ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY



WHEN A CHILD REJECTS A PARENT: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution?

Estrangement?

Abuse?

Alienation?

Parent-Child Contact Problems?

Resist-Refuse Dynamics?

Gatekeeping?

AFCC 57th Annual Conference

NEW ORLEANS New Orleans Marriott May 27-30, 2020

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

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AFCC Louisiana Chapter American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution International Academy of Collaborative Professionals International Academy of Family Lawyers Louisiana State Bar Association Family Law Section National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

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.

WHEN A CHILD REJECTS A PARENT: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution?

For decades, family law professionals have struggled to help families address challenges that arise when a child rejects a parent, whether due to abuse, alienation, estrangement, or other observable or alleged behaviors. The problem? A deeply polarized professional community, the growth and entrenchment of advocacy groups, dilemmas for legal professionals who presume the involvement of two parents, a wide range of interventions, contradictory messages to families and professionals who are badly in need of guidance, and, most notably, children caught within these conflicts.

Be part of the solution by joining AFCC in New Orleans as we strengthen our resolve to work collaboratively to better address the needs of children and families, through a conference that embodies AFCC's organizational values.

Collaboration

Grande Lum, President Barack Obama's Director of the US Department of Justice Community Relations Service, will open the conference and explore how deeply divided communities can collaborate, a model for families and family law professionals.

On Friday's plenary session, **Professor Nicholas Bala, Hon. Linda Fidnick, Attorney Loretta Frederick, Dr. Nancy Oleson,** and **Professor Michael Saini** will integrate multiple competing perspectives in examining the conflict and controversy around resist-refuse dynamics.

- Learning More than 100 sessions, including eight full-day pre-conference institutes. Earn up to 20.5 hours of continuing education for psychologists, lawyers, mental health professionals, mediators, and social workers (please see page 27 for details).
- Innovation Conference sessions will feature the most innovative practices, programs, and processes serving children and families.
- Diversity Participants from multiple cultures around the world will focus on issues related to the LGBTQ community, religion, special-needs children, limited English proficiency, and a wide-ranging program designed for AFCC's multiple disciplines.
- Empowering families to resolve conflict and make decisions about their future Conference sessions will focus on educational programs, mediation, parenting and eldercare coordination, and other opportunities to engage family members in decision making.

More than 30 conference scholarships are available to support attendance to those who may lack the resources to attend. Please see page 27 for details on how to apply.

Workshop Session Designations

Sessions designated with **E2M** are suggested for early-tomid career professionals as well as those with more experience. All workshops are identified as **(**General Interest), **(**Intermediate), or **(**Advanced). Please note that these designations are made by the presenters. Because experience and education among conference attendees varies, the designation of a particular session may not always meet with everyone's expectations.

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AFCC

6525 Grand Teton Plaza Madison, WI 53719 Phone: 608-664-3750 Fax: 608-664-3751 afcc@afccnet.org www.afccnet.org



Invitation from the President

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to invite you to participate in AFCC's 57th Annual Conference at the New Orleans Marriott, May 27-30, 2020, for what promises to be a very exciting

conference. The theme, When a Child Rejects a Parent: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution?, reflects the struggles and ineffectiveness so many of us feel about our work with challenging families. The desire to help families is strong among AFCC members. It is the reason I joined AFCC more than a quarter of a century ago, and I suspect the reason we have nearly 5,500 members today. At the same time, how to address a child's rejection of a parent is a polarizing issue that has created the same sort of stress and divisions in the field that we are trying to help families overcome.

It has been twenty years since AFCC first held a conference and published a special issue of the Family Court Review (FCR) on alienation, and at that time, we focused on the alienated child. Ten years later, with another conference and special issue of FCR, we examined several interventions, and the conflict and controversy surrounding them. This year, we want to move the needle in the direction of collaboration, despite our differences. It could be a heavy lift, but we firmly believe that this is the direction in the family justice system that is needed.

Toward that end, we will be welcoming our keynote speaker Grande Lum, former Director of the US Department of Justice Community Relations Service, appointed by President Barack Obama. Mr. Lum oversaw agency responses to severe community conflict and violence in Ferguson, Missouri, in the wake of the Trayvon Martin shooting in Florida and in Baltimore after the Freddie Gray tragedy. CRS was able to help those deeply divided communities move from conflict to collaboration, and I believe that the AFCC community can learn valuable lessons that relate not only to families, but also to our colleagues and ourselves.

The program on the following pages offers a wide range of learning opportunities focusing on resist-refuse dynamics, access to justice, international family justice issues, parenting plan guidelines, brain science, and even a chance to do some improv! For early risers, meditation and yoga will be offered. For others, the French Quarter is just a few steps away. If you can experience both, more power to you!

Many countries are experiencing highly divisive politics, which at times seems to mirror our family justice work. It is my hope that we can begin in New Orleans to focus on more collaborative engagement in our work, committing ourselves to working together through the most difficult problems and becoming part of the solution.

I look forward to seeing you in New Orleans.

Laissez les bons temps rouler!

tthew **S**ullivan

FCC President

Conference at a Glance

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020

6:00pm-8:00pm

Conference Registration

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020

7:30am-6:00pm	Conference Registration
8:00am-9:00am	Coffee and Rolls for Institute Registrants
8:00am-5:00pm	Exhibit Forum
9:00am-5:00pm	Pre-Conference Institutes
10:30am-10:45am	Break
12:00pm-1:30pm	Lunch on your own
12:00pm-4:30pm	AFCC Board of Directors Meeting
2:45pm-3:00pm	Break
5:00pm-6:00pm	New Member and First Time Attendee Orientation
6:00pm-7:00pm	Welcome Reception
7:00pm-8:00pm	AFCC Awards Ceremony
9:00pm-12:00am	AFCC Hospitality Suite

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020

6:15am-6:30am	Meditation
6:30am-7:15am	Yoga
7:30am-8:30am	Chapter Council Meeting
7:30am-8:45am	Coffee and Rolls
7:30am-5:00pm	Conference Registration
7:30am-5:00pm	Exhibit Forum
8:45am-10:00am	Opening Session
10:00am-10:30am	Break
10:30am-12:00pm	Workshops 1-12
12:00pm-1:30pm	AFCC Luncheon
1:30pm-3:00pm	Workshops 13-24
3:00pm-3:30pm	Break
3:30pm-5:00pm	Workshops 25-36
5:00pm-6:00pm	International Attendee Reception
Evening	Taste of New Orleans
9:00pm-12:00am	AFCC Hospitality Suite

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2020

6:15am-6:30am	Meditation
6:30am-7:15am	Yoga
7:15am-8:15am	AFCC Committee Meetings
7:30am-8:30am	Coffee and Rolls
7:30am-5:00pm	Conference Registration
7:30am–5:00pm	Exhibit Forum
8:30am-10:00am	Workshops 37-48
10:00am-10:30am	Break
10:30am-12:00pm	Plenary Session
12:00pm-1:30pm	Lunch on your own
12:00pm-1:30pm	Family Court Review Editorial Board Meeting
1:30pm-3:00pm	Workshops 49-60
3:00pm-3:30pm	Break
3:30pm-5:00pm	Workshops 61-72
5:30pm-7:00pm	Silent Auction and Reception
7:00pm-10:00pm	AFCC Annual Banquet
10:00pm–12:00am	AFCC Hospitality Suite

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2020

6:15am-6:30am	Meditation
6:30am-7:15am	Уода
7:30am-12:30pm	Conference Registration
8:00am-9:00am	Coffee and Rolls
8:00am-9:00am	AFCC Membership Meeting
8:00am-12:30pm	Exhibit Forum
9:15am-10:45am	Workshops 73-84
10:45am-11:00am	Break
11:00am-12:30pm	Workshops 85-92
8:00am-9:00am 8:00am-9:00am 8:00am-12:30pm 9:15am-10:45am 10:45am-11:00am	Coffee and Rolls AFCC Membership Meeting Exhibit Forum Workshops 73-84 Break

Pre-Conference Institutes

(Separate registration fee required. Please see registration information on page 28.)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020 9:00AM-5:00PM

1. Making Sense of Complicated Situations: A Systematic Approach to Intimate Partner Violence and/or Resist-Refuse Dynamics

Families who experience intimate partner violence and/or resistrefuse dynamics benefit most from responses and interventions tailored to meet their specific needs. With this in mind, discerning practitioners worry that their biases and assumptions may interfere with their efforts to appreciate the unique qualities and needs of families. In this session, participants will experience how using a systematic and label-free approach to cases can improve the quality of their analysis and responses. This is not a talking-heads presentation! Participants will engage in making sense of a complicated hypothetical situation.

Gabrielle Davis, JD, Battered Women's Justice Project, Minneapolis, MN

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

Barbara Jo Fidler, PhD, AccFM, Families Moving Forward, Toronto, ON, Canada

Nancy Ver Steegh, JD, MSW, *Mitchell Hamline School of Law, St. Paul, MN*

2. Conflict Prevention, Peacemaking, and Peacekeeping in Families with Resist-Refuse: A Parenting Coordinator's Role, Functions, and Skills

Families with resist-refuse dynamics (RRD) struggle with conflict among family members and sometimes from external sources including legal and behavioral health professionals. This workshop reviews RRD theory and research, a parenting coordinator's role, and essential elements of the parenting coordination (PC) process as described in the 2019 *AFCC Guidelines for Parenting Coordination*. Parenting coordinators will learn skills to screen for RRD problems; when to withdraw from a case; how to respond to noncompliance with the parenting plan, court orders, and parenting coordination agreements; and what to seek from behavioral health providers working with the family.

Debra K. Carter, PhD, National Cooperative Parenting Center, Bradenton, FL

John A. Moran, PhD, Phoenix, AZ Annette T. Burns, JD, Phoenix, AZ

3. Trauma in the Trenches

Trauma touches everyone in the family justice system. This interactive institute will examine how trauma, toxic stress, and vicarious traumatization manifest and affect all parties, including us. Presenters will discuss assessment and manifestation of these dysregulating factors and focus on specific tools and skills to help clients self-regulate and enhance self-care. To address our ethical duty for self-care, the presenters will offer a self-questionnaire and specific exercises that participants can use to de-stress. To address iatrogenic trauma, presenters will discuss improving trauma responsiveness throughout the family judicial system. *Sponsored by Louisiana Chapter of AFCC*

Leslie Todd, MA, LCSW, Strategies for Change, Baton Rouge, LA

Rebecca M. Stahl, JD, LLM, Univ. of Baltimore School of Law, Baltimore, MD

Hon. Dan Michael, Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County, Memphis, TN

Cindy Stoltz, JD, Allegheny County Children's Court, Pittsburgh, PA

4. Judicial Officers Institute: What's a Judge to Do? Responding to Critical Family Issues

This institute will examine how to best use experts to improve the quality of judicial fact finding and orders in family law. Participants will be updated on critical research, theory and best practices in three critical areas of family law: (1) Child development and the statutory concepts "maturity" and "the mature minor" applicability to parenting rights and responsibilities orders; (2) the voice of the child, focusing on the when, where, why and how-to of eliciting the child's thoughts and feelings; and (3) substance use, misuse, and addiction. The morning session will set the stage for an interactive afternoon using case studies and hypotheticals.

