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## President's Message Working for Peace and Safety in Polarized Times

Stacey Platt, JD

Tragically, on October 19, 2023, Maryland Judge Andrew Wilkinson, age 52, was shot and murdered in his driveway only hours after granting custody to a parent. The suspect, the "losing" parent, had a history of abusive behaviors, including child abuse, stalking, financial control, and verbal assaults. A week after the murder, the suspect was found dead, an apparent suicide. [Continue Reading](#).



## AFCC 61st Annual Conference

**Coping with Transition:  
Individual, Family and Beyond**  
Sheraton Boston Hotel, Boston,  
Massachusetts  
June 5-8, 2024

The work of family law, mental

## The Fundamentals of Conducting Parenting Plan Evaluations

March 11-14, 2024 and  
March 18-20, 2024

Sponsored by



SOBERLINK

## AFCC Conferences



## AFCC 61st Annual Conference

Boston, MA  
June 5-8, 2024

## Conference Sponsors

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health, and dispute resolution professionals is endlessly impacted by transition on an individual, family, and community level. These include the transition from an intact family to one that lives in two homes; children's transition between developmental stages; transitioning gender; transitioning to new statutes, processes, and professional roles; transitioning in or out of a career; moving, which requires a transition between communities and parenting time plans; and transitioning to new relationships, marriages, and new family forms.

[Register now!](#)

### Opening Keynote

In the spirit of this year's conference theme, Coping with Transitions, attendees will be invited into the personal and profound story of a transgender woman detailing her journey of transition. Transgender activist, author, and speaker Tina Madison White will share her inspiring personal and familial evolution and the barriers and successes along the way.



### Pre-Conference Institutes

Interested in a more in-depth seminar? Join AFCC on June 5th, for one of our six pre-conference institutes.

[See this year's pre-conference institutes.](#)

### Exhibit at or sponsor the conference!

With an expected attendance of over 900 family law professionals including judges, lawyers, psychologists, and mediators, this conference is the perfect opportunity to showcase your brand or product to those who could benefit most from your services. For additional information or to sign up, please see the [exhibitor prospectus](#) and contact Abby Rebholz at [arebholz@afccnet.org](mailto:arebholz@afccnet.org).

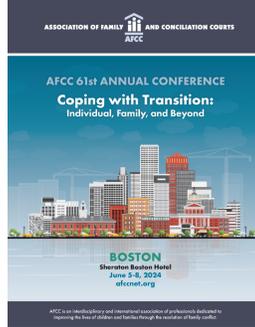
For a complete list of conference sponsors, [click here](#).

### Conference Scholarships

Thanks to the generosity of donors to the AFCC Scholarship Fund, AFCC will offer several scholarships for the 61st Annual Conference. Each scholarship includes conference registration, one pre-conference institute, a certificate of attendance, and meal functions, including the Welcome Reception, Luncheon, and Annual Banquet. A limited number of scholarships will include travel stipends. The application deadline is March 11, 2024. [Apply now!](#)

### Conference Brochure

For complete conference details, please see the [conference brochure](#).



### Platinum Sponsors



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### Gold Sponsors

High Conflict Institute  
The Center for Divorce  
Education  
ProperComm

### Silver Sponsors

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SD Family Services, Inc.

### 16th Symposium on Child Custody

November 14-16, 2024  
Columbus, Ohio

### AFCC 62nd Annual Conference

May 28-31, 2025  
New Orleans, Louisiana

### AFCC Chapter Conferences

AFCC Minnesota  
Advanced ENE Training  
February 1-2, 2024  
Minneapolis, MN

AFCC California  
Annual Conference  
February 2-4, 2024  
San Francisco, CA

AFCC Alberta  
Chapter Conference  
February 29, 2024-March 1,  
2024  
Banff, Alberta

AFCC Washington  
Spring Conference  
April 19, 2024  
Seattle, WA

AFCC Ontario  
16th Annual Conference

## Reserve Your Hotel Room Today!

The Sheraton Boston Hotel is offering AFCC conference attendees a special group rate of \$245/night for single and double occupancy rooms. Reserve your room early as the AFCC room block frequently sells out prior to the conference. [Book online](#) or by calling 888-627-7054 and mention the AFCC room block.

