation, Brookline, MA

Karen B. Mariscal, JD, Margolis and Bloom LLP, Boston, MA

76. Limited Scope Legal Services in Family Court: Access for the Self-Represented

Limited scope representation (LSR) is a method of delivering meaningful legal services that take into consideration the financial capacity of consumers and the demands of practice in family court. The experience for implementing LSR in Missouri will be discussed along potential pitfalls and strategies that have been successful in increasing the accessibility to legal services over the past decade.

Kathleen H. Bird, JD, Missouri Committee on Access to Family Court, Liberty, MO

Karen J. Brown, JD, Family Court Resources Services, Kansas City, MO

77. The Cost and Conflict of Building Containment Strategies to Protect Children

It is widely recognized that parental conflict has adverse effects on children. This workshop is designed to assist participants in understanding what conflict actually does to children, and how the professionals involved in these complex cases can protect the children from the fallout of high conflict. Participants will gain an understanding of how conflict affects the developing brain of the child, as well as how containment structures can assist with mitigating the destructive elements of high conflict on children.

Alyson Jones, MA, RCC, West Vancouver, BC, Canada

Jorge Gonzalez, MA, RCC, West Vancouver, BC, Canada

78. Hidden in Plain Sight: Human Trafficking in Family and Juvenile Courts

Child sex trafficking is increasingly common among United States youth and this crime is often embedded in the context of other matters that present in family and juvenile courts, such as custody, care and protection, and status offenses. Awareness about the extent and scope of the issue in family court is very limited, however. This presentation will introduce this issue to family court professionals and discuss implications for the work of mental health professionals, evaluators and the judiciary.

Abigail M. Judge, PhD, Harvard Medical School, Cambridge, MA

Jennifer A. Murphy, PhD, Boston Juvenile Court Clinic, Boston, MA

79. Harmonizing Courts and Families: Growing Professional IQ with Emotional IQ

There is a wide disconnect between the expectations of judicial system, a dispassionate and analytical institution, and the integrated needs of the litigants who use the system. Legal professionals gain analytical intelligence through education but have not necessarily developed their emotional intelligence. This presentation will make recommendations to bridge that divide including further research and application of the Myers and Salovey model for emotional intelligence as a foundation for training and development of this neglected skill set.

Simone Haberstock McCartney, JD, St. Louis, MO

Larry Swall, JD, MARCH Mediation, Liberty, MO

80. Introducing a Methodology to Assess Parenting and Guide Interventions

This workshop introduces a structured methodology for the assessment of good parenting and parental fitness to guide child custody evaluation and subsequent intervention. Using the model of good parenting suggested by Van Brunt et al. (2016) as a point of theoretical departure, this model incorporates both intra- and interpersonal attributes and behaviors of parents to form an impression of parenting ability and identify areas for potential enhancement. Using a case study approach, the evaluative promise and post-assessment prospects of this model are illustrated.

Ilse Robbertse, MA, Johannesburg, South Africa

Robyn Fasser, DLitt et Phil, Johannesburg, South Africa

Anthony Townsend, MA, Johannesburg, South Africa

81. Role-Conflation: The DNA of Parental Conflict

Using work on internal family systems therapy, inter-parental conflict will be explored as a manifestation of role-conflation between two intrapsychic sub-personalities: the “injured partner” and the “concerned parent.” In this model, the sub-personality of an injured partner is motivationally mixed into the role of concerned parent. This role conflation allows a person to take on the persona of concerned parent that is filled with the injured parent’s compelling impulse to avoid or hurt the children’s other parent. This workshop will present practical strategies to help parents become aware of their mixed internal motivations, recognize the two separate desires, and make better parenting choices. Applications can be made to court systems, parent divorce education, legal advice, and mental health practice.

Chet Muklewicz, EdD, Kids First, Scranton, PA

82. Working with Other Professionals to Build Your Peacemaking Practice

Participants will learn from three experienced practitioners how to build their practices, focusing on three interdisciplinary ADR/Peacemaking practice models. The methods presented in this workshop will help the participants generate more out-of-court work for themselves, other professionals, and will help strengthen their local ADR communities.

