



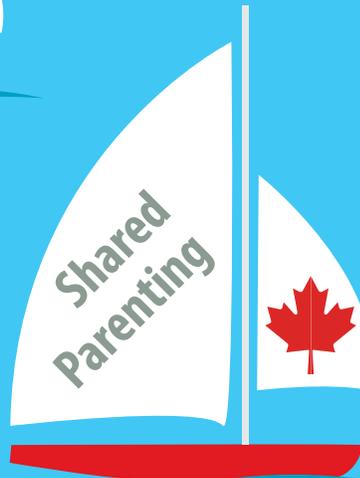
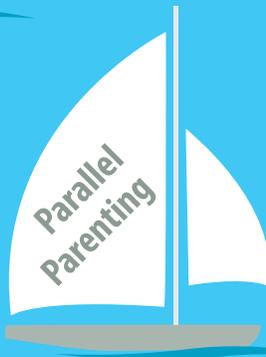
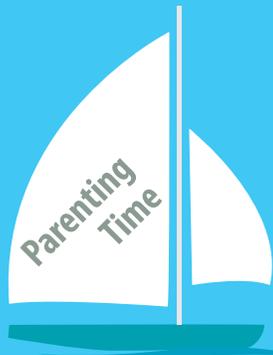
**ASSOCIATION OF
FAMILY AND
CONCILIATION COURTS**

TORONTO

**Westin Harbour Castle
May 28-May 31, 2014**

51st Annual Conference

Navigating the Waters of Shared Parenting: Guidance from the Harbour



Child Abuse

**Domestic
Violence**

**Chemical
Dependency**

**Mental
Illness**

Alienation

**High
Conflict**

Pre-conference Institutes

(Separate registration fee required. Please see conference information on page 28.)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2014

9:00am-4:30pm

1. Family Interventions When Children Resist Contact with a Parent

This institute will focus on currently used intensive whole-family interventions when children resist contact with a parent. These models include a residential component and cases involving severe justified rejection are excluded from this approach. Presenters will describe families who can benefit from these interventions, differentiating the nature and severity of the contact problem, parental conflict, degree of motivation and responsiveness of each parent. The components of the work will be summarized, including screening, intake/contracting, set-up, activities, psycho-educational interventions, aftercare and the role of the court. Participants will note the advantages and disadvantages of multi-day family interventions compared with outpatient treatment, and the components that may be applied to both.

Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, Newton, MA

Barbara Fidler, PhD, AccFM, Toronto, ON

Tyler Sullivan, Overcoming Barriers, San Francisco, CA

2. Difficult Conversations at the Intersection of Domestic Violence and Mediation

When domestic violence and mediation collide, more than process choice matters. Critical considerations include capacity, safety and informed decision making. This institute examines approaches and tools to use when domestic violence surfaces before or during mediation. How is domestic violence defined? What ethical challenges confront mediation programs, mediators and attorneys when faced with possible domestic violence? How is the decision reached about whether to mediate? What are effective techniques for conducting and terminating mediation? Discuss and practice these challenging conversations, assess methods of identifying domestic violence and debate whether or not certain cases should be mediated.

Zena Zumeta, JD, Mediation Training and Consultation Institute, Ann Arbor, MI

Kelly Browe Olson, JD, LLM, Univ. of Arkansas–Little Rock School of Law, Little Rock, AR

Laura Bassein, JD, Univ. of New Mexico School of Law, Albuquerque, NM

3. Whole Family, Universal Risk Screening: New Evidence, New Tools, New Possibilities

For parents and children, separation can elevate risks to well-being and safety. Asking the right questions is key to identifying risk patterns that require management. This institute focuses on two evidence based tools. The *Family Law Detection of Overall Risk Screen (DOORS)* screens the well-being and safety of parents, infants and children. It assists legal and social science professionals in identifying and evaluating risk patterns. Participants will learn paper and software formats, and explore data from 600 cases. Participants will also learn to apply *The Mediator's Assessment of Safety Issues and Concerns (MASIC)* for targeted family violence screening, and consider related research. Multi-media case illustrations bring to life effective engagement of clients at risk of harm, or of harming, and effective response to risk across the family law system, including information sharing.

Jennifer E. McIntosh, PhD, Family Transitions, LaTrobe Univ., Melbourne, Australia

Amy Holtzworth-Munroe, PhD, Indiana Univ., Bloomington, IN

Claire Ralfs, PhD, Australian Institute of Social Research, Adelaide, Australia

4. Relocation and Best Practices

Relocation disputes are among the most challenging and frequently litigated cases, reflecting changes in parental roles, economic factors and post-separation mobility. This institute will compare legal approaches to relocation in the United States, Canada and internationally; review the social science literature about relocation; and consider the role of child custody evaluations along with the evidence that needs to be presented in these disputes as well as possibilities for mediation. A primary focus will be offering practical advice for professionals, as well as consideration of law reform.

Sponsored by the AFCC Ontario Chapter.

Nicholas Bala, LSM, JD, LLM, Queen's Univ., Kingston, ON

Philip Epstein, QC, LSM, Epstein Cole, Toronto, ON

Hon. James Garbolino (Ret.), Roseville, CA

Philip M. Stahl, PhD, ABPP, Queen Creek, AZ

5. Uncorroborated Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse: Science and Practice

Can professionals accurately discriminate between true and false reports of child sexual abuse? How common are false reports? How should professionals and the courts respond to uncorroborated reports? What are the pros and cons of imposing supervised visitation in custody disputes that include allegations of sexual abuse? This advanced institute for mental health and legal professionals will address these fundamental—but surprisingly difficult and controversial—questions from both scientific and practical perspectives. Interactive demonstrations will be used to show just how easy it is to make serious mistakes in these cases. A focused review of the relevant scientific research will be followed by a discussion of the implications of research for practice.

Steve Herman, PhD, Univ. of Hawaii at Hilo, Hilo, HI

Lucy McSweeney, LLB, The Children's Lawyer for Ontario, Toronto, ON

6. Judicial Officers Institute: Cross-Border Child Custody and Parental Child Abduction Disputes

This institute will provide judicial officers with training in the handling of inter-jurisdictional cases of child custody and parental abduction. Participants will learn relevant legal frameworks such as the *1980 Hague Abduction Convention* and inter-provincial child abduction legislation; skills to assess when a court should or should not exercise jurisdiction to entertain a custody application; and skills to engage in direct judicial communication in the context of the International Hague Network of Judges and the two Canadian Networks in accordance with guidelines and safeguards. Audience participation will be encouraged through the use of case studies. *Participation is limited to Judicial Officers.*

Hon. Robyn Diamond, Winnipeg, MB

Hon. Donna Martinson, Vancouver, BC

Hon. Andrea Moen, Edmonton, AB

Hon. R. John Harper, Brantford, ON

Hon. Roselyn Zisman, Toronto, ON

7. Triangulating the Child: Children in the Parenting Coordination Process

This advanced program introduces different models and processes of parenting coordination and the legal considerations and consequences about when and how the parenting coordinator (PC) can incorporate the voice of the child. The challenge in differentiating the child's voice from the child's capacity to represent their independent views is examined with tools provided to assess capacity. In this child-centered institute, the presenters will discuss the complexities of adolescent decision-making, including the impact of memory, fear, social conformity, isolation and parental influence, as well as the PC's role in insulating children from substance abuse, mental health concerns and gatekeeping.

Christine A. Coates, MEd, JD, Boulder, CO

Lourdes Geraldo, MSW, RSW, Hamilton, ON

Jacqueline Vanbetlehem, RSW, AccFM, Oakville, ON