

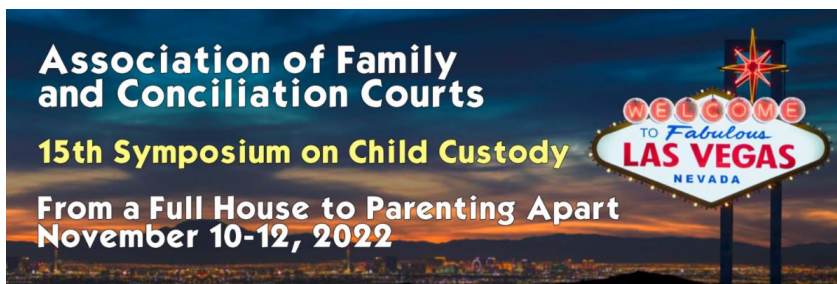


September 2022  
VOL. 17 No.9

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## 15th Symposium on Child Custody



### From a Full House to Parenting Apart

November 10-12, 2022

*Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino  
Las Vegas, Nevada*

Roll the dice with AFCC as we venture to Las Vegas for the 15th Symposium on Child Custody! The full [conference program brochure](#) is available.

### Take advantage of intensive learning with an AFCC Pre-Symposium Institute

Choose from one of four full-day institutes:

## 15th Symposium on Child Custody

*Las Vegas, Nevada  
November 10-12, 2022*



Presenting Sponsor



[AFCC Chapter Conferences](#)

[AFCC Florida Annual Conference](#)

1. When the Deck is Stacked: Sorting Stress from Trauma in Family Court
2. Playing Your Cards Right: Meaningful Integration of Test Data into a Parenting Plan Evaluation
3. Co-parent Coaching as Dispute Resolution
4. The ABC's and 123's of a Child Custody Evaluation

### Reserve Your Hotel Room Today

The AFCC room block is sold out on Friday and Saturday, November 11-12, but you can still make a reservation at Planet Hollywood at the group rate Wednesday and Thursday and at prevailing rates thereafter. Rates can change at any time, so [make your reservation today](#).

### 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! Exhibitor spots are given on a first-come-first-serve basis and there are only a couple of slots remaining. Sign up soon to reserve your spot! [Read the prospectus](#) and contact [Patrick Sommer](#) to sign up now.

[Register Now](#)

## Conversation Corner

Justin and Alexis Black

*Justin and Alexis Black are the cofounders of Redefining Normal, and co-authors of a book by the same title. Having grown up in the foster care system, Justin and Alexis have devoted their careers to supporting youth in foster care in a variety of ways, ranging from fundraising for access to education, building a sense of community, increasing awareness, and encouraging others to offer opportunities for youth in foster care to redefine normal and create positive outcomes. Justin holds a BA in Public Relations and African Studies. Alexis has a dual BBA in Entrepreneurial Studies and International Studies, a Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership, and a minor in Political Science Both are graduates of Western Michigan University.*

**AFCC:** How did the two of you meet and start working together?

**AB:** We met in 2016, while we were both part of the Seita Scholar Program for foster youth in higher education. We met on Justin's first day in the program, during his freshman year. I was a junior. It was amazing how we connected and discovered quickly how well we work together. During our time in college, we traveled for study abroad 13 times

September 21-23, 2022  
Orlando, FL

[AFCC Utah  
Annual Conference](#)  
October 6-7, 2022  
Salt Lake City, UT

[AFCC Ontario  
Annual Conference](#)  
October 13-14, 2022  
Toronto, ON, Canada

[AFCC Illinois  
Annual Conference](#)  
October 20, 2022  
Chicago, IL

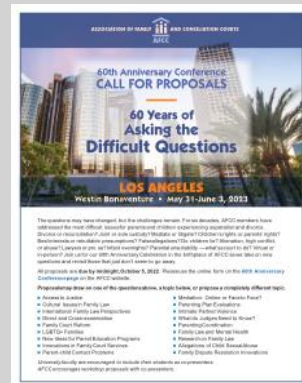
[AFCC Colorado](#)  
October 28-29, 2022  
Denver, CO / Virtual

[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  
Costa Mesa, CA

**60th Anniversary  
Conference**  
Call for Proposals



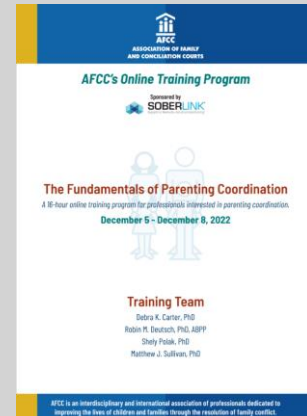
(combined) and co-developed two programs. We got married in 2020, during the pandemic, and we had our first child recently, Maeva Rose Black.

**AFCC:** Your book includes many references to your personal journey through the foster care system. Why did you decide to share your own story?

**AB:** Our stories, and the way we have come together to redefine the path of our journey, are worth telling. We both grew up in the foster care system, largely because of unresolved family issues with mental illness and substance abuse. I was actually adopted when I was 26 years-old by the family I met when I was 17. They changed my views about marriage, love, and my whole identity. Justin and I wanted to share some of the lessons we have learned. The most important lesson is that you cannot do it alone. Some of our outcomes have been about being fortunate to find the support we have received; and some of it has been the willingness to accept the support; to embrace it.

