

AVANT TOUT, LES ENFANTS



CHILDREN NOW

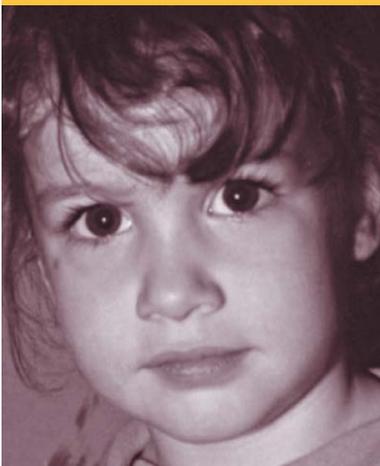
INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM INTERNATIONAL

MAY 31ST, JUNE 1ST & 2ND, 2018 ✦ 31 MAI, 1^{ER} & 2 JUIN 2018
(MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC, CANADA)



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**Working with Families
in Transition in the 21st Century**

**Agir auprès des familles
en transition au 21^e siècle**

SPEAKERS / CONFÉRENCIERS | CONFÉRENCIÈRES



High Conflict Separations & Children Resisting Contact with a Parent

Nicholas Bala

High conflict separations pose significant risks for emotional harm to children, as well as substantial challenges for professionals, agencies and the courts. Almost by definition these are cases that will be resolved by use of the justice system and involve multiple court appearances, and not infrequently will result in proceedings in more than one court, with the prospect of concurrent family, criminal and child welfare proceedings.

***Nicholas Bala LL.M.** has been a Professor of Law at Queen's University since 1980. Nick is a leading international authority on legal issues related to families and children, including the role of children in the courts, high conflict separations and parental alienation, domestic violence and child witnesses justice. Much of his research is interdisciplinary and collaborative. His work is frequently cited by judges in Canada and other countries.*



Now What? Evaluating Interventions When Attachment Disruption Is Identified

John-Paul Boyd / Alyson Jones

This workshop digs deeper into understanding the solutions to one of the most difficult issues facing professionals working with families in divorce and separation situations. It is widely recognized that parental alienation, estrangement and high conflict are some of the most difficult family law cases for Judges, lawyers and mental health professionals to deal with. This workshop will outline the various intervention options for the therapeutic treatment of attachment disruptions. An innovative tool that will assist in the critical analysis of these interventions will be introduced in a practical and informative manner to the workshop participants.

***Alyson Jones MA, RCC** is the Clinical Director at Alyson Jones & Associates where she oversees a team specializing in divorce and separation issues. She is a Parenting Coordinator, Divorce Coach and the Director of the Family Forward Program which provides reunification therapy and containment strategies for high conflict divorces.*

***John-Paul Boyd M.A. LLB**, is an arbitrator, mediator, researcher, lecturer, author and consultant. He is the executive director of the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family at the University of Calgary, a member of the bars of British Columbia and Alberta, and a fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers. Before joining the Institute in 2013, John-Paul spent fourteen years in private practice in Vancouver, serving as a litigator, arbitrator, mediator, collaborative practitioner, parenting coordinator and children's counsel in family law disputes.*



Eldercaring Coordination: Adding room at your table for the rest of the family

Sue Bronson / Linda Fieldstone

Intergenerational conflict can have catastrophic effects when family members disagree over the care and safety of ageing persons. Families must have a way to address their conflict, learn to put aside personal vendettas, concentrate collaboratively on their ageing loved ones and develop support systems that model dignified ageing processes for the youngest generations. Parenting Coordination for families with minor children was the model for Eldercaring Coordination, to serve high conflict families at the other end of the spectrum. Learn about the process, qualifications for Eldercaring Coordinators, and how to start a pilot site in your area.

Sue Bronson LCSW is a mediator, trainer, and psychotherapist in private practice in Milwaukee, WI since 1983 mediating family, elder, workplace, special education, and other disputes. As a mediator and facilitator, She has over 30 years of experience helping people engage in quality conversations. Sue Bronson teaches mediation at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee School of Continuing Education. She is the author of numerous articles on conflict resolution and is a national speaker on skills for improving how we engage in conflict and find resolution when it is desired.

Linda Fieldstone, M.Ed., provides parenting coordination, mediation and facilitation through Family Resolutions, LLC. She is former Supervisor of Family Court Services, helping high conflict families within the 11th Judicial Circuit Miami-Dade County, Florida, for 26 years and still serves on the Florida Supreme Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules and Policy Committee. Ms. Fieldstone is Past-President of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC), Past President of its Florida Chapter (FLAFCC), Secretary of the AFCC Task Force on Parenting Coordination in 2005, and now on the Task Force to review the original Guidelines.



Parenting Coordination Mediating Cross-Border Family Conflict: Enhancing Resolution Through Parenting Coordination

Debra K. Carter

This workshop will describe this unique interdisciplinary family mediation model and its three primary components: 1) Expanded provision of pro bono mediation and parenting coordination services within and outside of the United States; 2) Training of professionals and graduate students interested in becoming engaged in this work in the U.S and abroad; and 3) Empirical and qualitative research on the initial outcomes of disputes mediated by the pilot project aimed at testing the efficacy of this model.

