



# **SYMPOSIUM ON HIGH CONFLICT FAMILIES AND THE COURTS**



**Association of Family  
and Conciliation Courts  
Northeast Regional Conference**

## **NEW YORK CITY**

**Rescheduled for March 18, 2002**

**New Yorker Hotel  
\$129 single/double**

***Co-sponsors:*  
Hofstra Law School  
Education & Assistance Corporation (EAC, Inc.)**

# Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Presents Symposium on High Conflict Families and the Courts and Judicial Leadership Institute

March 18, 2002 • New Yorker Hotel • New York City

High conflict families present significant challenges for professionals who work with issues related to separation and divorce, custody disputes and child abuse and neglect. Working with high conflict parents requires enormous time and effort and the resolution of these disputes are often tenuous at best. AFCC invites you to join us as we explore cutting-edge techniques for working with high conflict families. This Symposium is designed for judges, lawyers, mediators, custody evaluators, psychologists, counselors and all professionals who work with families in conflict. Register today and don't miss this extraordinary opportunity!

## Symposium Schedule

8:00am-9:00am	Registration
9:00am-5:00pm	Judicial Leadership Institute
9:00am-10:30am	Symposium Opening Session
10:45am-12:15pm	Symposium Workshops 1-3
12:15pm-1:45pm	Awards Luncheon
2:00pm-4:30pm	Symposium Extended Workshops 4-6
4:30pm-5:30pm	New Jersey Chapter Meeting
5:00pm-6:00pm	New York Chapter Organizational Meeting



**For the 10% of your cases that take up 90% of your time**

*Here's What You Get When You Join AFCC*

### Interdisciplinary Perspective

AFCC brings together judicial officers, lawyers, mediators, psychologists, counselors, parent educators, researchers and other professionals who work with children and families in conflict. AFCC's interdisciplinary approach creates the opportunity for members to integrate a broad range of ideas and perspectives in their practices.

### International Scope

AFCC has members from 20 countries and six continents. AFCC's conferences and publications offer members the opportunity to interact with and learn from professionals in all corners of the world.

### On the Cutting Edge

AFCC members are on the cutting edge in creating innovative interdisciplinary processes, new techniques and interventions and creating effective programs for children and families world-wide.

### More AFCC Member Benefits

AFCC members receive AFCC's quarterly journal, *Family Court Review*, the *AFCC Newsletter*, discounts on conference registrations and more.

### NEW AFCC MEMBER BENEFITS!

- AFCC members-only interest groups featuring on-line discussion through AFCC's new and improved web site.
- **FAMILY COURT REVIEW: An Interdisciplinary Journal.** AFCC's quarterly journal is bigger and better with a new name, a new look and even more outstanding articles on research, legal and policy issues, program development and practice consideration.
- Conference scholarships for AFCC members.

### To Join AFCC as a New Member

When you fill out your conference registration form, just check the New Member Special. If you join when you register you will receive a membership for \$140 and become eligible to register for the member rate, a \$35 savings! The New Member Special does not apply to membership renewals. For questions, please contact AFCC at (608) 664-3750 or [afcc@afccnet.org](mailto:afcc@afccnet.org)

# Symposium on High Conflict Families and the Courts

**Monday, March 18, 2002**

8:00am-9:00am Registration

8:00am-9:00am Coffee and Rolls

9:00am-5:00pm

## Judicial Leadership Institute

*(Separate registration required)*

The role of the judiciary is crucial to the development of effective court-related services for families. This institute is designed for judicial officers who are interested in new trends in the structure of the courts, case management techniques and the growing role of education and dispute resolution procedures. The role of judges in developing and implementing court-annexed and community based programs will also be addressed. *Sponsored by the New York State Office of Court Administration.*

**Barbara A. Babb**, Director, Center for Families, Children and the Courts, University of Baltimore School of Law, Baltimore, MD

**Hon. Evelyn Frazee**, Rochester, NY

**Joyce E. Funda, J.D.**, Special Counsel and Executive Assistant, Office of Court Administration, New York, NY

**Hon. Sandy Karlan**, Miami, FL

**Jeffrey A. Kuhn, J.D.**, Senior Fellow, Center for Families, Children and the Courts, University of Baltimore School of Law, Baltimore, MD

**Marsha Kline Pruett, Ph.D.**, Yale University Child Study Center, New Haven, CT

**Robert Tompkins, M.A.**, Former AFCC President, Court Support Services Division, Derby, CT

**Andrew Schepard, J.D.**, Hofstra Law School, Hempstead, New York

**Daniel M. Weitz, J.D.**, Coordinator, ADR Programs, State of New York, Unified Court System, New York, NY

9:00am-10:30am

Symposium Opening Session

## Overnights and the Best Interests of Infants and Young Children

This roundtable discussion will examine one of the hottest debates in the field today: the impact of overnights on infants and young children. Does spending the night away from a child's primary caregiver create irreparable damage for infants and young children? Can the best interests of a child be balanced with the rights of parents to spend significant time with their children? Join these leading experts as they debate the pros and cons of overnights for infants and young children.