Hon. Ramona A. Gonzalez, Presiding Judge, La Crosse, WI

Stephanie Tabashneck, PsyD, JD, Boston, MA

Alyson G. Jones, MA, RCC, Alyson Jones and Assoc., West Vancouver, BC, Canada

Benjamin D. Garber, PhD, Family Law Consulting, PLLC, Nashua, NH

5. Evaluation Basics, Ethical Issues, and Risk Management

This institute is designed for custody evaluators at all experience levels, and for judges and lawyers whose work involves reviewing the work of evaluators. Presenters will discuss interviewing of litigants, children, and collaterals; maximizing the usefulness of available documents; selection of formal assessment instruments; data integration; report writing; and testifying.

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

Arnold T. Shienvold, PhD, Riegler, Shienvold & Associates, Harrisburg, PA

Pre-Conference Institutes

(continued)

6. System Reform through the Use of Family Divorce Neutrals

Mental health professionals in their roles as coaches and child specialists in the collaborative divorce process can also play pivotal roles in other separation and divorce processes. In this institute, an attorney, a judge, and two collaborative coaches will address the challenges families bring and the skill sets these neutrals can provide within the legal system to support the professionals who work with them and assist families to create healthier, post-conflict coparenting relationships.

Lori Gephart, MA, Wexford, PA Anne Lucas, MA, Kirkland, WA Christopher M. Farish, JD, Quaid Farish, Dallas, TX Hon. Pam Baker, Baton Rouge, LA

7. Advanced Issues in Mediating Parenting Plans

The mediation process often includes a complex web of emotions, often beneath the surface, involving both the parties and the mediator. This institute will explore the challenges of working with highly emotional parties and provide participants with the tools to address these difficult issues. Part one of program will focus on developing parenting plans in the context of high emotion, high conflict or intimate partner violence. Part two will examine how understanding psychological theories and stages of grief can inform and assist in addressing emotions that arise during parenting plan mediations.

Zena Zumeta, JD, Mediation Training & Consultation Institute, Ann Arbor, MI

Kelly Browe Olson, JD, LLM, Univ. of Little Rock Arkansas, Little Rock, AR

Heidi S. Tuffias, JD, MA, *The Law and Mediation Offices of Heidi S. Tuffias, Inc., APC, Los Angeles, CA*

8. Anger and Anxiety Are Contagious: Science and Case Management

Resistance and refusal (alienation and estrangement) are built significantly on the emotional intensity and lack of emotional boundaries of high-conflict parents and their upset professionals. This institute will include a review of some brain science of contagious emotions and some established therapeutic principles for the treatment of anxiety. Numerous examples of poorly managed family law cases will be used to highlight problems, including emotional repetition in isolation. Case management recommendations will be provided for judges, lawyers, and therapists to work more positively with parents.

Bill Eddy, LCSW, JD, *High Conflict Institute, San Diego, CA Matthew Tower, Author, Love Wars, Berkeley, CA*

Are You an AFCC Member Yet?

AFCC brings together members of multiple disciplines from around the world to promote greater understanding of the many perspectives in AFCC membership. An AFCC membership is an investment in professional excellence, with immediate access to new information and ideas amongst a network of family law innovators.

When you join AFCC along with your conference registration, you save \$10 on your first year's membership and up to \$185 on your registration. Select "New Membership Special" when completing the registration form or join at afccnet.org.

AFCC Member Benefits Include:

- *Family Court Review*, AFCC's quarterly academic and research journal in print and electronic format, with full access to the online archives back to 1963
- **Online member directory** of over 5,400 colleagues worldwide
- *AFCC eNEWS*, the monthly electronic newsletter, provides up-to-date practice tips, research updates and interviews with leading practitioners
- **Parenting Coordination Network Listserv** for AFCC members who are PCs or are interested in the role to share tips, advice, referrals and network with others
- Free webinars! AFCC members have access to a library of webinars with nearly 40 webinars on topics such as the AFCC *Guidelines on Intimate Partner Violence*, issues in relocation cases, parenting coordination, visitation resistance, and more. Members can also attend live webinars for only \$15 and earn continuing education credit
- Substantial member discounts on registration for AFCC conferences and trainings, new AFCC webinars, exhibit and advertising opportunities, and additional publications from AFCC and Wiley-Blackwell

www.afccnet.org

WHEN A CHILD REJECTS A PARENT: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution?

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020

7:30am-6:00pm	Conference Registration
8:00am-9:00am	Coffee and Rolls for Institute Registrants
8:00am-5:00pm	Exhibit Forum
9:00am-5:00pm	Pre-Conference Institutes
10:30am-10:45am	Break
12:00pm-1:30pm	Lunch on your own
2:45pm-3:00pm	Break
5:00pm-6:00pm	New Member and First Time Attendee Orientation
6:00pm-7:00pm	Welcome Reception
7:00pm-8:00pm	AFCC Awards Ceremony
9:00pm-12:00am	AFCC Hospitality Suite

A wonderful conference, with talented practitioners, researchers, and trainers from many disciplines and many countries. The format, spirit, and content of the conference were magnificent.

Allan Barsky, Fort Lauderdale, FL

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020

6:15am-6:30am	Meditation
6:30am-7:15am	Yoga
7:30am-8:30am	Chapter Council Meeting
7:30am-8:45am	Coffee and Rolls
7:30am-5:00pm	Conference Registration
7:30am-5:00pm	Exhibit Forum
8:45am-10:00am	Opening Session

Welcome: Matthew Sullivan, PhD, AFCC President, Palo Alto, CA

The Nexus of Family Justice Disputes and Seemingly Intractable Community Conflict

What do inter-parental disputes with resist-refuse dynamics have in common with racial conflict underlying community violence in Ferguson, Missouri? How do the politics that impact controversial family justice issues mirror the divisiveness and polarization of our greater political culture? Grande Lum served as Director of the US Department of Justice Community Relations Service under President Barack Obama, and oversaw agency responses to Ferguson, as well as the Trayvon Martin shooting in Sanford, Florida, and the Freddie Gray tragedy in Baltimore. He subsequently served as Director of the Divided Community Project at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. Mr. Lum will examine approaches for transforming intractable conflict into collaboration, and, through discussion with AFCC President Matt Sullivan, examine parallels and lessons learned for family law professionals.

Grande Lum, JD, *Provost, Menlo College, Palo Alto, CA Matthew Sullivan, PhD*, *AFCC President, Palo Alto, CA*

10:00am-10:30am Break and Exhibit Forum

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

1. Trauma as a Potential Distractor or Illuminator in Exploring Resist-Refuse Dynamics

An assessment of trauma can illuminate our understanding of the various factors that may be influencing a child's resistance or refusal to visit a parent. This presentation will distinguish between stressful life events and traumatic events, describe the trauma screening process, and introduce a new clinical assessment to evaluate risks, resilience, and previous treatments and responses. The objective is to determine the most beneficial treatment plan. Methods for evaluating treatment gains will be reviewed, and legal and clinical implications will be discussed.

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

Leslie Drozd, PhD, Newport Beach, CA

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

2. Conflict, Politics, and Families 🕣

Discussing politics can be difficult, especially in today's environment. Red or blue? Every other weekend or 50/50? Medicare for all, or keep the government out of my insurance? Alienation or abuse? In fact, the choices are not typically so stark, but political discussions seem to erode the nuance of important issues. This workshop will be a facilitated discussion for those who want to dig beneath the surface and talk conflict, politics, families, and communities.

Bernie Mayer, PhD, Professor of Conflict Studies, Creighton Univ., Omaha, NE

Grande Lum, JD, Provost, Menlo College, Palo Alto, CA

3. Is It Alienation or Fearful Resistance? The Children of Addiction in the Family

The prevalence of substance use disorders as a factor in custody and parenting time decisions is ever-present. Attention is given to evaluating parents alleged to have substance use issues relative to parenting, but there has been little focus on the impact on the children living with it. The psychological and emotional toll can often lead to children's resistance to parent contact and allegations of alienation. Understanding the impact can assist in differentiating alleged alienation from real anxiety and fearfulness.

Gregg Benson, MA, LCADC, Morristown, NJ

4. Justice for Families: Improving the Court's Response to Intimate Partner Violence (C)

Minnesota's Fourth Judicial District has participated in grant programs offered by the Office on Violence Against Women to address barriers to accessing the court and improving the response to families with a history of intimate partner violence (IPV). This session will explore how the District solicited feedback and implemented changes to improve access to justice for self-represented litigants and improved the response to families with a history of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, or in cases involving allegations of child sexual abuse. Through a facilitated conversation, presenters will share strategies for applying community-focused and culturally-informed approaches to improve access to justice and achieve positive outcomes.

Hon. Anne McKeig, Minnesota Supreme Court, Saint Paul, MN Hon. Mary Madden, Fourth Judicial District, Minneapolis, MN Adam Miller, JD, Fourth Judicial District, Family Division, Minneapolis, MN

5. I Love Him/I Hate Him: Ambivalence in Marital Partings and High-Conflict Divorce

Research suggests that one-third to one-half of all people in the process of divorce, and after divorce, experience ambivalence regarding the decision to divorce, which is at the root of much of the obstructive, angry, and noncompliant behavior of high-conflict divorce cases. Children of such parental dynamics are at particularly high risk for being caught in the middle. This session will explore these dynamics and offer practical strategies for case management and court procedures to reduce conflict in these cases.

Donald T. Saposnek, PhD, Family Mediation Service, Aptos, CA

6. Zealous Advocacy and Creating the Appropriate Team in Resist-Refuse Cases: Can It Be Done?

This workshop will delve into the ethical considerations that lawyers face when representing parents in resist-refuse cases where ethics of zealous advocacy are seemingly contrary to a child's best interest or the long-term goals of a parent. A mental health professional will discuss the necessity of lawyers, who are typically the first to see these cases, to recognize the resist-refuse dynamic and work to create a team with the lawyer and client to work for the betterment of the family.

Louise T. Truax, JD, Reich & Truax, PLLC, Southport, CT Hon. Marjorie Slabach (Ret.), Fremont, CA Shawn McCall, PsyD, JD, San Francisco, CA

7. Fostering Healthy Outcomes for Families: How Professionals Can Become Part of the Solution (C) (22M)

When a child rejects a parent it often reflects a troubled family system with many overlapping and complicated issues. This workshop will highlight current psychological research on the cumulative effects of adverse childhood experiences, factors that promote resilience, and the availability of empirically informed interventions. This interactive program will discuss various ways lawyers, judges, and therapists can work together to help ensure that families in crisis receive appropriate interventions sooner rather than later.

Kathleen McNamara, PhD, Fort Collins, CO

Joan McWilliams, JD, MSJA, *McWilliams Mediation Group, Denver, CO*

8. Navigating the Minefield: Complaints, Lawsuits, and Other High-Conflict Hazards (C)

For practitioners who work with court-involved families, conflict rarely stays within the confines of the courtroom. This workshop will walk participants through measures to safeguard against common threats, including the development of a proper court order and contracts; responding to intrusive record requests; and how to effectively respond to board action, HIPAA complaints, and other grievances. Samples will be provided for all aspects of handling a high-conflict matter that still protects the practitioner and their client's best interests.

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

Shelley Brown, JD, Durham, NC

Ten Things Every Family Law Professional Should Know About Sexual Abuse in Child Custody Matters (C) (22M)

Children often refuse to return to a parent who has not been identified as abusive. Allegations of child abuse that arise in the context of custody cases are extremely difficult for professionals and the courts to manage. Both parents often act in ways that are counterintuitive, making it difficult to determine what actually occurred. Hidden biases and/or knowledge deficits distort perceptions of the complaining parent's claims may lead to discounting the veracity of the abuse report. This session will help participants address these challenges.

