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15th Symposium on Child Custody

Las Vegas, Nevada
November 10-12, 2022

President's Message

Can You Feel It? *Hon. Linda Fidnick*

Did you feel it at AFCC's Annual Conference in Chicago? Feel the energy? Feel the excitement? I most certainly did, and I suspect that it was due in large part to the collective joy of emerging together from the long dark tunnel of the pandemic. This conference was, as all AFCC conferences are, a chance to re-connect with colleagues and friends we hadn't seen for a while— although this time, for most in attendance, it was years instead of months. But the most exciting part of



Presenting Sponsor



the event for me-- and I know that I also speak for the rest of the Board-- was seeing and meeting so many new faces. It was especially gratifying to see after some significant efforts during the pandemic, a younger and more diverse crowd, which reflects the ongoing growth and change that is the lifeblood of AFCC.

[Read More](#)

15th Symposium on Child Custody



From a Full House to Parenting Apart

November 10-12, 2022

*Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada*

Registration now open!

The full [conference program brochure](#) is now available for the 15th Symposium on Child Custody. Join AFCC as we venture to Las Vegas for the first time in decades.

Earn up to 18.5 hours of continuing education credits by attending the entire symposium, which features four pre-symposium institutes, two general sessions, and 36 outstanding workshops.

Symposium topics include:

- AFCC *Guidelines for Parenting Plan Evaluations*
- The Dangers of Concept Creep in Family Law
- Psychological Testing
- Sorting Trauma from Stress in Family Court
- When Your Child Doesn't Want to Go
- Ethics of ODR
- Child Mental Health

AFCC Chapter Conferences

AFCC Minnesota Annual Conference

July 28-29, 2022
Minneapolis, MN / Virtual

AFCC Florida Annual Conference

September 21-23, 2022
Orlando, FL

AFCC Illinois Annual Conference

October 10, 2022
Chicago, IL

AFCC Ontario Annual Conference

October 13-14, 2022
Toronto, ON, Canada

AFCC Texas Annual Conference

December 8-9, 2022
Austin, TX

AFCC Arizona Annual Conference

January 20-22, 2023
Sedona, AZ

AFCC California Annual Conference

February 10-12, 2023

60th Anniversary Conference

Call for Proposals

- Mediation for Unrepresented Parents
- Research on Parent-Child Estrangement
- Factitious Disorder Imposed on Another
- Children with Special Needs and Resist-Refuse
- Unsticking the Stuck Client

Book Your Hotel Room

Reserve your room now for our conference rate of \$179/night (including the \$30 resort fee) for single/double occupancy. Our room block is over halfway sold out so [make your reservation soon!](#)

Exhibitor Prospectus

Exhibitors at AFCC conferences enjoy the opportunity to reach hundreds of professionals dedicated to the resolution of family conflict. Your business could hit the jackpot, too! [Read the prospectus](#) and contact [Patrick Sommer](#) to sign up now.

[Register Now](#)



Conversation Corner

Sherry Cassedy, author of Marriage Unveiled

Sherry Cassedy, JD, MA, is a family law attorney, mediator, a marriage and relationships educator and advocate, and the author of the recently published *Marriage Unveiled: The Promise, Passion, and Pitfalls of Imperfectly Ever After* (River Grove Books). In her book, Sherry reflects on her own marriage, and offers insight and resources from her many years as a professional, working in the family law field. Sherry is a long-time member of AFCC and has been married to an AFCC past-president, Dr. Matthew Sullivan, for 42 years. [Continue Reading...](#)



Webinar Corner

Children’s Voices in Cases Involving Parent-Child Contact Problem

Mindy Mitnick, EdM, MA

Tuesday, August 9, 2022

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

Registration will close on August 8, 2022 at 9:00am Eastern Time US/Canada.

When children resist or refuse contact with a parent, understanding their perspective is an essential aspect of providing services to the family including evaluation, mediation, parenting coordination, and therapy. This webinar will provide tips on communicating with children in these challenging cases.