[Register Now!](#)

October 25, 2024  
Toronto, ON

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the AFCC  
Scholarship  
Fund**

## Top Ten Reasons to Join AFCC: According to our Members

*Kathleen McNamara, PhD*

Every member of AFCC was at one time a prospective member and something prompted them to join. For me it was an email. In 2007, I opened a message from Bob Smith, former AFCC president (2010-2011), in which he told me about the upcoming AFCC fall conference and invited me to join. I was in solo practice as a psychologist, conducting parenting plan evaluations and providing therapeutic services for court-involved families. I perused the conference brochure and thought, "Wow! This looks great." I joined at the conference rate and off I went to my first AFCC conference. Like many before me, I was awestruck by the relevancy and excellence of the workshops, the warmth of AFCC staff and leaders, and the wealth of knowledge and resources offered by AFCC. I felt energized by new ideas and was thrilled to come home with new "tools in my toolbox" to aid me in my practice. I had found my professional home. I have barely missed an AFCC conference since. I continue to grow, learn, and be inspired by the AFCC community. The vast array of learning opportunities, access to research and resources, and connections to outstanding experts in the field have been invaluable to me. These are my primary reasons for being a member of AFCC. I thank Bob Smith often for that email he sent me so many years ago! [Continue Reading](#).



## AFCC Online Training Programs

### The Fundamentals of Conducting Parenting Plan Evaluations

March 11-14, and March 18-20, 2024

An expanded 28-hour online training program for professionals interested in parenting plan evaluations.

This comprehensive parenting plan evaluation (PPE) training program is conducted online by a team of leading practitioners and trainers. The program will take place in two segments per day, two hours each. Recordings of all sessions will be available for registrants.

This program will incorporate a complete overview of the parenting plan evaluation process, including:



- Definition of the purpose and roles of the parenting plan evaluator
- Specifics of the evaluation process, including interviewing, recordkeeping, and use of technology
- Implications of intimate partner violence and resist-refuse dynamics
- Updates on current research
- Implications of relocations and consideration of special needs children
- Implications of child maltreatment, including sexual, physical, and emotional abuse
- Development of parenting plans
- Review of cultural considerations, biases, and ethical issues
- Utilization of psychological testing
- Best practices for report writing and testifying

Participants will learn the difference between a forensic role and a clinical role, how to review court orders and determine what information should be obtained, strategies for interviewing adults and children, how to assess coparenting issues, how to develop and test multiple hypotheses, and how to craft recommendations.

**Training Team:**

- Chioma Ajoku, JD, PhD, ABPP
- Robin M. Deutsch, PhD, ABPP
- April Harris-Britt, PhD
- Kathleen McNamara, PhD
- Terry Singh, PhD, ABPP

Read the [program brochure](#) and [register today!](#)




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## Webinar Corner

# Equal Parenting Time in Practice and Policy: A Friendly Debate and Discussion

William V. Fabricius, PhD, Michael A. Saini, PhD

**Tuesday, February 13th, 2024**

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

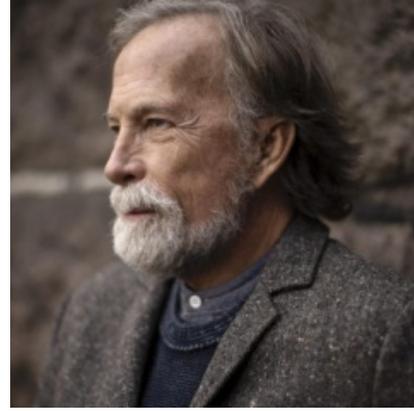
**Registration will close on February 12th, 2024, at 9:00am Eastern Time US/Canada .**

There remains much debate about the question of causality versus selection bias in the application of social science research on 50/50 shared parenting plans. Some have called for policies and legislation to support presumptions of shared parenting while others have suggested an individualized assessment of the child’s best interest in each case. This webinar brings together two research scholars, both with interest in positive outcomes for children and families post separation and divorce. The presenters will debate and discuss the various parenting plans schedules that have been proposed and evaluated in the social sciences. The presenters will also deliberate on the benefits and limitations of presumptions of equal parenting time from both policy and practice perspectives. The goal of the webinar is not for the audience to choose sides, but instead to be better informed by contemplating the issues at the heart of these longstanding debates.



