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### President's Message

Hon. Linda Fidnick

The world has gone full round the sun one more time, and thankfully we are, mostly, still here. As we grace our desks and walls with 2023 calendars replete with those big blank spaces to write in new meetings, new appointments, and new special events, we can also welcome other, less concrete, types of newness. Whether we choose to explore new ideas, or want to take on new professional challenges, or seek to deepen our understanding of the work we do with new energy, it is my hope for you that this turning of the calendar will give you the chance and motivation to do so. [Continue reading.](#)

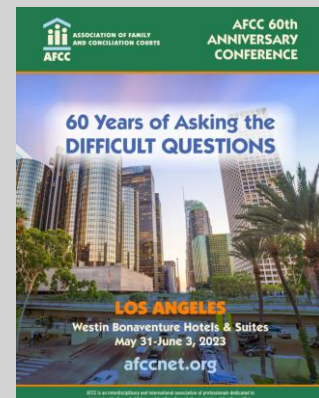


### [AFCC 60th Anniversary Conference](#)

### [60 Years of Asking the Difficult Questions](#)

### 60th Anniversary Conference

May 31-June 3, 2023  
Los Angeles, California



### [Conference Sponsors](#)



May 31-June 3, 2023  
Westin Bonaventure  
Los Angeles, California

Join as we celebrate 60 years of AFCC in the birthplace of AFCC.

### **Exhibit, Sponsor, and Advertise**

If your business caters to the needs of family law professionals, please consider exhibiting with us in Los Angeles! Confirming early lets you take advantage of lower prices, secure a better table location, and more. Read the [exhibitor prospectus](#) for more details and contact [Abby Rebholz](#) to sign up.

### **Reserve Your Room Today!**

Book your room early at the Westin Bonaventure Los Angeles today. You can make your reservations [online](#) or over the phone by calling 800-937-8461 or 888-627-8520. Do not delay as AFCC room blocks frequently sell out.

### **Scholarships**

Thanks to the generosity of donors to the AFCC Scholarship Fund, AFCC will offer several scholarships for the 60th Anniversary Conference. Each scholarship includes conference registration, one pre-conference institute, a certificate of attendance, and meal functions, including the Welcome Reception, Luncheon, and Annual Banquet. A limited number of scholarships will include travel stipends. The application deadline is March 8, 2023. [Apply now!](#)

### **Read the Conference Brochure!**

View a more detailed breakdown of the conference including pre-conference institutes, workshops, presenters, schedule, CE information, and registration information. Peruse the [schedule](#) and [register](#) soon.

### **Silent Auction**

After a two-year hiatus, the AFCC silent auction returns to the 60th Anniversary Conference. The auction will take place on Friday night of the conference. The proceeds raised from the auction help fund essential AFCC projects and initiatives. To donate an item to the Silent Auction, please contact Abby Rebholz at [arebholz@afccnet.org](mailto:arebholz@afccnet.org) or at 608-664-3750.

[Register Now!](#)



**SOBERLINK**



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### **AFCC Chapter Conferences**

#### **AFCC Arizona Annual Conference**

January 20-22, 2023  
Sedona, AZ

#### **AFCC California Annual Conference**

February 10-12, 2023  
Costa Mesa, CA

#### **AFCC Alberta Annual Conference**

March 16 & 17, 2023  
Edmonton, AB, Canada

#### **AFCC Colorado Spring Conference**

April 28 & 29, 2023  
Denver, CO

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### **AFCC Online Training Programs**

#### **The Fundamentals of Conducting Parenting Plan Evaluations**

March 13-16, and  
March 20-22, 2023

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**Coming Soon!**

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## [Ask the Experts: 7 Insights into Affairs and Their Impact on the Divorce Process](#)

Marcy Pasternack, PhD, Sharon Montgomery, PsyD, and Tamsen Thorpe, PhD

As mental health and legal professionals, we know how difficult it can be to assist families negotiating the divorce process. One of the more inflammatory factors that we encounter, only too frequently, is when there has been an extra-marital affair. Even if the parties have been unhappily married and equally yoked in their misery, the occurrence of an affair is often explosive. It is helpful to understand the dynamics of affairs and the negative consequences that may ensue. Providing early psychoeducation and effective interventions can be crucial to the outcome of these complex matters. Particularly, shifting the self-focus perspectives of these adults onto the best interest of their children, can make a critical difference. [Read more.](#)

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## [AFCC Online Training Programs](#)

### [The Fundamentals of Conducting Parenting Plan Evaluations](#)

March 13-16, and March 20-22, 2023

This program will incorporate a complete overview of the parenting plan evaluation process, including the definition and roles of the parenting plan evaluator, as well as, the specifics of the evaluation process, including interviewing, recordkeeping, use of technology, and best practices for report writing and testifying.

Participants will learn the difference between a forensic role and a clinical role, how to review court orders and determine what information should be obtained, strategies for interviewing adults and children, how to assess co-parenting issues, how to develop and test multiple hypotheses, and how to craft recommendations.

