

13th Symposium on Child Custody



Denver, Colorado
Embassy Suites By Hilton
November 8-10, 2018

ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONCILIATION COURTS

13th Symposium on Child Custody Guidelines and Standards and Rules, Oh My! November 8-10, 2018

Guidelines and Standards and Rules, Oh My!

Family law involves an interdisciplinary community of professionals that must adhere to a variety of guidelines, standards and rules which, at times, may not align with one another. The AFCC 13th Symposium on Child Custody will examine the challenges professionals face when confronted by conflicting professional guidance. In particular, AFCC will host a Town Hall Meeting to examine and encourage input on the AFCC Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluation. The Symposium will offer a range of pre-symposium institutes, workshops, and plenary sessions addressing practice skills, professional issues, standards and guidelines, and theoretical applications. It is designed for custody evaluators, judges, lawyers, mediators, parenting coordinators, and any professional who works with separating and divorcing families.

Over 40 outstanding sessions

- Guidelines and Standards and Rules, Oh My! Implications for Parenting, Policy, and Practice
- Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluation: Town Hall Meeting
- The New Uniform Nonparent Custody and Visitation Act
- Treating Parent-Child Contact Problems
- Parenting Plans that Limit Toxic Stress
- Restorative Justice in Family Courts
- Social Media and Custody
- And many, more!

Earn up to 17.5 hours of continuing education credit!

This symposium will provide up to 17.5 hours of continuing education for psychologists, mental health professionals, lawyers, mediators, counselors, social workers, and others. Applications for accreditation of continuing legal education will be submitted to Colorado, Texas, Kansas, Missouri, and Utah. See page 2 for details.

About the Symposium

AFCC strives to offer a wide range of symposium 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 symposium is to enhance learning while encouraging respectful inquiry, discussion, and debate consistent with AFCC organizational values. AFCC does not necessarily endorse or support the views of the symposium presenters.

Denver and the Embassy Suites by Hilton Denver Downtown Hotel

Within walking distance to Denver's light rail system, the Embassy Suites by Hilton Denver is the perfect place to explore all that downtown Denver has to offer. Take a walk to Larimer Square or 16th Street Mall while browsing unique shops and restaurants. Daily breakfast buffet, nightly cocktail reception, fitness center, indoor pool, and wireless internet are included in the \$179 room rate. The Embassy Suites is located 28 miles from the Denver International Airport (DEN).

Join AFCC Today and Save!

AFCC is the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts—an interdisciplinary and international association of professionals dedicated to improving the lives of children and families through the resolution of family conflict. AFCC brings together members of multiple disciplines to create a better understanding of different perspectives. Members value education, research, innovation, and identifying the best practices to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and families.

Join AFCC when you register for the symposium and save \$10 on your first year's membership and up to \$105 on your registration.

Select "New Membership Special" when completing the registration form.

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.
- **Online member directory** of over 5,000 colleagues worldwide.
- **AFCC eNEWS**, the monthly electronic newsletter includes the latest developments in the field, updates, interviews, and more!
- **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.
- **Substantial member discounts** on registration for AFCC conferences and trainings, AFCC webinars, exhibits and advertising.
- **Complete access to new AFCC Webinar archives** where you can watch webinars on topics such as intimate partner violence, relocation cases, parenting coordination, visitation resistance, and more.
- **Professional liability insurance** through Complete Equity Markets, Inc. for arbitrators, hearing officers, mediators, parent coordinators, and parent educators.

www.afccnet.org

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AFCC

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SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

AFCC 13th Symposium on Child Custody

Wednesday, November 7, 2018

6:00pm-8:00pm Registration

Thursday, November 8, 2018

7:30am-5:15pm Registration
7:30am-5:15pm Exhibit Forum
7:45am-8:45am Coffee and Rolls for Institute Registrants
8:45am-4:45pm Pre-Symposium Institutes
10:15am-10:30am Break
12:00pm-1:30pm Lunch on your own
12:00pm-4:30pm Board of Directors Meeting
3:15pm-3:30pm Break
5:15pm-6:30pm Opening Session
6:30pm-7:30pm Welcome Reception
9:00pm-12:00am AFCC Hospitality Suite

Friday, November 9, 2018

6:30am-7:15am Yoga
7:30am-5:00pm Registration
7:30am-5:00pm Exhibit Forum
7:30am-8:30am Coffee and Rolls
8:30am-10:00am General Session
10:00am-10:30am Break
10:30am-12:00pm Workshops 1-7
12:00pm-1:30pm Luncheon
1:30pm-3:00pm Workshops 8-14
3:00pm-3:30pm Break
3:30pm-5:00pm Workshops 15-20
5:00pm-6:30pm AFCC Colorado Chapter Silent Auction and Reception
Evening Taste of Denver
9:00pm-12:00am AFCC Hospitality Suite

Saturday, November 10, 2018

6:30am-7:15am Yoga
7:30am-3:00pm Registration
7:30am-3:00pm Exhibit Forum
7:30am-8:30am Coffee and Rolls
8:30am-10:00am Workshops 21-26
10:00am-10:30am Break
10:30am-12:00pm Workshops 27-32
12:00pm-1:30pm Lunch on your own
1:30pm-3:00pm Workshops 33-38

13th Symposium on Child Custody

PRE-SYMPOSIUM INSTITUTES

(Separate registration required. Please see registration information on page 8.)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2018

8:45am-4:45pm

1. Treating Parent-Child Contact Problems: In Search of Practice Guidelines

There has been much attention and a proliferation in clinical writing regarding therapeutic interventions for families with parent-child contact problems post-separation. Currently, multiple treatment approaches and schools of thought exist on how to treat this subgroup of families. Despite noteworthy advancements in the field, no practice guidelines are available for mental health professionals offering these services. This institute will summarize and integrate empirical research and clinical expertise to provide preliminary best practice guidelines when working with these families.

