

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

CINCINNATI, OHIO

November 11-13, 2021

Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza

AFCC is an interdisciplinary and international association of professionals dedicated to improving the lives of children and families through the resolution of family conflict.

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*

Featuring a special program track for judicial officers

The COVID-19 pandemic was accompanied by shelter-in-place policies, children attending school virtually, and the changes in family law services that impacted the voices of children and family members, resulting in some not being heard. As we learn from the experiences of the pandemic, it is important to take stock of the circumstances, including remote processes or high conflict cases, that can result in muting the voices of family members. How can professionals ensure that family members have a say in their futures? What are the traps to avoid that result in silencing children? This conference will highlight innovations and best practices in engaging families in resolving their disputes, regardless of context.

Judicial Officer Track:

- A Judicially Managed Team Approach to Intractable Custody Disputes
- Working with Child Custody Evaluations
- What's a Judge to Do?
- The Pandemic Is Over: Now What?

Session topics include:

- Mediation: Returning to Basics and Reaching for New Challenges
- Transgender Children and Custody Disputes
- Accounting for Safety and Resiliency When Crafting Appropriate Parenting Plans
- Hearing the Voice of the LGBT+ Child

Psychologists, mental health professionals, lawyers, mediators, and others can earn up to 16.5 hours of continuing education. Details on pages 12.

Join AFCC Today and Save on the Conference Registration!

If you are not an AFCC member, now is your chance to join and save on your conference registration fees. When you join AFCC along with your conference registration, you save \$10 on your first year's membership and up to \$120 on your conference registration fee. Select "New Membership Special" when completing the registration form or join when you complete your online registration.

As an AFCC member you will receive:

- A print and online subscription to *Family Court Review*, AFCC's quarterly academic and research journal. Members have full access to the online archives back to 1963.
- **Free webinars!** AFCC members have access to a library of more than 60 webinars on topics such as intimate partner violence, online dispute resolution, international relocation cases, parental alienation, parenting coordination, clients with personality disorders, and more.
- *AFCC eNEWS*, the monthly electronic newsletter, provides up-to-date practice tips, research updates, news about AFCC events, interviews with leading practitioners, and our famous *Ask the Experts* column.
- Parenting Coordination Network Listserv for AFCC members who are PCs or are interested in the role to share tips, advice, and referrals, and to network with others.
- Discounted rates on AFCC's **new** online training programs.
- Substantial member discounts on registration for all AFCC webinars, conferences, and training programs, exhibit and advertising opportunities, and additional publications from AFCC and Wiley-Blackwell.

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.

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Conference at a Glance

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021

6:00pm-8:00pm Registration

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021

8:00pm-5:00pm Registration
8:00am-5:00pm Exhibit Forum
8:00am-9:00am Coffee and Rolls
9:00am-5:00pm Pre-conference Institutes
9:00am-5:00pm Chapter Leadership Institute
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 12, 2021

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 13-18
5:00pm-6:00pm Open Forum: Task Force on Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluation
Evening Dine Arouds
9:00pm-12:00am AFCC Hospitality Suite

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2021

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 19-24
12:00pm-1:30pm Lunch (on your own)
1:30pm-3:00pm Workshops 25-29

Pre-conference Institutes

(Separate registration fee required)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021

9:00am-5:00pm **Pre-conference institutes**

1. A Judicially Managed Team Approach to Intractable Custody Disputes

Judicial Officers Track

Custody disputes are difficult enough, but they often become intractable when intimate partner violence, alienation, or chemical dependency issues are involved. This interactive program will feature an interdisciplinary faculty presenting an in-depth examination of how judicial officers can use a team approach to effectively manage cases when there are allegations of IPV, alienation, child abuse, and/or substance misuse.

John A. Moran, PhD, Ottawa, ON, Canada

Hon. Denise McColley, Napoleon, OH

Hon. Lynda Munro (Ret.), Munro at Law, Woodbridge, CT

Bobbie O'Keefe, JD, Bobbie Corley O'Keefe, LLC, Columbus, OH

2. Exploring the Impact of Domestic Violence on Custody Evaluation: Processes, Analysis and Recommendations

Nearly half of contested custody cases involve intimate partner violence. Custody evaluations in such cases often fail to identify or inadequately address the violence, leaving parents and children vulnerable to continued abuse. Presenters in this institute will explore strategies to identify the presence, context and nature of domestic violence, and examine a screening protocol that promotes informed disclosure of domestic abuse by the parties. Strategies for analyzing the dynamics of violence and developing recommendations for parenting plans and interventions designed to support the needs and capacity of each child and each parent will be examined. This program will better enable custody evaluators to develop family-specific recommendations, and draft fact-based case analyses that are culturally responsive, and address the needs of each child and each family member. Participants will be better able to identify and provide the case-specific facts required to assist the court in determining what is in the best interests of each child.

