



ASSOCIATION OF
FAMILY AND
CONCILIATION COURTS

AFCC
FALL CONFERENCE

Integrating Research into Practice and Policy: The Impact on Families and Children



October 31–November 2, 2019
Omni William Penn Hotel
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

AFCC FALL CONFERENCE

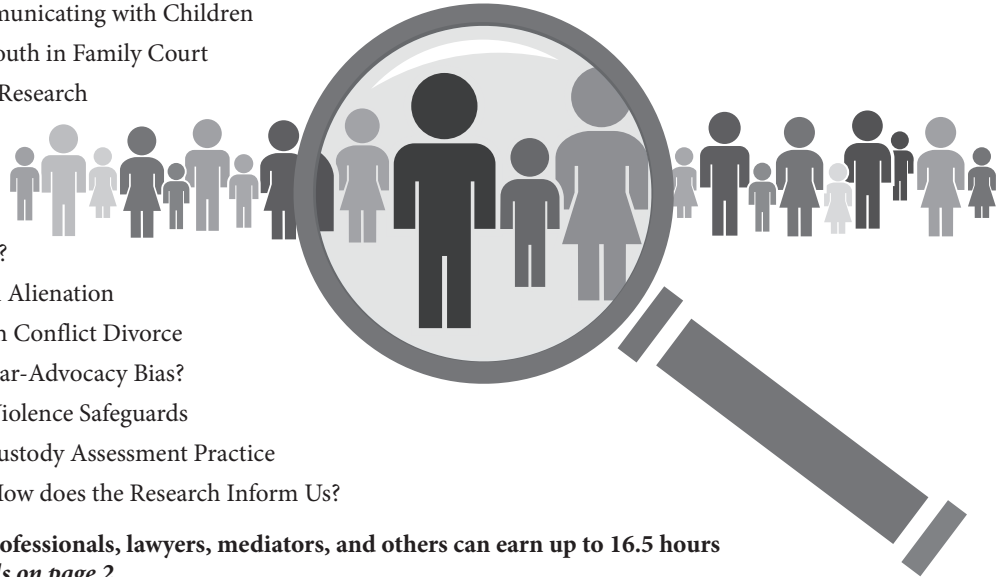
Integrating Research into Practice and Policy: The Impact on Families and Children

October 31-November 2, 2019 • Omni William Penn Hotel • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Family court professionals are increasingly turning to social science research to inform decision making, processes, practice, and policy. This often results in rigorous discussion about the role, quality, and importance of research in family court and related practices. Have we given research too much weight? What is the role of professional experience and clinical judgement? What happens when contradictory findings are presented? How do professionals apply group findings to individual cases? Join AFCC as we grapple with these challenging questions.

This conference will feature both practice-oriented and research-focused programs on issues, including:

- Family Law and Social Science: What Should we Believe?
- The Art and Science of Communicating with Children
- Working with Transgender Youth in Family Court
- Selection Bias in Family Law Research
- Parenting Coordination
- Cultural Bias
- Online Dispute Resolution
- Is Divorce Conflict Addictive?
- Research Supporting Parental Alienation
- Transitional Objects and High Conflict Divorce
- Is Spanking a Victim of Scholar-Advocacy Bias?
- Best Practice and Domestic Violence Safeguards
- Integrating Research into a Custody Assessment Practice
- Trauma-Informed Practice: How does the Research Inform Us?



Psychologists, mental health professionals, lawyers, mediators, and others can earn up to 16.5 hours of continuing education! *Details on page 2.*

Join AFCC Today and Save!

AFCC is the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts—an interdisciplinary, international association of more than 5,400 professionals dedicated to improving the lives of children and families through the resolution of family conflict. Members value education, research, innovation, and identifying the best practices to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and families.

Join AFCC for only \$150 when you register for the conference. That's a \$10 savings on your first year's membership and another \$120 when you register at the member rate. Select "New Membership Special" when completing the registration form.

AFCC members enjoy these benefits and more:

- **Family Court Review**, AFCC's quarterly academic and research journal in print and electronic format.
- **AFCC monthly webinars**, with free member access to all archived programs.
- **AFCC eNEWS**, the monthly electronic newsletter
- **Parenting Coordination Network Listserv**
- **Substantial member discounts** on registration for AFCC conferences and trainings, AFCC webinars, exhibits, and advertising.
- **Online member directory** of over 5,400 colleagues worldwide.
- **Professional liability insurance** through Complete Equity Markets, Inc.

www.afccnet.org

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 opinions of conference presenters. The AFCC Exhibit Forum includes a variety of vendors promoting services and products. AFCC does not necessarily endorse or warrant vendors' products, services, or views.