#### **Training Team:**

- Chioma Ajoku, JD, PhD, ABPP
- Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP
- April Harris-Britt, PhD
- Kathleen McNamara, PhD
- Sol R. Rappaport, PhD, ABPP

[View the program brochure!](#)

[Register Now](#)

Planning to attend the online PPE training program in March? Consider joining us also for the in-person pre-conference institute *Advanced Training in Parenting Plan Evaluations* at the 60th Anniversary Conference in Los Angeles on May 31st, 2023. Can't attend the online training? Contact AFCC to find out more about how to view the recording afterwards in order to be able to join us for this special pre-conference institute.

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## [Award Nominations](#)

AFCC will be acknowledging the accomplishments of leaders in family law by presenting awards at the AFCC 60th Anniversary Conference. We encourage you to recognize your colleagues by submitting a nomination. Nominations for the awards listed below will be accepted online through March 21, 2023.

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

[Stanley Cohen Distinguished Research Award](#) recognizes outstanding research and/or research achievements in the field of family and divorce. [Submit your nomination now!](#)

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

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## Webinar Corner

### [Screening for Intimate Partner Violence](#)

*Beth McCormack, JD*

**Wednesday, February 8, 2023**

1:00pm – 2:00pm Eastern Time (US/Canada)

**Registration will close on February 7, 2023 at 9:00am Eastern Time US/Canada.**



Knowing and understanding ones' clientele is essential for attorneys in private practice. Some practitioners may be shocked to discover that their affluent clients, although educated and wealthy, are experiencing intimate partner violence. High-net-worth and high-profile couples are acutely aware of their public image, and therefore more cautious to conceal the signs that they may be experiencing abuse. It is imperative for the screening process to anticipate violence in the home, as it is difficult for these clients to disclose their experiences. This presentation will prepare participants to screen for intimate partner violence, both in litigation and in Collaborative Law, for their high-net-worth and high-profile clientele.

This webinar is not approved for CE for psychologists because of the legal focus.

**Beth F. McCormack, JD** focuses on highly complex family law matters as well as mediation and collaborative law. Beth also represents children, when appointed by the Court, which makes her unparalleled in her ability to navigate complex parenting issues. Beth's practice is founded on compassion and empathy. She sees it as her responsibility to be aware of each person's needs, seeking the most appropriate solution for each client. Her peers consistently nominate her as a Best Lawyer (since 2016), Super Lawyer (since 2012), and Leading Lawyer (since 2013). Most recently, Beth was named top 50 women Super Lawyers, and in 2017, Ms. McCormack was selected as one of Crain's Chicago Media's Most Influential Women Lawyers in Chicago. Her work ethic and community involvement have earned her accolades within the legal community, and beyond.



#### **Registration**

Members: \$15

Non-Members: \$50

#### **Certificate of Attendance**

Members: \$15

Non-members: \$20

[Register Now!](#)

## More Upcoming Webinars!

### [Coping Abilities Children Need \(And How to Ensure They Get Them\)](#)

*Lyn Greenberg, PhD, ABPP*  
March 7, 2023

### [Gender and Sex in Family Law: How to Work with a Gender Diverse Population \(DE&I Series\)](#)

Rebecca Stahl, JD LLM  
April 12, 2023

### [Group to Individual Inference in Scientific Testimony](#)

*Chancellor & Dean David Faigman; Professor Michael Saini*  
April 18, 2023

### [The Impact of Intimate Partner Violence on Young Children](#)

*Kate Wurmfeld, JD; Kiran Malpe, LCSW, BS*  
May 10, 2023

### [The Work Before the Work](#)

*Sol Rappaport, PhD, ABPP*  
June 22, 2023

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## AFCC Fall 2023 Virtual Conference

### [Addiction, Family Violence, and Mental Illness Assessing and Managing Challenges to Contemporary Coparenting](#)

November 1-3 and 6-7, 2023

You asked and we delivered. AFCC is taking our fall conference online. Remote learning is more than flipping through documentaries on the TV. Virtually everyone one can benefit from accessible education. Join us as we discuss addiction, family violence, and mental illness along with other challenges to contemporary coparenting. Look for the call for proposals in February.

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## AFCC Member News

**Andrea Jones**, AFCC member from Ontario has been appointed to the Ontario Court of Justice as a Justice of the Peace. Prior to her appointment, Andrea contributed to AFCC in many ways such as serving on the AFCC Board of Directors. She was also a member of the AFCC Task Force for Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluations and the Task Force on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Congratulations, Andrea!



**Tammi Axelson**, AFCC member from Texas has recently earned her doctorate in clinical social work from Tulane University in which her research area was focused in child custody evaluations. Tammi is a frequent presenter at AFCC conferences and will be presenting a workshop at our upcoming 60th Anniversary Conference. Congratulations, Tammi!



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### **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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