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

Lawrence J. Braunstein, JD, Braunstein and Zuckerman, White Plains, NY

10. Interdisciplinary Cooperation to Improve Co-Parenting (C) (22M)

This session will explore how professionals from legal, mental health, coaching, and ADR disciplines can work together to assist parties in co-parenting, minimizing conflict, and avoiding court. The presentation will focus on effective approaches and practical strategies to enhance clients' and professionals' engagement in helpful communication and interventions in family law disputes.

Zachary A. Kretchmer, JD, Arnold, Rodman & Kretchmer, Bloomington, MN

Mindy Mitnick, EdM, MA, Uptown Mental Health Center, Edina, MN

Lori Thibodeau, MA, LMFT, The Bridging Center, Bloomington, MN

11. Interviewing and Assessing Children in Family Law Matters: Using the Literature **①**

Developmental issues and the application of research to assessing children is important in cases where children witness family events, are alleged victims of abuse, and/or have been exposed to conflict, pressure, and manipulation. This presentation will review linguistic and cognitive development research and forensic literature on children's memory functioning and on reliably interviewing children. Assessment aids in understanding the impact of family events, identifying best interest factors, and assessing a child's maturity.

Margaret Lee, PhD, Mill Valley, CA Ginger Calloway, PhD, Raleigh, NC

12. "Logging Off" Isn't the Answer: Domestic Abuse, LGBTQ Victims, and the Internet ()

This presentation aims to enhance access to justice for LGBTQ victims of domestic abuse by raising practitioner awareness of: (1) the most common technological means used to perpetrate abuse and harassment in the digital world; (2) the impact it has on the victim; and, (3) how LGBTQ victims of domestic abuse and harassment are especially vulnerable to abuse and may experience significant barriers to obtaining adequate protections under existing laws.

Hon. Lorenzo Edwards, *Family Court Commissioner*, *Milwaukee*, *WI*

Matthew K. Lewis, Medical College of Wisconsin, Wauwatosa, WI

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020

12:00pm-1:30pm AFCC Luncheon

Presiding: Matthew Sullivan, PhD, AFCC President, Palo Alto, CA

1:30pm-3:00pm Workshops 13-24

13. Cases Involving Severe Resist-Refuse Dynamics: A Time to Say Goodbye... For Now?

This workshop will focus on severe cases of resist-refuse dynamics in the aftermath of court proceedings resulting in one of three scenarios: (1) an order for custody change; (2) an order stipulating parenting time with each parent, often with a measure of therapeutic intervention; or (3) an order granting the status quo with restricted time or no time, or communication with the rejected parent. Vignettes illustrating these circumstances will explore the time to say goodbye, its clinical significance, and legal considerations for corresponding court orders. A protocol for saying goodbye will be proposed.

Linda Popielarczyk, MSW, AccFM, Toronto, ON, Canada

Hon. Tom Altobelli, Federal Circuit Court of Australia, Wollongong, NSW, Australia

Barbara Jo Fidler, PhD, AccFM, Toronto, ON, Canada

14. Navigating the Opioid Crisis in Family Court: Practical Tips for Attorneys and Judges

Judicial management of parental opioid use disorder (OUD), relapse, and noncompliance with court orders have been widely debated in family courts. Due to misinformation about the disorder and pervasive stigma, courts often impose conditions and interventions that are unsupported by addiction research. The pressure to intervene is heightened due to the national opioid crisis, but uninformed sanctions can destabilize the parent-child relationship and unwittingly harm families. This presentation will educate judges, attorneys, and mental health professionals about OUD to set realistic expectations and effectively manage litigant relapse. An overview of the neurobiology of addiction to help understand litigant behavior will be presented. Clinical material will illustrate common challenging scenarios with parents with OUD and ways to craft scientifically tenable plans.

Abigail M. Judge, PhD, MGH Substance Use Disorder Bridge Clinic, Boston, MA

Stephanie Tabashneck, PsyD, JD, Wellesley, MA

Making Psychological Testing Data in Child Custody Cases Relevant and Useful to the Non-Psychologist (C)

The full merits, utility, and reliability-enhancing potential of psychological testing in child custody evaluations are often lost in translation because psychological testers do not decipher test data for the non-psychologist recipients. This session will explore how psychological testing reports can be written to increase their utility for non-psychologists. This workshop is dedicated to offering a psychological testing model that bridges the gap between test data and useful information to assist a custody evaluator, attorney, or judge in their respective roles.

Jessica P. Greenwald O'Brien, PhD, Center for Excellence of Children, Families, and the Law, Newton, MA

Lauren E. Persing, PsyD, Child and Family Evaluation Service, Newton, MA

Jennifer Sevigney Durand, JD, Schmidt & Federico, Boston, MA

16. The Wise Practitioner: Integrating Self-Care, Ethics, and Purpose (C) (E2M)

The work of the family law practitioner, while often rewarding, is also quite taxing, emotionally and intellectually. This program examines the work of the family law practitioner through the lenses of interpersonal neurobiology, systems theory, and professional ethics to develop a deeper understanding of what we each bring to this work, why we do it, and how to develop and maintain emotionally intelligent practices.

Jennifer E. Joseph, JD, Saint Paul, MN

Nancy Ver Steegh, JD, MSW, Mitchell Hamline School of Law, Saint Paul, MN

Kirsten Lysne, PhD, Moxie, Inc., Plymouth, MN

17. Cultural Sensitivity for a Trauma-Responsive Practice ()

Cultural sensitivity issues are at the forefront of societal and political discussions, largely stemming from the #metoo movement, Black Lives Matter, immigration issues, and issues surrounding transgender rights. This workshop will address cultural sensitivity as it arises within family law and will provide specific tips and tools for understanding the context in which these issues arise. Topics including personal biases and integrating culturally sensitive interactions into a trauma-responsive practice will be addressed.

Rebecca M. Stahl, JD, LLM, Univ. of Baltimore School of Law, Baltimore, MD

Christine N. Espejo, JD, MSW, Children's Law Center of California, Monterey Park, CA

Danielle V. Ewing, JD, Children's Law Center of California, Monterey Park, CA



18. Rules of Evidence in the Electronic Age $oldsymbol{0}$

How do you authenticate a tweet? Can a judge take judicial notice of Google Maps? Does a person waive privilege by inadvertently disclosing material through a cloud-based storage system? Can a child's text message be entered without calling the child to testify? This presentation aims to answer these questions and others by focusing on the Rules of Evidence and their application to electronic material, allowing practitioners to experience the benefits of the digital age, rather than just the headaches.

Gary S. Joseph, LLM, LLB, MacDonald & Partners, LLP, Toronto, ON, Canada

Stephen P. Kirby, JD, MacDonald & Partners, LLP, Toronto, ON, Canada

Learning About Child Protection Mediation Through the 2019 Model Mediator Competencies (1)

This workshop will discuss the new *Model Mediator Competencies* and the *Child Protection Mediation Guidelines*. It will include a participant centered discussion about the guidelines, competencies, and child protection mediation training protocols. The competencies will help mediators and programs to assess and enhance their knowledge, skills, and abilities through mentoring, supervision, self-study, and self-assessment. They provide a road map to create and deliver quality training to allow skilled mediators to demonstrate these competencies on a regular and consistent basis.

Kelly Browe Olson, JD, LLM, Univ. of Little Rock Arkansas, Little Rock, AR

Laura Bassein, JD, Univ. of New Mexico School of Law, Albuquerque, NM

Marilou T. Giovannucci, MS, Port Charlotte, FL

20. Understanding the Unique Developmental Issues in Adolescent Resist-Refute Cases for Legal and Clinical Professionals

Adolescence is a time of testing boundaries and rebellion. Resistrefuse cases include children who are exerting a sense of control by resisting a relationship with a parent. Each is a challenge in itself, but combining an adolescent who is resisting a relationship with a parent is a unique double whammy for courts, attorneys, and mental health professionals. Presenters will explore and identify these unique issues and discuss how professionals can address them most effectively.

Jenny Gomez, MS, KoonsFuller Family Law, Plano, TX Jeffrey Siegel, PhD, Dallas, TX

21. Mediation and Co-Parenting: The Cents and Nonsense in Financial Decision Making (C)

Discussions about money—values, practices, and conflicts—present enormous challenges to co-parenting counselors and mediators. This session explores the conscious and subconscious economic and behavioral factors related to money that make mediators weep and co-parenting counselors pull their hair out.

Simone A. Haberstock, JD, LLM, Saint Louis, MO Kevin J. Chafin, MA, LPC, Kansas City, MO

22. How Do We Encourage the Legal System to Implement Evidence-Based Practices? A Panel Discussion (C)

This interdisciplinary panel will engage with the audience in an interactive discussion about the use of evidence-based practice in family law. The session will examine: (1) barriers and facilitators to routine adoption and implementation of evidence-based practices in family court; and (2) methods and strategies to overcome these barriers so we can enhance the public health impact of the family court.

Brittany Rudd, PhD, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Amy Applegate, JD, Indiana Univ. Maurer School of Law, Bloomington, IN

Michael Commons, JD, Indiana Office of Court Services, Indianapolis, IN

Hon. Kim Berkeley Clark, President Judge, 5th Judicial District, Pittsburgh, PA

23. Visitation Refusal Isn't Always Alienation: The Polarizing Labeling and Single Dominant Factor Problems

This session addresses the labeling and single dominant factor problems in cases about parent-child contact resistance and refusal. These practices lack scientific support and polarize discussions to the detriment of children and families. Parent-child contact resistance and refusal require assessments that focus on behavioral descriptions rather than stigmatizing labels, multi-faceted considerations of historical and contemporaneous dynamics and capacities rather than simplistic blaming, and balanced interventions for both the sending and the receiving parent.

Madelyn S. Milchman, PhD, Upper Montclair, NJ Robert Geffner, PhD, ABPP, San Diego, CA Milfred "Bud" Dale, PhD, JD, Topeka, KS

24. A Four-Day Single Therapist Model for Complex Family Matters

RIFT is a single practitioner model of intensive family therapy over four days for complex family dynamics, including where children are resistant to relationships with one parent. This practical workshop will involve discussion of behavioral parent therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, and exposure and response prevention therapy with children. The session will emphasize keeping both parents involved in children's lives; rejection of the either/or parent litigation model of dealing with alienation; emphasis on reportable non-confidential therapy; practical advice, such as how to get resistant children together with rejected parents; mapping strategies on the idiosyncratic needs of each family; and ongoing case management.

Jennifer Neoh, PsyD, Rosanna, VIC, Australia

3:00pm-3:30pm Break and Exhibit Forum

3:30pm-5:00pm Workshops 25-36

25. When Civility Breaks Down: Consequences and Solutions for Families and Professionals C E2M

This session will present how an online program and a structured six-week co-parenting class can improve co-parents' civility by teaching them how to calm themselves when angered, tap into their prefrontal lobes in order to attune to their children's needs, and think and communicate effectively with each other. These programs are effective with a wide range of co-parents and costeffective for parents with limited financial resources or access to services.

Don Gordon, PhD, Center for Divorce Education, Ashland, OR

Albert Gibbs, PhD, Los Angeles, CA

Merlyn Hernandez, JD, Hernandez Law, Los Angeles, CA

26. Roadblocks, Minefields, and Obstacles to Implementing Intensive Family Interventions

This workshop will discuss the difficulties encountered in implementing intensive family interventions for families characterized by high-conflict divorce in which a child refuses or resists contact with a parent. Along with a discussion of the roles played by the family members, the legal system, and outside consultants, there will be a discussion of the liability involved in implementing intensive family interventions. Suggestions regarding how best to address these concerns will be discussed.