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

Shely Polak, PhD, Richmond Hill, ON, Canada

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

2. Child Custody Evaluations in Cases Involving Intimate Partner Violence

All intimate partner violence is not the same, therefore custody evaluators must be particularly aware of how they might address the issue of parenting plans when violence is alleged. This institute will provide custody evaluators with an in-depth examination of the SAFeR approach to parenting arrangements. This helps practitioners simultaneously promote the safety and wellbeing of children and their battered parents while respecting the rights and interests of parents who are accused of intimate partner violence, and/or unjustifiably estranged from their children. This institute will examine the four-pronged SAFeR approach: (1) Screening for IPV; (2) Assessing the nature and context; (3) Focusing on the effects; and (4) Responding to the experience. *Sponsored by the National Council on Juvenile and Family Court Judges.*

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

Arnold T. Shienbold, PhD, Riegler Shienbold and Associates, Harrisburg, PA

Hon. Anne Hirsch, Olympia, WA

3. Interviewing Children

This two-part institute will focus on forensic, developmental, and trauma-sensitive interviewing. Part I, Forensic Interviews of Children and Adolescents, will address how to phrase questions to avoid ambiguity and suggestion, and how to avoid questions that may lead to inaccurate information. Part II, Developmental and Trauma-Sensitive Interviewing, will examine how trauma interferes with normal child development, and provide theoretical and practical tips, including recent research and live demonstrations on how to interview children who are stuck in trauma responses and have shut down.

Benjamin J. Albritton, PsyD, ABPP, Dallas, TX

Mary Madison Eagle, PhD, Dallas, TX

Rebecca M. Stahl, JD, LLM, Monterey Park, CA

Christina Moran, PsyD, San Diego, CA

4. Providing Effective Testimony in Litigated Child Custody Disputes

This institute will provide guidance regarding offering effective testimony in litigated child custody disputes. Information and perspectives will be provided primarily for testifying evaluators, but portions of the program will also address testimony by treatment providers, reviewers, and providers of didactic testimony.

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

Jeffrey P. Wittmann, PhD, Albany, NY

Lawrence Jay Braunstein, JD, Braunstein & Zuckerman, White Plains, NY

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 symposium concludes. *The certificate will verify attendance at symposium 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 symposium 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 17.5 hours of continuing education for psychologists. All sessions are eligible except for Workshop 16.

Mental Health Professionals: An application for continuing education approval from the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) will be submitted for up to 17.5 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 symposium sessions are eligible for continuing education units through the Association for Conflict Resolution.

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.

Lawyers: Approval of CLE credit will be submitted to the State Bars of Colorado, Texas, Kansas, Missouri, and Utah. The State Bar of Arizona does not approve or accredit CLE activities for the MCLE requirement. This activity may qualify for up to 17.5 hours toward your annual CLE requirement for the State Bar of Arizona. Attorneys from other jurisdictions may use the AFCC Certificate of Attendance to verify attendance and apply for credit.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2018

7:30am–5:15pm	Registration
7:30am–5:15pm	Exhibit Forum
7:45am–8:45am	Coffee and Rolls for Institute Registrants
8:45am–4:45pm	Pre-Symposium Institutes
10:15am–10:30am	Break
12:00pm–1:30pm	Lunch on your own
12:00pm–4:30pm	Board of Directors Meeting
3:15pm–3:30pm	Break
5:15pm–6:30pm	Opening Session

Guidelines and Standards and Rules, Oh My! Implications for Parenting, Policy and Practice

There are numerous overlapping written and unwritten guidelines, standards, and codes of conduct that are relevant to the multi-disciplinary professionals involved in disputes over parenting time, policy matters, and parenting after separation, and divorce. Unfortunately, they do not always align. Are there unintended consequences of guidelines and standards that create challenges for professionals? What happens when professional standards conflict with cultural or professional norms? How should professionals decide between existing obligations, e.g., confidentiality versus transparency? This panel will explore the challenges of effective practice, policy, and parenting when the rules of the game collide.

Annette T. Burns, JD, Phoenix, AZ

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

Kathleen McNamara, PhD, Fort Collins, CO

Hon. Herman Walker, Anchorage, AK

Moderator: Stacey E. Platt, JD, Loyola Univ. Chicago School of Law, Chicago, IL

6:30pm–7:30pm	Welcome Reception
9:00pm–12:00am	AFCC Hospitality Suite

Save the Date!

AFCC 56th Annual Conference The Future of Family Justice: International Innovations

May 29-June 1, 2019
Westin Harbour Castle
Toronto, ON, Canada

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2018

6:30am–7:15am	Yoga
7:30am–5:00pm	Registration
7:30am–5:00pm	Exhibit Forum
7:30am–8:30am	Coffee and Rolls
8:30am–10:00am	General Session

Town Hall Meeting: AFCC Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluation

AFCC is conducting a review of its 2006 Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluation. This session will explore the feedback received thus far, offer conference participants an opportunity to ask questions of the resource panel, and offer reactions of their own. Bring your questions and ideas to this interactive plenary session.