**Robin Deutsch, Ph.D.**, Director of Training, Children and the Law Program, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

**Sonja Goldstein, J.D.**, New Haven, CT

**Toby G. Kleinman, J.D.**, Adler & Klienman, New Brunswick, NJ

**Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann**, Administrative Judge for Statewide Matrimonial Matters, New York, NY

**Albert J. Solnit, M.D.**, Yale University Child Study Center, New Haven, CT

**Moderator: Robert Z. Dobrish, J.D.**, Hoffinger, Friedland, Dobrish & Stern, New York, NY

10:30am-10:45am

Break





# Symposium on High Conflict Families and the Courts

10:45-12:15pm

Workshops 1-3

## 1. Assessing and Addressing Allegations of Sexual Abuse

Allegations of child sexual abuse occur with alarming frequency in high conflict families. These allegations occur in all types of cases including divorce, child welfare matters and custody disputes between never-married parents. They are often difficult to substantiate and many prove to be false. This workshop will examine methods for evaluating sexual abuse allegations and understanding the family dynamics that can lead to them. This session is designed for judges, lawyers, mediators and mental health professionals.

**Robert Horwitz, Ph.D.**, *Psychologist in Private Practice, New Haven, CT*

**Ellie Shafer, MSW, LCSW**, *Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut, Stamford, CT*

**Larry Rosenberg, Ph.D.**, *Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut, Stamford, CT*

## 2. Considerations for Implementing a Collaborative Family Law Practice

This workshop combines didactic and interactive presentation of (1) the concepts of collaborative and competitive negotiation and problem solving; (2) collaborative divorce with a discussion of concepts, protocols, rudiments and practices; and (3) critique and refinement of the collaborative family law model. *Sponsored by the AFCC New Jersey Chapter.*

**Curtis J. Romanowski J.D.**, *Romanowski Law Offices, President, Collaborative Family Institute Metuchen, NJ*

## 3. Working with Parents in High Conflict Families: The Impact on the Professional

Working with high conflict families can place significant strain on judges, lawyers, mediators, evaluators and mental health clinicians. The impact of this work on the professional is not always readily apparent. This workshop will examine the unique demands associated with working with high conflict families, the behavioral and emotional impact of these stresses and options for developing healthy coping strategies.

**Jeff Zimmerman Ph.D.**, *Beacon Behavioral Services, Avon, CT*

**Elizabeth Thayer Ph.D.**, *Beacon Behavioral Services, Avon, CT*

**Moderator: Hon. Herbert Gruendel**, *Chief Administrative Family Judge, Superior Court of Connecticut, Hartford, CT*

12:15pm-1:45pm

Awards Luncheon

2:00pm-4:30pm

Workshops 4-6

## 4. The Alienated Child Within an Alienating Family System

A multitude of factors combine to create a family system in which child contact with a parent has been severed, ruptured or strained. This session examines in detail several of these factors, including relationships between the age and gender of the child, the cognitive and moral stage of development and perceptions of early attachment or estrangement of the child. Presenters will discuss current research and offer a conceptual model based on degree of early attachment, how and when the relationship became broken, contributions of family members and a continuum for thinking about how to approach such cases.

**Robin Deutsch, Ph.D.**, *Children and the Law Program, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA*

**Hon. Arline Rotman (ret.)**, *Children and the Law Program, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA*

**Peggie Ward, Ph.D.**, *Children and the Law Program, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA*

## 5. Domestic Violence, High Conflict Families and the Courts

This workshop will examine innovative programs and processes developed for the challenges of addressing domestic violence cases. Presenters will examine an innovative New York pilot program which integrates criminal, family and matrimonial domestic violence in one court, providing a coordinated and effective mechanism for the resolution of these matters. The session will then explore how parent educators, mediators and custody evaluators can work with families in which domestic violence exists while addressing issues such as safety and fairness and power imbalances.