Kevin Scudder, JD, Scudder Law, Seattle, WA

Kenneth Neumann, PhD, Center for Mediation and Training, New York, NY

Enid Miller Ponn, JD, The Center for Collaborative Divorce Mediation, Weston, FL

83. Causing Harm When Trying to Do Good: Unintended Consequences and Collateral Damage

This presentation will detail real cases in which well-intended professionals unwittingly caused wrongful termination of parental rights, alienation of affection, abandonment of the child and perpetuation of a child’s distress during a child custody dispute. The conceptual, procedural, and systemic mistakes which led to poor outcomes are highlighted through case studies and presenter descriptions including our own errors over the years. Participants will have an opportunity to generate hypotheses regarding errors they might make and ways to avoid them.

Jill Sanders, PhD, Fort Myers, FL

Steven Szykula, PhD, Salt Lake City, UT

10:45am-11:00am Break

11:00am-12:30pm Workshops 84-93

84. Navigating Domestic Violence through Facilitation

Participants in this session will have the opportunity to observe a sample facilitation of a domestic violence case and learn how one jurisdiction in Maryland coordinates child access, support, and outreach program services while maintaining the safety and managing the fear of the victim.

Powel Welliver, JD, Circuit Court for Carroll County, Westminster, MD

Debra Sheppard, JD, Circuit Court for Carroll County, Westminster, MD

85. The Language of Children in Mediation of Family Law Disputes

Talking to children, whose view of the world is limited by their experience and sometimes limited language, can be a challenge for practitioners in family law who need to bring that child’s voice into the room. Understanding the metaphors and language that a child uses can help form decisions about the child’s life in a meaningful way. This workshop will demystify listening to and hearing what children say.

Lilia Szarski, MEd, Camberwell, Victoria, Australia

86. Addiction in the Family: What About the Children?

The role of substance use disorders as a prevalent factor in divorce, custody, and parenting decisions continues to garner attention, especially with the rapid escalation and epidemic proportions of prescription opioid and narcotic addiction. Gaining an understanding of the profound developmental, psychological, emotional, social, and relational risks to children exposed to parental substance use serves to further elevate focus on the best interests of children determinations. This critical consideration is the focus of this workshop.

Gregg Benson, MA, LCADC, Morristown, NJ

87. Child-Centered Reunification Therapy

Child-centered reunification therapy is designed to give children a voice in the reunification therapy process. Child-centered reunification therapy uses a unique two-therapist approach, equally representing the parents and child, which integrates parent education, co-parenting skills, mental health education, filial play therapy, and experiential therapy. This workshop will discuss the specifics of this model.

Nicole R. Ross, MS, Joining Hands Creative Counseling & Wellness, Elk River, MN

Sarah E. Cross, MSW, Joining Hands Creative Counseling & Wellness, Elk River, MN

88. Brokering the Settlement and Empowering Families

This workshop will discuss the court funded programs in Frederick County, Maryland that focus on empowering families and achieving case settlement prior to an adversarial trial. The primary population served by the in-house programs is socioeconomically disadvantaged families and children. The referral decisions, program procedures, professionals involved, funding streams, outcomes, collaborations, and challenges will be discussed.

Magistrate Joanie Raymond, Circuit Court for Frederick County, Frederick, MD

Lynda L. Mallory, MS, Circuit Court for Frederick County, Frederick, MD

Jennifer Leigh Rankin, JD, Circuit Court for Frederick County, Frederick, MD

89. Child Inclusive Mediation: Is There Any Other Way?

Mediation prior to the commencement of court proceedings is mandated under Australian law. Consequently, many parents mediate their disagreements in a model that might be described as being child focused, but that is rarely child inclusive. This session will consider whether mediations that do not ascertain the views of the child, violate Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and, if so, what might be the future of parenting mediation.

Anne-Marie Rice, LLB, Brisbane, QLD, Australia

90. Changing the National Conversation About Parental Conflict in Divorce

Are you interested in becoming a change agent? Do you want to help create a paradigm shift that will change the national conversation about parental conflict in divorce? If you are, this interactive workshop is for you! Ideas that will be the beginning of a nationwide campaign will be shared. The message: parental conflict in the presence of children is unacceptable. You will leave with a plan that you can start implementing in your community.

Joan McWilliams, MSJA, JD, McWilliams Mediation Group Ltd., Denver, CO

Gina Weitzenkorn, JD, Mills and Weitzenkorn, PC, Denver, CO

91. From Argument to Dialogue: Engaging Hard to Reach Mediation Clients

Using interactive exercises, this presentation provides dispute resolution professionals an opportunity to learn and practice advanced skills that help clients of all personality types and temperaments transition from argument to dialogue. Participants will gain a greater self-understanding as well as identify the needs various clients have for support. Creating optimal psychological safety for each person leads to creativity and increased willingness to explore options for resolving conflict.