Marcy A. Pasternak, PhD, Watchung, NJ

Sharon Ryan Montgomery, PsyD, Morristown, NJ

Rebecca Bailey, PhD, Transitioning Families, Glen Ellen, CA

27. See Evil, Hear Evil, Speak Evil: What Goes Around Comes Around **()**

Alienating behaviors and abuses of older adults also impact younger family members. Real-life scenarios jeopardizing an elder's care will show the cumulative effects of multigenerational conflict. Learn about eldercaring coordination as an intervention to break this cycle. This workshop will demonstrate the similar views of our most vulnerable populations as our children look forward and our oldest generation looks back.

Linda Fieldstone, MEd, *Elder Justice Initiative on Eldercaring Coordination, Miami, FL*

Sue Bronson, MSW, LCSW, *Elder Justice Initiative on Eldercaring Coordination, Shorewood, WI*

28. Managing Realistic Resistance 🛈 E2M

Rarely in cases involving resist-refuse dynamics is the fact that a child is resisting or refusing disputed. Instead, it is the *reason* for the resistance or refusal and the options available to address it that are in dispute. This panel will identify information necessary for courts to ascertain the cause for the resistance and how to obtain that information through interviews with the children and parents. Attendees will be provided with options for addressing that resistance. Presenters will also explore the difficulties that can arise for legal practitioners, mental health professionals, and the court if the conclusion is reached that the child's resistance or refusal is justified.

Holly M. Friedland, JD, Shauger & Friedland LLC, Florham Park, NJ

David A. Martindale, PhD, ABPP, St. Petersberg, FL Hon. Dianna Gould-Saltman, Los Angeles Superior Court,

Los Angeles, CA

Tamsen Thorpe, PhD, Morristown, NJ

29. Mothers in Prison: Collateral Damage When Visitation with Children Is Restricted (C)

Women are currently the fastest growing segment of the US prison population. Parental incarceration is associated with greater risk that a child will experience material hardship and family instability. Research indicates that visiting is important in maintaining parentchild relationships and increases the likelihood of successful reunification after release. This workshop focuses on how to mitigate collateral consequences when parent-child visitation is restricted, and the benefits for incarcerated parents, their children, and society when visitation is encouraged and facilitated.

Dona Playton, JD, Univ. of Wyoming College of Law, Laramie, WY

Jeremy Meerkreebs, Univ. of Wyoming College of Law, Laramie, WY

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020

30. How Professionals Contribute to the Problem or the Solution of Child Rejection (2)

A multifactorial approach can help identify the factors hindering a parent-child reunification process. Families and professionals need guidance and solution-focused models to resolve entrenched conflicts and focus on the best interest of the child. Clinical vignettes will show devastating outcomes when professionals are feeding the rage and revenge, overidentifying with their client, or losing necessary distance to best advise them. Promising outcomes in cases where a child rejects a parent will illustrate the merits of a well-coordinated interdisciplinary psycho-judicial team working with these cases

Francine Cyr, PhD, Univ. of Montreal, Montreal, QC, Canada *Sophie Gauthier, AdE*, Verdun Avocats, Quebec, QC, Canada

31. Navigating Landmines in Resist-Refuse Cases (C) (E2M)

This workshop will enhance the skills professionals need to recognize and avoid landmines that can derail the reunification process when there is a resist-refuse dynamic. The challenges faced by those involved in these cases will be examined, including how to address concerns raised by the parents and the professionals involved in the process. Presenters will focus on best practices for successful inter-professional collaboration.

Marsha I. Schechtman, MSW, Atlanta Behavioral Consultants, Roswell, GA

Dawn Smith, JD, Smith & Lake, LLC, Atlanta, GA Daniel Bloom, JD, Richardson Bloom & Lines, LLC, Atlanta, GA

32. Gathering, Interpreting, and Archiving Email, Text, Social Media, and Internet Data in a Forensically Defensive Manner (C)

This workshop will describe some of the benefits and limitations of using text messages, emails, and data from social media sites in psychological evaluations being conducted in child custody litigation. Participants will also learn how to collect and interpret such data, how to address potentially complicating factors such as assessment for fraudulent data, and how to make use of such data in a forensically defensible manner.

Sean B. Knuth, PhD, *Mecklenburg County Forensic Evaluations Unit, Charlotte, NC*

Chris Mulchay, PhD, Asheville, NC

33. When a Child Says No: Working with Induced Psychological Splitting After Break-Up

Reformulating practice with families to adapt existing therapies to dynamics in alienation cases is key to successful outcomes. Working with the counter-intuitive theory that reverses standard therapeutic understanding of what is happening in families where children reject a parent, this workshop will equip participants to switch focus from the rejection of a parent to the pathological alignment that causes the rejection. Building on this understanding, the program will demonstrate how interventions may be structured to release the defense of induced psychological splitting.

Karen Woodall, Family Separation Clinic, London, United Kingdom

Nick Woodall, MA, *Family Separation Clinic, London, United Kingdom*

Kelley Baker, PhD, LPC, Georgetown, TX Amy Eichler, PhD, Georgetown, TX

AFCC Webinars

AFCC's monthly webinars are a valuable resource to family law professionals like you. Psychologists, lawyers, and others are earning continuing education (CE) credits—up to 12 credits a year—without the time, travel, and expense associated with professional conferences.*

AFCC membership includes access to the webinar archives, a library of nearly 40 webinars on topics including alienation, psychological testing, special-needs children, children's voices, family court research, parenting coordination, online dispute resolution, and more.

March 19, 2020 Opposing the Self-Represented Litigant in Family Court

April 9, 2020

How to Build a Problem-Solving Family Court Within a Traditional Court from Scratch with No Money **May 6, 2020** Mediation and IPV: What the Research Tells Us

June 17, 2020 Conducting Child Custody Evaluations: Revising the Model Standards **Registration** Members: \$15 Non-Members: \$50

Certificate of Attendance Members: \$15 Non-Members: \$20

July 21, 2020 The Opioid Epidemic and Family Courts

August 19, 2020 Sociopaths: The Con Artists of Family Law

Learn more at afccnet.org

34. Religious and Cultural Considerations in Divorce and Custody Disputes (C) (22M)

In contested divorce and custody matters, there are unique religious and cultural practices observed by Orthodox Jews, traditional Muslims, and other groups that can make negotiations more complex than usual. This session will help family lawyers to understand where clients are coming from and to respect the cultural context of their lives and their disputes.

Jacqueline Harounian JD, Wisselman Harounian & Associates PC, Great Neck, NY

35. International Perspectives on Family through the Lens of the Collaborative Process

The adversarial process design pits one parent against another instead of focusing on the welfare of the family. In this interactive workshop, presenters will discuss how collaborative practice is designed to keep the welfare of the children at the forefront of the process and helps parents create a positive legacy for their children. Presenters from Singapore, Canada, and the US and will bring their unique perspectives to the discussion.

Brian Galbraith, LLB, LLM, Galbraith Family Law, Barrie, ON, Canada

Kevin Scudder, JD, Law Offices of Kevin Scudder, Seattle, WA

Rajan Chettiar, Practice Forte Advisory, Singapore, Republic of Singapore

Adam Cordover, JD, Family Diplomacy, Tampa, FL

36. Judicial Officers Forum: Technology and the Courts

The use of technology is exploding in today's courts, including online dispute resolution (ODR), e-filing, case management systems, and more. This interactive session will provide an overview of how technology is being used in the courts, forthcoming initiatives, and what to expect in the future. Participants are encouraged to bring questions, comments, and concerns. They will learn about the role technology is playing in the courts and what lies ahead. **Participation is limited to judicial offers only.**

Hon. Kevin Duffan, Virginia Beach, VA Hon. Mark Juhas, Los Angeles, CA Colin Rule, MPP, Tyler Technologies, San Jose, CA

5:00pm-6:00pm	International Attendee Reception
Evening	Taste of New Orleans
9:00pm-12:00am	AFCC Hospitality Suite

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2020

6:15am-6:30am	Meditation
0.13411-0.30411	medication
6:30am-7:15am	Yoga
7:15am-8:15am	AFCC Committee Meetings
7:30am-8:30am	Coffee and Rolls
7:30am-5:00pm	Conference Registration
7:30am-5:00pm	Exhibit Forum
8:30am-10:00am	Workshops 37-48

37. Hot Off the Press: AFCC Ontario's Parenting Plan Guide and Template (C) 52M

A multi-disciplinary task force of the AFCC Ontario Chapter has completed a *Parenting Plan Guide and Template*. The Guide summarizes developmental literature on residential schedules for children of different ages and offers guidance on post-separation parenting. The Template provides suggestions for specific clauses. This workshop will: (1) explain how professionals from outside Ontario and other AFCC chapters can use or adapt these materials; (2) explore the tensions involved in parenting plans (e.g. how much flexibility, how much detail); and (3) discuss how the Ontario Task Force balanced competing interests.

Nicholas Bala, JD, LLM, Queen's Univ., Kingston, ON, Canada Andrea Himel, LLB, MSW, Himel Mediation Services, Toronto, ON, Canada

Hon. Gerri Wong, Ontario Court of Justice, Chatham, ON, Canada

38. Acting Before It's Too Late: Prudent Early Intervention in Resist-Refuse Cases

What is the correct balance between understanding causes and resolving problems? Are they mutually exclusive? While safety issues must always be addressed, treatment models are available that are trauma-sensitive and focused on improving dysfunctional behavior without premature assumptions about cause. This panel will discuss common obstacles and practical strategies for early, prudent intervention with resist-refuse dynamics including the critical role of the court, appropriate intervention models, obtaining effective orders, challenges to current thinking, and essential interdisciplinary steps.

Lyn R. Greenberg, PhD, ABPP, Los Angeles, CA

Hon. Robert A. Schnider (Ret.), Los Angeles, CA

Hon. Joe Harman, Federal Circuit of Australia, Parramuta, NSW, Australia

Elizabeth M. Picker, FDRP, *Edmund Barton Chambers, Sydney, NSW, Australia*

39. Helping Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Families Succeed (C)

This workshop addresses a significant challenge facing today's judiciary: providing adequate services for LEP families. Participants will learn about the challenges LEP individuals must overcome to access judicial services in courts in the United States. The presenter will examine different locations with diametrically different approaches to serving the increasing numbers of LEP families. Best practices and the future of bilingual services in court will be discussed.

Victor Martinez-Reyes, PhD, MSc, Bartow, FL

40. Resist-Refuse and Domestic Violence Allegations: Abuse, Anxiety, or Alienation?

While domestic violence is perpetrated by and against all genders, women are most often the victims. Despite best efforts, parental trauma "leaks" onto children, causing resist-refuse to follow domestic abuse allegations. Decision makers, including judges and evaluators, must analyze the respective parents' responsibility for the children's resistance to make appropriate recommendations. This workshop will help professionals differentiate and respond to domestic abuse, anxiety, and alienating behaviors.

Deb Link, MA, Ascend Family Institute, Bloomington, MN Sara Zafar, JD, Wichita State Univ., Wichita, KS

41. Positive Psychology and Parent Education Programs: A Twenty-Five Year Perspective (C)

Many states offer parent education programs designed to support parents through family restructuring. This workshop will examine the ten most common questions parents have asked over the past 25 years and discuss how to best answer these questions through the lens of positive psychology. This session will also illustrate how the major tenets of positive psychology can be woven into class curriculums, mediation, meetings, and interventions.