Moderator: Jeffrey P. Wittmann, PhD, Albany, NY

Resource Panel:

Magistrate Serpil Ergun, Cleveland, OH

Fran Fontana, JD, Fontana & Associates, PC, Littleton, CO

S. Margaret Lee, PhD, Mill Valley, CA

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

Aaron Robb, PhD, Forensic Counseling Services, Frisco, TX

10:00am–10:30am Break

10:30am–12:00pm Workshops 1-7

1. Multi-Directional and Intergenerational Effects of Gatekeeping

Families do not age out of conflict. Those in caregiving roles, parents or adult family members, can provide or deny access to information, time, and interaction with our most vulnerable family members. This workshop will explain the concept of gatekeeping as it applies to the youngest and the eldest in the family, address the similarities and differences pertaining to gatekeeping of children and elders, and detail effects of gatekeeping across generations of the family.

Linda Fieldstone, MEd, Miami, FL

Leslie M. Drozd, PhD, Newport Beach, CA

2. Navigating Substance Abuse Allegations in Child Custody Cases

Substance abuse allegations require addressing the credibility of the accuser(s) and determining if a substance use disorder is present through evaluative procedures and methods, as well as utilizing drug testing and monitoring technologies. The presenters shall proffer initial screening questions and basic guidelines for determining whether a substance use evaluation is comprehensive and complete in terms of gathering and assessing multisource data, with the goal of addressing recommendations/relapse prevention plans and accountability tools to help child custody professionals navigate the complex world of substance abuse.

Armand D. Lebovits, MSW, CAC III, Denver, CO

Colleen Moore, MA, Roseville, CA

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3. Relocation Cases – Judging the Impossible

Relocation cases rank among the most difficult matters facing family court professionals. The stakes are high for both parents and there is rarely a result that satisfies everyone. This session, presented by two retired judges, will help judges to recognize the dilemmas, attorneys to sharpen their legal and strategic skills, and mental health professionals to understand the nuanced evidence and concerns that inform judges so that they shape their analysis to assist the court in fashioning relief.

Hon. Anne C. Dranginis (Ret.), Bridgeport, CT

Hon. Lynda B. Munro (Ret.), Bridgeport, CT

4. Guidelines, Research, and Daubert: How They Work Together and When They Differ

This workshop addresses the interplay among standards and guidelines, research, and the Daubert trilogy. Unfortunately, they do not always send the same message. These issues will be discussed with a focus on the recently completed third replication of Keilin and Bloom (1986). Participants will learn how to use this information to address the conflicting issues.

Marc J. Ackerman, PhD, Wisconsin School of Professional Psychology, Milwaukee, WI

Arnold T. Shienvold, PhD, Reigler Shienvold and Associates, Harrisburg, PA

Nicole Mathy, MS, Milwaukee, WI

5. Social Media and Custody: Leveraging Modern Technology in Custody Cases

The use of social media and internet-based communication provides both benefits and burdens for families, children, and the family law system. This panel will explore the implications of social media and internet-based communication during the evaluation phase of the family law process in high conflict matters, as well as the legal issues related to presentation and admissibility of electronic and computer-generated evidence and impact on enforcement and compliance with custody order.

Cari M. Pines, CFLS, Encino, CA

Robert A. Simon, PhD, San Diego, CA

Hon. B. Scott Silverman, Los Angeles Superior Court, Los Angeles, CA

Matthew Havrevold, BA, OurFamilyWizard.com, Minneapolis, MN

6. The Effective Use of Collaterals in Child Custody Evaluations

The gathering of collateral information is an integral part of forensic evaluations, yet how this information is gathered, and what is considered “acceptable data” varies substantially across clinicians. This workshop will focus on how to make the most of collateral information gathered during a forensic evaluation and the steps to be taken to increase the reliability of the obtained data.

Alberto A. Yohananoff, PhD, New York, NY

Martin E. Friedlander, JD, New York, NY

Evan Schein, JD, New York, NY

7. Obtaining Children’s Input on Parenting Plans through Mediation

Once parents have decided to provide their children with an opportunity for input on a parenting plan, the next question is what is the best format for seeking that input. This presentation will use a case study approach to examine how to do so through mediation. It will address such questions as to what age is it appropriate to seek children’s input, confidentiality, and how best to provide feedback to parents while providing protection for children during and after the process.

Arnie Swartz, MSSA, Lakewood, CO

12:00pm–1:30pm

Luncheon

1:30pm–3:00pm

Workshops 8-14

8. Parenting Plans that Limit Toxic Stress

Toxic stress is the strong, frequent, or prolonged activation of the physiological stress response systems. Parenting plans should buffer the negative impact of toxic stress by promoting safe environments, balancing structure and support, and optimizing children’s feeling of safety within parenting plan arrangements. This workshop will highlight the empirical evidence related to toxic stress and present a trauma-informed decision tree for developing parenting plans that limit and/or buffer the impact of toxic stress.