Hon. Karen Howze (Ret.), National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Reno, NV

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

Anadelle Martinez-Mullen, JD, Battered Women's Justice Project, Jacksonville, FL

3. Mediation: Returning to Basics and Reaching for New Challenges

Presenters in this institute will discuss important mediation process fundamentals that sometimes do not receive enough attention, emphasizing why such efforts are fruitful and considering how best to handle these processes. These include encouraging parties to tell their stories, helping them create and evaluate proposals, handling impasses, writing effective agreements, and screening for intimate partner violence (IPV). Then, based on a randomized control trial of shuttle and videoconferencing mediation for parents reporting high levels of IPV, presenters will explore new mediation challenges, including working with parents reporting IPV and conducting online mediation via videoconference platforms such as Zoom.

Magistrate Richard Altman, Wauseon, OH

Amy G. Applegate, JD, Indiana Univ., Bloomington, IN

Christopher Delfavero, JD, Northwest Ohio Court Mediation Services, Napoleon, OH

Amy Holtzworth-Munroe, PhD, Indiana Univ., Bloomington, IN

4. Affirming or Corrupting the Child's Truth: Family Dynamics, Gender Identity, Domestic Violence, and Special Needs

This pre-conference institute considers how family dynamics can affirm and/or corrupt the child's voice. Presenters will examine: (1) how to determine what is in the children's psychological best interest when there is a special needs child in the family, and understanding the child's voice when the child has special needs; (2) an ecological evaluation of abuse allegations in the context of high conflict divorce/separation; contextualizing allegations of resist-refuse dynamics, and the complexities of accessing a child's voice when they have been interviewed multiple prior times, (3) best interests considerations when a child is transgender or gender-diverse and only one parent affirms the child's gender identity; and (4) maturity and the systemic pressures relevant to eliciting the child's voice. A process-oriented observational protocol with which these contextual pressures can be better and more efficiently evaluated will be introduced.

Benjamin D. Garber, PhD, Nashua, NH

Jessica Greenwald O'Brien, PhD, William James College, Newton, MA

Kate Kovalanka, PhD, Miami Univ. Oxford, OH

Sol Rappaport, PhD, Libertyville, IL

Camellia Bellis, MEd, Univ. of Arizona College of Medicine, Phoenix, AZ

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



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021

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)
12:00pm-4:30pm	AFCC Board of Directors Meeting
5:00pm-6:00pm	Welcome Reception
9:00pm-12:00am	AFCC Hospitality Suite

Every year, AFCC connects me back to the people from around the world who are doing amazing work in their jurisdictions. It helps make the world a little smaller and a lot easier to navigate. And I always learn what the best people in the field are doing to help families and children better.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2021

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: Mindy F. Mitnick, EdM, MA, AFCC President, Edina, MN
Hon. Randall Fuller, President, AFCC Ohio Chapter, President Elect, Ohio Association of Domestic Relations Judges, Delaware, OH*

Transgender Children and Child Custody: Research and Practice

Family court matters involving transgender children and their caregivers have received increased attention in the media but limited attention in the scholarly literature. This session will examine the experiences of families with transgender and gender-diverse children who are involved in custody disputes and navigating the family court system. The impact of gender affirming and non-affirming family members on children's well-being will be discussed, as will the role of family court professionals. Panelists will share research findings and professional experiences and will engage in conversation about legal and policy questions and implications.

Kate Kovalanka, PhD, Miami Univ. Oxford, OH

Hon. Diane M. Palos, Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court, Cleveland, OH

Lindsey S. Davis, PhD, William James College, Newton, MA

Moderator: Stacey Platt, JD, Loyola Univ., Chicago, IL



10:00am-10:30am Break

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

1. Working with Child Custody Evaluations

Judicial Officers Track

Cases involving contested allegations of child abuse, intimate partner violence, and substance misuse are particularly likely to wind up in a custody evaluation. This session will focus on the role of the evaluator through the lens of the judicial officer, beginning with the initial order through testifying in court. Presenters will focus on Ohio's standards for child custody evaluation and AFCC *Guidelines for Examining Intimate Partner Violence*.