Michael Donegan, MA, MSW, Yardley Associates, LLP, Windsor, CT

Maureen Donegan, MSW, Yardley Associates, LLP, Windsor, CT

42. EMDR with Children Who Resist Contact with a Parent (C)

What are Adaptive Information Processing (AIP) and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR)? This session will present an overview of the AIP model and how EMDR can be effectively used in case management and treatment with highconflict divorce families—specifically families where a child is resisting contact with a parent—to stabilize the family and allow family members to reconnect and improve relationships. The presenters will discuss research, guidelines, and limitations for use of EMDR with children and court-related clients.

Stacey White Kinney, MS, LMFT, Mission Viejo, CA Robbie Adler-Tapia, PhD, Tempe, AZ

43. Partners to Parents (Without the R for Romantic Relationships) (

The academic literature has focused on the concept of divorced families but has neglected to examine the effects of parental separation of formerly cohabitating families. The presenters will review the differences of the impact on children of parental separation. Strategies will be formulated to enhance the emotional and social development of children. Role strain on non-cohabitating parents and its effects on the structure and nurture of children will be explored.

Mercedes Ebanks, PhD, Howard Univ., Upper Marlboro, MD *Elizabeth Ricks, PhD*, Howard Univ., Washington, DC

44. Quality Assurance for Family Mediation: Hear the Voice of One Million Data Points **()**

It's important to understand what parents think about their mediation experience, which means family law professionals must ask them. Maryland's Judiciary has collected over one million ADR survey question responses with its ADRESS system. Participants should bring their curiosity to this interactive, high-energy session, where they will learn about the data collected and the insights gained, and view an analysis performed in front of a live studio audience.

Jonathan Rosenthal, JD, Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office, Annapolis, MD

Emmett Ward, MS, *Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office, Annapolis, MD*

45. My Stepfamily is Not Blended: It's Shaken, and On the Rocks (C) E2M

Stepfamilies differ wildly in their composition and their developmental process is highly impacted by the new couple's empathic attunement to the children, their ability to develop realistic role expectations, and the children's ages and stages. Misguided steps to "blend" too soon may lead to marital discord, parent-child conflict, and rejection of a stepparent. Hostile exes also exploit these vulnerabilities and visitation refusal might ensue. Join this session to examine how to manage these and other challenges.

Leslie Todd, MA, LCSW, Strategies for Change, Baton Rouge, LA *Ann Ordway, JD, PhD*, Univ. of Phoenix, Gilbert, AZ

46. Parental Alienation in the United States Courts: 1985-2018 ①

This workshop will discuss research that appears in the April 2020 issue of the *Family Court Review*. This project was designed to investigate the occurrence and character of parental alienation cases in the United States between 1985 and 2018. The research examines the admissibility and utility of the concept of parental alienation in the US courts and describes results in terms of numbers, gender of victims, and whether shared parenting changed following claims of abuse or alienation. Attendees will have the opportunity to discuss the methodology and results with the investigator.

Demosthenes Lorandos, JD, PhD, PsychLaw, Hamburg, MI

47. A Co-Therapy Model of Reunification: Holding Everyone Accountable

By offering two very different case studies, the presenters will provide professionals with tools that can be used in most cases and can be customized to any family situation. The philosophy rests on the idea that children become resistant to visitation because of multiple variables and that all family members, including the children, have a part in contributing to the resistance. By approaching these variables systematically, there is a greater chance for success and/or informing the court so that children get what they need.

Diane Dierks, MA, LMFT, *Center for Navigating Family Change, Lawrenceville, GA*

Sherri Rawsthorn, MA, LCSW, Center for Navigating Family Change, Lawrenceville, GA

48. Objections, Alienation, and International Child Abduction: Views from the UK (

This workshop will explore the issue of the voice of the child in child abduction proceedings, with an emphasis on alienation. The presentation will focus on the trickiest of cases of alienation within international proceedings, where a child's sudden change of views is exacerbated by being removed from their home state and from their relationship with the left behind parent. Where the voice of an abducted child can conflict so greatly with being returned home, how can a professional assist?

James Netto, JD, LLB, Dawson Cornwell, London, United Kingdom

10:00am-10:30am Break and Exhibit Forum

As a student, receiving a scholarship was extremely valuable and appreciated. The various presenters and workshops provided me with an opportunity to develop skills in the areas of parenting coordination, custody evaluation, and family law. I am grateful for the ability to connect with individuals working in the field. Words cannot express my gratitude for this scholarship and for being a part of this conference.

Kianna Fiscus, Auburn, PA

10:30am-12:00pm Plenary Session

Welcome: Larry S. Fong, PhD, AFCC President Elect, Calgary, AB, Canada

When a Child Rejects a Parent: Becoming Part of the Solution

With the intensification of appeals to resist the simplicity of single factor theories to define and treat children's resistance and refusal dynamics, professionals are challenged with the task of developing an inclusive approach to consider the key components of effectives responses for children and their families across these varied and complex cases. This multidisciplinary panel will discuss the range of perspectives and approaches for intervening. With the intent of developing a collaborative model of practice, presenters will discuss both legal and clinical responses across the varied possibilities of resistance and refusal, ranging from severe alienation, intimate partner violence, child sexual abuse, and normal parental separation adjustment.

Nicholas Bala, JD, LLM, Queens Univ. Kingston, ON, Canada

Hon. Linda Fidnick, *Hampshire Probate and Family Court*, *Northampton*, *MA*

Loretta Frederick, JD, Battered Women's Justice Project, Winona, MN

Nancy Oleson, PhD, San Rafael, CA

Moderator: Michael Saini, PhD, MSW, Univ. of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada

12:00pm-1:30pm	Lunch on your own
12:00pm-1:30pm	Exhibitor Forum
12:00pm-1:30pm	<i>Family Court Review</i> Editorial Board Meeting

1:30pm-3:00pm Workshops 49-60

49. Child Custody Judicial Settlement Conferences: Strategies and Best Practices (C)

The Marin County, California, Superior Court's Interdisciplinary Settlement Conference Program has had tremendous success resolving child custody disputes. The "frequent flyers" who regularly come to court to fight the latest battle in their ongoing parental war have by and large stopped coming. This workshop will present the brightest gems of what we have learned in the program's twelve-year history, which will be useful for all who participate in judicial settlement conferences involving child custody, whether interdisciplinary or otherwise.

Stephen H. Sulmeyer, JD, PhD, JAMS, San Francisco, CA Hon. Beverly Wood, Marin County Superior Court, San Rafael, CA

50. How to Represent a Child's View of Resist-Refuse ①

This workshop explores the child's view of resist-refuse from an interdisciplinary perspective. Presenters will discuss how their contrasting views can come together in the best interest of the child when roles differ. Participants will learn how to address irrational beliefs and polarized opinions to set up the opportunity for judges to consider their perspectives. Sample orders and procedures for best practice will be provided.

Susan Fletcher, PhD, Frisco, TX

Cristi Trusler, JD, Trusler Legal PLLC, Austin, TX

Hon. Karl Hays, San Marcos, TX

Jonathan Friday, JD, Friday Milner Lambert Turner, Austin, TX

51. The Parenting Enhancement Program for Children Who Resist Time with a Parent (C)

This workshop presents an innovative therapeutic intervention, the Parenting Enhancement Program (PEP). PEP is designed to address the family dysfunction with interventions aiming to improve the functioning of both parents and children, particularly where children have experienced a disrupted relationship with a parent. Children in these circumstances often maintain a highly distorted view of both parents and can present with a hostile manner, and be extremely negative, defiant, and disobedient. This presentation will examine sixty cases that have been referred to the PEP program and will identify successful interventions and strategies for children who were steadfastly refusing to spend any time with one of their parents.

Lisa Bottomley, MSW, Family Law Parenting Centre, Highett, VIC, Australia

52. Connecting Court Orders with Interventions for the Rejected Parent: Ethics and Efficacy

This presentation focuses on the connection between court orders and the roles and responsibilities of clinicians assisting the rejected parent and child. The presenters will provide examples of court orders that may be adapted to state family courts, present tips and traps when working with lawyers or self-represented litigants, and discuss the importance of precise orders that reduce the risk of alliances and ethical violations.

Jeffrey S. Levy, MSW, Saco, ME Dana Prescott, PhD, JD, Saco, ME Diane Tennies, PhD, LADC, Bangor, ME

53. Mitigating Risk in Clinical/Legal Practice 🌒

This workshop will discuss: (1) risks to mental health professionals working with high-conflict parents; (2) professional practice strategies to help mitigate risks; and (3) strategies for managing attacks through the internet. Emphasis will be placed on practice hygiene—strategies that facilitate the health of one's practice. In addition, given the ability for anyone with a device and internet connection to publicly attack a professional, strategies will be provided for managing one's social media and online attacks.

Gary Direnfeld, MSW, Keswick, ON, Canada

54. New Evidence from Programs That Reduce Conflict Inside and Outside of Court (C)

This session focuses on two innovative ADR programs designed to reduce parental conflict: The Family Resolutions Specialty Court and OurFamilyWizard.com. Following brief program descriptions, the presentation will focus on new evaluation data from each, with an eye toward how they are being used by parents and what the data shows about families in conflict and these programs' potential impact.

Marsha Kline Pruett, PhD, MSL, Smith College School for Social Work, Northampton, MA

Hon. Linda Fidnick, *Hampshire Probate and Family Court*, *Northampton*, *MA*

Bryan Altman, OurFamilyWizard.com, Minneapolis, MN

55. Reunification from the Inside Out **()**

This multidisciplinary workshop examines legal and therapeutic responses to children who resist or refuse contact with a parent, while leading an honest conversation about the challenges involved in this work. A family lawyer will examine the interventions available through court, while a team of experienced therapists will share a view from the inside of a reunification program including successes and failures. A model order for the court appointment of reunification programs will be presented.

Alyson G. Jones, MA, RCC, *Alyson Jones and Assoc., West Vancouver, BC, Canada*

Jorge Gonzalez, MA, RCC, Alyson Jones and Assoc., West Vancouver, BC, Canada

Salley-Ann Ross, MA, RCC, Alyson Jones and Assoc., West Vancouver, BC, Canada

John-Paul E. Boyd, MA, LLB, Boyd Arbitration Chambers, Calgary, AB, Canada

56. A Different Kind of War: Parental Alienation in Military and Veteran Families (C)

Recent research on parental alienation highlights the need to identify particular demographic groups which may be more vulnerable. In military families, parental separation during deployments, reintegration, family conflict, and family violence, and war-related trauma and mental illness (including PTSD) of the returning parent may act as risk factors for impaired child-parent relationship and shared parenting post-divorce and can invoke concerns of parental alienation dynamics. Increasing knowledge on parental alienation in military-connected families is imperative to support the work of legal and mental health professionals with military-connected families affected by this.

Gabriela Misca, PhD, Univ. Of Worcester, Birmingham, United Kingdom

57. Hearing Adolescent Voices in Custody Arrangement Decisions (C)

This workshop will present research on the involvement of adolescents in the custody arrangement decision. The concerns shared by both parents and adolescents will be discussed. The appropriate age for adolescent involvement, and how to determine when an adolescent is ready to be involved in the custody arrangement decisions, will be shared. Recommendations will be shared on how to determine when it is appropriate to include an adolescent in the custody arrangement decision as well as when to include the adolescent in the custody arrangement decision.

