

AFCC eNEWS



Improving the lives of children and families
through the resolution of family conflict



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AFCC-AAML 2021 Conference on Advanced Issues in Child Custody

The AFCC Fall Conference Comes to Cincinnati, Ohio!

AFCC Fall Conference

Unmuting the Voices of Children and Families: Can You Hear Me Now?

*In collaboration with the Ohio Association of Domestic
Relations Judges and the Ohio Association of
Magistrates*

November 11-13, 2021
Cincinnati Netherland Plaza
Cincinnati, OH

Visit the Conference Portal

The conference portal is now live! This is your home for
information about the AFCC Fall Conference.

- Read about all **conference sessions**: pre-conference institutes, workshops, and plenary sessions!
- Learn about **continuing education** credit applications in progress and how to obtain a certificate.

September 21-24, 2021
Live via Zoom

AFCC Fall Conference

November 11-13, 2021
Cincinnati, Ohio

- Check [conference information](#) for hotel information, dine arounds, parking, the latest information on safety protocols, and more.
- Peruse the [conference brochure](#) for additional information.
- View [conference sponsors and exhibitors](#) or sign up to promote your business.
- [Register](#) for the conference!

Hotel Reservations

A special rate of \$147/night for single or double occupancy is available exclusively to AFCC attendees. [Make your reservation online](#) or call 1-800-HILTONS (800-445-8667), ask for Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza, and request the group code **AFCC**.

Exhibitors Welcome!

We anticipate the Fall Conference will be delivered in person, giving exhibitors the first opportunity to interact with AFCC attendees face-to-face in two years! [Read the prospectus](#) and contact Gina Wentling at gwentling@afccnet.org or 608-664-3750 for more information. Space is limited. Sign up now!

Safety Protocols and Health Considerations

- AFCC will require **proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test within 72 hours** of the event in order to participate in the conference.
- At present, we anticipate requiring all participants to wear a mask, and will monitor CDC guidance as we approach the conference dates. Please rest assured that we will continue to follow the CDC guidance, as we have since the beginning of the pandemic, and that we will also be guided by all state and local regulations.
- Specific health and safety protocols for the conference will be reevaluated closer to the actual date when we have the most up-to-date public health information.

[Register now!](#)

Ask the Experts

Ten Tips for Family Court Professionals Working with Families of Transgender/Gender-Expansive Children Engaged in Custody Disputes

Camellia M. Bellis, MEd and Katherine A. Kovalanka, PhD

Custody cases involving transgender and gender-expansive (TGE) children have garnered [media attention](#) in recent years. How do family court professionals (FCPs) work with TGE children and families when one parent affirms a child's

AFCC 59th Annual Conference

May 11-14, 2022
Chicago, Illinois

[Submit a proposal](#) to present! The call for proposals is open until October 4, 2021.

AFCC Online Training Programs

The Fundamentals of Parenting Coordination
Nov. 29 - Dec. 2

Advanced Issues for Family Law and Dispute Resolutions Professionals
Dec. 6-7, 2021

AFCC Chapter Conferences & Webinar Series

[Wisconsin Chapter Annual Conference](#)
September 30, 2021
Now being held virtually

gender identity/expression and another is unsupportive? Recent research has examined the complex challenges experienced by affirming parents and their TGE children involved in custody disputes. Due to lack of familiarity within family courts regarding TGE children, misinformation and bias have resulted in affirming parents losing physical custody and/or legal decision-making authority of their TGE children often with detrimental impacts on the children ([Kusalanka et al., 2019](#)). The following are ten tips for FCPs learning about how to advocate for this vulnerable population. [Read more.](#)

Register Now for AFCC's DE&I Next Webinar!

Microaggressions are subtle verbal, behavioral, and environmental expressions that serve to derogate or exclude individuals based on their marginalized identities. This webinar will introduce audience members to the concept of microaggressions; the research on racial, ethnic, gender, and sexual orientation microaggressions and their detrimental impact on mental and physical health; and ways to intervene effectively when a microaggression is recognized.

Free registration includes a certificate of attendance. You *must* register to attend.

