

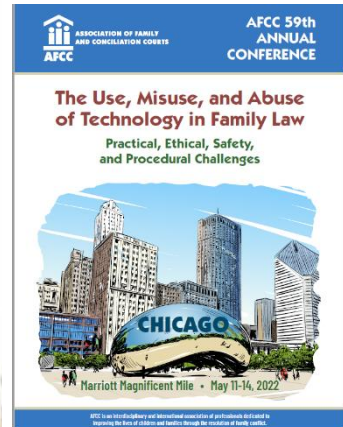
# AFCC eNEWS

## AFCC 59th Annual Conference

Chicago, Illinois

May 11-14, 2022

# AFCC ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONCILIATION COURTS



Thank you to our annual conference sponsors!

**Diamond Sponsors**

April 2022

VOL. 17 No. 4



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## President's Message



### There's Always One More Option/Opportunity

*Mindy Mitnick, AFCC President*

*A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.*

~ Winston Churchill

In Minnesota every year (well, almost), the AAML chapter sponsors a Divorce Camp. My first opportunity to attend the meeting was in the mid-nineties when the conference invited then-AFCC President John Kydd to speak. I don't remember the topic, but I do recall being inspired by John to work on legislation that allowed Minnesota parents to develop their own parenting plans instead of the Court

## Platinum Sponsors



imposing a parenting schedule. [Read more.](#)

## 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

### Conference Registration

Discounted prices on the conference and pre-conference institute registration will end on **Friday, April 29, 2022.**

Register now to save! 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

### Reserve Your Hotel Room Now!

Make your hotel reservation today! The Marriott Chicago Downtown Magnificent Mile is offering a special rate to AFCC

## 15th Symposium on Child Custody

Las Vegas, Nevada

November 10-12, 2022



Save the date!

## AFCC Chapter Conferences

### New Jersey Chapter Annual Meeting

April 27, 2022

Being held virtually

### Utah Chapter Southern Utah Symposium

April 29, 2022

St. George, Utah



attendees of \$229 per night for single/double occupancy.  
[Reserve online](#) or call 1-877-303-0104 and request the AFCC special rate.

## Health & Safety Information

**Proof of vaccination, or a lab result indicating you are negative for COVID-19, received within 72 hours of May 11, 2022, is required to attend the conference.** At-home test will not be accepted.

AFCC encourages the use of masks, especially while in close proximity to others. Please be respectful of the health and safety preferences of all conference participants.

## AFCC 59th Annual Conference By the Numbers

How many great experiences are in store for you at the AFCC 59th Annual Conference? Let's crunch some numbers!\*

- **14 days** until the conference
- **2 days** at the current price point (Better [register now!](#))
- **4 days** of conference programming and social events
- Up to **20.5 hours of continuing education** credit ([Learn more.](#))
- **6 pre-conference institutes** ([Read about them!](#))

- **1 opening session:** *Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence: Promise and Pitfalls in Family Courts*
- **1 plenary session:** *Mind the Gap: Technology, Access, Connection, Equity, and Justice*
- **71 workshops** ([Plan your conference!](#))
- **Over 150 knowledgeable presenters**
- **32 exhibit tables** to visit! Meet the conference sponsors and exhibitors, plus information from AFCC and our collaborating organizations! ([Meet them!](#))
- **Several opportunities to connect with colleagues**, including the welcome reception, luncheon and awards, banquet, entertainment, live auction, breaks, hospitality suite, and more!
- **Hundreds of AFCC conference attendees** to meet and learn from!

*\*Current as of April 26, 2022.*

## **AFCC Banquet, Entertainment, and Live Auction**

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. ([View his greeting to AFCC conference attendees!](#))

The live auction will include the following items:

- **A one-week stay at an oceanfront condo on the island of Kauai.** [Learn more and view pictures.](#)

- **A one-week stay at an ocean view condo on the island of Maui.** [Learn more and view pictures.](#)
- **Conference package for Los Angeles (AFCC 60th Annual Conference):** Includes conference registration and three nights at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites Los Angeles.
- **Conference package for Boston (AFCC 61st Annual Conference):** Includes conference registration and three nights at the Sheraton Boston Hotel.

