



## In this eNews:

- [President's Message](#)
- [2025 Revision of the Model Standards for Family and Divorce Mediation](#)
- [2025 AFCC-AAML Conference on Advanced Issues in Child Custody](#)
- [Upcoming Webinars](#)
- [63rd Annual Conference - Call for Proposals](#)
- [July 2025 Issue of Family Court Review](#)
- [Fall 2025 Virtual Conference](#)
- [Chapter News/Upcoming Chapter Events](#)

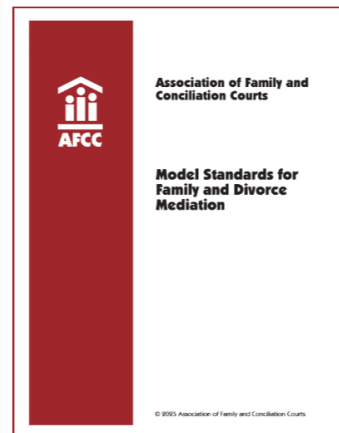
### President's Message

Dolores Bomrad, AFCC President



It is not an exaggeration to say that AFCC has changed my life. What about you? Has AFCC changed how you do your work or even changed your life? Has it honed your focus? Challenged you to do more than you thought you were capable of? Helped you find or refine your purpose? Contributed to your personal and professional advancement? Kept you grounded? Enabled you to meet the people who wrote the books and papers you read? Provided you with resources? Aided you in staying engaged and energized in your practice?

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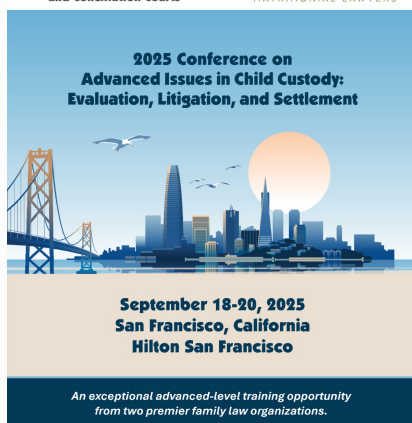


### 2025 Revision of the Model Standards for Family and Divorce Mediation

Following 3 years of collaboration, AFCC & ABA Family Law Section Task Force, under the leadership of Stacy Heard, JD, Chair; Nancy Ver Steegh, JD, MSW, Chair; Donna Erez-Navot, JD, BSW, Reporter, unanimously approved the 2025 Revisions of Model Standards for Family and Divorce Mediation. Below, Donna Erez-Navot shares a reflection of the Task Force's journey to the publication of the Standards through her foreword, and a link to review the final product.

[Continue Reading](#)

*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!

[Register Now!](#)

### 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.



### Keynote Address: Understanding and Managing Five High Conflict Personality Disorders

Join Bill Eddy, MSW, JD, at our keynote address to learn what to do and what not to do when working with clients with personality disorders or traits of such disorders.

### Pre-Conference Institutes

Looking for a more in-depth course? Check out one of our pre-conference institutes on the morning of September 18, 2025:

1. *Research on Trial: The Use, Misuse, and Evolution of Evidence in Family Law (Trial Track)*
2. *When Kids Say No: Unpacking Risk and Reality in PCCP Dynamics*
3. *A Brave New World: Procedural and Technological Innovations in Family Dispute Resolutions*
4. *Advanced PPE: What Practitioners Need to Know*

[More Information](#) regarding the institutes.

### Hotel Room Block

Rooms in the AFCC-AAML block at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square are limited. A citywide event is causing sell-outs outside the block, so **register for the conference and book early** to secure your spot.

[Register Now!](#)

## AFCC Webinars!

### AFCC August Webinar

#### Family Systems: A Primer

Mindy F. Mitnick, MEd, MA & Lori Thibodeau, MA, LMFT  
August 14, 2025

### More Upcoming Webinars!

#### Legal Abuse as a Continuation of Coercive Control

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

#### DE&I Series: Demystifying Chinese Parenting: An Essential Workshop for Court-Involved Professionals\*

Maria Young, LMFT



Family systems are complex social systems that cannot be understood through an individual lens. Family law professionals who understand how family systems work can be more effective when they recognize the difference between a family problem and a problem in the family that requires legal intervention. Family courts can provide safety and structure for separated and divorcing parents, but courts cannot, on their own, create coparenting cooperation. This webinar will provide family law professionals tips for improving outcomes with a family systems approach.