The psychological harm suffered by abducted children and the severe emotional distress of the left-behind parent are well documented (Freeman, M., 2014, 2006; Kreston, S., 2012). In addition, litigating a Hague Convention case involving a child abducted by a parent to or from the United States can be extremely difficult and frustrating, with imposed outcomes that can be characterized by uncertainty and questionable impact on children. By contrast, the process of mediation provides the parents an assisted opportunity to devise a voluntary, workable solution without waiting for court mechanisms to run their course. But unlike other mediation models, the pilot project offers—in addition to traditional mediation services— parenting information and assistance as part of the process, including parenting coordination services after an agreement has been reached. Early experience with this new model suggests that this element, lacking in Hague Convention court proceedings, can hold the key to reaching a resolution and offers the promise that parents will place the interests of children first.

Debra K. Carter, Ph.D. is a clinical and forensic psychologist, a Certified Family Law Mediator and a Qualified Parenting Coordinator. She is also the Co-Founder and Training Director of the National Cooperative Parenting Center (NCPC) which offers services to the Mental Health and Legal Communities in North America and around the globe. In addition to providing training in the United States, Europe, and Asia, Dr. Carter is a leading researcher on the efficacy of Parenting Coordination. She also developed a mediation model that includes parenting coordination for her work with the U.S. State Department in cases involving international parental child abductions.



Guidelines for Assessment of Intimate Partner Violence: Why do we need them

Robin Deutsch

Child custody cases that include allegations of Intimate Partner Violence are complex. The risks associated with child and parent functioning when parties are engaged in or witness IPV are significant and result in short and long term difficulties. This presentation will review these risks and review the AFCC guideline principles for assessment of IPV.

Robin Deutsch, Ph.D., ABPP American Board of Professional Psychology, is the Director of the Center of Excellence for Children, Families and the Law at the William James College (www.williamjames.edu/cffc) and core faculty in the Clinical Psychology doctoral program. For over 20 years she was the Director of Forensic Services and Training at the Children and the Law Program at Massachusetts General Hospital and on the faculty at Harvard Medical School, most recently as an Associate Clinical Professor of Psychology. Board certified in Couples and Family Psychology, she practices as a mediator, Parenting Coordinator, reunification specialist, and consultant.



Consultation Service to Child Protection Service Agencies on Matters Concerning High Conflict Separated Parents

Gary Direnfeld

Parents involved in high conflict protracted disputes over the care and residence of their children often come to the attention of child protection services (CPS). These families come through a number of routes including; referral by police, the result of calls by family, neighbours or community members to attend during a moment of conflict; report to CPS by third party services such as assessors, parenting coordinators or therapists; and more regularly the result of reports by one parent alleging untoward behaviour by the other parent. Of allegations made by one parent about the other, many are unverified and the incident is logged as parental conflict.

Gary Direnfeld, MSW, RSW is a Canadian Social Worker in private practice. He is recognized from his 65 episodes of the hit show *Newlywed/Nearly Dead*, to over 550 columns as the parenting expert of a major metropolitan newspaper, to more than 400 media appearances, to his book, *Marriage Rescue: Overcoming ten deadly sins in failing relationships*. Courts in Ontario, Canada, have deemed him an expert in social work, marital and family therapy, child development, parent-child relations and custody and access matters.

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Managing High-Conflict People in Mediation

Bill Eddy

In this presentation, Bill Eddy will present the key techniques, structure and reasoning for New Ways for Mediationsm, a method he has developed over the past several years for managing one or more high-conflict clients in divorce mediation. It is a tightly-structured, simple process which focuses on the teaching and reinforcement of simple skills for the clients to use throughout the process, including teaching clients to ask more questions, set their agendas, make proposals and respond productively. This approach emphasizes the role of the mediator as more directive about the process and less directive about the actual decisions the parties should make.

Bill Eddy, LCSW, CFLS, is an attorney, therapist and mediator based in San Diego, California. He is a Certified Family Law Specialist, representing clients in family court for 15 years and providing divorce mediations for 25 years. Prior to his law career, he provided psychotherapy for 12 years to children, adults, couples and families in psychiatric hospitals and outpatient clinics as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. He is presently the Senior Family Mediator at the National Conflict Resolution Center in San Diego.



The Continuum of Including Children in ADR Processes: A Child-Centered Continuum Model

Jon Graham/ Lorri Yasenik

A four-level Child-Centered Continuum Model (CCCM) for being child focused and child inclusive is introduced as a skills based framework to increase the likelihood that children are considered in mediation and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) processes. The article highlights children as parties to versus objects of family matters that affect them and begins with the belief that children are active participants in family systems. Parent readiness to hear their children is reviewed as well as a description of each of the four levels of the CCCM. Issues related to ADR practitioner neutrality, child and family safety, and skills are addressed.