## Planning Your Visit to Chicago

The location of Chicago's Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile couldn't be better for exploring the Windy City! Within an eight-block radius of the hotel, you'll find well over 200 restaurants and bars. Don't leave Chicago empty-handed! You can shop at Water Tower Place, Merchandise Mart, the Shops at North Bridge, and more.

Many popular tourist destinations can be found a short walk from the hotel, including the Chicago Riverwalk, Millennium Park (see the iconic sculpture Cloud Gate, aka "The Bean," up close!), and the Museum of Contemporary Art. The following attractions are a short drive or longer walk from the hotel: Navy Pier, the Shedd Aquarium, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Field Museum of Natural History, and more. Extend your stay to take full advantage of all that Chicago has to offer! [Learn more about the Magnificent Mile.](#)

[Register Now!](#)

**Better Understanding What Works for Divorcing and Separating Parents:**

## Introducing the Divorce Education Assessment Collaborative

*Renée Wilkins-Clark, MS; Melinda Stafford Markham, PhD; and Anthony J. Ferraro, PhD*

Currently co-directed by two faculty in the Department of Applied Human Sciences at Kansas State University (Dr. Melinda Stafford Markham and Dr. Anthony J. Ferraro), the **Divorce Education Assessment Collaborative** (DEAC) was established in response to consistent calls from researchers, educators, practitioners, and policy makers citing a need for standardized evaluation, with consistent assessment tools, to better determine the effectiveness of programs for divorcing and separating parents. As a first step in this process, the DEAC evaluation (a standardized measurement tool for use with divorce and co-parenting education programs) was created by a core group of seven members (four faculty and three graduate students) affiliated with five universities across five states. DEAC members reviewed numerous measures related to the process of divorce. Emphasis was placed on measures that were brief, designed and appropriate for adult respondents, and demonstrated reliability, face validity, and external validity. [Read more.](#)

## ***Family Court Review Call for Papers: Special Issue***

### **The Changing Landscape of Parenting Education Programs for Divorcing and Separating Parents**

Guest Editors: Anthony J. Ferraro and Melinda Stafford Markham, *Kansas State University*

This special issue provides an opportunity for a holistic view of parenting education programs for divorcing and separating parents, and we are inviting manuscripts that explore the topic from a diversity of perspectives. Given the range of professional fields that parenting education in the context of divorce and separation involves, interdisciplinary collaborations and submissions from multiple perspectives are encouraged (e.g., social scientists, judges, lawyers, mediators, therapists, program facilitators). Submit your 250-500 word abstract by December 1, 2022. [Learn more.](#)

## Save the Date for the AFCC 15th Symposium on Child Custody!

### From a Full House to Parenting Apart

November 10-12, 2022

*Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino*

*Las Vegas, Nevada*

Save the date for the AFCC 15th Symposium on Child Custody now! Stay tuned for additional information, including the conference brochure, schedule, preconference institutes, plenary session, opening session, workshops, registration, scholarship opportunities, continuing education information, hotel accommodations, and more. [View and print the Save the Date flyer.](#)

## AFCC Webinar Corner

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

Nicholas Himonidis, JD and Moderator: Larry Braunstein, JD

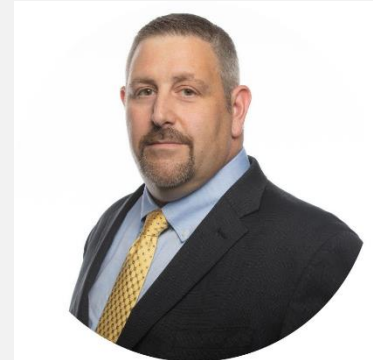
May 19, 2022 | 1:00-2:00pm Eastern Time US/Canada

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



Technology is a significant part of everyday life. In family court matters, digital evidence is relied upon for a variety of reasons, including as proofs of allegations in custody cases. However, not all digital evidence is reliable and not all digital evidence is legitimate. Through this webinar, an attorney and expert in digital evidence, computer forensics, and fraud will explore important considerations for reviewing and authenticating data that tells a story before relying on it and presenting it to the court.