Kathleen McNamara, PhD, Fort Collins, CO

Hon. Linda Fidnick, Northampton, MA

Scott Friedman, JD, Friedman & Mirman, Columbus, OH

2. Structure Reduces Anxiety: Creating Structures to Reduce Family Conflict

Structure means limits and associated consequences, boundaries that define space, routines that define time, and roles that define relationships. The presenters apply this conceptualization to (1) parenting, (2) parenting plans, (3) parent-child enmeshment, (4) co-parenting and parenting coordination, (5) professional guidelines and standards, and (6) court orders. Participants are encouraged to carefully review how they create and manage professional structures to improve child-centered outcomes and reduce risk of burn-out and vicarious trauma.

Philip M. Stahl, PhD, ABPP, San Diego, CA

Robert A. Simon, PhD, San Diego, CA

Benjamin D. Garber, PhD, Nashua, NH

3. Practical Takeaways from the 2020 AFCC Series on Parent-Child Contact Problems

This workshop will highlight several key takeaways from the 2020 special issue of *Family Court Review*, and webinar series on parent-child contact problems. The presenters will offer several simple practice changes, designed to promote early identification, intervention, and better outcomes for families with parent-child contact problems. Presenters will discuss roles of lawyers, judges, parenting evaluators, guardians ad litem, and therapists in implementing strategies to intervene with these families quickly and comprehensively. Anecdotal data and case outcomes will be discussed.

Jennifer Keilin, MSW, Bellevue, WA

Jennifer Wheeler, PhD, Seattle, WA

4. Evidence of Parent Education Program Effects to Protect Children after Divorce

Parent education programs hold promise for protecting children after parental divorce. However, there is no comprehensive set of standards to evaluate which programs have been shown to accomplish the goal of protecting and promoting the well-being of children. In this session, presenters will discuss the promise and challenges of parent education programs to accomplish their goals, describe how to identify effective programs, and review the current state of the evidence with regard to parent education programs.

Karey L. O'Hara, PhD, Arizona State Univ., Tempe, AZ

Irwin N. Sandler, PhD, Arizona State Univ., Tempe, AZ

Marsha Kline Pruett, PhD, MSL, Smith College, Northampton, MA

Mary M. Ferriter, JD, William James College, Newton, MA

5. Hearing the Voice of the LGBTQ+ Child

The voices of LGBTQ+ children must be heard to ensure their welfare at home, school, and community. The presenters will explore how prejudice affects LGBTQ+ children and provide data regarding homeless LGBTQ+ youth, LGBTQ+ children in foster care, and the rates of suicide amongst LGBTQ+ youth. Participants will learn terms needed to communicate effectively with LGBTQ+ children and their families. Participants will be provided a review of current laws affecting the LGBTQ+ community and hear the firsthand experiences of a transgender child and his mother.

Catherine Miller, JD, Suffolk County Family Court, Central Islip, NY

Ian Moss, JD, Children's Legal Aid Society of Suffolk County, Central Islip, NY

Layne R. Miller, Student, Stony Brook Univ., Patchogue, NY

6. Predictors and Outcomes of Mediation for Separating Parents Reporting High IPV

This session will present research on parties reporting high levels of intimate partner violence (IPV) and randomly assigned to shuttle or videoconferencing mediation, including: IPV level as a predictor of mediation attendance and case outcomes (e.g., agreement, conflict); differences in outcomes for cases reaching or not reaching a mediation agreement (e.g., family functioning); and effects (e.g., re-litigation) of arrangements aimed at reducing conflict being included in the document resolving issues. Findings highlight factors to consider when providing mediation to parties reporting high levels of IPV.