**William V. Fabricius** received his MA in Early

Childhood Education from Wheelock College, and PhD in Developmental Psychology from the University of Michigan. He is a professor in the department of Psychology, and an Affiliated Faculty in Law and Behavioral Science, at Arizona State University. His research focuses on young children's cognitive development, the role of fathers in adolescent and young adult development, and social policy regarding child custody after parental divorce. In 2010, he received the Science and Research Award presented by the Arizona Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. He previously served by Gubernatorial appointment on the Domestic Relations Committee at the Arizona State Legislature, and as Chair of the Ad Hoc Custody Workgroup on the Domestic Relations Committee, resulting in passage of major reforms to the Arizona Revised Statutes, making Arizona the first state to have a de facto rebuttable presumption that it is in children's best interests to have equal parenting time with both parents after parental separation. Dr. Fabricius has published, received substantial grants for his work, and is a recognized national and international speaker.



**Michael Saini, PhD** holds the endowed Factor-Inwentash Chair in Law and Social Work, and he is the Co-Director of the combined J.D. / M.S.W. program at the University of Toronto and the Coordinator of the Children and Families Field of Study at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto, Canada. Prof. Saini has over 200 publications, including books, published articles, and book chapters that address children and families' wellbeing in systems governed by law. He is currently President-Elect of AFCC, a Board Member of Access for



#### **Registration**

Members: \$15

Non-Members: \$50

#### **Certificate of Attendance**

Members: \$15

Non-members: \$20

[Register Now!](#)

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## **Military Families: Untangling Biases and Balancing Cultural Considerations (DE&I Series)**

*Hon. Kevin M. Duffan; Richard E. Garrriott, Jr., JD; Sarah G. Buitrago, JD; & Alana R. Hollings, PsyD*

**Wednesday, January 24, 2024**

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

**Registration closes January 23, 2024, at 9am Eastern Time US**

From the unique legal protections afforded to active duty, deployed military members to the nuances of circumstances ranging from intimate partner violence, relocation, and PTSD – military families bring a host of additional considerations when they present in Family Court. A panel of experts will explore how to navigate the intersection of military culture and family law with separation, divorce and the implementation of parenting plans which factor in the potential impact for parent-child relationships stemming from absences of a parent who is deployed. The panel will also discuss the role of bias and the importance of thorough evaluation when allegations arise that incorporate reference to a PTSD diagnosis to appropriately balance safety, access, and the best interests of individual family members.

**This webinar is free to attend, but you must register to receive the link to join.**

**Hon. Kevin M. Duffan**, a graduate of James Madison University and the William & Mary School of Law, is currently a presiding judge on the 2nd Judicial Circuit of Virginia. He previously served as a judge on the Virginia Beach Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court before his April 2020 elevation to Circuit Court. Judge Duffan serves on the Board of Directors for the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, is faculty member for the Virginia State Bar course on professionalism and is the current Vice President for the l'Anson Hoffman American Inn of Courts. Judge Duffan served as the legal analyst for the ABC News affiliate in the Hampton Roads metro area and has been as a panelist, lecturer, or keynote speaker nationwide on topics ranging from family law to criminal procedure.



**Richard E. Garriott, Jr., JD**, is a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and the International Academy of Family Lawyers. He focuses his practice on the areas of family law and civil litigation. Richard helps clients with cases involving divorce, property settlement agreements, child custody, and premarital agreements. He also represents clients in matters involving child protective services. As a former President of the Virginia Bar Association, Richard is recognized statewide as a preeminent advocate in divorce and custody disputes.