 **AFCC**
ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY
AND CONCILIATION COURTS

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Conference at a Glance

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2019

6:00pm-8:00pm Registration

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2019

8:00am-5:00pm Registration

8:00am-5:00pm Exhibit Forum

8:00am-9:00am Coffee and Rolls

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

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

12:00pm-4:30pm AFCC Board of Directors Meeting

5:00pm-6:00pm Welcome Reception

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2019

7:30am-5:00pm Registration

7:30am-5:00pm Exhibit Forum

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

8:30am-10:00am Opening Session

10:00am-10:30am Break

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

12:00pm-1:30pm Luncheon

1:30pm-3:00pm Workshops 7-12

3:00pm-3:30pm Break

3:30pm-5:00pm Workshops 13-19

5:00pm-6:00pm Open Forum on Model Standards of Practice For Child Custody Evaluation

Evening Dine Arounds

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2019

7:30am-3:00pm Registration

7:30am-3:00pm Exhibit Forum

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

8:30am-10:00am Plenary Session

10:00am-10:30am Break

10:30am-12:00pm Workshops 20-25

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

1:30pm-3:00pm Workshops 26-30

Pre-Conference Institutes

(Separate registration fee required.)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2019

9:00am-5:00pm

1. Interviews of Children When There Are Allegations of Sexual Abuse: How to Do Them and How to Review Them

Cases in which there are allegations of child sexual abuse, are qualitatively different from other litigated matters involving access to or custody of children. The disputes are typically contentious, and much of the information needed must be obtained from the children, making the development of child forensic interviewing skills critically important. Presenters in this institute will address acquisition of the requisite skills and will identify the kinds of information most likely to assist triers of fact.

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

Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP, Newton, MA

Hon. Denise McColley, Napoleon, OH

2. Introductory Training in Parenting Coordination Skills

This institute will review some of the basic skills necessary to effectively serve as a parenting coordinator in high conflict custody cases. Participants will have the opportunity to learn, observe, and practice the tasks necessary to assist disputing families and to review child-centered practice concepts. Participants from Pennsylvania will learn about the new Supreme Court Rule on Parenting Coordination; however, this institute is designed for everyone interested in parenting coordination practice regardless of jurisdiction.

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

Lorri Yasenik, PhD, International Centre for Children and Family Law, Calgary, AB

Hon. Daniel J. Clifford, Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas, Norristown, PA

3. Understanding and Managing Implicit, Cognitive and Cultural Biases in Family Law

Scientists have learned that neuropsychology, social cognition, and cultural factors affect decision-making. Two types of neuro-psychologically rooted bias can impact how we reason, infer and decide. Cognitive bias refers to heuristics, such as anchoring or confirmatory bias, which contribute to oversimplifying complex matters. Implicit bias and cultural bias refer to social attitudes that result in rapid, and involuntary assessments resulting from feelings and attitudes that operate out of our awareness or the lack of understanding of how people whose experiences are different may affect those inferences and decisions. This institute will explore such biases and research-based debiasing strategies.

Gitu Bhatia, PsyD, Los Angeles, CA

Robert Simon, PhD, San Diego, CA

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

4. Trial Bootcamp for Custody Evaluations

This institute will consist of two parts, a didactic session in the morning and a skills training in the afternoon. The morning training will be conducted by two experienced professionals, one lawyer and one psychologist each covering how to work together and the common pitfalls they see across disciplines. The afternoon session will consist of mock trials with expert input and a demonstration to end the day. This institute is designed specifically for E2M (early-to-mid career) professionals; however, professionals of all experience levels are welcome.

Rebecca Stahl, JD, LLM, Univ. of Baltimore School of Law, Baltimore MD

Liana Shelby, PsyD, Child and Family Evaluation Services, Dedham, MA

Sol R. Rappaport, PhD, ABPP, Northern Illinois Institute of Forensic Psychology, Libertyville, IL

Lawrence Jay Braunstein, JD, Braunstein & Zuckerman, White Plains, NY

Magistrate Richard Altman, Napoleon, OH

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.* AFCC will provide information on obtaining your certificate, and will update information regarding approval of CE and CLE applications, at www.afccnet.org. Click on "AFCC Fall Conference" from the AFCC home page.

Psychologists: AFCC is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. AFCC maintains responsibility for this program and its content. The program is eligible for up to 16.5 hours of continuing education for psychologists. A list of sessions approved for continuing education for psychologist will be available on the AFCC website by August 1, 2019 and at the conference.

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

If you are a LMFT, LPC, or other mental health professional, you may use the AFCC Certificate of Attendance to verify attendance at conference sessions and apply for continuing education credits with your accrediting institution.

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

Lawyers: An application for accreditation of continuing legal education activity will be submitted to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania CLE Board, the Commission on CLE of the Supreme Court of Delaware, the Vermont Supreme Court, the West Virginia State Bar CLE Commission, and the Supreme Court of Ohio. 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 (Delaware and Pennsylvania). New Jersey attorneys who take courses approved in another state will receive credit for courses approved in that jurisdiction through reciprocity; however, attorneys must ensure that they are also meeting the requirements of New Jersey's program, i.e. NJ requires that four credits be taken annually in courses related to ethics and/or professionalism. Attorneys from other states may use the AFCC Certificate of Attendance to verify attendance and apply for credit in their state.