**Nicholas G. Himonidis, JD**, has 30 years of experience in fraud investigations, computer forensics, and law. He is the President/CEO of The NGH Group, Inc., specializing in complex investigations, digital forensics, e-Discovery, cryptocurrency and blockchain forensics, and cyber security. Mr. Himonidis is an attorney, Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), Certified Computer Forensic Specialist (CCFS), Certified Cryptocurrency Forensic Investigator (CCFI), and licensed Private Investigator. Mr. Himonidis has conducted and supervised forensic investigations in numerous high profile matrimonial and custody matters. He has also been appointed by the Supreme Court in multiple New York counties as a computer forensic expert and as a cryptocurrency expert.



#### **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!**

## **Resist and Refuse Cases: Making the Case to the Court**

Larry Braunstein, JD

June 21, 2022 | 1:00-2:00pm Eastern Time US/Canada

Registration closes on June 20, 2022, at 9:00am Eastern Time US/Canada.

**[Register now!](#)**

## **Chapter News**

**The Ontario Chapter of AFCC** congratulates the winners of the Walsh Family Law Moot and Negotiation Competition. The Walsh Family Negotiation Competition is a competition for 2nd and 3rd year law students. Working in teams of two, using facts for each partner in a family law dispute, the law students will negotiate with opposing teams in three successive rounds of increasing complexity.

Awards and recognition were given to the teams for best negotiation plans, best overall negotiation teams, and best individual student. **[View the AFCC-Ontario website](#)** for a full list of award recipients.

## Growth in Memberships

Kudos to the **North Carolina** provisional Chapter which is well on its way to Chartered Chapter status. Under the leadership of Kim Bonuomo and April Harris-Britt, and with the tremendous support of Danielle Kestnbaum, North Carolina has more than doubled their membership in less than a year.

**Louisiana** currently leads the Chapter Challenge for greatest overall percentage increase in membership, with president, Patti Oppenheim; president-elect, Maggie Simar; and immediate past-president, Leslie Todd, and an incredible Board leading the efforts.

The **Utah** Chapter currently leads the Chapter Challenge for greatest numerical increase in members, through the leadership of Dan Spencer, and support of volunteers, Todd Wetsel, Laura Hansen, Jaclyn Robertson, and Mitch Brooks, with 168 members as they approach a motion for Chartered Chapter status at the annual conference in Chicago.

We are in the home stretch with the Chapter Challenge, which closes on May 1st. The winners in both categories will share a \$5,000 prize! A special thanks to all Chapters for participating in a friendly competition to bring an increase in members to the AFCC family!

## Member News

**Peter Boshier**, AFCC member and former AFCC president (2015-16) from Wellington, New Zealand, has been elected as Second Vice President of the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI). He has served on the board of the IOI, a global organization made up of more than 200 independent ombudsman institutions from more than 100 countries, since 2016. "I am honoured to serve the role of Second Vice President," he said. "This election was based on the high performance of my office, and the fact that we are

resourced accordingly to enable us to do the work we do in the international space.” Congratulations, Peter!



**Alexander D. Jones**, AFCC Board member from Needham, Massachusetts, has been recognized as a 2022 honoree in Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly’s annual Excellence in the Law Awards. Alex is honored in the “Excellence in ADR” category. This annual event recognizes some of the most significant accomplishments in the Massachusetts Legal Community. Alex is an experienced mediator and litigator. He has dual degrees from Boston College Law School and Boston College Graduate School of Social Work. He has been appointed by numerous Justices of the Probate and Family Court to serve as a Guardian ad Litem, a parent coordinator, and a discovery master. He has been a member of the AFCC Board of Directors since 2019. Congratulations, Alex!



**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](#).

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