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

92. Unbundled Legal Services: Ethical and Helpful, or a Train Wreck Waiting to Happen?

Limited scope representation (unbundled legal services) is not a new concept. Twenty-nine states have rules that allow for this kind of practice. This workshop will offer information from a panel including an attorney who offers limited scope representation in Michigan and Illinois. Court perspectives and challenges and opportunities for litigants, courts, and attorneys will be discussed.

Eileen Pruett, JD, Columbus, OH

Bert T. Whitehead, JD, MBA, Access Legal Care, Redford, MI

Hon. Jeffrey Hooper, Muskingum County Domestic Relations Court, Zanesville, OH

93. Interdisciplinary Co-Mediation: Helping Families Overcome Impasse

Through discussion and role plays, this workshop will explore how interdisciplinary co-mediation for high conflict families, especially those with mental illness or character disorders, can often be effective and efficient in overcoming impasse. Using insight and humor, presenters will demonstrate that a cross-disciplinary team can help move challenged couples forward by allowing the mediators to draw from two areas of expertise; stepping back and focusing on observing patterns of behavior and modeling healthy dialogue/disagreement and increasing opportunity for relatability.

Jane Honoroff, MSW, The Mediation Group, Brookline MA

Jeff Fraser, JD, The Mediation Group, Brookline, MA

Amin Danai, JD, The Mediation Group, Brookline, MA

Amy Gordon, BA, The Mediation Group, Brookline, MA

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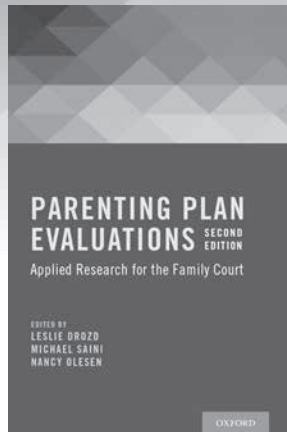
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Leslie Drozd, PhD, is a licensed psychologist and marriage, family, and child therapist specializing in family violence, substance abuse, resistance to contact, trauma, and consultations in parenting plan and child custody evaluations. She trains judges, attorneys, and mental health professionals and has a myriad of professional publications.

Michael Saini, PhD, is Associate Professor and endowed chair of Law and Social Work at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto. He is the Co-Director of the Combined J.D. and M.S.W. program with the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto and the Course Director of the 40-hour Foundations to Custody Evaluations with the faculty's Continuing Education Program. For the past 15 years, he has been conducting custody evaluations and assisting children's counsel for the Office of the Children's Lawyer, Ministry of the Attorney General in Ontario.

Nancy Olesen, PhD, is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist, doing assessment and psychotherapy, specializing in issues affecting divorcing families and providing expert testimony for family courts as well as teaching judges, attorneys, and mental health professionals about these issues and the parameters of competent practice in family court.

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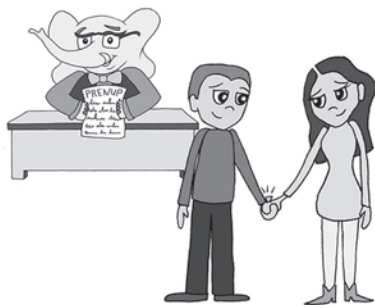
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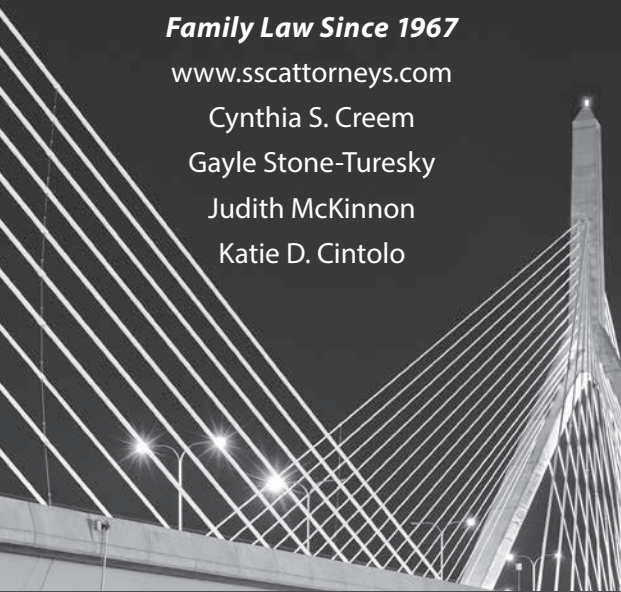