Leslie M. Drozd, PhD, Newport Beach, CA

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

9. Interviewing and Assessing Children in Family Law Matters: Using the Literature

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

S. Margaret Lee, PhD, Mill Valley, CA

Ginger Calloway, PhD, Raleigh, NC

10. Reducing the Impact of Conflict: Effective Parenting Plans and Case Management

The manner in which divorce professionals approach a case can have a significant impact on how parental conflict plays out in the family. Some approaches can feed the fire, pushing families further into the conflict, while other strategies assist the parents in keeping the needs of the children at the forefront of the process. This workshop will explore parenting plans and case management techniques that can de-escalate conflict and raise awareness of the fallout of conflict on the children.

Alyson G. Jones, MA, West Vancouver, BC, Canada

Karen Redmond, LLB, West Vancouver, BC, Canada

11. Family Court Mediation as Child Custody Norms Evolve and Court Resources Devolve

Positive results from child custody mediation studies prompted the institutionalization of mandatory court services, which coincided with evolving social norms as presumptions of sole, maternal custody have yielded to more options and debate. Meanwhile, court programs continue to lose resources, prompting the question, how well does court mediation work today? This workshop presents findings from an in-depth study of a court mediation service. Participants will bring their experience into a discussion of when court services are beneficial and when settlement by the court is necessary.

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

Kelly Browe Olson, JD, LLM, William H. Bowen School of Law, Little Rock, AR

12. Preparing for a Daubert Challenge: Report Writing and Testimony

State courts are increasingly guided by the factors identified by the U.S. Supreme Court in its Daubert decision in examining the admissibility of scientific evidence such as forensic mental health evaluations. This workshop will address how to prepare written reports and oral testimony to be consistent with Daubert and Daubert-related requirements.

Jonathan Gould, PhD, ABPP, Charlotte, NC

Nicki Fisher, JD, Charlotte, NC

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13. What the Competent Use of Psychological Testing Can Contribute to Parenting Plan Evaluations

Psychological tests can yield important information about personality characteristics that underlie sound or ineffective parenting, which may not be evident from interview or parent-child observation alone. While the use of psychological tests in parenting plan evaluations has its critics, the fact remains that psychological testing may be the most empirically based aspect of a multi-method approach to custody evaluations. The emphasis of this workshop will be on the use of psychological tests that not only meet legal standards of admissibility, but that also have normative reference sample data on child custody litigants (i.e., MMPI-2, MMPI-2-RF, PAI, Rorschach with R-PAS). Additionally, presenters will describe the value of utilizing multi-rater child psychological tests with excellent validity and reliability, such as the BASC-3.

Daniel Pickar, PhD, ABPP, Santa Rosa, CA

Sol R. Rappaport, PhD, ABPP, Counseling Connections, Libertyville, IL

14. To Stop a Woozle: A Meta-Analysis of Shared Versus Primary Parenting

Each year numerous state legislatures face proposals for equal parenting time presumptions. These proposals often cite recent research reviews and “woozle” or misrepresent the research on shared parenting as support for their cause. A comprehensive analysis of empirical studies on the characteristics of children in shared versus primary parenting families will be presented along with examples of common “woozling” techniques that best interest of the child proponents must identify and rebut.

Milfred (Bud) Dale, PhD, JD, Topeka, KS

Stephanie Gusler, MA, Lawrence, KS

Austen McGuire, BA, Lawrence, KS

3:00pm-3:30pm **Break**

3:30pm-5:00pm **Workshops 15-20**

15. Restructuring Families without War: A Radical Approach to Parenting Plans

Divorce creates radical discontinuity, causing enormous stress and change, which can allow children to fall through the cracks resulting in poor long-term health outcomes. Professionals have a golden opportunity to focus on salient holding issues and to teach and model conflict resolution skills. This session brings professionals together to embrace a radical approach to parenting plan development. Trained professional teams coordinate and craft robust, functional, durable, and unambiguous parenting plans that promote developmentally appropriate residential schedules and skillful parenting across the family life-span.

Karen S. Bonnell, ARNP, MS, Kirkland, WA

Elise Buie, GAL, JD, Seattle, WA

16. The New Uniform Nonparent Custody and Visitation Act: What Lawyers, Judges, and Custody Evaluators Need to Know

This workshop will present the 2018 Uniform Nonparent Custody and Visitation Act (UNCVA), a proposed set of legal standards for nonparents who seek to maintain relationships with children over parental objection. The UNCVA establishes a framework that meets constitutional standards under *Troxel v. Granville* while keeping children's interests as the central focus. The panel will review the evolution of third-party rights since *Troxel*, demonstrate the core provisions of the UNCVA with fact scenarios, and explore the psychological implications for children, including recent attachment research.

Barbara A. Atwood, JD, Univ. of AZ Rogers College of Law, Tucson, AZ

Jeff Atkinson, JD, Admin. Office of the Illinois Courts, Wilmette, IL

Diana Vigil, MA, Scottsdale, AZ

17. Mediating Difficult Cases: Screening Tools and Strategies

Mediation can be an efficient, creative, and cost-effective alternative for divorcing parents. However, when parties present problems such as trauma, hate, high conflict, substance abuse, domestic violence, and mental health challenges, finding solutions can be difficult but not impossible. This interactive workshop will examine these issues and present innovative screening tools and strategies for resolution.

