

*Reconceptualizing Child Custody: Past, Present and Future –
Lawyers and Psychologists Working Together*

A Continuing Education Conference

Cosponsored by the
American Psychological Association
and the American Bar Association Section of Family Law

April 30 – May 3, 2008
Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile Hotel
Chicago, IL

* Sessions indicated with an asterisk are approved for Continuing Education (CE) Credit.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2008

5:00-7:30 pm REGISTRATION

5:30-7:00 pm EXHIBITS AND WELCOME RECEPTION

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2008

8:00-8:15 am WELCOME BY APA AND ABA REPRESENTATIVES

8:15-10:00 am #1—***PLENARY SESSION: FAMILIES, PARENTS, CHILDREN AND
SEPARATION/DIVORCE IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY**

This session will offer a current overview of the social, psychological, and legal landscape of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, access and custody. Key topics and developments related to divorce, child custody, child adjustment, and children's participation in custody and access disputes will be addressed within a psychological and/or legal framework, while taking account of broad trends.

This session is designed to help you:

1. Identify developments in the law designed to address family transition
2. Recognize the most important impacts on parents and children following separation/divorce
3. Identify significant demographic and cultural changes, and newer services and programs designed to lessen the impact of the adversarial process on families

Panel: Linda D. Elrod, Esq., Topeka, KS
 Robert E. Emery, Ph.D., Charlottesville, VA
 Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D., Corte Madera, CA
 Cynthia R. Mabry, Esq., Washington, DC

10:00-10:15 am
Morning Break

10:15-11:45 am **Four Concurrent Sessions ---**

• #2—***SEPARATION/DIVORCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Discussion of rationale, content, and efficacy of Separation/Divorce Education Programs with an emphasis on identifying effective components of these programs, as well as persons who are most and least likely to benefit from them.

This session is designed to help you:

1. Describe what parent education programs are, how they vary from jurisdiction to

jurisdiction, what program evaluations say about them, and what is currently considered best practices

2. Describe both the strengths and limitation of parent education programs as part of the package of programming for divorcing families.
3. Recognize the need to sensitize parent education programs to the special situation presented by parents for whom domestic violence is a concern and ways to achieve this accommodation

**Panel: Sanford L. Braver, Ph.D., Tempe, AZ
Susan L. Pollet, Esq., White Plains, NY**

• **#3—*MEDIATION**

This session will provide an overview of mediation goals and techniques from both legal and psychological perspectives. Panelists will address the mediation process and its efficacy, along with identification of effective components and children and parents who are most and least likely to benefit from it.

This session is designed to help you:

1. Describe mediation goals and techniques from both legal and psychological perspectives.
2. Identify the emotional obstacles involved in mediation and how to work around them
3. Demonstrate how to set the stage for a successful mediation
4. Address factors that come into play with domestic violence is apparent
5. Discuss who should participate in mediation and whether children should be invited to attend mediation.

**Panel: Robert E. Emery, Ph.D., Charlottesville, VA
Larry R. Rute, Esq., Topeka, KS**

• **#4—CUSTODY DECISION-MAKING STANDARDS: A DEBATE**

A debate between proponents of different legal tests or decision-making standards for custody including, at least, the “best interests” and “approximation” standards.

**Panel: Katharine T. Bartlett, Esq., Durham, NC
Robert J. Levy, Esq., Sunny Isles Beach, FL**

• **#5—*FAMILIES IN TURMOIL: REDUCING RISK AND FOSTERING RESILIENCE IN CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

This session will address current research in reducing risk and fostering resilience in children and youth affected by family turmoil. The presenters will explore policy and practice improvements to address the needs of both young children and adolescents who are at high risk due to their experiences with family disruption.

This session is designed to help you:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of research-based risk and protective factors that influence the adjustment of children and youth.
2. Analyze practices and policies that foster youth’s resilience or unwittingly contribute to children’s risk of long-term problems.
3. Comprehend how attorneys and judges can help assure that teenagers living in the midst of turbulent and chronically troubled family environment have their needs more effectively addressed.
4. Identify the ways in which the family court system might incorporate methods to reduce risk and foster resilience in children and youth.