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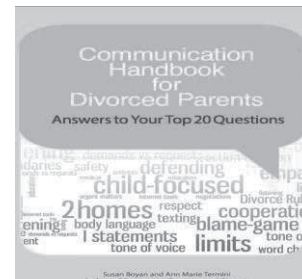
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Continuing Education Credits

AFCC will provide a certificate of attendance for a processing fee of \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Attendees may access their certificate of attendance at www.afccnet.org after the conference concludes. *The certificate will verify attendance at conference sessions and may be used to apply for continuing education credits with the registrant's accrediting institution.* Instructions for obtaining your certificate will be available at the AFCC registration desk, along with a list of conference sessions eligible for continuing education credit.

Psychologists: AFCC is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. AFCC maintains responsibility for this program and its content. The program is eligible for up to 20.5 hours of continuing education for psychologists. All sessions are eligible except for Workshops 6, 17, 18, 27, 32, 36, 43, 44, 45, 46, 51, 55, 60, 65, 75, 87, and 91.

Mental Health Professionals: An application for continuing education approval from the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) will be submitted for up to 20.5 CE credits. Individuals will need to verify approval with their credentialing or licensing boards. An application for Massachusetts Marriage & Family Therapist continuing education credit will be submitted to The Allied Board of Mental Health. An application for Licensed Mental Health Counselor continuing education credit will be submitted to MaMHCA/MMCEP.

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

Massachusetts Parenting Coordinators: A Request for Training Program Accreditation for Category V—Parenting Coordination, continuing education training, will be submitted to the Administrative Office of the Probate and Family Court of Massachusetts.

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: Massachusetts and Connecticut do not have mandatory continuing legal education requirements. An application for certification training credits will be submitted to the Children and Family Law (CAFL) Division of the Massachusetts Committee for Public Counsel Services. Approval for CLE credit will be submitted

to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania CLE Board, the Commission on CLE of the Supreme Court of Delaware, and the Vermont Board of CLE. New York attorneys may count towards their NY CLE requirement credit earned through participation in out-of-state programs accredited by a NY Approved Jurisdiction. Both Delaware and Pennsylvania are NY Approved Jurisdictions. New Hampshire attorneys must determine if the course meets the criteria of Rule 53. If so, it is up to the attorney to enter the qualified course into their own record. Rhode Island attorneys seeking MCLE credit must complete an Appendix D form in the Rhode Island Attorney Portal and attach a certificate of completion. Attorneys from other states may use the AFCC Certificate of Attendance to verify attendance and apply for credit in their state.

Conference Scholarships

Scholarships include a pre-conference institute registration, a full conference registration, and a certificate of attendance. A limited number travel stipends are available. Preferences for stipends are given to applicants with higher travel costs, international applicants, and those who demonstrate financial need. The scholarship application is available on the AFCC website, www.afccnet.org. **The scholarship application deadline is March 1, 2017.** Recipients will be notified mid-to-late March.

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.

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 with book title, publisher name, and/or ISBN by March 31, 2017, with "AFCC Bookstore" in the subject line.

AFCC Hospitality Suite

The AFCC hospitality suite will be open for informal networking and refreshment on Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00pm–12:00am and on Friday from 9:30pm–12:00am. Please wear your name badge.

Taste of Boston

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

Meditation and Yoga

Join AFCC colleagues for morning meditation and yoga, led by Sherry Cassidy and Rebecca Stahl. Meditation is from 6:15am–6:30am followed by yoga from 6:30am–7:15am, Thursday–Saturday mornings. Please bring a yoga mat if you have one.

Registration Information

Please read before completing your conference registration!

AFCC Members Save up to \$180 on Registration Rates: Register and pay by March 6, 2017, to receive the lowest rates for the conference! The early bird special rates are available only to AFCC members. Not a member? Read the New Membership Special information below and join today.

New Membership Special: Join AFCC when you register for the conference and receive a twelve-month membership for \$150—a \$10 discount—and save up to \$180 by registering at the AFCC member rate! To join, simply select the new membership special on the registration form. *The new membership special rate is only available to first-time AFCC members.*

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

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

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

Conference Presenter Registration: Available only to conference presenters. Includes all conference sessions, electronic conference materials, refreshment breaks, opening reception, luncheon,

annual banquet and 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.