[Continue Reading](#)

## [AFCC Virtual Training Programs](#)



### [The Fundamentals of Parenting Coordination](#)

December 5-8, 2022

### [Advanced Issues in Child Custody](#)

January 17-19, 2023

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

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

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## AFCC Training Programs

AFCC's Fundamentals of Parenting Coordination returns in December! Join AFCC for a 16-hour online training program for professionals interested in parenting coordination!

### [The Fundamentals of Parenting Coordination](#)

December 5-8, 2022

This comprehensive parenting coordination (PC) training is based on the 2019 AFCC Guidelines for Parenting Coordination and the Recommendations for Comprehensive Training of Parenting Coordinators. This program will include a comprehensive overview of the parenting coordination process, including definition of the role, responsibilities, and function of the parenting coordinator; an overview of family dynamics; specific PC strategies, techniques, and interventions; implications of intimate partner violence; cultural considerations; ethical issues; and use of technology.

Participants will learn about the parenting coordinator's scope of authority, strategies to help parents improve cooperation and communication, how to help clients utilize the process, and how to effectively write recommendations or decisions.

The [training team](#) includes:

- Debra K. Carter, PhD
- Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP

- Shely Polak, PhD
- Matthew J. Sullivan, PhD

[View the program brochure!](#)

[Register Now!](#)

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## [More AFCC Training Programs Coming in 2023!](#)

### **Advanced Issues in Child Custody**

January 17-19, 2023

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

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

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## **Webinar Corner**

### **DE&I Webinars**

AFCC's DE&I series returns in October with another free webinar!

### [\*\*Engaging Cultural Differences and Communities in IPV Cases\*\*](#)

*Sujata Warrior, PhD*

**Tuesday, October 11, 2022**

4:00pm-6:00pm Eastern Time US/Canada

This webinar will explore opportunities, challenges, and strategies for engaging cultural issues to create more culturally affirming spaces in IPV cases. The first part will provide a critical redefinition of the term using more current knowledge and debates. The second half will focus on skills necessary to engage survivors, children, families, and communities to change cultural norms around IPV.

**Although this webinar is free to attend, you must register in advance to attend.** Registration closes October 10, 2022, at 9am Eastern Time US.

**Sujata Warriar, PhD**, is the Chief Strategy Officer for the Battered Women's Justice Project. She trains and provides technical assistance to professionals in various criminal justice systems. She has also trained extensively at the local, state, national and international levels on the issue of cultural competency for various professionals and has delivered numerous keynotes on the issue of culture, competency, relativism, and violence against women.



[Register now!](#)

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## **Representing Children in International Cases**

*Melissa Kucinski, JD; James Netto*



**Tuesday, October 18, 2022**

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

**Registration will close on October 17, 2022 at 9:00am Eastern Time US/Canada.**

This session will feature lawyers from the US and UK discussing how children are heard in international parental child abduction cases, the emerging issues of children having independent counsel in Hague Abduction cases, and policy considerations and best practices for working with children in these complex matters.

**Melissa Kucinski, JD**, works with lawyers across the globe handling the international aspects of family law cases. In addition to her law degree, Melissa obtained a Master's Degree from the American University School of International Service, focusing her studies on high conflict cross-cultural mediation and crisis negotiation. She consulted for the Hague Conference on Private International Law on a range of issues related to the Hague Child Abduction and Child Protection Conventions.





**James Netto**, is a Partner at The International Family Law Group LLP, London, United Kingdom. He specializes in all areas of children law, with expertise in international children matters. James is highly experienced in cases concerning the international movement of children and is regularly instructed by parents and children within the UK and abroad. He is the Chair of the UK's Child Abduction Lawyers Association, which recently provided an amicus brief to the US Supreme Court in the matter of *Golan v Saada*.



#### **Registration**

Members: \$15

Non-Members: \$50

#### **Certificate of Attendance**

Members: \$15

Non-members: \$20

[Register Now!](#)

### **More Upcoming Webinars!**

#### **[Understanding Adults who 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

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

*Beth McCormack, JD*

February 8, 2023

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

*Lyn Greenberg, PhD, ABPP*

March 7, 2023

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

### **Call for Proposals**

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

May 31-June 3, 2023

Westin Bonaventure

Los Angeles, California

**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**.

**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](#)

## AFCC Member News

**Rachel Birnbaum and Nicholas Bala**, AFCC members from Ontario have recently published their research titled *Experience with Ontario’s Parenting Plan Guide and Template*. This research project involved surveys and interviews with a total of 103 participants (lawyers, judges, mediators, mental health professionals, and parents) about their experiences with parenting plans and the AFCC-O materials. They found professionals and parents appreciate having access to the type of jurisdictionally specific resource materials prepared by multidisciplinary groups, and judges have made significant use of these materials.

**Darren Mort**, AFCC Member from Australia has been named Barrister of the Year at the 2022 Australian Law Awards while living a double life as an actor. Outside of his legal career, Darren has done a wide range of work in featured films, stage productions, musical theatre, television and training videos as an actor, producer, writer and director.



## 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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