Amy Holtzworth-Munroe, PhD, Indiana Univ., Bloomington, IN

Lily Jiang, BS, Indiana Univ., Bloomington, IN

Claire Tomlinson, BS, Indiana Univ., Bloomington, IN

Holly Huber, BA, Indiana Univ., Bloomington, IN

12:00pm-1:30pm Luncheon



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

7. What's a Judge to Do?

Judicial Officers Track

The question, "Is it abuse or is it alienation?" has been posed for nearly two decades, and family court judicial officers frequently find themselves confronted with this challenge. This session examines the trap of falling into this false binary, and explores how judges can dig beneath these surface questions when confronted with an either/or approach. Presenters will explore the multi-factorial approach to resist-refuse cases and focus on safe, supportive resolutions that are in the best interests of children.

Leslie Drozd, PhD, Seattle, WA

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

Hon. Randall Fuller, Delaware County Domestic Relations Court, Delaware, OH

8. How Do You Know a Child Is Telling the Truth about Abuse in a Custody Matter?

Child custody disputes involving child abuse are among of the most difficult family court cases. This workshop will discuss the research, experience, and practical application of the law and theory when examining the issue of child abuse in all its forms when it arises in the context of child custody litigation. This session will address the intricacies of investigation and analysis of the facts commonly presented in these cases.

Seth Goldstein, JD, Law Offices of Seth Goldstein, Monterey, CA

Mindy Mitnick, EdM, MA, AFCC President, Edina, MN

9. "Feeling Caught" and Family Communication Patterns: Theory and Skills Training

According to Family Communication Patterns theory (FCP), the family serves as the primary socialization agent for children, and families create shared social realities through communication patterns. There are four types of communication orientations in families: protective, pluralistic, consensual, and laissez-faire. These orientations have significant impacts on how parents communicate with and about their children. These impacts are exacerbated when conflict enters the family system. This workshop teaches participants how to recognize these communication patterns. The workshop also addresses the past 20 years of co-parenting and stepfamily communication research — qualitative research where children overwhelmingly list "feeling caught" between parents as the most difficult dynamic for them to manage. Participants will learn tools to better address common communication dynamics and pitfalls to better address the needs of children in high-conflict divorce and parenting situations.

Amy Halbrook, JD, Chase College of Law, Highland Heights, KY

Andrea Lambert-South, JD, PhD, Northern Kentucky Univ., Highland Heights, KY

10. Development of a Resource Center in Geauga County Juvenile Court

This workshop will present the creation of the Victor Y. Matthews Family Life Improvement Resource Center in Geauga County Juvenile Court. The Resource Center provides early assistance and evaluation to families navigating child custody and parenting time issues and helps connect them with necessary services. The Resource Center creates an environment that encourages family participation and self-determination. The goal is to help families remain child focused and achieve positive outcomes while navigating the court process.

Ann M. Walden, MS, Geauga County Juvenile Court, Chardon, OH

11. #ShouldYouHearMeNow? Under the Influence and Voice of the Child Reports

Voice of the Child Reports are considered a quick and efficient method for including children's views and preferences in the context of litigation, child-inclusive mediation, and an alternative to parenting plan evaluations. While Voice of the Child Reports have been found to help reach agreements and provide children the opportunity to have input in parenting plans, not every family will benefit from them. Through emerging case law and the evolving social science, presenters will propose a framework for determining what inclusion criteria should be considered while highlighting limitations that may impact the utility of Voice of the Child Reports.

Shely Polak, PhD, MSW, Mackenzie Clinic, Richmond Hill, ON, Canada

Brian Burke, LLB, Epstein Cole, LLP, Toronto, ON, Canada

Hon. Dolores A. Bomrad (Ret.), Hartford, WI

Hon. George Czutrin, Toronto, ON, Canada

12. No Cent Left Behind: Navigating Parenthood as a Single Wage Earner

Money management is important for everyone, but imperative for single parents who must do more with less. Eighty-one percent of divorced households are headed by women, and those women typically earn less than their male counterparts. Further, women of color earn less than other women and men. This workshop will provide creative strategies for managing money while parenting single, including the financial earnings disparity and how that impacts the choices that both custodial and non-custodial parents must make.

Africa Reed Smith, JD, Strategy and Solutions Consulting, Cincinnati, OH

3:00pm-3:30pm Break



3:30pm-5:00pm Workshops 13-18

13. The Pandemic Is Over: Now What?

Judicial Officers Track

After more than a year of masks, social distancing, and Zoom, family law professionals are anxious to get back to face-to-face hearings, settlement conferences, and mediations. But before we leap into old habits, what have we learned from our time away? Are there technology-based remote opportunities that will carry over for more effective administration of justice? Are there new processes that will be more effective, and perhaps less threatening for vulnerable people, such as IPV survivors, children, or non-English speakers? Or do remote operations exacerbate their disadvantage?