Jaimee L. Hartenstein, PhD, MS, Univ. of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO

58. Resist-Refuse Dynamics in LGBTQ Families: Considerations and Interventions **(**)

LGBTQ families already face challenges in family court, and when a child resists or refuses contact with a parent these challenges may be exacerbated. This workshop will address specific considerations and recommended interventions for working with LGBTQ families, including families headed by same-sex parents, families headed by one or more transgender or nonbinary parents, families in which a parent comes out as gay or transgender after divorce, and families in which a child identifies as LGBTQ. Practice considerations for therapists, mediators, parent coordinators, attorneys, and judges will be discussed.

Lauren M. MacNeill, JD, MSW, Clackamas County Resolution Services, Oregon City, OR

59. The Intersection of Technology, Domestic Violence, and Family Law (C)

Family law professionals understand that offenders use whatever means available to abuse, harass, stalk, and monitor victims. Technology now provides offenders with tools to accomplish these tasks and much more. Participants will explore the risks and benefits of technology and will learn strategies for cases involving phone technology, location apps, social media, and more. Non-technical language will be used to describe the privacy levels of each area and how to safely navigate the world of technology.

Steven Bradley, *OurFamilyWizard.com*, *Tallahassee*, *FL*

60. Antisocial and Psychopathic Parents: Implications for Child Protection and Custody Cases

Parental antisocial behavior and the presence of psychopathic traits in parents are both of significant concern to child protection agencies and family courts. Research shows the potential negative impact that antisocial parents have on the development of children. This session will examine the potential impact parental anti-social behavior and psychopathic traits have on child protection and custody cases in family court. Presenters will suggest best practice social and legal interventions.

Robert C. Rowe, PhD, Family Court Clinic, Kingston, ON, Canada

Hon. Cheryl J. Robertson, Superior Court of Justice, Family Court, Kingston. ON, Canada

3:00pm-3:30pm Break and Exhibit Forum

3:30pm-5:00pm Workshops 61-72

61. Who Are We? The Role of Parental Identity in Child Custody (C)

Parental identity is a powerful form of social identity that fuels the passion many bring to custody decision making, parenting, and co-parenting. Individual, social, and cultural perspectives about parental identity shape expectations, goals, custody disputes behavior, and parenting (and co-parenting) behavior. This workshop examines manifestations of parental identity and how professionals can use awareness of it in their work.

Leslie E. Shear, JD, Encino, CA Robert A. Simon, PhD, San Diego, CA

62. The Theater of Family Camp: A Peek Behind the Curtain (C)

The Overcoming Barriers Camp provides an intensive, experiential approach for the whole family to create a new narrative and resolve conflict when children are resisting or rejecting a parent. Just as in live theater, no one at camp can predict precisely how the scripted interventions will play out. Using scenes from the clinical sessions and milieu, presenters will give participants a peek into what actually occurs at camp as clinicians and staff use whatever happens to meet treatment goals.

Amy Armstrong, MSW, *The Center for Family Resolution, Worthington, OH*

Carole Blane, Overcoming Barriers, Inc., New York, NY

63. So You Thought Your Divorce Would End the Conflict? A Different Approach to Parenting Coordination

Conventional knowledge regarding parenting coordination (PC) has relied on disordered personality constructs to inform how to productively engage parents. This workshop will propose an alternative PC process utilizing the understanding and discussion of relational constructs within PC sessions to facilitate not only engagement with the parents, but the parents' engagement with each other, thereby reducing and resolving both specific parenting issues and longstanding conflict patterns. The results of novel interventions piloted by the presenters will be reviewed and discussed.

Terry Singh, PhD, *Singh Sharma Psychological Services, Calgary, AB, Canada*

Hanita Dagan, MA, *Taylor Clark Psychological Services, Calgary, AB, Canada*

64. Understanding Special Needs in Rejection or Resistance with an Emphasis on Autism Spectrum Disorders ()

This workshop will include an in-depth discussion of autism spectrum disorders, working with parents of special needs children, and how to understand the complex roles of court providers in these cases. Presenters will address diagnostic considerations and clarifications, discuss critical services and needs for these children, and develop an understanding of the role court providers play in developing successful interventions and parenting plans for children on the autism spectrum.

Allison Wise, PsyD, Wise Psychological Services, LLC, Springfield, MO

Allison Stephens, MEd, Fort Worth ISD, Fort Worth, TX

65. When a Parent Comes Out: The Role of the Attorney and Therapist in the Family Transition ①

This workshop will discuss the necessity of early intervention in creating a cohesive transition for a family when a parent comes out as LGBTQ, and the role that effective professionals can play in helping families maintain co-parent and parent-child relationships despite change. The presenter will explore techniques to help parents stay on the same page despite adversity, and for professionals to remain respectful and culturally aware during legal proceedings and disagreements, so that the child-parent relationship can be preserved.

Jodi Argentino, JD, *Argentino Family Law and Child Advocacy, LLC, Montclair, NJ*

66. Beyond the Books: Moving Beyond an Academic Perspective on Domestic Violence

An academic understanding of domestic violence is fundamental in counseling and advising clients. But what is beyond an academic understanding of domestic violence? This workshop will provide a window into the day-to-day impact and trauma of domestic violence and coercive control in the client's everyday life, addresses the importance of personal narrative, and fosters a discussion of the ethical challenges professionals may face when working on these cases.

Nancy Zalusky Berg, JD, Nancy Zalusky Berg, LLC, Minneapolis, MN

Rana S. Alexander, JD, Standpoint, St. Paul, MN

Deb Link, MA, LPCC, Ascend Family Institute, Edina, MN

Jessica K. Altmann, JD, Nancy Zalusky Berg, LLC, Minneapolis, MN

67. Voices or Ghosts? The Place of Children in Parenting Coordination

Is it possible to bring the voice of children to the parenting coordination process without their involvement? If children are involved, what are the considerations for safe and appropriate inclusion? The presenters will explore how parenting coordinators can assist parents to best meet their children's needs by viewing the family as a system with more than two voices. Special consideration as to how and when to include children when applying the new AFCC *Guidelines for Parenting Coordination* will be discussed. Guidance towards best practice concepts will be included.

Lorri A. Yasenik, PhD, RSW, International Centre for Children and Family Law, Inc., Calgary, AB, Canada

Jonathan M. Graham, LLB, International Centre for Children and Family Law, Inc., Ashfield, NSW, Australia

Linda Fieldstone, MEd, Miami, FL

68. Getting to "Yes, And": Using Comedy Improv Techniques to Enhance Your Collaborative Skillset

Back by popular demand! Participants in this high energy and interactive workshop will engage in comedy improv training activities that promote interpersonal acceptance, deep listening, authenticity, collaboration, and team building. Discussion will focus on how these techniques can be applied directly to teaching and practicing effective negotiation, mediation, and collaborative law skills. Participants will learn how "yes, and" and other improv skills help to build a more collaborative process and promote interest-based negotiation.

Gregory Firestone, PhD, My Florida Mediator, Tampa, FL

69. The Voice of the Child in Abduction Proceedings: UK, US, and Canadian Perspectives

This workshop, presented by three experienced lawyers who specialize in representing parties in child abduction proceedings, will examine the role that subject children play in abduction proceedings, the extent to which they participate in the proceedings, and practices in their respective countries.

Max Blitt, LLB, Spier Harben, Calgary, AB, Canada

Helen Blackburn, LLB, International Family Law Group, LLP, London, United Kingdom

Jeremy Morley, LLB, LLM, *Jeremy D. Morley International Family Law, New York, NY*

70. Bringing Real A2J to Self-Reps: What's Being Done and What Could Be Done (C) (22M)

There are more litigants in our courts without lawyers than with them, and jurisdictions have taken myriad approaches to address this issue. This session will examine the Oregon Informal Domestic Relations Trial, the Ontario Family Law Limited Scope Services Project, and other initiatives. Presenters will discuss what can be adapted to make the system more affordable and useful for selfrepresented litigants and demonstrate how coaching can as powerful an offering as unbundled legal services.

Joel Miller, LLB, The Family Law Coach, Toronto, ON, Canada William J. Howe III, JD, Gevurtz Menashe, Portland, OR Janet Whitehead, LLB, AccFM, Whitehead Law & Mediation, Sarnia, ON, Canada

71. The Role of Family Law Professionals in Preventing Gun Violence (C)

The prevalence of firearms in our communities and the role they play in mass casualties, suicide, and domestic violence has become tragically familiar. Often, the role of the criminal justice system plays is emphasized; however, there are opportunities for prevention in the family court and with family justice professionals. Jurisdictions are implementing new procedures and legal remedies. The presenters will provide information on "red flag" laws, the legal and social reality of domestic violence and suicide, and the role family law professionals can play in preventing gun violence.

Hon. Mark A. Juhas, Los Angeles, CA

Julia F. Weber, JD, MSW, San Francisco, CA

72. From Court to Community? Study Results from Family Dispute Resolution in Western Australia ()

In Australia, child custody cases are framed as family disputes requiring a therapeutic approach. Parents cannot file in family court until they attempt mediation through Family Relationship Centres (FRC), staffed primarily by mental health professionals. How are service delivery and practice outcomes different from court-based services in the United States? This session reviews standard practices and results from a recent study comparing a US court-based program with two FRC-based programs. Crossnational differences and similarities are examined, along with how lessons from Australia can improve family court mediation services in the US.

Alexandra L. Crampton, MSW, PhD, Marquette Univ., Milwaukee, WI

Hannah R. Busch, BA, Marquette Law School, Shawano, WI

5:30pm-7:00pm	Silent Auction and Reception
7:00pm-10:00pm	AFCC Annual Banquet
10:00pm-12:00am	AFCC Hospitality Suite

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2020

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2020

6:15am-6:30am	Meditation
6:30am-7:15am	Yoga
7:30am-12:30pm	Conference Registration
8:00am-9:00am	Coffee and Rolls
8:00am-9:00am	AFCC Membership Meeting
8:00am-12:30pm	Exhibit Forum

9:15am-10:45am Workshops 73-84

73. Open Forum: AFCC Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluation (C)

AFCC is in the process of revising the *Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluation*. This session will provide participants with a progress report and offer an opportunity for feedback and input into the work of the task force.

Arnold T. Shienvold, PhD, Riegler, Shienvold & Associates, Harrisburg, PA

Kathleen McNamara, PhD, Fort Collins, CO

74. Stress, Anxiety, and Resilience: Raising Human Beings

Today's youth face a number of challenges. This workshop will explore the science of stress, anxiety, and its effects on children and adult brains. Mental health issues are increasing and more than one in 20 school-age children are experiencing anxiety disorders. Learn what professionals can do to reduce anxiety, stress, teen depression, suicide, and challenging behaviors. This workshop will examine brain sensitive strategies to improve relationships and child-parent collaboration.

Jennifer Kresge, MA, Mediation, Training & Counseling Services, St. Helena, CA

75. TRUCE: Therapeutic Reunification, Unbuckling Children through Equestrianism (C)

The only agenda a horse has is whatever is happening in the current moment. Equine-facilitated and other animal-assisted psychotherapies are used to kickstart a therapeutic path toward traditional reconciliation/reunification therapies by first breaking down resistance to communication and debunking cognitive distortions. The TRUCE Program is an eight-week outdoor program for the most intractable parent-child contact problems. It requires participation from all family members—first separately, then together. The presentation will examine how to use horses and other animals to unbridle and loosen the grip of tightly-held, divisive beliefs.