**Alana R. Hollings, PsyD**, is a clinical and forensic psychologist and certified as a sex offender treatment provider. She earned her doctoral degree in clinical psychology with a concentration in forensics and completed her post-doctoral training at a maximum-security forensic hospital in Atascadero, California. In full-time private practice since 2007, Dr. Hollings conducts forensic evaluations for state, military and federal courts, private attorneys, and the Department of Social Services. She routinely testifies as an expert witness on a wide range of legal controversies including parental fitness, custody situations, trauma, child sexual abuse, trial competence and mental state at the time of the offense.



**Sarah G. Buitrago, JD**, practices family law exclusively as an Associate at Wolcott Rivers Gates in Virginia Beach. She was a 2021 attendee of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Institute for Family Law Associates, taught by a nationally renowned faculty of Academy Fellows. Sarah is a member of the l'Anson-Hoffman American Inn of Court, and she is the 2022 Chair of the Virginia Beach Bar Association Young Lawyers Committee.



[Register Now!](#)

## More Upcoming Webinars!

### Family Matters 2.0: Navigating Family Law in the Age of AI

*Susan E. Guthrie, JD*

March 5, 2024

### The "Good Enough" Parenting Plan Evaluation

*Leslie M. Drozd, PhD*

April 9, 2024

### Disrupting Anti-Black Racism in the Judicial System: A Focus on Child Rearing and African American Parents (DE&I Series)

*Carla Adkison-Johnson, PhD & Trae Bell*

April 17, 2024

### Grappling with No: Children Declining Treatment in the Age of Consent

*Barbara J. Fidler, PhD, CPsych & Stacey E. Platt, JD*

May 8, 2024

### The Hats We Wear as Court Experts: Roles, Conflicts, and Helpfulness

*Jeffrey P. Wittmann, PhD*

June 18, 2024

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# Family Court Review

The Journal of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

Volume 62 Number 1

January 2024

*Leading dialogue in family court research, policy, and practice for more than half a century.*

## Family Court Review

Special Issue: Family Violence and Parenting

Volume 62, Issue 1

The January issue of *FCR* will be coming out soon. This issue is the first ever *FCR* issue to be published **exclusively in a digital format**. This edition is a special issue on intimate partner violence which was edited by guest editors Robin Deutsch, Leslie Drozd, and Michael Saini.

See below for a list of articles with corresponding abstracts. To read the full articles that have been published so far, please see the [FCR Archives](#) on AFCC's homepage.

### Guest Editors' Introduction to the Special Issue on Family Violence and Parenting

Robin Deutsch, Leslie Drozd, and Michael Saini

### Intimate Partner Violence Screening for Separate or Divorcing Parents: An Introduction to the Mediator's Assessment of Safety Issues and Concerns-Short (Masics)

Fernanda Rossi, Amy Applegate, Claire Tomlinson, and Amy Holtzworth Munroe

### Implications of Intimate Partner Physical Violence and Substance Misuse for Parenting

Daniel O'Leary

### Intimate Partner Violence in the LGBTQ+ Community: Implications for Family Court Professionals (No Abstract Available Yet)

Lindsey Davis and Emily Crain

### **Parent Child Contact Problems: Family Violence and Parental Alienation Behaviors: Either/Or, Neither/Nor, Both/And, One in the Same?**

Matthew Sullivan, Marsha Kline Pruett, and Janet Johnston

### **Justice Metamorphosis: Moving from Reactive to Proactive Strategies to Remotely Protect Families from Intimate Partner Violence**

Alicia Davis, Sarah Vandenberg Van Zee, and Conor Geiger

### **Engaging Fathers Who Commit Family Violence: Issues and Challenges for Family Courts**

Katreena Scott, Robert Nonomura, Dan Zamfir, Peter Jaffe, Shaz Bukhari, and Lisa Heslop

### **Mitigating the Impact of Intimate Partner Violence in Pregnancy and Early Childhood: A Dyadic Approach to Psychotherapy**