Integrating Research into Practice and Policy: The Impact on Families and Children

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2019

8:00am-5:00pm	Registration
8:00am-5:00pm	Exhibit Forum
8:00am-9:00am	Coffee and Rolls
12:00pm-1:30pm	Lunch (own your own)
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7:30am-5:00pm	Registration
7:30am-5:00pm	Exhibit Forum
7:30am-8:30am	Coffee and Rolls
8:30am-10:00am	Opening Session

*Welcome: Matthew Sullivan, PhD, AFCC President, Palo Alto, CA
Hon. Kim Clark, President Judge, 5th Judicial District,
Pittsburgh, PA*

Family Law and Social Science: What Should we Believe?

Social science is playing an increasingly prominent role in family law-related disputes in courtrooms and legislatures around the world. Robust claims and counterclaims about evidence related to shared parenting, alienation, and domestic violence are presented by both advocates and neutrals. Some possess research expertise while others do not, but all are firm—if not accurate—in their convictions. This session features seasoned professionals with varying levels of research expertise, exploring the challenges of effective and appropriate use of research in family law.

*Michael Saini, PhD, Univ. of Toronto, Toronto, ON
Hon. Dianna Gould-Saltman, Los Angeles, CA
Timothy Tippins, JD, East Greenbush, NY
Milfred “Bud” Dale, PhD, JD, Topeka, KS*

10:00am-10:30am Break

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

1. Custody Evaluator Orientation: Best Practice and Domestic Violence Safeguards

A custody evaluator’s orientation process is complicated by the presence of intimate partner violence (IPV) within a family. This interactive workshop will examine the process of screening for IPV and conducting orientation where IPV is present. Presenters will offer practical tools to promote safe, trauma-informed, and successful parenting plans.

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

Darren Mitchell, JD, Takoma Park, MD

2. The Art and Science of Communicating with Children

This workshop will address rapport-building, common engagement activities and strategies when communicating with children. Presenters will share tips for opening and closing interviews, research-based principles for questioning children, and how to recognize and respond to signs of stress and trauma in children. The challenges and complexities of communicating with children will be discussed, and best practices for enhancing the reliability of children’s reports will be provided.

Frank Davis, PhD, Berkeley, CA

Kathleen McNamara, PhD, Fort Collins, CO

Mindy F. Mitnick, EdM, MA, Edina, MA

*Rebecca M. Stahl, JD, LLM, Univ. of Baltimore School of Law,
Baltimore, MD*

3. Putting Aside Conflict: Interventions for High Conflict Parents

The negative developmental, emotional, behavioral, and academic effects that interparental conflict has on children is well documented. This workshop will present information on a 27-hour psychoeducational program designed for parents embroiled in conflict. The program is designed to address key skill components to reduce the hostilities, with the ultimate goal of improving outcomes for children. Pre and post-survey data of perceived change following program participation, in the areas of communication, conflict, and sense of co-partnership in parenting will be presented.

Mary M. Ferriter, JD, MPA, William James College High Conflict Parent Education Program, Newton, MA

Jessica P. Greenwald O’Brien, PhD, William James Center of Excellence for Children, Families and the Law, Newton, MA

4. Research that Supports Parental Alienation

This presentation highlights two lines of research regarding parental alienation. The first is the use of psychological tests (such as the Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire and the Bene-Anthony Family Relations Test), which measure the pathological defense mechanism of splitting, to distinguish severely alienated children from nonalienated children. The second is the analysis of hundreds of legal opinions, which demonstrate how trial and appellate courts in the US have found testimony regarding parental alienation to be material, probative, relevant, and admissible.

William Bernet, MD, Vanderbilt Univ., Brentwood, TN

Amy J.L. Baker, PhD, Teaneck, NJ

Demosthenes Lorandos, PhD, JD, Hamburg, MI

5. Hope: The Essence of Resolving Family Disputes

Family attorneys and mediators usually see clients who are stressed, angry, depressed, or fearful about their future. Their emotional state and the uncertainty of their condition makes it difficult for many clients to appropriately participate in settlement negotiations. This workshop will present the benefits of hope: How we can use hope to center ourselves and how to share that hope and give it to our clients so they can navigate the process with security and strength rather than fear.

Zanita A. Zacks-Gabriel, JD, Erie, PA

6. ODR Grows Up: An Introduction to IDR

Participants in this session will learn the fundamentals of intelligent dispute resolution (IDR) technology and how, as an early intervention platform, IDR tools have successfully helped to reduce caseload and improve relations between parties. Presenters will discuss how IDR is being implemented in different complex civil contexts and see how AI + human intervention models are being deployed to help users resolve disputes, create agreements and stay out of court.

