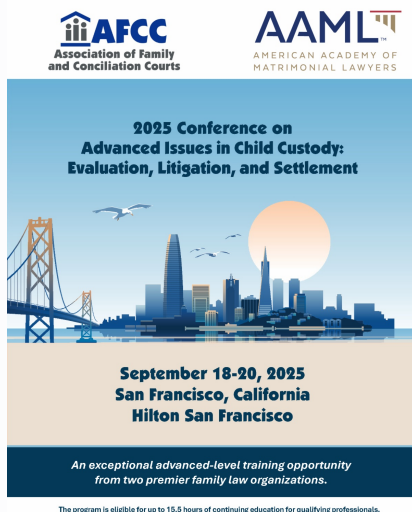


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AFCC-AAML Conference

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



Join AFCC in San Francisco for our advanced 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



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 taking place 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 are still available in the AFCC room block at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square. However, outside of the room block, the hotel is starting to become sold out for

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.

Become an Exhibitor or Sponsor

Interested in exhibiting at this conference? See the [exhibitor prospectus](#) for more details.

some of the conference dates so make sure to register and make travel arrangements early to save your spot in the AFCC room block.

[Register Now!](#)

Ask the Experts



Top 10 Tips for Family Court Practitioners Handling Cases with Psychedelic Use

Stephanie Tabashneck, PsyD, JD

1) Distinguish Medical, Religious, and Recreational Use

Determine if the psychedelic use is medically supervised, part of a protected spiritual practice, or recreational (e.g., ketamine-assisted psychotherapy; ceremonial psilocybin use in Indigenous communities or a church-based spiritual practice; self-directed 'microdosing' for mental health/spiritual purposes; episodic use at social gatherings). Legal and parenting implications can vary significantly across these contexts. [Continue reading](#).

[Continue Reading](#)

AFCC's New Board of Directors

With the start of AFCC's new fiscal year in July, we're excited to announce several changes to our Board of Directors!

We are honored to be welcoming David Blacker, Hon. Randall Fuller, April Harris Britt, Nolanda Robert, and Mark Juhas as the newest additions to the AFCC Board.

We're also pleased to share updates to our board leadership:

- President: Dolores Bomrad
- President Elect: Tom Altobelli
- Vice President: Kathleen McNamara
- Secretary: Herman Walker
- Treasurer: Lawrence Jay Braunstein

Our sincere thanks go to Michael Saini for his exceptional leadership as AFCC President over the past year. He will continue his service as Past President for the next fiscal year.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to Kevin Duffin, Larry Fong, Mindy Mitnick, and Carlton Stansbury for their dedicated service as they conclude their terms.

AFCC Webinars!

[AFCC July Webinar](#)

[More Upcoming Webinars!](#)

[When Criminality and Family](#)

Court Collide: The Best Interests of Whom?

Daniel Bloom, JD & Dawn Smith, JD
July 10, 2025



As if family law matters are not complicated enough, criminal implications associated with the behaviors of one or both parties will create added layers. Circumstances involving intimate partner violence or child abuse and neglect often involve separate criminal charges that are pending at the same time as a divorce or custody case. AI introduces a universe of possible criminal charges in family law cases related to tampering with, destruction of and manufacturing of evidence. Failure to pay court-ordered support can lead to quasi-criminal proceedings in some jurisdictions - and there can also be criminal consequences with misrepresentations on tax returns. Parenting plan evaluators, therapists, mediators, and Guardians Ad Litem rely on truthful information, while a lawyer is charged with representing the interests of their client.

This webinar will focus on the competing interests of an individual to not incriminate themselves while maintaining focus on the best interests of the children and their relationship with both parents.

Registration

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

Certificate of Attendance

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

[Register Now!](#)

DE&I Series: Before You File: The Hidden Immigration Risks in Family Law

Maha Kamal, JD & David Simmons, JD
July 24, 2025

Webinars in the **DE&I Series** are free to attend!

Family Systems: A Primer

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

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
October 16, 2025

Webinars in the **DE&I Series** are free to attend!

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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Fall Virtual Conference

November 12-14 and 17-18, 2025



62nd Annual Conference

Bridging Perspectives: Pioneering Solutions in Family Law

May 28-31, 2025 | New Orleans, Louisiana

Thank you to everyone who attended the AFCC 62nd Annual Conference! We hope you left feeling inspired, connected, and ready to incorporate new solutions into your work.

If you'd like to catch a glimpse of this conference, we invite you to take a look at our conference [photo album](#).

[Photo Album](#)

AFCC Association of Family and Conciliation Courts
Call for Proposals
AFCC Fall 2025 Virtual Conference
Necessity is the Mother of Invention: Creative Interventions for Supporting an Overwhelmed Court System
November 13-14 and 17-18, 2025

Family law is constantly evolving, with overburdened courts, more self-represented litigants, and limited access to expert services. A shortage of professionals and the seemingly increase in polarization make creativity and adaptability essential. 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 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
- Co-parenting 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.

Save the date!

Member News



Peter Jaffe, AFCC member and frequent presenter from Ontario, was recently conferred a Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, at the Call to the Bar ceremony in Ontario. The Law Society of Ontario awards honorary doctorates each year to distinguished individuals who have demonstrated exceptional service to the legal profession, the rule of law, and the cause of justice. Congratulations Peter on this well-deserved honor!

AFCC Scholarship Fund

**Donate to
the AFCC
Scholarship
Fund**

The **AFCC Scholarship Fund** helps dedicated professionals attend AFCC conferences, where they access vital training and build connections that have a profound trajectory on their careers. Scholarships are about more than professional development. It's about ensuring that the best ideas, research, innovations and networking opportunities are accessible to those eager to use them in service of families in conflict.

Upcoming Chapter Events

AFCC Minnesota Annual Conference

July 24, 2025
Minneapolis, MN

AFCC Arizona

Family Court Orientation & Training

September 12, 2025
Phoenix, AZ

AFCC Florida Annual Advanced Education Program

October 8-10, 2025
Orlando, FL

At our recent New Orleans conference, outgoing AFCC President **Mike Saini** shared that his first experience with AFCC was as a scholarship recipient, early in his career. That experience helped set him on a path to become not only a leader within AFCC, but one of the most influential and widely cited researchers in our field today.

With your help, we can create more stories like Mike's. The return on investment is exponential: knowledge shared, families better served, and a stronger future for our field.

[Click here](#) to donate now!

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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](#).

AFCC members are free to share eNEWS content.

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