Joan McWilliams, JD, MSJA, Denver, CO

Ann Gushurst, LLB, Lone Tree, CO

18. Evidence Reboot: From Traditional Custody Evaluation to Peacemaking

This panel explores the tension between traditional litigation and peacemaking models. A Michigan family court referee, custody evaluator, and a peacemaking advocate will compare and contrast this tension. A Michigan family court judge will describe the various weight given to each approach.

Cynthia Bostwick, JD, Washtenaw County Friend of the Court, Ann Arbor, MI

Hon. Timothy P. Connors, Washtenaw County Peacemaking Court, Ann Arbor, MI

Eugenia Patru, MSW, Washtenaw County Friend of the Court, Ann Arbor, MI

Brett Shelton, JD, Native American Rights Fund, Boulder, CO

19. The Impact of Abuse and Alienation Claims on Custody Decisions: A National Study

A National Institute of Justice-funded study analyzed over 100 published opinions in custody disputes in which a parent claimed partner or child abuse and/or other parent, and/or one of the parents alleged parental alienation. Results indicate the impact on custody decisions of credited and discredited claims of abuse and alienation, the interaction between cross-claiming (e.g., abuse and alienation claims), the conditions under which claims are made (e.g., custody evaluation, mediation, and the effect of court-appointed evaluators and guardian ad litem recommendations).

Chris S. O'Sullivan, PhD, George Washington Univ. School of Law, New York, NY

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

20. Court-Mandated Small Group Classes for High Conflict Parents

There is a robust body of research detailing the negative developmental, emotional, behavioral, and academic effects of high conflict between parents and children. This workshop presents a psycho-educational program for high conflict parents consisting of 27 hours of class time (nine three-hour evening sessions), mandatory attendance of both parents together at all nine sessions taught by a gender mixed and interdisciplinary two-person team of facilitators. The presentation will include sample homework assignments, videos, and class outlines.

Hon. Christina Harms, (Ret.), William James College Child and Family Evaluation Service, Newton, MA

5:00pm-6:30pm

AFCC Colorado Chapter Silent Auction and Reception

Stop by the AFCC Colorado Chapter Silent Auction following the afternoon programs and before the dine-arounds. Bid early and bid often! Proceeds will be used to help support conference and training scholarships, and to support COAFCC statewide outreach programs. Be sure to think of those who are on your gift-giving list for the upcoming holidays!

Evening

9:00pm-12:00am

Taste of Denver

AFCC Hospitality Suite

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6:30am-7:15am	Yoga
7:30am-3:00pm	Registration
7:30am-3:00pm	Exhibit Forum
7:30am-8:30am	Coffee and Rolls
8:30am-10:00am	Workshops 21-26

21. AFCC Parenting Coordination Guidelines Task Force: Open Forum

This workshop will present the work of the AFCC Task Force on Parenting Coordination Guidelines. The Task Force is revising the original AFCC Guidelines, first published in 2005. Participants will learn about this work-in-progress and have the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions prior to a meeting of the Task Force.

Debra K. Carter, PhD, Chair, Bradenton, FL
Ann M. Ordway, JD, PhD, Reporter, Gilbert, AZ
Matthew J. Sullivan, PhD, Palo Alto, CA

22. Complaints from the Other Side: From Receiving Concerns to Expert Review

This workshop will discuss the method used by the Alberta College of Psychologists to address complaints ranging from outright rejection of the complaint to alternative dispute resolution to formal investigation. The workshop will address some of the common ethical issues that lead to disciplinary action in working with split families and methods of practice that can protect practitioners in this work. The workshop will finally discuss what takes place when an expert review of their work occurs and suggests a standard process for conducting such reviews.

Stephen P. Carter, PhD, Edmonton, AB, Canada
Troy M. Janzen, PhD, Complaints Director College of Alberta Psychologists, Edmonton, AB, Canada

23. Step-Up Parenting Plans: Creative Tools to Build Lasting Transitional Plans

This presentation will offer useful tools and tips to build step-up parenting plans across a variety of issues and economic demographics. Formal resources such as reunification specialists, counselors, and parenting time coordinators will be discussed, alongside creative tools for parents without the economic resources to pay for professional services. Safe parenting plans addressing illegal substances such as methamphetamine will be covered along with legal substances such as alcohol and, in Oregon, marijuana.

Katherine Denning, JD, Carty Boaz, PC, Salem, OR
Lauren Barnhart, JD, Landerholm Law, LLC, Portland, OR
Alyssa Little, JD, Johnson and Taylor, Salem, OR

24. The Barking Dog at Night: Rethinking Unstructured Reunification Therapy

Too often, parents of a child who refuse parenting time file a motion to restore and are ordered to find a reunification therapist without much guidance from the court. They are up at night bothered by the barking dog of an expensive, drawn out process with potentially slow progress. This workshop proposes that the court take an activist role in assessing parenting time refusal. A protocol for early court assessment is presented which allows the court to specify a timely, family specific intervention.

Bill Fyfe, EdD, Columbine Counseling Center, Lakewood, CO
Fran Fontana, JD, Fontana and Associates, Littleton, CO

25. Disseminating Custody Evaluation Findings: Alternatives to the Written Report

An extensive amount of work goes into conducting, and drafting a thorough child custody evaluation. This workshop will share several alternatives to issuing a full written report including an oral feedback session with parents and/or counsel (with or without the report), and facilitated settlement conference with an outside mediator. There will be discussion of what types of cases are appropriate for these alternative approaches.

