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Fall Virtual Conference

*Necessity is the Mother of Invention:
Creative Interventions for Supporting an
Overwhelmed Court System*
November 12-14 and 17-18, 2025

Join AFCC online for our [Fall 2025 Virtual Conference](#) and earn up to 22 hours of continuing education credit from the comfort of your home or office!

All sessions will be recorded and available to registrants both live and on demand. So, if you miss a session due to scheduling conflicts, you'll still have the opportunity to watch later and catch the information you missed!

Check out the [conference brochure](#) to see everything we have in store for this year's program and [register today!](#)

AFCC Members from Outside the US/Canada Register for Free!

In recognition of time zone limitations, all AFCC members who reside outside of the

Ask the Experts



Premela Deck, JD, PhD, LICSW

Top 10 Mentorship Tips for Family Law Forensic Mental Health Professionals

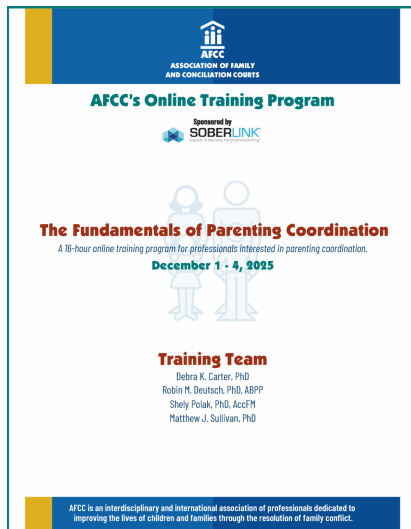
Premela Deck, JD, PhD, LICSW

Family Law Forensic Mental Health (FLFMH) is facing a critical juncture. With many professionals retiring or leaving the field—often due to its inherently litigious nature and the demands it places on practitioners—there is a growing shortage of qualified experts. This exodus is creating a significant gap in access to essential services for families and the courts. The few remaining specialists are stretched thin, managing overwhelming caseloads and extended waitlists. Meanwhile, most academic and clinical training programs offer limited, if any, opportunities for education in FLFMH, making it difficult for new professionals to

United States and Canada may register for the conference at no charge! No promo code necessary just [register online](#) you should be automatically given the discount.

[Register Now!](#)

[Continue Reading](#)



Fundamentals of Parenting Coordination

December 1-4, 2025
Online Training

Interested in expanding your practice into parenting coordination? Join AFCC in December for our most popular online training program: **The Fundamentals of Parenting Coordination!**

Participants will learn about the parenting coordinator's scope of authority, strategies to help parents improve cooperation and communication, how to help clients utilize the process, and how to effectively write recommendations or decisions.

Training Team:

- Debra K. Carter, PhD
- Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP
- Shely Polak, PhD, AccFM
- Matthew J. Sullivan, PhD

[Register Now!](#)

enter the field.

AFCC-AAML Conference

*Advanced Issues in Child Custody:
Evaluation, Litigation, and Settlement*
September 18-20, 2025 | San Francisco, CA



Join AFCC in San Francisco for our expert-level conference co-hosted with AAML on advanced issues in child custody!

Continuing Education

This conference is eligible for up to 15.5 hours of continuing education credit for attorneys, psychologists, social workers, and other qualifying professionals. [Learn more.](#)

Trial Track

This year's conference features a dedicated Trial Track, a curated pathway of workshops focused on trial practice and litigation-related issues. By attending all sessions marked as part of the Trial Track, you'll gain in-depth exposure to courtroom strategies, expert testimony, and high-conflict case management, all designed to enhance your litigation skills.

[Register Now!](#)

Legal Abuse as a Continuation of Coercive Control

Ellen R. Gutowski, PhD, CPsych
September 10, 2025



At the vulnerable time of separation, many survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) enter into family courts in search of protection for themselves and their children. However, they may instead face a distressing court process in which they must confront the person who abused them. As many survivors have no choice but to engage in the family court system to address matters such as divorce and child custody, this legal institution serves as an important gatekeeper to safety. A growing number of studies point to legal abuse—abusive partners' use of court processes to enact coercive control—as an overlooked, yet critical mechanism through which survivors and their children are harmed during family court processes. This presentation will provide an overview of the author's existing research on legal abuse and discuss several implications of this research for practice.