Hon. Sherrill Ellsworth, Los Angeles, CA

Hon. Andrea Moen, Edmonton, AB

Linda Warren Seely, JD, ABA Section of Dispute Resolution, Washington, DC

12:00pm-1:30pm Luncheon

1:30pm-3:00pm Workshops 7-12

7. For the Love of Fluffy: Transitional Objects and High Conflict Divorce

Building on a dramatic Canadian divorce case (*Chomos v Hamilton*, 2016 ONSC 5208), this session will define the concept of the transitional object, explore its role in the course of healthy development, and how it is applied to the needs of children in high conflict divorce. Transitional objects will be discussed as portable sources of emotional fuel, a metaphor that invites a new and very practical perspective on understanding and serving the best interests of these children.

Benjamin Garber, PhD, Family Law Consulting, PLLC, Nashua, NH

8. Cracking the Divorce Conflict Nut: Is Divorce Conflict Addictive?

Traditional explanations for divorce conflict, particularly conflict that escalates to intractable, often suggest that the problem is hopeless. In this workshop, three factors undergirding divorce conflict are presented that lead to solutions: (1) a Game Theory analysis of traditional family law predicts that conflict is the most rational response; (2) the perpetuation of myths about relationships that caused the divorce; and, (3) the properties of behavioral addiction as applied to divorce conflict.

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

9. Working with Transgender Youth in the Family Court System

Transgender youth are often involved in family court proceedings due to parental rejection, mental health problems, and conflict between parents over gender-affirming care. This workshop introduces family court professionals to best practices in working with transgender youth, including the use of appropriate vocabulary, consideration of social climate, support in removal cases, and evaluation of competency to consent to gender-affirming medical care over caregiver objection.

Lindsey Davis, PhD, Brookline, MA

10. Integrating Early Childhood Assessments to Create Step-Up Parenting Plans

This workshop will examine methods of infant assessment relying on the developmental research regarding infant-toddler development, to create step-up parenting plans for separating and divorcing families. Presenters will provide guidance for the judges and attorneys on how to use the variables being assessed to craft step-up parenting plans. Presenters will explain the risks posed to the child and present sample parenting plans. Relevant case law and disputes in the legal and mental health fields will be presented.

Leah Younger, PsyD, Younger Psychology, Garden City, NY

Virginia LoPreto, JD, LoPreto + Levy, LLP, New York, NY

11. Selection Bias in Family Law Research: Reliability at the Cost of Diversity

With calls to improve the quality and applicability of social science research within family law, there has been an increased focus on improving the reliability of studies, including strengthening the inclusion and exclusion criteria for sampling selection. This workshop will explore the benefits and risks of stringent criteria for the inclusion of study participants. Presenters will offer examples within the context of alienation and intimate partner violence. Implications for using empirical evidence in the courtroom will be discussed.

Leslie Drozd, PhD, Newport Beach, CA

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

12. What Money Tells Us about Parenting and Co-Parenting

Family law professionals have much to learn about the effect of economic factors on parenting and conflict in co-parenting relationships. This session will survey the growing body of research in economics, economic anthropology, and behavioral economics. Presenters will provide insight into how economics affects family dynamics and parenting styles and will offer conceptual considerations for approaches in mediation and counseling that confront these factors and challenges, and that may better support parents in creating goals and making decisions for their children.

Simone Haberstock, JD, LLM, St. Louis, MO
Kevin Chafin, MA, Kansas City, MO

3:00pm-3:30pm Break

3:30pm-5:00pm Workshops 13-19

13. Enhancing the Family Court Process for Domestic Violence Litigants

Research demonstrates that in cases involving domestic violence, litigant experiences in court can impact how they are able to access resources and support necessary for positive case outcomes. This workshop will take place at the nearby Children's Court and will address ways in which practitioners can partner with their court to enhance the court process in family law cases involving domestic violence. Participants will explore how domestic violence dynamics play out in a court setting and strategize how to collaborate with court leadership on enhancing responses, including addressing litigant experience, bias and trauma, informing case processing, coordinating with community providers and ensuring safety in the court house.

Hon. Daniel Regan, Pittsburgh, PA
Danielle Pugh-Markie, MPA, Center for Court Innovation, Reno, NV

14. Is Spanking a Victim of Scholar-Advocacy Bias?

This workshop contrasts scientific evidence used to oppose spanking with a growing body of evidence that supports appropriate spanking by parents, evidence that is often ignored by scholars who promote spanking bans. Not only can spanking effectively enforce other strategies such as timeout, but spanking bans inadvertently increase physical abuse rates by disempowering parents. Therefore, it is not in the child's best interests to consider spanking as equivalent to abuse in justifying state interventions or restricting parents' disciplinary options.