Jon Graham LL.B., BA (Psych) Grad Dip FDR (Australia) is a Registered Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner (Family Mediator) based in Sydney, Australia. Jon has qualifications in law, psychology and commerce as well as post-graduate qualifications in Family Mediation. Jon combines over 20 years of clinical experience with families affected by separation and divorce with a substantial training calendar across Australia. Jon is the Clinical Director of the Institute of Specialist Dispute Resolution, a provider of tailored family dispute resolution processes for families presenting with complex issues.

Lorri Yasenik Ph.D. is a Registered Family Mediator, past President of Alberta Family Mediation Society, Registered Parenting Coordinator-Arbitrator, Registered Clinical Social Worker, Registered Play Therapist and Child Specialist. Lorri provides child psychotherapy and play therapy and is the Co-Director of Rocky Mountain Play Therapy Institute. She delivers national and international training related to children's issues and specialized child and play therapies. Her doctorate dissertation focused on "Including the Voices of Children of Separation and Divorce in the Legal System".



Kids in Mind

Cyndy D. Morin

Families in high conflict over custody issues, struggle to find resolution without the assistance and intervention of professionals. Courts are not equipped to address the complexities of high conflict custody matters without referring families to first obtain psychological assessments, reports, and/or interventions to provide the Court with some insight to assist its decision on custody matters. In an already overburdened Court system, achieving resolution to any custody matter, is usually a slow, frustrating and expensive process for families. Family conflict tends to escalate while families are made to wait months, sometimes years, for decisions to be rendered. During these long waiting periods, children are at risk of prolonged exposure to damaging *toxic stress.

Families in high conflict, need access to immediate solutions and intervention. "Kids in Mind" is a study developed and subsidized by Resolve Legal Group in conjunction with the Calgary Counselling Centre and administered by the volunteer efforts of retired Provincial Family Court Judge, the Honourable Nancy Flatters Q.C., and experienced mediator/arbitrator Leanne Young Q.C. of Resolve ADR, as well as a roster of numerous volunteer Psychologists and Social Workers who work in the area of Family Law as part of their regular practice.

Cyndy D. Morin LL.B. was prior to her legal career an experienced counsellor working with families and youth in numerous capacities. Cyndy is an active volunteer in the community; she currently sits on the Canadian Bar Association Access to Justice Committee, she Co-Chairs the Calgary – Crowfoot/ University Youth Justice Committees, she has also served as the Calgary Law Day Co-Chair for two years, and is a regular annual Law Day volunteer. Cyndy also became the driving force behind Calgary's first Family Law Fair in 2011, bringing world-renowned speakers to an open-access forum aimed at giving the public a wealth of information on a multitude of Family Law issues.



Divorces and family breakups

Pascual Ortuño

The conflict between children and parents in divorces and family breakups is more complex when there are problems of mental illness or gender violence. Until recently, the judicial system was impotent in these cases. But in recent years, the European Court of Human Rights has called on the States to have judicial activism in these matters that effectively guarantees parental relations.

Pascual Ortuño is a Spanish judge of the Barcelona Court of Appeal, who in the last thirty years has focused his work on the judicialized conflicts of family and protection of minors and mentally handicapped. He has worked in the training of judges and in the European legal reforms in this matter. At the moment it focuses its activity on the problems derived from the noncompliance of the judicial measures with respect to the relations of the children with their progenitors.

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Parenting Coordination: Coming of Age

Matthew J. Sullivan

Parenting coordination is the most intensive intervention available to assist high-conflict co-parents with the implementation of their custody order (parenting plan). The combination of individual personality pathology in clients, their entrenched interparental conflict and the impact of immersion in the legal-adversarial context makes work as a PC one of the most challenging roles in the family Courts. Working on the interface of legal and mental health fields, PCs must be highly trained, experienced, and have extensive knowledge and skill in multiple domains. The goal of the PC process is to develop structures and train parents to minimize and manage interparental conflict so damaging to their children's healthy development by adopting a parallel model of co-parenting.

Matthew J. Sullivan, Ph.D. clinical psychologist has been in private practice in Palo Alto, California, specializing in forensic and clinical work in the Family Courts for 30 years. He is the author of numerous peer-reviewed articles, book chapters and books on topics related to work in high conflict shared custody situations. He is a pioneer in the development of Parenting Coordination role internationally. He is vice president of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC). He currently serves on the American Psychological Association Ethics committee.



separation and divorce

Peggie Ward

Clinicians, attorneys, and judges are stymied trying to find effective solutions for intractable conflict in families, while children are caught in middle, and mental health and legal systems mired in polarization. Dr. Ward will present clinical and research data from a ten-year history of working with these families in the Overcoming Barriers Family Camp Program. She will discuss current understanding of these complex families based on preliminary data collected from 10 years of family camp by Dr. Michael Saini.

Peggie Ward, Ph.D., is a Forensic Psychologist, licensed in MA, FL and VT. My work focuses on children and Families as well as consultation to attorneys. I am a trained Mediator, Parenting Coordinator and Collaborative Professional. I began working in the Boston Teaching Hospitals, first in the areas of family violence and sexual abuse and then in the areas of high conflict separation, divorce and alienation. I have presented at multiple AFCC International Conferences and written articles on abuse and alienation.