Additional Luncheon Ticket

The luncheon is included in the conference registration fee. Additional tickets are available for \$70. Meal ticket prices reflect the estimated cost to AFCC.

Additional Annual Banquet Ticket

The annual banquet is included in the conference registration fee. Additional tickets are available for \$90. Meal ticket prices reflect the estimated cost to AFCC.

Special Needs

If you have dietary restrictions or other special needs, please make a note on the registration form.

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.

Travel and Lodging Information

Hotel Information

Sheraton Boston Hotel

39 Dalton St.

Boston, MA 02199

Phone: 617-236-2000

Minutes to the Shops at the Prudential Center, the Sheraton Boston Hotel is an upscale, classy retreat in the heart of historic downtown Boston. Explore the iconic cobblestones, revolutionary landmarks, boutiques and high-end shops that invite you to explore, work, relax, and play in one of America's significant cities. Hotel information is available at www.sheratonbostonhotel.com/. For more information regarding restaurants, sites, or activities, Boston visitor information can be found at <https://www.bostonusa.com/>.

Make your reservations today! The Sheraton Boston Hotel is offering a special rate to AFCC attendees of \$209/night for single occupancy and \$229/night for double occupancy. On May 5, 2017, any unreserved rooms in the AFCC block will be released and the special rate will no longer be guaranteed. Rooms may sell out before the room block is released, so please **make your reservations early!** Reserve your room today by calling 1-888-627-7054 and request the AFCC special rate or reserve online by visiting

www.afccnet.org and clicking the reservations link. AFCC conference attendees are responsible for making their own hotel arrangements.

Ground Transportation

A taxi from the Boston Logan International Airport (BOS) to the Sheraton Boston Hotel costs approximately \$38 and takes 20 minutes, depending on traffic. Taxis are at each terminal on arrivals level. Back Bay Log Express provides transportation to and from the airport. The cost is \$7.50 one way to the Sheraton Boston Hotel. Buses depart every 20 minutes at each terminal from 6:00am-10:00pm. No advance reservations. The T is available from the airport. Transfer to the green line and get off on the Hynes Convention Center stop, which is 4 blocks from the hotel.

Parking

Parking rates at the Sheraton Boston Hotel are currently \$53 per day for valet with unlimited in/out privileges.

Climate

In early June, temperatures in June range from a high of 75°F to a low of 57°F (24°/14°C). Meeting rooms and hotel facilities can be cool, so bring a light jacket or sweater.

Conference Registration Form

AFCC 54th Annual Conference • May 31-June 3, 2017 • Boston, MA

Please register by May 3, 2017, to ensure that your name appears on the list of conference attendees included in the electronic conference materials.

Register online at www.afccnet.org

1 Please 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 dietary restrictions or other special needs? ☐ Luncheon/Banquet Meals ☐ Access ☐ Other ☐

Please provide details: _____

Professional Designation (Select one please)

- ☐ Academic
☐ Court Administrator
☐ Court Commissioner
☐ Custody Evaluator
☐ Financial Professional
☐ Judge
☐ Lawyer
☐ Mediator
☐ Mental Health Professional
☐ Parenting Coordinator
☐ Parent Educator
☐ Researcher
☐ Other: _____

2 Registration Rates

Please check the appropriate amount(s) when making your selections and enter your total at the bottom

New Membership Special

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

Pre-Conference Institute Registration Rates

Full Day Institute Registration – AFCC Member

Full Day Institute Registration – Non-member

Conference Registration Rates

Conference Registration – AFCC Member

Conference Registration – Non-member

Conference Presenter Rate – AFCC Member

Conference Presenter Rate – Non-member

Full-time Student Rate – AFCC Member
(ID required. No meals included.)

Full-time Student Rate – Non-member
(ID required. No meals included.)

Other Registration Rates

Certificate of Attendance – AFCC Member

Certificate of Attendance – Non-member

Additional Luncheon Ticket

Additional Banquet Ticket

Spouse/Guest Registration Rate
(Meals and plenary sessions only.)