Larry S. Fong, PhD, Fong Ailon, Calgary, AB, Canada

Hon. Elizabeth Gill, Franklin County Domestic Relations/Juvenile Court, Columbus, OH

Beth F. McCormack, JD, Beermann LLP, Chicago, IL

14. Custody Evaluations: Are Quality and Affordability in Conflict?

An AFCC Task Force is reviewing the *Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluation*. The presenters, all of whom are members of the Task Force, will discuss concerns regarding two objectives that may seem to be in conflict; namely, the objective of conducting reliable evaluations the findings of which are of value to the families, the attorneys, and the courts, and the objective of ensuring the availability of evaluation services to often underserved populations.

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

April Harris-Britt, PhD, AHB Center for Behavioral Health, Durham, NC

Jeffrey Wittmann, PhD, Child Custody Forensics, Albany, NY

15. Representing Children in International Cases: Tips and Tricks from the US and UK

This session will feature lawyers from the US and UK discussing how children are heard in international parental child abduction cases, the emerging issues of children having independent counsel in Hague Abduction cases, and policy considerations and best practices for working with children in these complex matters.

James Netto, International Family Law Group, London, United Kingdom

Melissa Kucinski, MA, JD, MK Family Law PLLC, Washington, DC

16. Parenting Plan Assessments in a Pandemic: The Feasibility of Remote Technologies

The COVID-19 pandemic required social distancing and limited in-person contact. This necessitated the parenting plan assessment community (also known as child custody evaluators) to consider remote technologies for data collection. This workshop will report on the findings of two surveys administered at different times during the pandemic to explore the views of parenting plan assessors. Presenters will review the benefits and limitations of conducting remote parenting plan assessments. Several ethical considerations and obstacles to the collection and interpretation of data will be discussed, including confidentiality, safety, and reliability of the observations.

Andrea Jones, MSW, RSW, Office of the Children's Lawyer, Toronto, ON, Canada

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

17. Online Programs: What Does the Evidence Show?

This workshop will examine two online parenting programs and present findings about their impact on children and parents. Part I will present Kids Between, an online program that teaches emotional literacy, mindfulness, emotional regulation, and stress-reduction with evidence-based methods. Part II will present findings from a randomized trial of the web-based New Beginnings Program (eNBP), an adaptation from an in-person program designed to strengthen parenting and reduce interpersonal conflict. Preliminary pre-post data from Kids Between and findings from eNBP randomized controlled trials will be presented.

Donald A. Gordon, PhD, Center for Divorce Education, Ashland, OR

Irwin N. Sandler, PhD, Arizona State Univ., Tempe, AZ

Sharlene Wolchik, PhD, Arizona State Univ., Tempe, AZ

18. Evidence-Informed Intervention: Science without Overreach

What scientific evidence should be considered when deciding what services to provide for families with complex problems? Is there a difference between "evidence-informed" and "intuitive" treatment? What are the dangers in blurring distinctions or ignoring non-randomized controlled evidence? Presenters will discuss the heated debate on these issues, essential elements of evidence-informed services, available science, dangers of rhetorical overreach and oversimplified "rules," and approaches for conducting and explaining treatment plans. Tools for mental health professionals, judicial officers, and attorneys will be addressed.

Lyn Greenberg, PhD, ABPP, Los Angeles, CA

Kathleen McNamara, PhD, Fort Collins, CO

Sarah Wilkins, MS, Los Angeles, CA

Hon. Herman Walker, Jr., Third Judicial District, Anchorage, AK



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 13, 2021

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: Hon. Linda Fidnick, AFCC President Elect, Northampton, MA

Can You Hear Me Now? Can You See Me Now?

Families involved in family law processes often struggle to be heard and seen. This session will explore the impact of variables including culture, family violence, child maltreatment, and child and adult special needs on the experience of involvement in various processes. Presenters will explore how to look beyond the surface to create an inclusive process that fully considers the voices of children and families to improve outcomes for all.