[Register now!](#)

Last Chance! Register to Attend the AFCC-AAML 2021 Conference Online

2021 Conference on Advanced Issues in Child Custody: Evaluation, Litigation, and Settlement

Virtual Conference

September 21-24, 2021
Live via Zoom

All sessions will be delivered online. Registrants will have access to recordings for a full year afterwards!

Maryland Chapter Annual Conference

October 7, 2021
Being held virtually

Colorado Chapter Annual Conference

October 8-9, 2021
Being held virtually

Ontario Chapter Annual Conference

October 15, 2021
Now being held virtually

Illinois Chapter Annual Conference

October 22, 2021
Being held virtually

Arizona Chapter Annual Conference

January 21-23, 2022
Sedona, Arizona

California Chapter Annual Conference

February 4-6, 2022
San Francisco, California

Resource of the Month

Pamphlets for Parents

Located on the [Resources for Families](#) page of the AFCC website, ***Pamphlets for Parents*** includes *A Guide for Joint Custody and Shared Parenting* and many others.

Even if you can't make the in-person networking events in Washington, DC, you can attend virtually! Visit the [Conference Portal](#) for more information and [register today!](#)

Submit a Proposal for the AFCC 59th Annual Conference by October 4th

The Use, Misuse, and Abuse of Technology in Family Law: Practical, Ethical, Safety, and Procedural Challenges

Chicago, Illinois
May 11-14, 2022

AFCC is accepting proposals for 90-minute workshop sessions for the 59th Annual Conference.

Share your expertise with AFCC members and other attendees! Build your career, expand your presentation skill set, and challenge yourself to explore your thoughts on family law and technology.

AFCC is committed to understanding the different views, needs, and wants of its membership and establishing a diverse professional community. If your proposals would fall into this category, we would love to hear from you.

All proposals are due October 4, 2021. [Read the complete instructions](#) and use the [online form](#) to submit your proposal.

AFCC Virtual Training Programs Are Back November 29th!

Back by popular demand! Last year AFCC launched online parenting coordination training programs. Attendees appreciated the flexibility virtual training allowed, so we are offering another pair of training programs this year.

Make plans to join us for two comprehensive training programs later this year!

The Fundamentals of Parenting Coordination

November 29, 2021 - December 2, 2021

[Register now!](#)

Advanced Issues for Family Law and Dispute Resolution Professionals

December 6-7, 2021

[Register now!](#)

The training team includes:

- Debra K. Carter, PhD
- Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP
- Mindy F. Mitnick, EdM, MA

- Shely Polak, PhD
- Matthew J. Sullivan, PhD

[Read the brochure](#) for more information.

AFCC Webinar Corner

Parent Education for Divorcing and Separating Families: Are We Accomplishing Our Goals?

Irwin Sandler, PhD and Karey O'Hara

October 12, 2021 | 1:00-2:00pm Eastern Time US/Canada

Registration closes on October 11, 2021 at 9:00am Eastern Time US/Canada.

Family courts around the world encourage -- and many require -- separating and divorcing parents to attend educational programs to improve children's post-separation experience. But some question whether children truly benefit. This webinar will provide an overview of program goals and examine existing literature that describes the programs that are being implemented in the courts. The review will focus on what evaluations have shown about the state of the evidence of parent education programs in the courts and whether they are accomplishing the goals that have been set. Future directions for court use of parent education programs will be discussed.

Irwin Sandler, PhD has published major reviews of the literature on parent education programs in the family courts and in other settings. He has been a member of the working group of the National Research Council and Institute of Medicine that produced a landmark review of preventive interventions for children and adolescents and has been a co-author on a paper describing standards of evidence for preventive interventions. He is the co-developer and evaluator of the New Beginnings Program that has published multiple studies demonstrating long-term benefits for children following divorce.

Karey O'Hara, PhD, is an Assistant Research Professor of Psychology at Arizona State University. She earned her PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Arizona in 2017. She completed a clinical internship at SUNY Upstate Medical University and an NIH-funded T32 postdoctoral fellowship at Arizona State University's REACH Institute. She conducts research on the ways that children and parents adjust after stressful events in the family, such as parental divorce, bereavement, and incarceration. Her work is currently funded by a career development award from the National Institute of Mental Health (K01MH120321).