### Registration

Members: \$15

Non-Members: \$50

### Certificate of Attendance

Members: \$15

Non-Members: \$20

[Register Now!](#)

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



### 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



July 2025 Issue of Family Court

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

## Review

The July Issue of *Family Court Review* has been published! This special issue focuses on the American Law Institute's Restatement of Children and the Law, offering expert insights on how it may influence policy and practice for professionals working with children and families.

In addition to the special issue articles, this edition features two timely pieces on parenting behavior, focusing on family violence and parent-child contact problems, as well as three original student notes from Hofstra Law students covering topics such as social media protections for children, postpartum mental health, and interstate communication in child welfare cases.

Visit the [AFCC Member Center](#) on our website to access the full issue.

## Fall Virtual Conference

November 12-14 and 17-18, 2025



Family law is constantly evolving, with overburdened courts, more self-represented litigants, and limited access to expert services. As the saying goes, necessity is the mother of invention. This year, AFCC is expanding access to education with a virtual conference—an opportunity for professionals to engage with a diverse offering of innovative programs and interventions while staying close to family and office obligations. Join us live and online as we explore fresh approaches to familiar challenges in family law.

All proposals are due by midnight, Pacific Time, April 27, 2025. Please use the online form to submit your proposal. Proposals may draw on one of the concepts above, a topic below, or propose a completely different topic. AFCC is seeking proposals related to new, creative, and innovative approaches to common family law problems, including but not limited to:

- Out-of-Court Resolution
- Appropriate Use of Minors' Counsel
- Parenting Coordination
- Conciliation Court Programs
- Brief Focused Evaluation
- Early Neutral Evaluations
- Coaching
- Family Therapy
- Ethical Considerations for Innovative Programs
- Empirical Evidence for Innovative Programs
- Coparenting after IPV
- Collaborative Professional Teams
- Parent Education
- Adaptations for Neurodiversity and Special Needs
- Private Judging
- Technological Enhancements to Traditional Court Processes
- Problem-Solving Courts
- Parenting Coordination
- Discovery to Enhance Settlement Efforts
- Reaching the "Hard-to-Reach"
- Pro Se Litigants
- Virtual Parent-Child Relationships
- Relocation Issues and Distance Parenting Plans

\*AFCC is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and encourages presenters to incorporate discussion of diversity and/or culture, as it relates to the proposed program.

\*University faculty are encouraged to include their students as co-presenters. Seasoned professionals are encouraged to consider co-presenting with professionals who are newer to the field of family law.

\*AFCC encourages workshop proposals with more than one presenter.

Family law is evolving—overburdened courts, self-represented litigants, and limited access to services demand creative, adaptable solutions. As the saying goes, necessity is the mother of invention. Save the date for this online learning event! Full program set to be released by mid-summer.

**Registration and Program Brochure Coming Soon!**

## Chapter News

AFCC is excited to announce that the Georgia Chapter of AFCC has been granted provisional status. AFCC members working in Georgia can now join the [Georgia Chapter](#) and be involved in local events!

AFCC is also pleased to announce that the British Columbia Chapter of AFCC is now a full-fledged AFCC chapter (was provisional). If you are in the BC area and have not already, [joining the chapter](#) is a great way to connect with local AFCC members!

## Upcoming Chapter Events

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

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

**AFCC Ontario**  
**Annual Conference**  
October 23-24, 2025  
Toronto & Virtual





AFCC extends its heartfelt gratitude to Dawn, who concluded her tenure as Director of Operations after more than 26 years of dedicated service to the organization. Dawn's tireless commitment behind-the-scenes has supported countless conferences, trainings, and member services over the years. Her steady presence and dedication made a lasting imprint on AFCC's operations and culture. We thank Dawn for her many contributions and wish her the very best.

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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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