Hon. Karen Howze (Ret.), National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Reno, NV

Mindy F. Mitnick EdM, MA, AFCC President, Edina, MN

Daniel Pickar, PhD, ABPP, Santa Rosa, CA

Moderator: Hon. William C. Fee, Steuben Superior Court, Angola, IN

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

10:30am-12:00pm **Workshops 19-24**

19. Family Courts: Reality and Process

This program will explore factors affecting client satisfaction in family court and the sources of conflict between litigants and the court system. Presenters will explore what courts and professionals can do to better understand public perceptions of family court and to be more direct and proactive in addressing the needs and interests of litigants before, during, and after the litigation process, including strategies tried by several communities and professionals.

Simone Haberstock, JD, LLM, Simone A. Haberstock LLC, St. Louis, MO

Larry V. Swall, JD, Gates Shields Ferguson Swall Hammond PA, Liberty, MO

20. Substance Use and Parenting: Best Practices for Family Court Practitioners

This presentation will focus on how to manage family law cases when substance use dynamics are present. As a result of stigma and a lack of understanding about addiction, courts often impose conditions and interventions that are inconsistent with best practices, the neuroscience of addiction, and empirical research. Court responses that are not evidence-based can harm the parent-child relationship, negatively impact coparenting, and destabilize family systems. This presentation will help attorneys, judges, and mental health professionals establish realistic expectations, effectively manage a recurrence or relapse, and implement safeguards that can be used to protect children and parents. Practical, research-informed tips will also be provided for attorneys to use when approaching these challenging cases.

Stephanie Tabashneck, PsyD, JD, Waltham, MA

Jeffrey Soilson, JD, Fitch Law Partners, LLP, Boston, MA

21. Risk Assessment in a Relocation Evaluation Involving Two Children on the Autistic Spectrum

Multi-factor risk assessment models grounded in empirical research should be relied upon when the court and evaluators are examining challenging issues such as special needs children or relocation. This workshop will first present Pickar and Kaufman's *Special Needs Child Risk Assessment Model* and Austin's *Risk Relocation Assessment Model*. Then, the presenter will demonstrate how these models were applied in a complex parenting plan evaluation involving a divorced parent's petition to relocate with two children on the autistic spectrum.

Daniel B. Pickar, PhD, ABPP, Santa Rosa, CA

22. Parent Coaching as a Dispute Resolution Process

The presenters launched a pilot program in January 2021 to bring parent coaching to the Delaware County Domestic Relations Court. The coaching process helps parents to determine how to meet their parenting and co-parenting goals. Approximately 40 families have engaged in the program. In this session, the presenters will share the varied outcomes and processes used to work with the participants. Through coaching, many parents have achieved full or partial settlements.

Amy Armstrong, MSW, Delaware County Domestic Relations Court, Delaware, OH

Hon. Randall Fuller, Delaware County Domestic Relations Court, Delaware, OH



23. Accounting for Safety and Resiliency When Crafting Appropriate Parenting Plans

Participants in this session will leave with parenting plans with embedded safety features that can be customized and used where families have experienced violence. In addition, the attendees will learn to differentiate the impact of violence on children and the victim; understand how the family may appear to a court and how to get past that roadblock; and identify ways to choose which safety measures to use.

Hon. Diane M. Palos, Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court, Cleveland, OH

Alexandria Ruden, JD, Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, Cleveland, OH

24. Terminology Regarding Parental Alienation: Searching for a Consensus

The cacophony of terminology regarding parental alienation theory greatly hampers research. The presenters investigated whether practicing child custody evaluators generally agree on definitions and terminology regarding parental alienation and related topics. They polled study participants regarding terms such as: contact refusal, parental alienation, alienating behaviors, levels of severity of parental alienation, and alienating behaviors, and the Five-Factor Model for identifying parental alienation. There was a high level of agreement regarding the proposed definitions.

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

Jennifer J. Harman, PhD, Colorado State Univ., Fort Collins, CO

Edward Kruk, PhD, Univ. of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada

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

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

1:30pm-3:00pm Workshops 25-29

25. Managing Values-Based Disputes in the Context of Family Law

Discussions about values (e.g., politics or religions) often devolve into passionate – and sometimes fraught – discourse. “Values-Based” or “Identity-Based” disputes can seem unsolvable and polarizing. These disputes can be even more challenging for judicial officers, practitioners, or parties, when an opinion that threatens impartiality. By using ADR practices, such as interest identification, reframing, and the idea of building practical “other-awareness” through “self-awareness,” practitioners can foster mutual understanding and an effective resolution between parties with differing points of view. Join this workshop for a review of best practices for dispute-resolvers in situations where values or identity play a significant role.