Beth Painter Harrington, PhD, Eagan, MN
Jim Goetz, MSA, JD, Savage, MN

26. Guidelines for Addictive Behavior Evaluations in Child Custody Litigation

This workshop proposes guidelines for evaluating alleged problematic addictive behavior (substances or activities) by addressing these questions: When are evaluations typically requested? What framework for classifying problematic addictive behaviors should be used? What should the process of the evaluation be? What types of recommendations should be provided? When should treatment be required? How do we serve the best interests of the child?

Tom Horvath, PhD, Practical Recovery Psychology Group, La Jolla, CA

10:00am-10:30am Break

10:30am-12:00pm Workshops 27-32

27. Parenting Plan Challenges: Facilitating Health and Decreasing Risks

The workshop addresses case-relevant questions about ongoing controversies. What are the actual research findings about overnights for very young children? How can informed reasoning help with these case decisions? What are the facts about the impact of nonviolent marital conflict on children? How should those facts be considered in parenting plans? What therapy characteristics are likely to help children and families of divorce and which are at risk of harming them? Scientific and practical factors are highlighted in this session.

Daniel J. Hynan, PhD, ABAP, Naperville, IL

28. Empower to the People: Guidance on Mediation in the Context of Domestic Violence

Mediation can be—but is not always—an empowering opportunity for parties who have experienced domestic violence, either as victims or perpetrators. This interactive workshop explores the meaning of empowerment in the context of mediation and analyzes what it takes to address power imbalances in the face of domestic violence. It challenges mediators and other dispute resolution professionals to move beyond idealistic conceptions of empowerment and towards an understanding of empowerment that accounts for the practical realities of abuse.

Krista Del Gallo, Texas Council on Family Violence, Austin, TX
Gabrielle Davis, JD, Battered Women's Justice Project, Minneapolis, MN

29. Persuasion Skills and Techniques for Expert Witnesses

This workshop is designed for practitioners who want to explore the research related to effective forensic testimony. Presenters will focus on a number of issues related to expert perceived credibility. Topics include: (1) understanding the psychological barriers to communication; (2) research related to the expert increasing his/her credibility as well as trustworthiness; (3) how to write an effective expert report and developing an "expert's story" in the effective description of the expert's opinions and testimony.

Jane K. McNaught, PhD, Edina, MN
Kathleen Newman, Esq, Minneapolis, MN

13th Symposium on Child Custody

30. Is Ignorance of Therapy a Due Process Violation? What Professionals Need to Know

Parenting plans are often based on assessments of parents' abilities and capacity to change. Absent current knowledge of effective interventions, these conclusions may be flawed, leading to inadequate court orders and lost opportunities for parents and children. The failure of services to "work" may then be advanced as a basis for court decisions regarding parenting time. This presentation will discuss evidence-informed early intervention, realistic goals, assessing prior services, critical errors to avoid, and the essential role of attorneys and judicial officers.

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

Kathleen McNamara, PhD, PLLC, Fort Collins, CO

Ann Gushurst, LLB, Lone Tree, CO

31. 2 Tweet or Not 2 Tweet? Social Media and Custody Disputes

Now that national policy seems to come in 280 or fewer characters, the influence of social media has never been greater. As with many technological advancements, the law is still catching up. This workshop will look at cases dealing with social media in the custody context and work towards dividing the consistent factors of which professionals should be aware. Recommendations as to how the elephant of social media may be better addressed in this context will be provided.

Jonathan J. Fogel, JD, Minneapolis, MN

Carlo E. Faccini, JD, Minneapolis, MN

32. Settlement-Based Recommendations: Risks and Benefits

It is a common complaint from litigants, attorneys, and judges that custody evaluations and reports are too lengthy, detailed, costly, and take an inordinate amount of time to complete. It has also been opined that these reports exacerbate conflict, lead to further litigation, and polarize future co-parenting. These reports also contain sensitive information, often misused by angry litigants. This workshop presents an alternative to the lengthy report that promotes resolution without compromising the evaluation process, recommendations, or future litigation.

Sharon Ryan Montgomery, PsyD, Morristown, NJ

Marcy A. Pasternak, PhD, Watchung, NJ

12:00pm–1:30 pm Lunch on your own

1:30pm–3:00pm Workshops 33-38

33. Is Justice Truly Blind? The Impact of Bias on Child Custody Cases

When it comes to the best interests of children, is impartiality possible? In this introductory workshop, the presenters will identify types of bias, discuss why bias hurts the custody decision-making process and families, discuss how the process and law invites bias into the decision-making process, and provide practical guidance and tools for confronting and protecting against biased evidence and decisions. Presenters will address bias from the perspectives of a mental health professional and forensic evaluator, attorney, and the judiciary.

Syretta R. James, PhD, ABPP, Bel Air, MD

Magistrate Joanie Raymond, Circuit Court for Frederick County, Frederick, MD

P. Lindsay Parvis, JD, Rockville, MD

34. Helping Therapists Capitalize on a Custody Evaluation

After the custody evaluation is completed, the evaluator is in the best position to help subsequent services begin in a constructive manner. All too often, reports from custody evaluations include therapeutic recommendations but lack substantial direction from the evaluator. This session will provide a framework for which evaluators can share their knowledge by identifying why a therapeutic recommendation was made, what relationship and behavioral issues are to be addressed by an intervention, and how an intervention might be carried out.