Robert Larzelere, PhD, Oklahoma State Univ., Stillwater, OK
Jason Fuller, JD, Fuller Law, Delaware, OH
Ronald B. Cox, Jr., PhD, Oklahoma State Univ., Stillwater, OK,
Michael Saini, PhD, Univ. of Toronto, Toronto, ON

15 Research Toolbox: Integrating Research into a Custody Assessment Practice

This workshop will focus on the ethical and forensic rationales for grounding custody assessments in the best available empirical research and on ways to analyze the quality of studies relevant to best interest decisions. Participants will also be provided with concrete guidelines for how to efficiently integrate the use of research into busy professional practices and will leave with a model for building a usable "research library" for custody practice.

Jeffrey P. Wittmann, PhD, Albany, NY
David M. Martindale, PhD, St. Petersburg, FL

16. Evidence-Based Protocol Promotes Out-of-Court Resolution and Effective Services

Presenters in this workshop will report on an innovative method for assessing and formulating service needs in family court decision-making. Developed by the International Association for the Study of Attachment (IASA), the IASA Family Attachment Court Protocol is considered 'best practice' for child protection and family support in parts of the UK. The Protocol identifies families' level of functioning and generates individualized recommendations suited to parents' skills. Three cases illustrate how the Protocol is changing practice, conserving resources through pre-court resolution, and reducing placements.

Patricia M. Crittenden, PhD, Family Relations Institute, Miami, FL
Susan J. Spieker, PhD, Univ. of Washington, Seattle, WA
Rebecca Carr-Hopkins, DipSW, MSc, Independent Social Work Matters, Brighton, UK

17. Assessing IPV Allegations in Custody Evaluation: A Revised Forensic Model

This session will present a revision of the forensic model to assist custody evaluators in assessing the credibility of allegations of IPV, identifying new factors needed to assess credibility in denials and allegations of IPV. The forensic-investigative approach will be contrasted with a clinical impression approach. Presenters will demonstrate expert testimony and present the complexities of custody evaluation with audience participation.

William G. Austin, PhD, Evergreen, CO
James R. Flens, PsyD, ABPP, Valrico, FL

18. Dynamic Family Restructuring and Reconnection Therapy: A Practical Approach

This workshop will help attendees to: (1) analyze cases for critical factors to consider in making dramatic shifts in parenting time; (2) apply specific guidelines for generating a risk-benefit analysis; and, (3) convey to involved mental health and legal professionals potential harm and benefits of possible outcomes as it relates to the factors identified in the deliberation process.

Ellen M. Mauldin, MFT, Campbell, CA
Shawn McCall, PsyD, JD, Palo Alto, CA

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2019

19. What Can Data Tell Us About Girls in the Juvenile Justice System?

Girls often bring significant trauma history to family court. Those working with court-involved families should understand girls' patterns of involvement in the juvenile justice system. Presenters in this session will explore girls in the justice system through the lens of youth, local family court, and national juvenile justice data. National data from the National Center for Juvenile Justice, local data from Allegheny County, and youth perspective from youth interviews will be presented. *This session will take place at the Children's Court, a 3-min. walk. Directions will be provided.*

Melissa Sickmund, PhD, National Center for Juvenile Justice/NCJFCJ, Pittsburgh, PA

Sarah Hockenberry, MS, National Center for Juvenile Justice/NCJFCJ, Pittsburgh, PA

Melanie King, MSW, Allegheny County Juvenile Probation, Pittsburgh, PA

Michael A. Yonas, DrPH, The Pittsburgh Foundation, Pittsburgh, PA

5:00pm-6:00pm **Open Forum: Task Force on Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluation**

Evening **Dine Arounds**

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2019

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

7:30am-3:00pm **Exhibit Forum**

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

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

Welcome: Larry S. Fong, PhD, AFCC President Elect, Calgary, AB

Hon. Kim Eaton, 5th Judicial District, Pittsburgh, PA

Trauma-Informed Practice: How Does the Research Inform Us?

The movement toward trauma-informed practice in family courts has generated significant interest. Many courts are creating specific spaces and protocols to better assist users who have experienced trauma. What is the reason behind this shift in thinking and practice? What steps can practitioners take to better inform their own work? Presenters in this session will examine the how research informs practice, and how family professionals can best implement a trauma-sensitive approach.

Hon. Kim Clark, President Judge, 5th Judicial District, Pittsburgh, PA

Lawrence Jay Braunstein, JD, Braunstein & Zuckerman, White Plains, NY

Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP, Newton, MA

Cindy Stoltz, JD, Allegheny County Children's Court, Pittsburgh, PA

10:00am-10:30am **Break**

10:30am-12:00pm **Workshops 20-25**

20. The Impact of Procedural Justice

Research demonstrates that giving parties a voice in the judicial process results in greater compliance with court orders. Courts that incorporate procedural justice principles see measurable benefits to outcomes for families and children. This session introduces the principles of procedural justice and their significance for the judicial process. This session also will focus on the procedural justice reforms made in the Allegheny County Juvenile Court and the federal Procedural Justice—Informed Alternatives to Contempt (PJAC) grant.