Alexander S. Glassmann, JD, Erickson Mediation Institute, Bloomington, MN

26. Trapped in a Golden Cage: The Divorce Story of Female Immigrants in the US

In this session, the presenter will share her experience providing divorce mediation involving women who immigrated to the US and married an American partner, finding themselves in a chaotic situation, alone, in a foreign country, not able to work in their previous profession, not able to support themselves, and unable to return to their country of origin and families. Cultural differences between spouses, affecting their marriage life and their divorce process, will be discussed.

Efrat Almog, Gishoor LLC, Hollywood, FL

Save The Date!

AFCC 59TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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

May 11-14, 2022 • Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile • Chicago, IL

Advances in technology, access to justice concerns, and COVID-19 have combined to create new opportunities for family law, dispute resolution, and mental health professionals. But are there downsides to a high-tech practice? Do remote processes lose something in translation? Join AFCC as we explore the new frontier in family law.





27. Gathering, Interpreting, and Archiving Social Media Data

Evaluators and attorneys report that they don't know what to do with social media data. They report they don't understand the apps. They express frustration when presented with screenshots of TikTok and Snapchat. This workshop will describe some of the benefits and limitations of using data from social media sites in the context of child custody litigation. Participants will discuss how to collect and put into context such data, and how to address potentially complicating factors such as assessing for faked/fraudulent data, and how to make use of such data in a forensically defensible manner.

Sean B. Knuth, PhD, Charlotte, NC

Chris Mulchay, PhD, Asheville Testing, Asheville, NC

28. Technology and the Courts: Expanding Access to Survivors

Survivors of intimate partner abuse who seek a temporary protective order often encounter barriers in the process of accessing family violence courts. These barriers were amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic that disproportionately affect low-income families and children of color and those in rural areas. This workshop will explore ways in which technology can be implemented to bring a voice to families and children experiencing intimate partner abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Joel Correa, JD, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, Atlanta, GA

Erika Voreh, JD, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, Atlanta, GA

29. Addressing Limited Services for Parents in Rural Areas by Engaging Communities

This presentation will address a fresh approach to conducting custody evaluations in the rural setting. The pandemic brought opportunity to develop methods of working with people in rural settings who would otherwise not be served. Using ecological theory as a backdrop to apply a systems approach, the presenter will identify how to reach individuals and families and methods of gathering information. Additionally, this presentation will describe how to create a working recommendation with steps of how to leave families with a plan to move forward in a positive manner.

Judy Zimbelman, DSW, Zimbelman Evaluations, Sioux Fall, SD

Hotel Information

A downtown Cincinnati icon since 1931, the Netherland Plaza features an authentic French Art Deco character that is now recognized as a National Historic Landmark. Work out in the largest health and fitness center in downtown Cincinnati and enjoy live music on the weekends in the iconic Palm Court. Just a few blocks to restaurants, clubs, Paul Brown Stadium, and the Great American Ballpark.

Make your reservation today! The Hilton Netherland Plaza is offering an exceptional group rate to AFCC conference attendees of \$147/night for single or double occupancy. On October 21, 2021, 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, so please make your reservations early!** Make your reservation through the AFCC website. Go to www.afccnet.org and click on AFCC Fall Conference. Or call 1-800-445-8667, ask for the Hilton Netherland Plaza reservations, and mention group code AFCC. Attendees are responsible for making their own hotel arrangements.

Ground Transportation

Taxi, Lyft, and Uber service from Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport to the hotel ranges from \$20 - \$35. Shared shuttle service is available through Executive Transportation with advance reservations for \$26 one way or \$40 round trip. Please call 859-261-8841 to reserve.

Parking

Self-parking is available in the Mably Place Garage on an hourly basis or \$21 overnight, without in and out privileges.

Important Conference Information

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 online 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. A complete list of conference sessions eligible for continuing education credit will be available at the conference registration desk.

