

AFCC eNEWS



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Ask the Experts

We Can Do Better: Establishing On-Ramps for Unmarried Fathers to Court-Connected Parenting Time Services & Orders

By Debra Pontisso, MPA, Chair, Responsible Fatherhood Roundtable

It has been 26 years since the U.S. Commission on Child and Family Welfare submitted its final report - Parenting Our Children: In the Best Interest of the Nation - to the President and Congress in September 1996. To the best of my professional knowledge, there hasn't been anything like it since. At the outset, the 15 Commission Members – a few who were appointed by President Clinton and the remainder appointed by leaders of the Senate and House – chose to focus on “custody and visitation issues that affect the children of separating, divorcing and unmarried parents”. [Read More](#)

Thank you again to our sponsors of the AFCC 59th Annual Conference

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AFCC 15th Symposium on Child Custody

Platinum Sponsors



ADR Notable

Mediation Management Made Easy.

From a Full House to Parenting Apart

November 10-12, 2022

Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino

Las Vegas, Nevada

For the first time ever, AFCC is coming to Las Vegas, *again*. In 2020, we had to postpone due to the coronavirus. But with the recent success of our 59th Annual Conference in Chicago, it is apparent that AFCC members have been longing to connect in person. What better place to meet up with old friends and make new friends than the City of Sin! Remember, *What Happens in Vegas Stays in Vegas*, except for your continuing education credits. You can *bet* on bringing home 18.5 hours of continuing education credits by attending the whole 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
- 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



Online Parenting Programs

AFCC Chapter Conferences

AFCC Minnesota Annual Conference

July 28-29, 2022

Minneapolis, MN / Virtual

AFCC Ontario Annual Conference

October 13-14, 2022

Toronto, ON

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

Reserve your room for the AFCC 15th Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations! Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino is now accepting reservations at the rate of \$179/night for single/double occupancy (including the resort fee). *AFCC's room block frequently sells out so **make your reservation now!***

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.

15th Symposium on Child Custody

Las Vegas, Nevada

November 10-12, 2022



AFCC Webinar Corner

Integrating Diversity Considerations with the New Guidelines in Parenting Time Evaluations

April Harris-Britt, PhD, Andrea Jones, MSW, RSW

Thursday, July 7, 2022

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

Registration will close on July 6, 2022, at 9:00am Eastern Time US/Canada.

As an initiative of the AFCC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, **this presentation is free, but you must register to attend.** A certificate of attendance is included. The program will include an hour long presentation, followed by one hour of discussion by all participants.

Families are often not homogeneous, and each parent will bring aspects of their own distinct cultures to their relationship and to the parenting process. Intersectionality within a family can spark debate about competing values in areas ranging from gender roles to discipline to the very definition of family. Parenting Plan Evaluators must approach each new appointment with sensitivity to diversity and a willingness to learn what is important to each parent and how that will impact the children from a cultural perspective. During this workshop, presenters will review the infusion of diversity and cultural considerations into the most updated revision to the AFCC Guidelines for Conducting Parenting Plan Evaluations. They will provide strategies to enhance the skill level and knowledge needed for evaluators to adequately integrate nuances of diversity into each evaluation, to benefit the families experiencing the evaluation process more completely.



April Harris-Britt, PhD, is a licensed psychologist and parent coordinator. She provides training to mental health professionals, attorneys, and judges and has presented at numerous conferences regarding services for families engaged in high-conflict custody disputes. Dr. Harris-Britt is currently a member of the AFCC Task Force on Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluations, and AFCC Task Force on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.



Andrea Jones, MSW, RSW, is a registered social worker in Ontario, Canada. She has dedicated her practice to public service in Quebec and Ontario, Canada supporting families of all socio-demographic backgrounds. Andrea is a member of the AFCC Task Force for Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluations and the AFCC Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

[Register today!](#)

Vaccine Hesitancy in Family Law Matters

Kate Allan, PhD

Wednesday, July 13, 2022

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

Registration will close on July 12, 2022, at 9:00am Eastern Time US/Canada

[Register now!](#)

In 2019, the World Health Organization identified vaccine hesitancy as one of the top ten global health threats. Participants in the family court system are able to assist clients and their families in making decisions about vaccination for their children based on the best available evidence. This webinar will provide attendees with an overview of five vaccine-hesitant caregiver profiles drawn from an extensive review of the vaccine hesitancy literature, a review of family law precedence related to pediatric COVID-19 and routine childhood immunization will follow, and an overview of promising practices for intervening with vaccine-hesitant caregivers in the family law context.

Sponsored by [OurFamilyWizard](#).

Kate Allan, PhD, is a SSHRC-funded postdoctoral fellow. She is completing her second postdoctoral fellowship at the Centre for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases at the University of Toronto. During her doctoral studies, she was Manager of the Vaccine Hesitancy Study at the Fraser Mustard Institute for Human Development. Dr. Allan served on the Provincial Council for Maternal and Child Health, Discharge Planning (Transition to Adult Healthcare Services) Working Group and on the Good 2 Go Transition Program Advisory Committee at The Hospital for Sick Children. Her primary research interests focus on the decision-making process of parents regarding routine childhood immunization and COVID-19 vaccination.



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

Registration

Members: \$15

Non-Members: \$50

Certificate of Attendance

Members: \$15

Non-Members: \$20

[Register today!](#)

AFCC Training Programs - Save the Dates!

AFCC is bringing back virtual training program favorites for 2022-23, **The Fundamentals of Parenting Coordination** on December 5-8, 2022, and **The Fundamentals of Parenting Plan Evaluations**, on March 13-16, 2023 and March 20-22, 2023. AFCC is also pleased to introduce a newly expanded **Advanced Issues in Child Custody** program, focused on special issues in child custody, including child sexual abuse, substance misuse, parent-child contact problems, family violence, trauma and resilience, and interviewing children.

Join us for updated training programs, featuring leading experts, and introducing some new additions to the training team. [Meet the training team](#) and save the date. Registration will open soon!

Member News

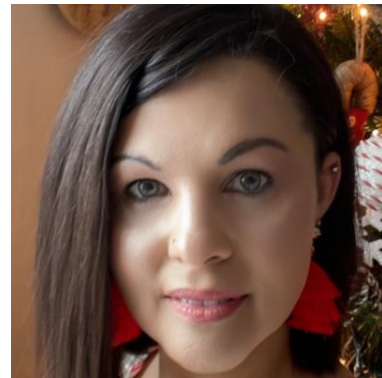
Leslie Todd LCSW, AFCC member from Baton Rouge has been asked to serve as AFCC-Louisiana's correspondent to The Psychology Times. The Psychology Times is known for their distinguished coverage of news and features related to the practice, teaching, and science of psychology and the behavioral sciences in Louisiana. Congratulations, Leslie!



Do you have a notable achievement to share? Email [Patrick Sommer](#) 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!

Staff News

Abigail Rebholz joined AFCC in June 2022 as an Administrative Assistant. Abby successfully obtained her ABA-approved Paralegal Certificate from Purdue University Northwest in 1997. Over the past twenty years, she has gained extensive knowledge as a Paralegal/Legal Assistant in the following practice areas: Personal Injury Litigation, Family Law, Trust & Estates and Corporate Real Estate. Abby also had the privilege of acting as a CASA volunteer in Porter County, Indiana. Welcome, Abby!



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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