Hon. Kim Clark, President Judge, 5th Judicial District, Pittsburgh, PA

Diane Potts, JD, Center for Support of Families, Silver Springs, MD

21. Custody Arrangement Decision Making Model: Assisting Parents with Custody Decisions

This workshop will present research on how parents make decisions about arrangements for their children following divorce. The presenter will provide information on ten factors found to influence the custody arrangement decision following a divorce: former partner, children, work, new partner, use of a lawyer, role of family, parenting role, place of residence, finances, and divorce. In addition, information will be discussed on the inclusion of an adolescent in the custody arrangement decision.

Jaimee L. Hartenstein, PhD, Univ. of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO

22. Strong Starts: Developmental Science Informs Family Court Practice

The Strong Starts Court Initiative brings critical research on infant brain development, attachment theory, and the biological impact of adversity in early childhood into court practice. The program places an infant mental health specialist in the courthouse to partner with a dedicated judge and work with attorneys and case workers in a collaborative manner. This session will include research on infant mental health and attachment and the ways in which Strong Starts has impacted court response to families and children under three years of age. The session will include an interactive component so that participants can identify gaps in their own system's response and strategize ways to improve practice on these types of cases.

Kiran Malpe, LCSW, Center for Court Innovation, New York, NY

Kate Wurmfeld, JD, Center for Court Innovation, New York, NY

23. Online Dispute Resolution: An Arizona Perspective

Recent public opinion polls show the public wants courts to use technology to make court processes more efficient, fair and accessible; however, the polls also show child custody and divorce as one of the least favorite uses for online dispute resolution. The Family Justice Initiative produced a report last year showing that family courts are not working the way they should to create the best outcomes for families. To potentially better serve this population of court litigants, Arizona has implemented Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) in two family courts. This session will provide the perspectives of users of the system, including staff.

Tracy McElroy, MA, Pinal County Conciliation Services, Florence, AZ

Sarah Chouinard, JD, Pinal County Conciliation Services, Florence, AZ

24. A Roadmap for Success: Structuring a Coaching or Parenting Coordination Process

The role of a coach or parenting coordinator is most engaging for clients when the professional institutes a clear, structured, predictable process—a roadmap for success. This session gives professionals tools to create a roadmap based on the client’s highest priorities and desires for their future. The roadmap includes all the phases of work with the clients such as the starting point, the desired destination, action steps along the way, accountability measures, and planning for transitioning out of the process.

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

25. “You Want Me to Co-parent with THEM?!” The Families First Program

Parents battling addiction or mental health issues are often ostracized when parenting plans are developed. They are told to “get sober,” or “get on your meds and then you can see the kids.” The Families First Program considers barriers that prevent parents from getting the treatment they need to co-parent in a healthy condition. This workshop will detail the model and describe the treatment opportunities and supportive services available to families in this new, innovative program.

Hon. Tonya R. Jones, Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court Cleveland, OH

Magistrate Judy Jackson-Winston, Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court, Cleveland, OH

Bianca Smith, MS, Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court, Cleveland, OH

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

1:30pm-3:00pm Workshops 26-30

26. The Influence of Implicit Bias on Forensic Opinions and Judicial Decision-Making

In this workshop, the presenters explore research concerning implicit and explicit bias and its influence on lawyers hiring forensic mental health professionals (FMHPs), the expert opinions of FMHPs, and judicial decision making in child custody cases. The inherent design of the adversarial system may actively encourage the perpetuation of bias from ADR to trial. The APA Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychology (2008) and the NASW Code of Ethics (2017) are applied in this discussion as a means to consider best practices and future study.

Diane Tennies, PhD, LADC, Bangor, ME

Dana Prescott, PhD, JD, Prescott Jamieson Murphy Law Group, Saco, ME

27. Changing Family Courts to Help Heal and Build Resilient Families

When families enter the court due to child maltreatment, they have typically reached a low point in their lives. The challenge then becomes how the court and service providers can ensure the children are safe and, except in extreme cases, families remain intact or are reunified. This session explores lessons from Indigenous culture about assisting families with healing and how courts can better collaborate with services to assist families.

Hon. Carrie E. Garrow, Chief Judge, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Court, Akwesasne, NY

28. Parent-Child Contact Issues and Experts: Assessment to Intervention to Resolution

This workshop explores characteristics of mild, moderate, and severe parent-child contact problems and factors leading to a child’s resistance/rejection of parent contact. Assessment of difficult cases, strategies, and treatment options are discussed, including presentation of evidence by attorneys and mental health professionals. Topics include advocacy, best interests of the child, and content of court orders supporting intervention (with sample court orders). Presenters will also discuss the importance of protection of children from conflict and provide a view from the bench.

