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**AFCC 59th Annual Conference**  
*Chicago, Illinois*  
May 11-14, 2022

## AFCC 59th Annual Conference

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

May 11-14, 2022

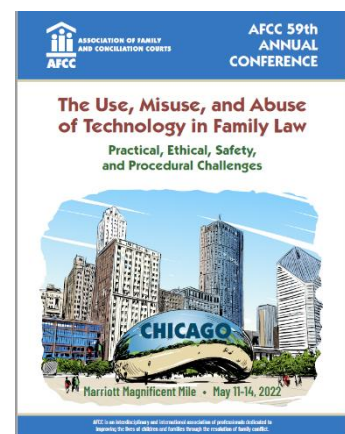
*Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile*

### The AFCC 59th Annual Conference Portal Is Live!

The conference portal is your source for information about the AFCC 59th Annual Conference!

- [Register for the conference online](#)
- [View the full conference schedule](#)
- [Read the conference program brochure](#)
- [Browse sessions for each day of the conference](#)
- [Review continuing education information](#)
- [Read about AFCC conference sponsors and exhibitors](#)

Need more information? Contact us at [afcc@afccnet.org](mailto:afcc@afccnet.org) or 608-664-3750.



Thank you to our annual conference sponsors!

**Diamond Sponsors**

## AFCC Banquet, Entertainment, and Live Auction

Join us for dinner and a show! After the conference sessions on Friday, May 13th, a lively evening awaits you. Enjoy the company of your AFCC colleagues at the banquet, where attendees will share laughs, courtesy of Greg Schwem. Greg will also conduct a live auction of a few very special items, including vacation condos in Maui and Kauai! Want a preview? [Watch the comedy stylings of Greg Schwem](#) now!

## Reserve Your Hotel Room Now!

Make your hotel reservation today for the best availability. The Marriott Chicago Downtown Magnificent Mile is offering a special rate to AFCC attendees of \$229 per night for single/double occupancy. **We encourage you to make your reservation early because rooms frequently sell out before the room block is released.** [Reserve online](#) or call 1-877-303-0104 and request the AFCC special rate.

## Conference Registration

Register now for the AFCC 59th Annual Conference! Choose the best method of registration for you:

- [Register online](#)
- **Email your registration form to [afcc@afccnet.org](mailto:afcc@afccnet.org)**
- **Call the AFCC office** to complete your registration over the phone (608-664-3750)
- **Mail your registration form and payment** to 6525 Grand Teton Plaza, Madison, WI 53719
- **Fax your registration form** to 608-664-3751

**AFCC is waiving all cancellation fees for the conference due to any health and safety-related issues.\*** We hope this makes your decision to register for the conference easier in these uncertain times.

[Register Now!](#)

\*Simply provide notice in writing to AFCC at [afcc@afccnet.org](mailto:afcc@afccnet.org) by Monday, May 9, 2022.

## Exhibit with AFCC!

Sign up now to exhibit at the AFCC 59th Annual Conference. Fewer than 10 spots remain -- don't miss your chance!

**Promote your business to hundreds of AFCC conference attendees!** [Read the prospectus](#) and contact [Gina Wentling](#) to sign up.

## Conversation Corner: Tom Altobelli



Platinum Sponsors



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[15th Symposium on Child Custody](#)

## A Column Throwback to the AFCC Newsletter of the 90's

After 25 years in legal practice, **Dr. Tom Altobelli** was appointed as a Federal Magistrate in 2006. When the Federal Circuit Court was established, he became a Judge of that Court and then in 2020 was elevated to the Family Court of Australia. Before his appointment, Justice Altobelli was accredited as a specialist in the areas of Family Law, Children's Law and Mediation. He was also a member of the Executive of the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia. He has authored four books on family law and dispute resolution, as well as 50 articles in Australian and international journals. Justice Altobelli is the Case Management Judge for three registries of the Court in his state and has served on the AFCC Board of Directors since 2018.