Carolyn Ponting, Rachel Tomlinson, Ann Chu, and Alicia Lieberman

### **Coparenting and Intimate Partner Violence**

Jennifer Hardesty, Brian Ogolsky, and Tanitoluwa Akinbode

### **Defining Points and Transformative Turns in Family Violence, Parenting and Coparenting Disputes**

Michael Saini, Robin Deutsch, and Leslie Drozd

### **A Call for Early, Effective, and Scalable Parent Education for High-Conflict Separated/Divorcing Parents: A Synthesized Perspective from Prevention Science and Family Law**

Karey O'Hara and Bruce Cohen

### **The Lived Experiences of Children/Young People in the Aotearoa-New Zealand Family Court System**

Kath Orr

### **Are Child Custody Evaluations Beneficial to Family Law Judges? A Study from the Judicial Perspective**

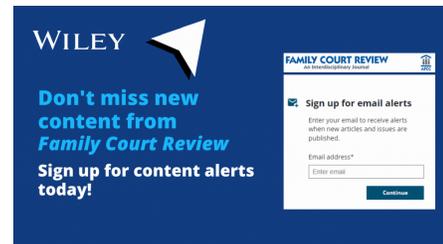
Tammi Axelson, Jennifer Gentile

[Preview the January 2024 Issue of FCR](#)

### **Sign Up for Alerts**

Articles are often available before their quarterly release, [sign up for alerts](#) and be notified as soon as a new article is posted.

If you miss an article or issue, then you can find them in the *FCR* archives which can be accessed via the member center on the AFCC [website](#).



## **AFCC Member News**

**Hon. Dianna Gould-Saltman**, AFCC member from California and a former president of AFCC has announced her retirement after more than 13 years on the bench in Los Angeles County, California; she will officially retire on March 1, 2024. Dianna practiced in family law for many years before her rise to the bench and received the Spencer Brandeis Award this year from the Los



Angeles County Bar Association for her “extraordinary impact upon the advancement of family law due to her creative legal advocacy and commitment to service to the family law community.” The recipient of several awards for her contributions to the field during her career, Dianna was also the recipient of the AFCC John E. Van Duzer Distinguished Service Award in 2023. She has been a frequent presenter at AFCC Conferences and has offered judicial insights through her publications related to a variety of family law issues. Congratulations Dianna!

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## Board of Directors Nominations

The AFCC Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for individuals to serve on the AFCC Board of Directors. Recommended individuals must be AFCC members and have an interest in and knowledge of AFCC and its work. Nominations must be received by January 31, 2024, to be considered by the committee prior to the election at the AFCC 61st Annual Conference. The term is three years, beginning July 1, 2024, and concluding June 30, 2027. If you or a member you know is interested, please send your/their contact information, resume, and a letter of interest to the AFCC Nominating Committee via email to [afcc@afccnet.org](mailto:afcc@afccnet.org).

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## Award Nominations

AFCC will be acknowledging the accomplishments of leaders in family law by presenting awards at the AFCC 61st Annual Conference. We encourage you to recognize your colleagues by submitting a nomination. Nominations for the awards listed below will be accepted online through **March 22, 2024**.

**John E. VanDuzer Distinguished Service Award** recognizes outstanding contributions and/or achievements by AFCC members. **Nominate a colleague!**

**Stanley Cohen Distinguished Research Award** recognizes outstanding research and/or research achievements in the field of family and divorce. **Submit your nomination now!**

**Irwin Cantor Innovative Program Award** recognizes innovation in court-connected or court-related programs created by AFCC members. **Nominate a program!**

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### 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.*

#### EDITOR:

**[Ann Ordway, JD, PhD](#)**

#### ASSOCIATE EDITOR:

**[Patrick Sommer](#)**

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## **President's Message: Working for Peace and Safety in Polarized Times**

Stacey Platt, JD

Tragically, on October 19, 2023, Maryland Judge Andrew Wilkinson, age 52, was shot and murdered in his driveway only hours after granting custody to a parent. The suspect, the “losing” parent, had a history of abusive behaviors, including child abuse, stalking, financial control, and verbal assaults. A week after the murder, the suspect was found dead, an apparent suicide.