Registration

Members: \$15
Non-Members: \$50

Certificate of Attendance

Members: \$15
Non-Members: \$20

[Register Now!](#)

More Upcoming Webinars!

DE&I Series

Demystifying Chinese Parenting: An Essential Workshop for Court-Involved Professionals*

Maria Young, LMFT
October 16, 2025

*Webinars in the **DE&I Series** are free to attend, but you must register!

Cross Examination for Parenting Plan Evaluations

Anna Street, JD
October 23, 2025

Screening for Intimate Partner Violence in Mediation: Tools, Ethics, and Practice Tips

Kelly Browe Olson, JD, LLM & Joi Hollis, PhD
November 4, 2025

Year in Review: The 2025 Social Science Roundup for Family Law Professionals

Michael A. Saini, PhD, MSW, RSW
December 11, 2025

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Meet Our Members!



63rd Annual Conference

May 27-30, 2026 | Seattle, WA

AFCC is excited to announce our 63rd Annual Conference will be taking place in Seattle next May!

Family transitions are never just about logistics. Beneath the surface, underlying forces shape the experience: cultural expectations, psychological wounds, and unconscious motivations to name a few. As the world becomes more complex, family law professionals are called to deepen their understanding of these hidden layers to serve families more justly and compassionately. Join us in Seattle, as we uncover what lies beneath the surface of family transitions and explore emerging practices to respond with empathy, integrity, and skill.

If you have an idea for a 90-minute workshop that explores the deeper dynamics of family transitions or another topic, we'd love to hear it. [See the call for proposals](#) for suggested topics and submission instructions.

[Call for Proposals](#)



Karis Nafte is the founder of Who Keeps the Dog, Pet Custody Mediation, seeing clients in the USA, UK, Canada, and Australia while working remotely from Cape Town, South Africa. She is a pioneer in animal-focused pet custody mediation, having spent over 25 years immersed in pet behavior and family dynamics. Her experience has led her to become a leading global expert in the ever-evolving field of pet custody.

Karis brings a deep understanding and unwavering passion to the emotionally charged landscape of divorce, where the well-being of beloved animals is easily overlooked or misunderstood. Her mission is simple: to ensure that the needs of animals are central to all pet custody decisions and she distinguishes the role of pets as family members, with bonds to other family members, rather than as just property.

What sets Karis apart is her unique dual expertise. She is a Certified Dog Behavior Consultant as well as an Accredited Family Mediator. Beyond mediating solutions for divorcing couples, she is also committed to educating and training professionals worldwide in best practices for pet custody disputes. Karis is a relatively new member, having joined the AFCC last year. She is excited to network and share her expertise with the AFCC community!

Chapter News

The **New Jersey Chapter of AFCC** is proud to celebrate its 25th anniversary!

To mark this milestone, the chapter will be hosting a one-day event focused on **Reframing Best Interests of Children**.

Renowned expert and frequent AFCC presenter Robin Deutsch, PhD will deliver the keynote address.

In addition to this learning opportunity, chapter founder Dr. Ron Silikovitz, archivist Barbara Worth, Esq., and energetic editor/director Elle Barr, Esq., have created a lively and heartfelt tribute to shared about

Upcoming Chapter Events

AFCC Arizona
Family Court Orientation & Training
September 12, 2025
Phoenix, AZ

AFCC New Jersey
25th Anniversary Celebration
September 27, 2025
Warren, NJ

AFCC Florida
Annual Advanced Education Program
October 8-10, 2025
Orlando, FL

AFCC Ontario

their journey.

Whether you are a chapter member or are just in the area, this is a celebration you will not want to miss!

Congratulations to the **Utah Chapter of AFCC** which sponsored another successful summer social and for always finding creative ways to engage and work with family law professionals!

Annual Conference
October 23-24, 2025
Toronto & Virtual

**AFCC Indiana
Annual Conference**
October 24, 2025
Indianapolis, IN

**AFCC Maryland
Annual Conference**
October 30, 2025
Annapolis, MD

Thank You to our 2025 AFCC-AAML Conference Sponsors!



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The *AFCC eNEWS* is the monthly e-newsletter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. The *eNEWS* provides up-to-date information for professionals including practice tips, international news, and the latest initiatives in family law and conflict resolution. The *AFCC eNEWS* is provided at no charge to you; anyone can **subscribe**.

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