Scholarship Fund Donation

TOTAL

	Paid by March 6	Paid by May 1	Paid after May 1
Join AFCC for 12 months and register at AFCC member rates! For first-time members only.	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150
Full Day Institute Registration – AFCC Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$165	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Full Day Institute Registration – Non-member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$210	<input type="checkbox"/> \$210	<input type="checkbox"/> \$220
Conference Registration – AFCC Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$465	<input type="checkbox"/> \$495	<input type="checkbox"/> \$550
Conference Registration – Non-member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$580	<input type="checkbox"/> \$580	<input type="checkbox"/> \$650
Conference Presenter Rate – AFCC Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$275	<input type="checkbox"/> \$275	<input type="checkbox"/> \$290
Conference Presenter Rate – Non-member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300	<input type="checkbox"/> \$320
Full-time Student Rate – AFCC Member (ID required. No meals included.)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200
Full-time Student Rate – Non-member (ID required. No meals included.)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200	<input type="checkbox"/> \$225
Certificate of Attendance – AFCC Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15
Certificate of Attendance – Non-member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20
Additional Luncheon Ticket	<input type="checkbox"/> \$70	<input type="checkbox"/> \$70	<input type="checkbox"/> \$70
Additional Banquet Ticket	<input type="checkbox"/> \$90	<input type="checkbox"/> \$90	<input type="checkbox"/> \$90
Spouse/Guest Registration Rate (Meals and plenary sessions only.)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$265	<input type="checkbox"/> \$265	<input type="checkbox"/> \$280
Scholarship Fund Donation	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

3

Institute Selections—Wednesday, May 31, 2017

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

Pre-Conference Institutes 9:00am–5:00pm

- ☐ 1. Parent-Child Contact Problems
☐ 2. Bringing the Opiate Crisis into Focus
☐ 3. Advanced Institute on Evaluating Intimate Partner Violence
☐ 4. Getting to “Yes, And”—Learn Comedy Improv
☐ 5. Walking a Mile in their Shoes
☐ 6. Recalibrating Parenting Coordination Approaches
☐ 7. Peacemaking Negotiation Strategies
☐ 8. Special Needs Children in Separation and Divorce

4

Conference Workshop Selections

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

(Please write in one workshop number per time slot)

Thursday, June 1	10:30am–12:00pm	1–12 _____
Thursday, June 1	1:30pm–3:00pm	13–24 _____
Thursday, June 1	3:30pm–5:00pm	25–36 _____
Friday, June 2	8:30am–10:00am	37–48 _____
Friday, June 2	1:30pm–3:00pm	49–60 _____
Friday, June 2	3:30pm–5:00pm	61–72 _____
Saturday, June 3	9:15am–10:45am	73–83 _____
Saturday, June 3	11:00am–12:30pm	84–93 _____

5

Conference Registrant Meals

To ensure sufficient space and quantities, while reducing waste, please indicate which meals you plan to attend:

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

6

Method of Payment

Registrations must be paid in full prior to attendance.

☐ Payment of \$ _____ is enclosed (US currency only please)

☐ Please charge \$ _____ to my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard
☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card Number _____

Exp. Date ____ / ____ / ____ Security Code _____

Card Holder's Signature _____

Cancellation Policy: Transfer of registration to another person may be done once, at any time without a fee. All requests for refunds must be made in writing. Written notice of cancellation received by fax or postmarked by May 3, 2017, will be issued a full refund minus a \$75 service fee. Written notice received by fax or postmarked by May 15, 2017, will have the \$75 service fee deducted and the balance issued as a credit for future AFCC conferences, publications or membership dues. No refunds or credits will be issued for cancellations received after May 15, 2017.

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

AFCC

6525 Grand Teton Plaza

Madison, WI 53719

Phone: 608-664-3750

Fax: 608-664-3751

afcc@afccnet.org



6525 Grand Teton Plaza
Madison, WI 53719

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts
AFCC 54th Annual Conference


**Turning the Kaleidoscope
of Family Conflict
into a Prism of Harmony**

Sheraton Boston Hotel
May 31-June 3, 2017

Conference Sessions Include:

Serving Unrepresented Litigants
Transforming Parental Conflict
Parent-Child Contact Problems
High Conflict Parents
Alienated Children
Mediation
Use of Research
Family Drug Court
Parenting Coordination
Intimate Partner Violence
Ethics, Civility, and Professionalism
Research on Trans and
Gender Non-Conforming Youth

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ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY  AND CONCILIATION COURTS
AFCC

Turning the Kaleidoscope
of Family Conflict
into a Prism of Harmony

BOSTON
AFCC 54th Annual Conference
Sheraton Boston Hotel • May 31-June 3, 2017

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