Our work is inherently dangerous. We evaluate cases involving sometimes dysfunctional --but almost always precious-- relationships between parents and their children. We negotiate and mediate with parents during their most troubled and vulnerable times. We recommend, fight for, and adjudicate family schedules and decision-making processes that sometimes marginalize or even completely cut parents off from their children. And while our reasoning may be valid and our positions made in good faith, for some litigants it is easier to blame the family justice system and its players than it is to acknowledge their own challenges. These attitudes are exacerbated by Google searches that, thanks to the algorithms of the internet, quickly identify others who believe they have been similarly wronged and advocacy groups that take myopic approaches to complex and nuanced issues.

As family court professionals we face many questions: How do we navigate entrenched high conflict situations? How do we avoid exacerbating conflict while still remaining true to our professional goals? How do we help mitigate family tensions and professional differences without watering down the truths we see and present? How do we attempt more peaceful processes in a larger society that seems so polarized, where demonization is prioritized, hatred feels almost codified, and truth is nothing but a nuisance? In the world of family law, this translates well beyond dueling experts, to board complaints, malpractice suits, media onslaughts, threats, and even physical violence. We all know the feeling of dread that starts with a parent lashing out at us personally. Can we do something to prevent and rein in the anger?

We must try, and at AFCC we are trying. As an interdisciplinary organization, our members represent virtually all perspectives in family law and dispute resolution. For decades we have addressed challenging conflicts about the most effective ways to address issues including relocation disputes, mediation and domestic violence, shared parenting, parent-child conflict problems, and child abuse and neglect –the most difficult problems separating families face.

Along those lines, last summer, AFCC quietly initiated a Peace Talks initiative, convening a small group of people with different perspectives on parent-child contact problems (PCCP) for informal discussions. In particular, we have been discussing the third rail of family law, looking substantively at our differences in addressing PCCP cases with competing allegations of domestic violence and parental alienation. Participants in the Initiative thus far include Drs. Peter Jaffe, William Bernet, April Harris-Britt, and Michael Saini, along with Hon. Denise McColley (Ret.), Peter Salem, and me.

We began in the early fall by establishing rules of engagement, designed to ensure a respectful process open to honest and open debate. Since then, we have begun working on substance, identifying agreements and disagreements, and working our way through a lengthy list. The conversations are challenging, but we are all committed to moving forward in a collaborative manner.

Several of us will be sharing our Peace Talks experience in a plenary session at the AFCC Annual Conference in Boston, June 5-8, 2024. There will also be related sessions on the program, and we anticipate further discussions, open to more participants, moving forward.

I hope you will join us in Boston the spirit of AFCC's organizational values:

- Collaboration and respect among professions and disciplines
- Learning through inquiry, discussion, and debate
- Innovation in addressing the needs of families and children in conflict
- Diversity in family structure and cultures
- Empowering families to resolve conflict and make decisions about their futures

Beyond those values, we can all agree that family law must be safe for children, families, and the professionals who work with them.



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## **Top Ten Reasons to Join AFCC: According to our Members**

*Kathleen McNamara, PhD*

Every member of AFCC was at one time a prospective member and something prompted them to join. For me it was an email. In 2007, I opened a message from Bob Smith, former AFCC president (2010-2011), in which he told me about the upcoming AFCC fall conference and invited me to join. I was in solo practice as a psychologist, conducting parenting plan evaluations and providing therapeutic services for court-involved families. I perused the conference brochure and thought, “Wow! This looks great.” I joined at the conference rate and off I went to my first AFCC conference. Like many before me, I was awestruck by the relevancy and excellence of the workshops, the warmth of AFCC staff and leaders, and the wealth of knowledge and resources offered by AFCC. I felt energized by new ideas and was thrilled to come home with new “tools in my toolbox” to aid me in my practice. I had found my professional home. I have barely missed an AFCC conference since. I continue to grow, learn, and be inspired by the AFCC community. The vast array of learning opportunities, access to research and resources, and connections to outstanding experts in the field have been invaluable to me. These are my primary reasons for being a member of AFCC. I thank Bob Smith often for that email he sent me so many years ago!