Shawn McCall, PsyD, San Francisco, CA

Ellen Mauldin, MFT, Campbell, CA

35. Safe, Appropriate, and Workable Parenting Plans

This session will focus on safe and appropriate parenting plans when domestic violence is present in a parenting case or civil protection order. Presenters will discuss Ohio's model as it answers the following questions: How do the dangerousness factors impact the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities? How do domestic violence acts relate to the statutory best interest factors? How does the presence of domestic violence impact meaningful allocation of parental rights and responsibilities and enforcement of parenting time arrangements?

Monica Christofferson, JD, Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court, Cleveland, OH

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

36. Training Custody Evaluators: A Systemic Approach

Although there are many workshops and seminars focusing on elements of conducting custody evaluations, very little addresses organizing and presenting custody evaluation training. This session offers a systematic approach to custody evaluator training. It is based on the AFCC Model Standards of Practice and is consistent with APA Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Practice. It is also based on years of experience in conducting and teaching custody evaluations by the presenters. The sequence and logic of a custody evaluation training will be discussed, and the methods for teaching will be delineated.

Karen Irvin, PhD, Minnesota Mediation and Counseling Center, St. Paul, MN

Jennifer Joseph, JD, St. Paul, MN

37. Restorative Justice in Family Courts

Martin Luther King, Jr. stated, "If we do an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, we will be a blind and toothless nation." High conflict in families create enormous challenges to children and can have generational impact on our communities. Family courts have limited options to manage disputes. Peace circles present long lasting conflict resolution rooted in ancient traditions. This interactive workshop will introduce peacemaking principles and tools through personal interaction and other media.

Hon. Elizabeth Rochford, Circuit Court of Lake County, Waukegan, IL

Amy Gertler, MA, JD, Mediate North Shore, PC, Northbrook, IL

Hon. Nancy Waites (Ret.), Mediate North Shore, PC, Northbrook, IL

38. The Integrative Divorce

Family law practitioners currently make decisions for children in divorce based on a well-meaning but artificial segregation and hierarchy of children's post-divorce needs. This workshop will present the Integrative Divorce: an innovative approach that treats children's post-divorce needs not as a list of disconnected needs but as puzzle pieces that, once integrated, reflect the wholeness of children's post-divorce lives including their physical, mental, emotional, and social lives.

Marlene Shiner, JD, Shiner Law Partners, LLP, Boston, MA

Jeffrey A. Soileau, JD, Shiner Law Partners, LLP, Boston, MA

Of Special Note

Scholarships

A limited number of scholarships are available. Scholarships include pre-symposium institute registration, symposium registration, welcome reception, Friday's luncheon, access to the hospitality suite, and a certificate of attendance. Recipients are responsible for all other expenses including travel and lodging. The scholarship application is available on the AFCC website: www.afccnet.org. **The application deadline is September 7, 2018. Recipients will be notified mid-September.** If you have any questions, please contact AFCC Program Coordinator, Corinne Bennett at cbennett@afccnet.org.

AFCC Hospitality Suite

The AFCC hospitality suite will be open for informal networking and refreshment on Thursday and Friday from 9:00pm–12:00am. Please wear your name badge. The hospitality suite location will be included in attendee emails and onsite room assignment information.

Taste of Denver

Friday evening is your opportunity to enjoy the area with friends and colleagues. Sign up before 1:00pm on Friday to join a group of 8–12 for dinner at a local restaurant. Restaurant menus and sign-up sheets will be available onsite Friday morning. Participants are responsible for food, beverage, and any transportation costs.

Session or Presenter Changes

AFCC reserves the right to cancel or substitute any presenter or session should circumstances arise beyond our control.

Audio/Video Recording

No personal audio/video recording of sessions is permitted.

Attendee List

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

Registration Information

New Membership Special: Join AFCC when you register for the symposium and receive a one-year membership for \$150—a \$10 discount—and save up to \$105 by registering at the AFCC membership rate! To join, select the new membership special on the registration form. *The new membership special rate is available only to first-time AFCC members.*

Pre-Symposium Institute Registration: Includes attendance at a pre-symposium institute, refreshment breaks, and printed institute materials. *Institute registration is a separate fee from registration for the full symposium.*

Symposium Registration: Includes all symposium sessions, electronic symposium materials, refreshment breaks, welcome reception, Friday's luncheon, and access to the AFCC hospitality suite.

Symposium Presenter Registration: Available only to symposium presenters that are published in the program brochure. Includes all symposium sessions, electronic symposium materials, refreshment breaks, welcome reception, Friday's luncheon, and access to the AFCC hospitality suite. *A separate registration fee is required for pre-symposium institutes.*

Full-Time Student Registration: Includes all symposium sessions and electronic access to symposium materials. Meal functions are not included; however, Friday's luncheon tickets may be purchased separately. Registration must include proof of full-time student status. *Separate registration is required for pre-symposium institutes.*

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

Travel and Lodging Information

Hotel Information

Embassy Suites by Hilton Denver Downtown Hotel
1420 Stout Street
Denver, CO 80202
303-592-1000

Make your reservations today! The Embassy Suites by Hilton Denver Downtown Hotel is offering a special rate to AFCC attendees of \$179/night for single or double occupancy. On October 17, 2018, 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, so ***we encourage you to make your reservation early!*** Make your reservation by calling 1-800-445-8667 and request the AFCC special rate or reserve online by visiting www.afccnet.org and clicking the reservations link. All symposium attendees are responsible for making their own hotel arrangements.