Cristi Trusler, JD, Trusler Legal, PLLC, Austin, TX

Kelley Baker, PhD, LPC, Georgetown, TX

Hon. Betsy Lambeth, 425th Judicial District, Georgetown, TX

Melissa Sulkowski, RN, MA, Nurturinse, Erie, PA

29. How Motivational Interviewing Techniques Can Enhance Effective Co-Parenting

Parents can have parenting conflicts both before and after divorce. Incorporating action-oriented processes shifts the focus of what can be done to help things go right rather than simply a focus on preventing problems. Exploring and resolving co-parenting ambivalence through Motivational Interviewing (MI) techniques encourages ownership, enhances self-efficacy, and assumes competency. MI techniques can be especially powerful for co-parents, as the client is responsible for identifying specific behaviors s/he can perform to move forward, subsequently moving the co-parent relationship forward and the family unit forward.

Deborah Gilman, PhD, Pittsburgh, PA

30. Opening the Doors for ALICE: Exploring Approaches to Access to Justice

Barriers to legal access are clear for those living at or below the poverty level. But what about ALICE? ALICE is Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, which defines a significant portion of our nation’s population. This session will explore who ALICE is and what barriers ALICE confronts in gaining access to justice. This workshop will examine initiatives to making justice more accessible, including a community-based approach in Delaware, OH, now in its 15th year.

April Nelson, JD, Delaware County Juvenile Court, Delaware, OH

Travel and Lodging Information

Hotel Information

Omni William Penn Hotel
530 William Penn Pl
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-281-7100

Located in the heart of the downtown business district, the Omni William Penn Hotel is a historic landmark elegantly renovated for the 21st-century traveler. The hotel is steps away from many cultural venues, shopping, and the Pittsburgh Metro Rail System. Hotel information is available at www.omnihotels.com/hotels/pittsburgh-william-penn. For more information regarding restaurants, sites, or activities, Pittsburgh visitor information can be found at www.VisitPittsburgh.com.

Make your reservation today! The Omni William Penn Hotel is offering an exceptional group rate to AFCC conference attendees of \$155/night for single or double occupancy. On October 8, 2019, any unreserved rooms in the AFCC block will be released; the group rate will not be guaranteed after that date. **Rooms frequently sell out before the room block is released!** Make your reservation through the AFCC website. Go to www.afccnet.org and click on AFCC Fall Conference or call 1-800-843-6664 and mention group code AFCC. Attendees are responsible for making their own hotel arrangements.

Ground Transportation

A taxi/share ride from the Pittsburgh International Airport to the Omni William Penn Hotel costs approximately \$30-40 and takes 25-30 minutes, depending on traffic. SuperShuttle is currently \$25 one-way per person from the airport to the Omni Hotel. For more information visit www.supershuttle.com. 28X-Airport Flyer Bus fare is \$3.75 from the airport to the Omni Hotel, for more information visit <https://www.portauthority.org/>.

Parking

Valet parking is available at the Omni William Penn for \$36 per night with in and out privileges. Self-parking garage is offered in the Mellon Square parking garage located across from the hotel. Rates are: \$19 Monday-Friday, 6:00am-4:00pm and \$6 from 4:00pm-5:59am and on Saturday-Sundays

Climate

In late October, early November, temperatures in Pittsburgh range from a high of 50-60°F to a low of 37-45°F. Meeting rooms and hotel facilities can be cold, so take a light jacket or sweater.

Important Conference Information

Conference Scholarships

AFCC will offer a limited number of scholarships for the conference. Scholarships include registrations for the conference and one pre-conference institute, welcome reception, luncheon, access to the AFCC hospitality suite, and a certificate of attendance. The scholarship application is available on the AFCC website, www.afccnet.org. **The scholarship application deadline is September 5, 2019.** Recipients will be notified in late September. Any registration fees previously paid by a scholarship recipient will be refunded in full.

Exhibit Forum

The Exhibit Forum will be open during conference hours and provides an opportunity to meet face-to-face with representatives to discuss your needs and the products and services they offer. If you are interested in an exhibit table or distributing materials to conference attendees, please contact AFCC Meeting Manager, Nicole Ellickson at 608-664-3750 or nellickson@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 to: <https://www.UnhookedMedia.com/Conference-Books> or contact Myke Hunter at myke@unhookedbooks.com with book title, publisher name, and/or ISBN by September 15, 2019, with "AFCC Bookstore" in the subject line.

AFCC Hospitality Suite

The AFCC hospitality suite will be open for informal networking and refreshments Thursday and Friday from 9:00pm-12:00am. Please wear your name badge. The hospitality suite location will be included in the attendee emails and on the mobile app.