Jean Deters, PsyD, Fort Mitchell, KY *Beth Long, CI-ESMHL*, New Day Ranch, Verona, KY 76. His Truth, Her Truth, THE Truth: Evaluating Allegations of Abuse in Divorce

Allegations of physical and/or sexual abuse in a high-conflict divorce create significant challenges for the evaluator, the child's attorney, and the court. This workshop will review characteristics of parents and children where there is alienation and/or allegations of abuse, as well as describing methods for evaluating these cases. Case examples will be discussed.

Catalina Arata, PhD, Bay Area Clinical Associates, Mobile, AL *Lisa M. Box, JD*, Fairhope, AL

77. The Trials and Tribulations of Instituting the New AFCC Parenting Coordination Guidelines in a State without a Statute

This workshop will explore the year-long journey of one district's quest to address best practices in parenting coordination to help the co-parents reduce conflict, implement and monitor the parenting plan, decrease use of the courts, resolve disputes, and improve co-parenting, while simultaneously addressing reduction in professional liability for parenting coordinators, burnout, standardization of practice, professional training, and continuing education.

Lori Comallie-Caplan, MS, LMSW, Comallie-Caplan Counseling, Coaching and Consultation, Las Cruces, NM

Marc Caplan, PhD, Las Cruces, NM

Jill Johnson Vigil, JD, *Law Office of Jill Johnson Vigil, LLC, Las Cruces, NM*

78. The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse: Tips for Professionals in Rural and Urban Areas (C)

This workshop will focus on the difficulties and differences that attorneys and mental health professionals face when practicing in urban versus rural areas. Presenters will include practical tips for ethically and successfully managing practices in both environments.

Tammi L. Axelson, MSW, Lufkin, TX

Christy Bradshaw Schmidt, MA, Coppell, TX

Jim Mueller, JD, Verner Brumley Mueller Parker, PC, Dallas, TX

79. The Best Interests of the Child When Parents Divorce across Borders (C)

With increased globalization, international divorces are becoming more common. This workshop uses empirical data from the Singapore Family Justice Courts to consider the power dynamics between the divorcing parties, the economic consequences of divorce, and the impact of such divorces on the children. Presenters will also describe the programs available in Singapore to support families undergoing international divorce and consider other ways the family justice system can help such families, and particularly the children, cope with the process of divorce and postdivorce transitions.

Joyce Low, JD, *Attorney's General Chambers, Singapore, Republic of Singapore*

Meng Chung Lee, MS, MBA, *Family Justice Courts, Singapore, Republic of Singapore*

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2020

80. Working with Kinship Families: The Road to Permanency and Beyond

This workshop focuses on the challenges of working with kinship families. Presenters will focus on Monarch Family Services' success in overcoming barriers to achieve the goal of permanency (adoption or permanency managing conservatorship) for the children in their care. The attorney who partners with the agency will provide tips on how to effectively work with kinship families to achieve consummation of the child/children in their care.

Valerie Jackson, PhD, Monarch Family Services, Houston, TX *Mellany McDonald, JD*, Pearland, TX

81. Dyadic Family Restructuring and Reconnection Therapy: A Modern, Practical Approach

This workshop integrates concepts of decision-making, systems theory, and assessment to guide a directed process of addressing and overcoming the conundrum faced in treating the impact of intractable conflict on parent-child relationships. Aptly named The Stark Dilemma, it is a new dynamic tool to assist in case conceptualization, treatment planning, and progress assessment, thus increasing the potential of affecting positive change in otherwise long entrenched, high-conflict families.

Ellen M. Mauldin, MA, LMFT, Campbell, CA

Shawn McCall, PsyD, JD, Palo Alto, CA

82. Family Law Attorneys and Parenting Evaluators: Improving Professional Collaboration (C) E2M

This workshop provides an overview of the working relationship between parenting evaluators and attorneys. When a parenting evaluation is ordered, attorneys and parenting evaluators have several points of contact: at the time of the referral; during the evaluation; when the report is issued; during post-report communications; and during discovery and trial. At each point, there are opportunities for improved collaboration and opportunities for confusion. This session will help each professional better understand the respective roles and obligations in an effort to more effectively serve the families we are trying to assist.

Jennifer Wheeler, PhD, Seattle, WA

Stacy Heard, JD, Law Office of Stacy D. Heard, PLLC, Seattle, WA

83. The Family Justice Initiative: Principles for Family Justice Reform

In February 2019, the Conference of Chief Justices adopted the Family Justice Initiative (FJI) Principles for Family Justice Reform. The FJI Principles were developed in partnership with several organizations, building on the prior work done through the Civil Justice Improvements Committee. This session will review the new recommendations and engage attendees in how to build these concepts into courts in their jurisdictions.

Natalie A. Knowlton, MA, JD, Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System, Denver, CO

84. The Voice of the Child: The Aftermath

What happens in the aftermath of divorce when the child's reality has been distorted in the process by either parent through words or conduct? Whatever the origin of the child's resistance, the professionals continue to seek solutions for better outcomes for families. How does the child perceive the experience? Can a child re-frame the experience? What works and what doesn't? This panel will discuss forensic assessment, address therapeutic models, discuss early legal intervention strategies, and examine professional collaboration.

Dorie A. Rogers, JD, CFLS, Orange, CA Robert A. Simon, PhD, San Diego, CA B.D. Cohen, Corona Del Mar, CA

10:45am-11:00am Break and Exhibit Forum

11:00am-12:30pm Workshops 85-92

85. Child Safety Project: Year One of a Pilot Project across the Court and Mental Health Services ()

This session will focus on lessons learned from The Child Safety Project, a partnership between the Child Witness to Violence Project and the Massachusetts Probate and Family Court. Strategies for implementing trauma-focused interventions and increasing judicial capacity to respond to the needs of children impacted by violence will be discussed.

Neena N. McConnico, PhD, LMHC, Child Witness to Violence Project at Boston Medical Center, Boston, MA

Katie Thomas, LMHC, *Child Witness to Violence Project at Boston Medical Center, Boston, MA*

86. How Does the "Best Interest of the Child" Honor the Voice of the Child?

"Best interest of the child" and "voice of the child" are concepts used by different professionals in resolving custody issues. How these concepts are viewed and used can significantly impact the parent-child relationship. A panel of experts will discuss the meanings and uses of these two concepts, and the relationship between them, from the perspective of the family court judge, best interest attorney, mediator, and mental health professional. Participants will consider how best interest factors may impact both the needs and the voice of minor children.

Mary Atwater, PsyD, Collaborative Mediation Services, Bethesda, MD

Hon. Cynthia Callahan, Montgomery County Circuit Court, Rockville, MD

Hon. Ann Sundt, *The McCammon Group, Garret Park, MD Hadrian Hatfield*, JD, Shulman Rodgers, Potomac, MD

Alicia Davis, JD, National Center for State Courts, Denver, CO

87. Catching Rejection Before It Starts in Collaborative Divorce: A Team Approach

Even families who choose collaborative divorce may be headed toward eventual parent-child discord down the road. Strategic teamwork provides the best chance to reorient the family toward maintaining viable connections. This session will explore four primary factors in team strategy: (1) use of versatility in role, expertise, and rapport; (2) coordination of choreography and the precise selection of players for each parent plan meeting; (3) attention to the interrelatedness of emotional and legal issues and child support; and (4) sharing the burden of bearing hard-to-hear news.

John E. Sobraske, MA, CLARA, IACP, Pittsford, NY Donna M. Maier, MBA, CLARA, IACP, Pittsford, NY Diana Deyo Ryan, JD, CLARA, IACP, Rochester, NY

88. Divorce without Destruction: Overcoming the Psychological Imperatives That Make Good People Fight Viciously (C)

Recognizing the reasons people fight viciously allows lawyers to counteract the psychological imperatives so clients are in a place where they can explore and consider suitable settlement alternatives and avoid harming themselves and their loved ones.

Chaim Steinberger, JD, New York, NY

89. Intercountry Adoption Issues for US Courts to Consider (C)

This workshop will explain the application of the Hague Adoption Convention to intercountry adoptions to and from the United States, including issues to be considered in US courts. The presentation will also discuss risk factors for disruption/dissolution and unregulated custody transfer. Finally, the workshop will highlight the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 and the acquisition and documentation of US citizenship for internationally adopted children.

LaTina Marsh, MSW, Office of Children's Issues, US Dept. of State, Washington, DC

Stefanie Eye, MA, Office of Children's Issues, US Dept. of State, Washington, DC

Carine Rosalia, JD, *Consular Affairs*, US Dept. of State, Washington, DC

90. Shared Parenting: Reigniting the Debate of Presumption in Situations of Domestic Violence

This workshop considers the state of shared parenting by reviewing current presumptions of child custody decision-making in jurisdictions that include domestic violence in their presumptions and those that do not. Parental rights versus safety and security will be debated through recent proposed amendments to divorce legislation, the impact of shared parenting on women and young children, and the UN convention on Rights of the Child.

Beth Archer-Kuhn, PhD, MSW, Univ. of Calgary, Calgary, AB, Canada

Natalie Beltrano, MSW, Univ. of Windsor, Windsor, ON, Canada

91. Access, Disclosure, and Use of Mental Health Records in Family Law

Mental health records differ from medical records, so accessing them or getting them into evidence can be challenging, especially when children are involved. Participants in this workshop will learn about access, disclosure, and use of mental health records and medical records, including how to get them into evidence. Participants will also learn about HIPAA implications and ethics revolving around mental health records.

Paul Leopold, Esq., KoonsFuller, PC Family Law, Southlake, TX Jenny Gomez, MS, Koonsfuller, PC Family Law, Plano, TX

92. Parent-Child Contact Issues and Appointed Experts: Assessment to Intervention to Resolution **①**

This workshop explores characteristics of moderate and severe parent-child contact problems and factors leading to a child's resistance or rejection of parent contact. Assessment of difficult cases, strategies and treatment options are discussed, including presentation of evidence by attorneys and mental health professionals. Topics include advocacy, best interest of the child, and content of court orders supporting intervention (with sample court orders). Presenters will also discuss the importance of protection of children from conflict. Finally, participants will hear a view from the bench.

Kelley Baker, PhD, LPC, Georgetown, TX

Cristi Trusler, JD, Trusler Legal, PLLC, Austin, TX

Hon. Karl Hays, Hays County, San Marcos, TX

Cynthia Gonzales, *Travis County Domestic Relations Office*, *Austin, TX*



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Important Conference Information

AFCC Silent Auction

The AFCC Silent Auction will take place Friday, May 29, 2020 at 5:30pm, prior to the Annual Banquet. Auction proceeds help fund AFCC projects and initiatives. Contributions will be recognized in the silent auction catalog, at the auction, and in the *AFCC eNEWS*. If you would like to donate an item, please contact AFCC Communications Coordinator, Gina Wentling, at 608-664-3750 or gwentling@afccnet.org.

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 of attendance at www.afccnet.org 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*. Instructions for obtaining your certificate will be available at the AFCC registration desk, along with a list of conference sessions eligible for continuing education credit.

Psychologists: AFCC is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. AFCC maintains responsibility for this program and its content. The program is eligible for up to 20.5 hours of continuing education for psychologists. A list of sessions approved for continuing education for psychologist will be available on the AFCC website by February 15, 2020 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 20.5 CE credits; however, individuals will need to verify approval with their credentialing or licensing boards.

If you are a LMFT, LPC, or other mental health professional, you may use the AFCC Certificate of Attendance to verify attendance at conference sessions and apply for continuing education credits with your accrediting institution.