What turned you from being a prospective member into a member, and why do you remain a member of AFCC? I urge you to ask yourself this question and share your answer with prospective members in your community. By doing so, you will be actively participating in the growth of our vibrant, inclusive, and cutting-edge association of multidisciplinary professionals. You will also be contributing to the advancement of knowledge, best practices, and expertise in your community, and you’ll feel great when someone thanks you for suggesting that they join.

Below are the Top Ten Reasons to Join AFCC according to our members. Perhaps you’ve read them before, but I urge you to re-read them and ask yourself which ones resonate with you. Then reach out to someone who is not yet a member and

encourage them to join (and tell them to attend the AFCC conference in Boston in June!) Someday, they will thank you.

## **Top Ten Reasons to Join AFCC: According to our Members**

**1. Learning, learning, learning!** I belong to AFCC because I want cutting-edge learning opportunities. AFCC offers national, international and local programs that are extremely relevant to my daily work. Once you attend an AFCC conference you become hooked on the high-quality learning opportunities!

**2. Cutting edge research and knowledge.** I appreciate getting to know and learning from the people who write the books and articles. I look forward to reading the *Family Court Review*. It's a treasure trove of the latest, greatest, most relevant information! Belonging to AFCC enables me to be well informed about what is currently known, as well as what is not yet known.

**3. Innovative programs.** From co-parent education, to parenting coordination and elder coordination, to therapeutic programs and court-based services, AFCC is on the leading edge of innovative services and programs. No need to reinvent the wheel if you are a member of AFCC! Resources and information about a wide range of interventions and best practices are readily accessible to members.

**4. Discourse and Debate.** Bar none, AFCC is the best place to hear and engage in debate on the really difficult questions. You hear multiple perspectives and can make up your own mind. AFCC never shies away from addressing the most challenging issues in family law.

**5. Colleagues and Friends.** As a professional organization, AFCC has some of the friendliest people I have ever met! You experience true collegiality without egos. I have made lifelong, wonderful friendships within AFCC. This is what happens when you bring people who are committed to excellence.

**6. Global and Diverse Perspectives.** Being a member of AFCC helps me understand the perspectives of professionals from various disciplines. I immensely value having access to international experts and being a part of international collaboration.

**7. A Multidisciplinary Home.** AFCC is a multidisciplinary home for those who work at the interface of psychology, family law, dispute resolution, and education. We are a diverse group, defined by our commitment to helping children and families in conflict. I find membership in AFCC to be more relevant and valuable than my membership in the association for my primary discipline!

**8. Dedication to Excellence.** No organization identifies and promotes best practices for working with families in conflict better than AFCC. I belong to AFCC because it truly makes the world a little better place.

**9. Discounts and Scholarships.** Membership in AFCC is a bargain! The dues are extremely reasonable for what you get. Member discounts and scholarships are just a few of the perks that come with membership.

**10. Information at your fingertips.** The AFCC website is the first place I go when I need information and resources. The monthly AFCC eNEWS quickly updates me on the latest news and events and alerts me to emerging issues and innovations. *Family Court Review* articles back to 1963 can be accessed in a few clicks if you are a member. Belonging to AFCC keeps me at the top of my professional game!



**Kathleen McNamara, PhD** is a licensed psychologist in private practice in Fort Collins, CO, specializing in counseling and forensic psychological services for court-involved families. She has conducted hundreds of parenting evaluations, consults with attorneys and mental health professionals about complex issues in family law cases, and is a parenting coordinator, decision-maker, and therapist. She was the reporter for the 2022 AFCC Guidelines for Parenting Plan Evaluations in Family Law Cases. Before devoting herself to full-time practice, she was a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at Colorado State University, where she was a teacher, researcher, and clinical supervisor for fourteen years. She is a former president of the Colorado Chapter of AFCC and remains involved in

program planning and chapter development. She is a past chair and former member of the Colorado Psychological Association Ethics Committee and serves on the Colorado Supreme Court Standing Committee on Family Issues and the 8th Judicial District Domestic Relations Best Practices Team.