AFCC Dine Arouds

Friday evening is your opportunity to enjoy the area with friends and colleagues. Sign up before 1:30pm on Friday to join a group of 8-12 for dinner at a local restaurant. Restaurant menus and signup sheets will be available onsite. Participants are responsible for food, beverage, and transportation costs.

Registration Information

Please read before completing your conference registration!

AFCC Members Save up to \$120 on Registration Rates: Register and pay by September 30, to receive the lowest rates for the conference! The lowest 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 \$120 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 preconference institute, refreshment breaks, and printed and electronic institute materials. *Institute registration is a separate fee from registration for the full conference.*

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

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

Full-Time Student Registration: Includes all conference sessions and electronic conference materials. Meal functions are not included. Registration must include proof of full-time student status.

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

Session or Presenter Changes

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

Audio/Video Recording

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

Attendee List

By registering for the conference, your name, city, state, country, and email address will be included on the attendee list, located on the mobile app. If you wish to opt out, please let us know at afcc@afccnet.org.

Registration Form

AFCC Fall Conference • October 31-November 2, 2019
Omni William Penn Hotel • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Register online at www.afccnet.org

Please register by September 30, 2019, to ensure that your contact info (including email) appears conference attendee list.

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

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

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

Title/Profession _____ Organization _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Country _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Check here to opt out of the conference attendee list (includes name, city, state/province, country, email)

Do you have any dietary restrictions or other special needs? Meals Access Other

Please provide details: _____

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

New Membership Special

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

	Paid by Sept. 30	Paid after Sept. 30
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150

Pre-Conference Institutes Registration Rates

Full Day Institute 1-4 - AFCC Member

\$145 \$165

Full Day Institute 1-4 - Non-member

\$180 \$200

Conference Registration Rates

Conference Registration - AFCC Member

\$295 \$335

Conference Registration - Non-member

\$375 \$410

Conference Presenter - AFCC Member

\$225 \$235

Conference Presenter - Non-member

\$245 \$275

Full-Time Student - AFCC Member (ID required. No meals included.)

\$125 \$150

Full-time Student, AFCC Non-member (ID required. No meals included.)

\$150 \$175

Additional Luncheon Ticket

\$ 62 \$ 62

Certificate of Attendance - AFCC Member

\$ 15 \$ 15

Certificate of Attendance - Non-member

\$ 20 \$ 20

TOTAL:

\$ _____ \$ _____

3 Pre-Conference Institute Selections—Thursday, October 31, 2019

9:00am-5:00pm

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

- 1. Interviews of Children When There Are Allegations of Sexual Abuse: How to Do Them and How to Review Them
- 2. Introductory Training in Parenting Coordination Skills
- 3. Understanding and Managing Implicit, Cognitive and Cultural Biases in Family Law
- 4. Trial Bootcamp for Custody Evaluations

4 Conference Workshop Selections

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

(Please write in one workshop number per time slot)

Friday, November 1	10:30am-12:00pm	Workshop 1-6	_____
Friday, November 1	1:30pm-3:00pm	Workshop 7-12	_____
Friday, November 1	3:30pm-5:00pm	Workshop 13-19	_____
Saturday, November 2	10:30am-12:00pm	Workshop 20-25	_____
Saturday, November 2	1:30pm-3:00pm	Workshop 26-30	_____

5 Method of Payment

Registrations must be paid in full prior to attendance.

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

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

Card Number _____

Exp. Date ____ / ____ Security Code _____ Billing Postal Code _____

Name on Credit Card _____

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

Cancellation Policy: Transfer of registration to another person may be done once, at any time without a fee. All requests for refunds must be made in writing. Written notice of cancellation received by fax or postmarked by October 7, 2019, will be issued a full refund minus a \$75 service fee. Written notice received by October 16, 2019, will have the \$75 service fee deducted and balance issued as a credit for future AFCC conferences, publications or membership dues. **No refunds or credits will be issued for cancellations received after October 16, 2019.**



6525 Grand Teton Plaza
Madison, WI 53719

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

Fall Conference

Pittsburgh

**Integrating Research into Practice and Policy:
The Impact on Families and Children**

Omni William Penn Hotel
October 31-November 2, 2019

Conference Sessions Include:

- Trauma-Informed Practice
- Parenting Coordination Skills
- Family Law and Social Science:
What Should we Believe?
- Research that Supports
Parental Alienation
- Is Divorce Conflict Addictive?
- Is Spanking a Victim of
Scholar-Advocacy Bias?
- Online Dispute Resolution
- Enhancing Family Court for
Domestic Violence Litigants
- Trial Bootcamp for Custody Evaluations
- Selection Bias in Family Law Research



ASSOCIATION OF
FAMILY AND
CONCILIATION COURTS

**AFCC
FALL CONFERENCE**

Integrating Research into Practice and Policy: The Impact on Families and Children



October 31– November 2, 2019
Omni William Penn Hotel
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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