Mediators: All conference sessions are eligible for continuing education units through the Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR).

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: Applications will be submitted to the Louisiana State Bar Association, the State Bar of Texas, the State Bar of Georgia, and the Florida State Bar. Attorneys from other states may use the AFCC Certificate of Attendance to verify attendance and apply for credit in their state. An application for accreditation of continuing legal education activity will be submitted to the Commission on CLE of the Supreme Court of Delaware, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania CLE Board, and the Vermont Supreme Court. New York attorneys may count towards their NY CLE requirement credit earned through participation in out-of-state programs accredited by a NY Approved Jurisdiction (Delaware and Pennsylvania). New Jersey attorneys who take courses approved in another state will receive credit for courses approved in that jurisdiction through reciprocity; however, attorneys must ensure that they are also meeting the requirements of New Jersey's program, i.e. NJ requires that four credits be taken annually in courses related to ethics and/or professionalism. Attorneys from other states may use the AFCC Certificate of Attendance to verify attendance and apply for credit in their state.

Ontario Lawyers: An application will be submitted to the Law Society of Ontario to accredit the educational program content for Continuing Professional Development, or CPD, for lawyers.

Conference Scholarships

AFCC will offer more than 30 scholarships for the conference. Scholarships include pre-conference institute registration, conference registration, welcome reception, luncheon, and annual banquet tickets, access to the AFCC hospitality suite, and a certificate of attendance. A limited number of scholarships include stipends to help offset the cost of travel and accommodations for recipients. Preference for scholarships with stipends is given to applicants with higher travel costs, international applicants, and those who demonstrate financial need. The scholarship application is available on the AFCC website, www.afccnet.org. **The scholarship application deadline is March 2, 2020**. Recipients will be notified late March.

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.

Conference Bookstore

Unhooked Books will sell books in the Exhibit Forum during the conference. If you would like to have your book displayed or have book recommendations, please submit them here: http://www.unhookedmedia.com/conferencebooks by March 15, 2020.

AFCC Hospitality Suite

The AFCC hospitality suite will be open for informal networking and refreshments on Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00pm– 12:00am and on Friday after the banquet until midnight. Please wear your name badge.

Taste of New Orleans

Thursday evening is your opportunity to enjoy the area with friends and colleagues. Sign up before 1:30pm on Thursday to join a group of 8-12 for dinner at a local restaurant. Restaurant menus and signup sheets will be available onsite Thursday morning. Participants are responsible for food, beverage, and transportation costs.

Meditation and Yoga

Start your day in the right frame of mind for concentration and learning! Join AFCC colleagues for morning meditation and yoga, led by AFCC members and certified yoga instructors Sherry Cassedy and Rebecca Stahl. Meditation is from 6:15am-6:30am, followed by yoga from 6:30am-7:15am, Thursday-Saturday mornings. Please bring a yoga mat if you have one.

Registration Information

Please read before completing your conference registration!

AFCC members save up to \$185 on registration rates: Register and pay by March 2, 2020, to receive the lowest rates for the conference! Early bird special rates are available only to AFCC members. Not a member yet? Join today and take advantage of the New Membership Special.

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 \$185 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 one pre-conference institute, refreshment breaks, and printed institute materials. *Institute registration is a separate fee from registration for the full conference.*

Conference Registration: Includes all conference workshops, electronic access to conference materials, refreshment breaks, opening reception, luncheon, annual banquet, entertainment, and access to the AFCC hospitality suite. *Pre-conference institutes require a separate registration fee.*

Spouse/Guest Registration: Available only to a spouse or significant other accompanying a full-conference registrant, *not* a business associate or staff colleague. Includes plenary workshops, opening reception, luncheon, annual banquet, entertainment, and access to the AFCC hospitality suite.

Conference Presenter Registration: Available only to conference presenters. Includes all conference workshops, electronic access to conference materials, refreshment breaks, opening reception, luncheon, annual banquet, entertainment, 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 workshops and electronic access to conference materials. Meal functions are not included; however, meal tickets may be purchased separately. Registration must include proof of full-time student status. *A separate registration fee is required for pre-conference institutes.*

Certificate of Attendance: AFCC will provide a certificate of attendance for a processing fee of \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members.

Additional Luncheon Ticket

The luncheon is included in the conference registration fee. Additional tickets are available for \$68. Meal ticket prices reflect the estimated cost to AFCC.

Additional Annual Banquet Ticket

The annual banquet is included in the conference registration fee. Additional tickets are available for \$95. Meal ticket prices reflect the estimated cost to AFCC.

Session or Presenter Changes

AFCC reserves the right to make changes to the conference program, including (but not limited to) changes to the content and speakers in the published event schedule, should unforeseen circumstances arise.

Audio/Video Recording

No personal audio or video recording or photographing of sessions is permitted.

Attendee List

By registering for the conference, your name, city, state/province, and email address will be included in the attendee list, located on the mobile app. If you wish to opt out, please email afcc@afccnet.org.

Travel and Lodging Information

Hotel Information

New Orleans Marriott 555 Canal Street New Orleans, LA 70130 Phone: 504-581-1000

New Orleans Marriott Hotel is nestled on NOLA's famed Canal Street, between the French Quarter and the Warehouse District, a short walk from Jackson Square and the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, as well as Harrah's Casino. Enjoy a meal at 5Fifty5 and Canal Street Pantry or a drink and an appetizer at 55 Fahrenheit, a favorite among both hotel guests and NOLA residents. Break a sweat in the fitness center, open 24 hours a day, or take a dip in the outdoor pool and relax in the sunshine. Your downtown adventure awaits at New Orleans Marriott.

Make your reservations today! The New Orleans Marriott Hotel is offering a special rate to AFCC attendees of \$199 per night for single/double occupancy. On May 3, 2020, any unreserved rooms in the AFCC block will be released and the special rate will no longer be guaranteed. *Rooms frequently sell out before the room block is released, we encourage you to make your reservation early!*

Make your reservation by calling 1-888-771-4429 and request the AFCC special rate or reserve online https://book.passkey.com/ event/49938414/owner/6139/home. All conference attendees are responsible for making their own hotel arrangements.

Ground Transportation

Taxi fare is currently \$36 one-way from the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY) to the New Orleans Marriott and takes about 25 minutes, depending on traffic. Uber and Lyft offer transportation from the airport, passengers can meet their ride outside the ground transportation center located on the first floor outside Baggage Claim, between Doors 9 & 11.

Parking

Valet Parking rates at the New Orleans Marriott are currently \$48 plus tax per day.

Climate

Temperatures in late May range from the lower 70s to the upper 80s. Meeting rooms and hotel facilities can be cool, so bring a light jacket or sweater.

Conference Registration Form

AFCC 57th Annual Conference • May 27-30, 2020 • New Orleans, Louisiana

Please register by May 1, 2020, to ensure that your name contact info (including email) appears on the conference attendee list Register online at www.afccnet.org

Please print clearly. This form may be duplicated.		
First Name (Dr. / Mr. / Ms. / Judge)	_ 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 dietary restrictions or other special needs?

Meals

Access

Other Please provide details:

Registration Rates Please check the appropriate amount(s) when making your selections and enter your total at the bottom	Paid by March 2	Paid by April 29	Paid after April 29
New Membership Special			
Join AFCC for 12 months and register at AFCC member rates! For first-time members only.	□\$150	□\$150	□\$150
Pre-Conference Institute Registration Rates			
Full Day Institute Registration – AFCC Member	□\$150	□\$170	□\$190
Full Day Institute Registration - Non-member	□\$215	□\$215	□\$245
Conference Registration Rates			
Conference Registration – AFCC Member	□\$475	□ \$505	□\$560
Conference Registration - Non-member	□ \$590	□\$590	□\$660
Conference Presenter Rate - AFCC Member	□\$285	□\$285	□\$300
Conference Presenter Rate - Non-member	□\$325	□\$325	□\$340
Full-time Student Rate – AFCC Member	□\$150	□\$175	□\$200
(ID required. No meals included.)			
Full-time Student Rate – Non-member (ID required. No meals included.)	□\$175	□\$200	□\$225
Other Registration Rates			
Certificate of Attendance – AFCC Member	□ \$15	□ \$15	□ \$15
Certificate of Attendance - Non-member	□ \$20	□ \$20	□ \$20
Additional Luncheon Ticket (May 28)	□ \$68	□ \$68	□ \$68
Additional Banquet Ticket (May 29)	□ \$95	□ \$95	□ \$95
Spouse/Guest Registration Rate (Meals and plenary sessions only.)	□\$265	□\$265	□\$295
Scholarship Fund Donation	\$	\$	\$
TOTAL	\$	\$	\$

Method of Payment

Registration must be paid in full prior to attendance. (US currency only please.)

□ Payment of \$ _____ is enclosed

Card Number ____

Exp. Date ____ / ____ Security Code ____

Billing ZIP/postal code

Name on Credit Card

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 fax or postmarked by April 29, 2020, will be issued a full refund minus a \$75 service fee. Written notice received by fax or postmarked by May 13, 2020, will have the \$75 service fee deducted and the balance issued as a credit for future AFCC conferences, trainings, webinars, or membership dues. No refunds or credits will be issued for cancellations received after May 13, 2020.

Institute Selections–Wednesday, May 27, 2020

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

Pre-Conference Institutes 9:00am-5:00pm

- \Box 1. Making Sense of Complicated Situations
- □ 2. Conflict Prevention, Peacemaking, and Peacekeeping in Families with Resist-Refuse
- \Box 3. Trauma in the Trenches

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- □ 4. Judicial Officers Institute
- □ 5. Evaluation Basics, Ethical Issues, and Risk Management
- \square 6. System Reform Through the Use of Family Divorce Neutrals
- □7. Advanced Issues in Mediating Parenting Plans
- □ 8. Anger and Anxiety Are Contagious: Science and Case Management

Conference Workshop Selections

Seating is *not* guaranteed and will be first-come, firstserved. Your selections will ensure that sessions with more attendees are scheduled in larger meeting rooms.

(Please write in one workshop number per time slot)			
Thursday, May 28	8:45am-10:00am	Opening	
Thursday, May 28	10:30am-12:00pm	1–12	
Thursday, May 28	1:30pm-3:00pm	13-24	
Thursday, May 28	3:30pm-5:00pm	25-36	
Friday, May 29	8:30am-10:00am	37-48	
Friday, May 29	10:30am-12:00pm	Plenary	
Friday, May 29	1:30pm-3:00pm	49-60	
Friday, May 29	3:30pm-5:00pm	61–72	
Saturday, May 30	9:15am-10:45am	73-84	
Saturday, May 30	11:00am-12:30pm	85-92	

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

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Association of Family and Conciliation Courts AFCC 57TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

WHEN A CHILD REJECTS A PARENT: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution? New Orleans Marriott

May 27-30, 2020

Conference Sessions Include:

- Bringing Real A2J to Self-Represented Litigants
- Trauma in the Trenches
- Complaints, Lawsuits, and Other High Conflict Hazards
- Resist-Refuse and Domestic Violence Allegations
- Advances Issues in Mediating Parenting Plans
- Domestic Abuse, LGBTQ Victims, and the Internet
- Parental Alienation in the United States Courts
- Navigating the Opioid Crisis
- Conflict, Politics, and Families
- Interviewing and Assessing Children

Diamond Sponsors: OurFamilyWizard.com Soberlink



Register online at www.afccnet.org