**AFCC:** How did you get involved in the practice of family law?

**Tom Altobelli:** After law school, in the early 1980s, I started out as an in-house lawyer for a bank, and after three years decided that I just wasn't me. I moved to a country general practice firm and simply fell in love with family law so as the years went by, that is where I focused. [Read more.](#)

ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONCILIATION COURTS  
AFCC

AFCC 15TH SYMPOSIUM ON CHILD CUSTODY  
From a Full House to Parenting Apart

WELCOME TO LAS VEGAS  
THE CITY OF SIN

LAS VEGAS  
November 10-12, 2022  
Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

When a full house becomes parenting apart, changes in the family can become all consuming. While most families can successfully navigate these changes, some struggle due to a variety of issues, including substance misuse, parental alienation, behavior, intense parent conflict, and other challenges. How can family court professionals help when children are stuck in a bad house? Is a successful future on the cards for high-conflict families? Join AFCC in Las Vegas as we explore the challenge of parenting apart.

AFCC is accepting proposals for 90-minute workshops. All proposals must be submitted using the online form by April 25, 2022. See resource site for submission instructions. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Child dispute resolution
- Parenting coordination
- Psychological testing
- Addressing Childhood Experiences
- Culture and parenting time
- Services for self-regulated parents
- Interventions for parent or sibling cases
- Childling resilience
- Court-mediated therapy
- Case alternative evaluation
- Effective videoconferencing techniques
- Mediation for nonparental parents
- Conducting virtual evaluations
- Hybrid dispute resolution processes
- Uses of the 3d in high-conflict cases
- Prevention programs for divorcing parents

*Call for Proposals*  
Submissions are due April 25, 2022.

### AFCC Chapter Conferences

#### Louisiana Chapter Annual Conference

March 18, 2022  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

#### Colorado Chapter Webinar

March 29, 2022  
Being held virtually

#### Massachusetts Chapter Webinar

April 8, 2022  
Being held virtually

#### Colorado Chapter Spring Conference

April 8, 2022  
Being held virtually

## AFCC is Accepting Proposals for the AFCC 15th Symposium on Child Custody!

Submit your proposal for a 90-minute workshop to be presented at the AFCC 15th Symposium on Child Custody!

### AFCC 15th Symposium on Child Custody

*From a Full House to Parenting Apart*  
November 10-12, 2022

## Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino

AFCC strongly encourages including presenters representing diverse perspectives. University faculty members are encouraged to involve students as co-presenters.

Please read the [Call for Proposals](#) for full details and submit your proposal using the [online form](#). The deadline to submit is **April 25, 2022**.

## Ask the Experts: 5 Ways Microaggressions Cause Harm & 5 Ways to Fight Back

*Lindsey Sank Davis, PhD*

*Microaggressions* are defined as “brief and commonplace daily verbal, behavioral, and environmental indignities, whether intentional or unintentional, that communicate hostile, derogatory, negative racial [or ethnic, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, anti-Semitic, etc.] slights and insults to the target person or group” (Sue et al., 2007, p. 273).

Microaggressions subtly reinforce existing societal disparities in power and privilege. A verbal microaggression might be an insult or a joke about a particular marginalized identity. Behavioral microaggressions include non-verbal communications, like ignoring members of a particular marginalized group or creating physical space from them. Environmental microaggressions include exclusionary legal policies, lack of representation in visible roles in government and media, and forms or procedures that are not inclusive of certain identities. Though microaggressions may vary widely in both content and form, they tend to express one or more of three overarching themes: devaluation, invalidation, or exclusion/rejection. [Read more](#).

## Nominate a Colleague for an AFCC Award!

AFCC acknowledges the accomplishments of leaders in family law by presenting awards annually at the AFCC Annual Conference. Read below to learn about the awards. Nominate a colleague to recognize their contributions to the field!

**John E. VanDuzer Distinguished Service Award** recognizes outstanding contributions and/or achievements by AFCC members. [Submit a nomination!](#)

**Stanley Cohen Distinguished Research Award**, sponsored by the Oregon Family Institute, recognizes outstanding research and/or research achievements in the field of family and divorce. [Submit a nomination!](#)

**Irwin Cantor Innovative Program Award** recognizes innovation in court-connected or court-related programs created by AFCC members. [Submit a nomination!](#)

Awards will be presented at the AFCC 59th Annual Conference in Chicago at the AFCC Luncheon on Thursday, May 12, 2022. Nominations will be accepted online through **March 21, 2022**. Submit yours today!