**Elayne E. Greenberg, J.D.**, *Project Director, Custody and Visitation Mediation Program, EAC, Hempstead, NY*

**Joseph McGill, M.S.W.**, *Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Child and Family Forensic Center, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA*

**Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann**, *Administrative Judge for Statewide Matrimonial Matters, New York, NY*

## 6. Conducting Effective Cross-Examination and Expert Testimony

Although most cases never go to trial, for those that do, effective expert testimony and cross-examination techniques are crucial. Using a mock trial format, this session will demonstrate effective techniques for providing expert testimony and cross-examination. Presenters will demonstrate common mistakes made by lawyers and evaluators in legal proceedings.

**Hon. Anne C. Dranginis**, *Judge, Connecticut Appellate Court, Hartford, CT*

**Jonathan Gould, Ph.D.**, *Author, Conducting Scientifically Crafted Child Custody Evaluations, Charlotte, NC*

**Leonard G. Floresue, J.D.**, *Blank, Rome, Tenzer, Greenblatt, New York, NY*

**Toby G. Kleinman, J.D.**, *Adler & Klienman, New Brunswick, NJ*

## Location and Lodging Information

The Symposium and Judicial Leadership Institute will take place at the New Yorker Hotel in the heart of Manhattan. The New Yorker is located at 481 Eighth Avenue at the intersection of 34th Street and across the street from Penn Station. All attendees are responsible for making their own lodging arrangements. AFCC has reserved a block of rooms at the special conference rate of \$129 per night, single or double room. The block of rooms will be released to the public for general sale on February 14, 2002. All room reservations are subject to availability so please make your reservations early. Be certain to mention that you are with AFCC to assure the \$129 rate. Contact the New Yorker for reservations at (800) 764-4680 or (212) 971-0101.

## Parking

Valet parking is available at the New Yorker for \$60.00 per day. For information on additional parking in the area, please contact AFCC at (608) 664-3750 or [afcc@afccnet.org](mailto:afcc@afccnet.org).

## Continuing Education Credits

AFCC will provide a certificate of conference attendance for a \$10 processing fee. The certificate will verify attendance at conference sessions and may be used to apply for continuing education credits with the registrant's accrediting institution.

AFCC is approved by the American Psychological Association to offer continuing education for psychologists. AFCC maintains responsibility for the program. A complete list of conference sessions approved for continuing education credit for psychologists will be available at the conference. This conference is co-sponsored by Hofstra University Law School. Continuing Legal Education Credits will be offered to members of the New York Bar by Hofstra University Law School, which has been accredited by the State of New York as a continuing legal education provider.

## Special Needs

If you have special meal requests or other special needs, please note this on the registration form. The New Yorker is accessible to the disabled and all functions are wheel-chair accessible.

## Cancellation Policy

Transfer of registration to another person may be done at any time without a fee. All requests for refunds must be made in writing. Written notice of cancellation received by email, fax or postmarked by March 1, 2002 will be issued a full refund minus a \$50 service fee. Written notice received by email, fax or postmarked by March 12, 2002 will have the \$50 service fee deducted with the balance issued as a credit for future AFCC conferences, publications or membership dues. No refunds or credits will be issued for cancellations received after March 12.

# Registration Form

## Symposium on High Conflict Families and Judicial Leadership Institute

Please type or print clearly  
This form may be duplicated.

First Name, (Mr., Ms.) \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

(As you would like it to appear on your name badge)

Title/Profession \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first AFCC Conference?  Yes  No

Do you have any special needs?  
 Meals  Access  Other

Please provide details: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member Special ..... \$140

*Join for one year and register at the AFCC member rate!*

Judicial Leadership Institute ..... \$195

Symposium Registration ..... \$195

Certificate of Attendance ..... \$ 10

Additional luncheon Ticket ..... \$ 40

AFCC Member Discount ..... - \$ 25

*AFCC members deduct \$25 from your total*

**TOTAL:** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment enclosed (U.S. currency only please)

Please charge my credit card  Visa  Mastercard

*Sorry, we do not accept American Express*

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Card Holder's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please send invoice Purchase Order # \_\_\_\_\_

Please select one workshop per time slot. If you are registering for the Judicial Leadership Institute, *please do not* make workshop selections.

10:45am-12:15pm 1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

2:00pm-4:30pm 4-6 \_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed form and payment to:

**AFCC**

6515 Grand Teton Plaza, Suite 210

Madison, WI 53719

Phone: (608) 664-3750

Fax: (608) 664-3751

E-mail: [afcc@afccnet.org](mailto:afcc@afccnet.org)