Mindy Mitnick, EdM is a Licensed Psychologist practicing in Minneapolis. She received a Master of Education from Harvard University and a Master of Arts from the University of Minnesota. She specializes in complex custody cases, working as an evaluator, therapist, and parenting consultant. Mindy has trained professionals throughout the country about developmental issues in parenting schedules, effective interventions in high-conflict divorce, assessing allegations of sexual abuse during divorce disputes, and the use of expert witnesses in divorce cases. She served on the Minnesota Supreme Court Task Force on Parental Cooperation and the American Bar Association working group to update guidelines for child witnesses in criminal cases.



Registration

Members: \$15

Non-Members: \$50

Certificate of Attendance

Members: \$15

Non-members: \$20

[Register Now!](#)

More Upcoming Webinars!

The Power of Values in Family Law Disputes

Bernie Mayer, PhD, April Harris-Britt, PhD

September 14, 2022

Representing Children in International Cases

Melissa Kucinski, JD, James Netto

October 18, 2022

Understanding Adults that Sexually Abuse Children

Dr. Graham Hill

November 16, 2022

Family Dispute Resolution Research

Marsha Kline Pruett, PhD, ABPP

December 13, 2022

Access to Justice/Family Dispute Resolution Services

Jeannie Sato, JD, Loren P. Hildebrandt, JD

January 11, 2023

60th Anniversary Conference Call for Proposals

AFCC is accepting proposals for 90-minute workshop sessions. Read the [Call for Proposals](#) thoroughly for complete instructions. Proposals must be submitted using the [online form](#) by the deadline on **October 5, 2022**.

60 Years of Asking the Difficult Questions

May 31-June 3, 2023

Westin Bonaventure

Los Angeles, California

Proposed topics may include but are not limited to:

- Access to Justice
- Cultural Issues in Family Law
- International Family Law Perspectives
- Direct and Cross-examination
- Family Court Reform
- LGBTQ+ Families
- New Ideas for Parent Education Programs
- Innovations in Family Court Services
- Parent-child Contact Problems
- Parenting Plan Evaluations
- Intimate Partner Violence
- What do Judges Need to Know?
- Parenting Coordination
- Family Law and Mental Health
- Research on Family Law
- Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse
- Family Dispute Resolution Innovations



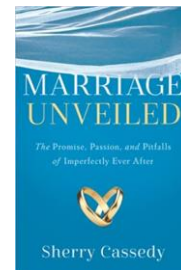
[Submit Your Proposal](#)

Member News

Hon. Michael Rust, AFCC member from Oshkosh, WI has been named Circuit Court Commissioner of Winnebago County Circuit Court. Congratulations Michael and we look forward to seeing your presentation on the *Ethics of Hybrid and Online Dispute Resolution with Self represented Litigants* at the upcoming 15th Symposium on Child Custody.



Sherry Cassedy, AFCC member from California and this issue's spotlight for the conversation corner has authored a new book, *Marriage Unveiled: The Promise, Passion, and Pitfalls of Imperfectly Ever After*. In her book, Sherry reflects on her own marriage, and offers insight and resources from her many years as a professional, working in the family law field.



Sue Hasen, AFCC member from Milwaukee, WI was presented The Lifetime Achievement Award by the Milwaukee Bar Association! This award recognizes Sue's excellence in the legal community as a family law practitioner and advocate for change focused on problem-solving and peaceful resolution of family issues. Sue is co-founder of the Family Mediation and has held leadership positions in many legal associations and community organizations. She is past president of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals. Congratulations Sue!



Chapter News

Congratulations, to the new members of the AFCC Ohio Chapter Board of Directors!

President: Bobbie O'Keefe

Pres-Elect: Larry McQuain

Secretary: Wendi Stern

Treasurer: Chris DeFavero

Past-President: Judge Randall Fuller

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](#).

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