Registration

Members: \$15

Non-Members: \$50

Certificate of Attendance

Members: \$15

Non-Members: \$20

Continuing education credit may be available for lawyers, judges, psychologists, social workers, counselors, and other professionals. [Learn more.](#)

[Register today!](#)

Register Now for AFCC's November webinar!

Parent-Child Contact Problems: NCJFCJ and AFCC Working Toward Common Ground

Hon. Ramona Gonzalez and Matthew Sullivan, PhD
November 17, 2021 | 1:00-2:00pm Eastern Time US/Canada
[Register now!](#)

In Memoriam: Darryl Bauchert

Darryl Bauchert, AFCC member from Fort Myers, Florida, passed away in August. Darryl was an active member of the AFCC-Florida chapter and formerly acted as its treasurer. A former United States Marine who earned an MBA, worked as a financial planner, and played trumpet in the Ohio State University Marching Band, Darryl later worked in family mediation. He "became a fervent advocate for peaceful and fair resolutions to family law cases." Members of the Florida chapter of AFCC remember Darryl as a "wonderful man who contributed greatly to the chapter."

Member News

Barbara Babb, MS, JD, AFCC member in Baltimore, Maryland and Editor-in-Chief of *Family Court Review*, retired from the University of Baltimore in August and is now the Associate Professor of Law Emerita, and Founder and Founding Director of the University of Baltimore School of Law Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts (CFCC). Barbara will remain editor of *Family Court Review*. During her 32-year career at the law school, Barbara has received the University System of Maryland Regents' Award for Outstanding Public Service, the first Benjamin L. Cardin Distinguished Service Award, and the Stanley Cohen Distinguished Research Award from the AFCC, among other honors. Congratulations, Barbara!

Lawrence Jay Braunstein, JD, AFCC member from White Plains, New York and a member of the AFCC Board of Directors, was named Lawyer of the Year by *Best Lawyers* for Family Law, White Plains (2022). He is a partner in the law firm of Braunstein & Zuckerman, Esqs, where he practices in the areas of Matrimonial, Family and Collaborative Law and related civil and criminal litigation, with an expertise in child custody litigation. He is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Hofstra University School of Law, Hempstead, New York where he teaches Child Abuse and Neglect, Collaborative Family Law and Modern Divorce Advocacy. Congratulations, Larry!

Judge Alexandra Harland, AFCC member from Melbourne, Australia, is one of the authors of *Family Law Principles*, published by Thomson Reuters. The book covers areas that are important in practice, such as family law reports, how courts consider social science research, and emerging areas in family law. It also takes a practical approach to practice and procedure, systematically dealing with the types of applications before courts, providing analytical guidelines, checklists, and summaries of key components. This third edition brings a thorough examination of recent developments in the law, including examining the court's approach to COVID-19 issues in the context of the unacceptable risk test, and provides a unique framework to assist practitioners in resolving ethical dilemmas. [Learn more](#). Congratulations, Alexandra!

Arthur Leonoff, PhD, AFCC member from Perth, Ontario, has published a new book, *When Divorces Fail: Disillusionment, Destructivity, and High-Conflict Divorce*, in which he combines psychoanalytic knowledge with a wealth of clinical experience to explore the root causes of major high conflict. [Learn more](#). Arthur is a psychologist and psychoanalyst practicing in Ottawa. He is a supervising & training analyst with the Canadian Psychoanalytic Society and an honorary member of the American Psychoanalytic Society. Arthur has worked and written extensively in the divorce field. He is also the author of *The Ethical Divorce* (Karnac, 2015; Friesen, 2021). Congratulations, Arthur!

Do you have a notable achievement to share? Email [Gina Wentling](#) with your story and a professional head shot or book image (PNG preferred), if you have one, to be featured in next month's Member News!

AFCC eNEWS

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. [Subscribe here](#).

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