Air Travel Information

The Denver International Airport (DEN) is located approximately 28 miles from the Embassy Suites Denver Downtown Hotel. International and major airline carriers provide service to the Denver International Airport. For more information, visit www.flydenver.com.

Ground Transportation

A taxi from the Denver International Airport to the Embassy Suites Downtown Denver Hotel is approximately \$56 and takes 45 minutes, depending on traffic. Taxis are available outside of baggage claim. Lyft and Uber are also available. Train service is also available. Take the A Line from the airport to Union Station. The cost is \$9 each way and it takes about 35 minutes. It is less than a mile from Union Station to the Embassy Suites (take a taxi, Uber, Lyft, or the free MallRide tram which drops you off 2 blocks from the hotel). Denver SuperShuttle provides transportation to and from the airport. The cost is approximately \$28 one way to the Embassy Suites when booked online or at the airport. For more information, visit www.supershuttle.com.

Parking

Valet parking rates at the Embassy Suites Denver Downtown Hotel are currently \$44 per night with in/out privileges.

Climate

Temperatures in early November range from a high of 57°F to a low of 37°F. Meeting rooms and hotel facilities can be cool, so bring a light jacket or sweater.

AFCC Webinar Series

Upcoming webinar topics include:
**International child abduction mediation,
online dispute resolution, unbundling
legal services, and more!**

Held monthly from 1:00pm–2:00pm Eastern Time USA
\$15 for members, \$50 for non-members
Register online at www.afccnet.org

Registration Form

AFCC 13th Symposium on Child Custody • November 8-10, 2018

Embassy Suites by Hilton Denver Downtown Hotel • Denver, Colorado

If you register by October 8, 2018 your name will be included in the attendee list on the symposium app.

Register online at www.afcnet.org

Please type or print clearly. This form may be duplicated.

First Name (Dr./Mr./Ms./Judge) _____ M.I. _____ Last Name _____ Degree _____

First Name or Nickname (as you would like it to appear on your name badge) _____

Title/Profession _____ Organization _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Country _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Is this your first AFCC Symposium? ☐ Yes ☐ No Do you have any dietary restrictions or other special accommodations? ☐ Meals ☐ Access ☐ Other

Please provide details: _____

Please circle appropriate amount(s)
below and total at the bottom

**Paid by
Oct. 8** **Paid After
Oct. 8**

New Membership Special

*Join AFCC for 12 months and register at
AFCC member rates! For first-time members only*

\$150 \$150

Pre-Symposium Institutes Registration Rates

Full Day Institute - AFCC Member \$150 \$170

Full Day Institute - Non-member \$180 \$210

Symposium Registration Rates

Symposium Registration - AFCC Member \$325 \$350

Symposium Registration - Non-member \$395 \$440

Symposium Presenter - AFCC Member \$225 \$245

Symposium Presenter - Non-member \$255 \$285

Full-Time Student - AFCC Member \$135 \$160

(ID required. No meals included.)

Full-time Student, AFCC Non-member \$160 \$185

(ID required. No meals included.)

Certificate of Attendance - AFCC Member \$15 \$15

Certificate of Attendance - Non-member \$20 \$20

TOTAL: \$ _____ \$ _____

Pre-Symposium Institute Selections *(separate registration required)*

Thursday, November 8, 2018, 8:45am-4:45pm

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

- ☐ 1. Treating Parent-Child Contact Problems: In Search of Practice Guidelines
☐ 2. Child Custody Evaluations in Cases Involving Intimate Partner Violence
☐ 3. Interviewing Children
☐ 4. Providing Effective Testimony in Litigated Child Custody Disputes

Symposium Workshop Selections *(Please write in one workshop number per time slot)*

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

Friday, November 9	10:30am-12:00pm	Workshop 1-7	_____
Friday, November 9	1:30pm-3:00pm	Workshop 8-14	_____
Friday, November 9	3:30pm-5:00pm	Workshop 15-20	_____
Saturday, November 10	8:30am-10:00am	Workshop 21-26	_____
Saturday, November 10	10:30am-12:00pm	Workshop 27-32	_____
Saturday, November 10	1:30pm-3:00pm	Workshop 33-38	_____

Method of Payment

Registrations must be paid in full prior to attendance.

☐ Payment of \$ _____ is enclosed (US currency only please.)

☐ Please charge \$ _____ to my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard
☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Credit card transactions will be processed in US dollars; exchange rate on day of transaction will apply.

Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____ / _____ Security Code _____ Postal Code _____

Name on Card _____

Card Holder's Signature _____

**You may register online at www.afcnet.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@afcnet.org

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 October 8, 2018, will be issued a full refund minus a \$75 service fee. Written notice received by October 24, 2018, will have the \$75 service fee deducted and balance issued as a credit for future AFCC conferences, programs or membership dues. **No refunds or credits will be issued for cancellations received after October 24, 2018.**

AFCC

6525 Grand Teton Plaza
Madison, WI 53719

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