## AFCC Webinar Corner

**DE&I Clients and "-Isms": Recognizing and Addressing Discriminatory Behavior**

Chioma Ajoku, JD, PhD, ABPP; Kelly Browe Olson, JD; Jacqueline Font-Guzmán, PhD; and Hon. Linda Fidnick

April 7, 2022 | 4:00-6:00pm Eastern Time US/Canada

Registration closes on April 6, 2022 at 9:00am Eastern Time US/Canada.

[Register now!](#)

*This program will include one hour of panel discussion, followed by one hour of discussion by all participants. The program is free to attend and includes a certificate of attendance, but **you must register.***

### What Do Judges Want?

Hon. Dianna Gould-Saltman and Hon. Herman Walker, Jr.

April 12, 2022 | 1:00-2:00pm Eastern Time US/Canada

Registration closes on April 11, 2022, at 9:00am Eastern Time US/Canada.

Apart from statutory requirements, what do judges REALLY want when they decide child custody cases? What is helpful and NOT helpful to the Court? Two family court judges discuss the most essential information to provide the Court to best get your points across, and the best ways to make your point, whether you are an attorney, child custody evaluator or other participant providing information to a family court.

**Judge Dianna Gould-Saltman** sits in a dedicated family trial court in Los Angeles. She was appointed to the court in 2010, having practiced family law for 25 years. She is a Judicial Fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers and the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.



**Judge Herman Walker, Jr.** sits in Superior Court in Anchorage, Alaska; a general jurisdiction court. He was appointed to the court in 2015. He was a trial attorney that litigated family law, criminal defense and personal injury cases. He is a Judicial Fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers and is a Board member of AFCC.



#### Registration

Members: \$15

Non-Members: \$50

#### Certificate of Attendance

Members: \$15

Non-Members: \$20

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



[Register today!](#)

### **Authentication Issues with Digital Evidence in Child Custody Cases**

Nicholas Himonidis, JD and Moderator: Larry Braunstein, JD

May 19, 2022 | 1:00-2:00pm Eastern Time US/Canada

Registration closes on May 18, 2022, at 9:00am Eastern Time US/Canada.

[Register now!](#)

## **Chapter News**

**Frank Davis, PhD**, AFCC member in Berkeley, California, is the new president of the California chapter of AFCC. Frank has over 20 years of clinical experience and has worked in various mental health settings with various populations. He provides custody evaluations, brief focused assessments, family mediation, parenting coordination services, consultation to attorneys, and expert witness testimony for court referred children and parents involved in post-divorce or separation high conflict scenarios. Frank provides co-parenting therapy for parents in disagreement about parenting practices and philosophies, and intensive re-unification for children and families wherein resistance and/or refusal dynamics are at play. Congratulations, Frank!



## **Member News**

**Judge Philip Marcus (Ret.)**, AFCC member from Jerusalem, Israel, reports that the Center for the Study of Child Development, in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Haifa, Israel, has developed an innovative program for judges of the Family Court and the Juvenile Court. The Interdisciplinary MA Program in Child Development for Judges is designed to expand and deepen judges' knowledge, providing them with the tools for handling complex proceedings involving children. The program is part of a trend for interdisciplinary studies, which create a bridge for professionals between their main disciplines and child development. [Contact Philip](#) to learn more.



**Ronnie Beach, EdS**, AFCC member from Gladstone, Missouri, is the 2022 recipient of the Ellen Cowell Award, presented by the Missouri chapter of AFCC. The award is given to professionals who demonstrate leadership, initiative, creativity, and dedication. In the award announcement, Ronnie was hailed as "a regional 'Godfather' of mediation" and "an impressive and charismatic community leader." Ronnie is the owner of Conflict Resolution Services, Inc., an entity specializing in dealing with high conflict families. He teaches graduate and undergraduate classes in conflict resolution, mediation and social psychology, and conflict management. Congratulations, Ronnie!



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

### **AFCC eNEWS**

The *AFCC eNEWS* is the monthly e-newsletter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. The *eNEWS* provides up-to-date information for professionals including practice tips, international news, and the latest initiatives in family law and conflict resolution. The *AFCC eNEWS* is provided at no charge to you; anyone can subscribe. [Subscribe here](#).

*AFCC members are free to share eNEWS content.*

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