Psychologists: AFCC is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. AFCC maintains responsibility for the program and its content. The program is eligible for up to 16.5 hours of continuing education for psychologists. A list of all sessions approved for continuing education will be available on the AFCC website by August 30, 2021, 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 hours; however, individuals will need to verify approval with their credentialing or licensing boards. Please be aware that the following states do not accept National CE Approval Programs: New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, and West Virginia. If you are a LMFT, LPC, or other mental health professional, you may use the standard AFCC certificate of attendance to verify attendance at conference sessions and apply for continuing education credits with your accrediting institution.

California Custody Evaluators and Mediators: Applications will be submitted to the Judicial Council of California. The views expressed in the program are those of the faculty and do not necessarily represent the official positions or policies of the Judicial Council of California.

US Lawyers: An application for approval of CLE credit will be submitted in Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Vermont.

Ontario Lawyers and Paralegals: An application will be submitted to the Law Society of Ontario to accredit the educational program content for lawyers.

Ontario lawyers and paralegals must determine for themselves whether an activity is an eligible educational activity for CPD and qualifies for Substantive Hours. A list of any sessions approved for Professionalism Hours or Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Hours will be posted on the AFCC website prior to the conference, and made available at the conference.

Conference Scholarships

AFCC will offer a limited number of scholarships for the conference. Scholarships include registrations for the conference and one preconference 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 7, 2021. 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 Communications Coordinator, Gina Wentling, at 608-664-3750 or gwentling@afccnet.org.

AFCC Hospitality Suite

The AFCC hospitality suite will be open for informal networking and refreshments Thursday, November 11, and Friday, November 12, from 9:00pm-12:00am. Please wear your name badge.

Dine Arouds

Friday evening, November 12, 2021, 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 October 11, 2021, 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 and 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. The student non-member fee includes a one-year AFCC student membership.

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 beyond our control arise.

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 email, fax, or mail, postmarked by October 15, 2021, will be issued a full refund minus a \$75 service fee. Written notice received by October 22, 2021, will have the \$75 service fee deducted and balance issued as a credit for future AFCC conferences, training programs, webinars, or membership dues. All email cancellations should be sent to afcc@afccnet.org. No refunds or credits will be issued for cancellations received after October 22, 2021.

Audio/Video Recording No personal audio or video recording or photographing of sessions is permitted.

Registration Form

AFCC Fall Conference • November 11-13, 2021
Cincinnati Netherland Plaza, Cincinnati, Ohio

Register online at www.afccnet.org

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

Pre-Conference Institutes Registration Rates

Full Day Institute - AFCC Member
Full Day Institute - Non-member

Conference Registration Rates

Conference Registration - AFCC Member
Conference Registration - Non-member
Conference Presenter - AFCC Member
Conference Presenter - Non-member
Full-Time Student - AFCC Member (ID required. No meals included.)
Full-time Student, AFCC Non-member (ID required. No meals included.)
Certificate of Attendance - AFCC Member
Certificate of Attendance - Non-member

	Paid by Aug. 30	Paid after Aug. 30
	\$150	\$150
	\$145	\$165
	\$180	\$200
	\$295	\$335
	\$375	\$410
	\$225	\$240
	\$250	\$275
	\$125	\$150
	\$150	\$175
	\$ 15	\$ 15
	\$ 20	\$ 20
TOTAL:	\$ _____	\$ _____

3 Pre-Conference Institute Selections—Thursday, November 11, 2021 9:00am-5:00pm

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

- 1. A Judicially Managed Team Approach to Intractable Custody Disputes
- 2. Exploring the Impact of Domestic Violence on Custody Evaluations: Processes, Analysis, and Recommendations
- 3. Mediation: Returning to Basics and Reaching for New Challenges
- 4. Affirming or Corrupting the Child's Truth: Family Dynamics, Gender Identity, Domestic Violence, and Special Needs

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 12	8:30am-10:00am	Opening Session	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Friday, November 12	10:30am-12:00pm	Workshop 1-6	_____
Friday, November 12	1:30pm-3:00pm	Workshop 7-12	_____
Friday, November 12	3:30pm-5:00pm	Workshop 13-18	_____
Saturday, November 13	8:30am-10:00am	Plenary Session	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Saturday, November 13	10:30am-12:00pm	Workshop 19-24	_____
Saturday, November 13	1:30pm-3:00pm	Workshop 25-29	_____

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 _____

Card Holder's Signature _____

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