**Panel: Howard A. Davidson, Esq., Washington, DC
JoAnne L. Pedro-Carroll, Ph.D., Rochester, NY
Gretchen Viney, Esq., Baraboo, WI**

11:45-1:30 pm

Lunch Break

1:30-3:00 pm

Four Concurrent Sessions ---

• **#6—*CONSIDERING ALLEGATIONS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN CASES OF DISPUTED CUSTODY**

Discussion of how substance abuse may impact parenting abilities and parent-child

interactions, along with a review of appropriate assessment approaches and reasoning.

This session is designed to help you:

1. Recognize complex family situations involving questions about parental substance abuse;
2. Apply a working model of substance abuse, family process, and child development in legal decision-making when there are questions about parental substance abuse;
3. Recognize some of the commonly occurring legal, clinical, and practical issues that can influence the decision-making process when functional impairment associated with parental substance abuse must be considered in determining the best interests of the child.

**Panel: Brigid A. Duffield, Esq., Wheaton, IL
Thomas J. McMahon, Ph.D., West Haven, CT**

• #7—***CONSIDERING ALLEGATIONS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN CASES OF DISPUTED CUSTODY**

This session will address the effects of domestic violence on parent-child interactions, family functioning, children's adjustment and judicial determinations along with a review of appropriate assessment approaches and reasoning.

This session is designed to help you:

1. Assess and treat children in disputed custody proceedings where allegations of domestic violence have been raised.
2. Consider and better manage the unique challenges that allegations of domestic violence raise for mental health providers, lawyers, and judges in disputed custody proceedings.
3. Improve interdisciplinary practice and cooperation between mental health providers, lawyers, and the courts in disputed custody cases involving allegations of domestic violence.

**Panel: Hon. Pamila J. Brown, Ellicott City, MD
Leslie M. Drozd, Ph.D., Newport Beach, CA
Stacey E. Platt, Esq., Chicago, IL**

• #8—***CONSIDERING ISSUES OF RACE, CULTURE AND ETHNICITY IN ASSESSMENT OF PARENTING AND PARENT-CHILD INTERACTIONS**

Discussion of how parenting attitudes, parenting behaviors, parenting skills and parent-child interactions may vary depending on parents' racial, ethnic, or cultural backgrounds; how these issues should be considered in cases of disputed custody; and appropriate assessment approaches and reasoning.

This session is designed to help you:

1. Recognize how childrearing practices, including parenting skills, parental attitudes towards education, children's chores, and parent-child interactions, vary across cultures.
2. Identify the factors judges consider in cases where parents of different cultural, racial and ethnic backgrounds cannot agree on custody.
3. Create strategies to make current practices of assessment more responsive to cultural factors to enhance the accuracy and comprehensive nature of the evaluation.

**Panel: Bonita G. Cade, Ph.D., J.D., Bristol, RI
Solangel Maldonado, Esq., Newark, NJ**

• #9—***CONSIDERING ALLEGATIONS OF MENTAL DISABILITY IN CASES OF DISPUTED CUSTODY**

This session will address how emotional and behavioral impairments may impact parenting abilities and parent-child interactions, along with a review of appropriate assessment approaches and reasoning and impact in custody determinations.

This session is designed to help you:

1. Describe the impact of serious mental illness on parenting abilities and on

- children.
2. Utilize current legal and psychological perspectives in custody determinations involving mental disability.
 3. Describe the dichotomy of defining serious mental disability within the legal context of custody determinations.

**Panel: Ralla Klepak, Esq., Chicago, IL
Diane T. Marsh, Ph.D., Greensburg, PA**

3:00-3:15 pm
Afternoon Break

3:15-4:45 pm

Four Concurrent Sessions ---

• **#10—*CONSIDERING ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE IN CASES OF DISPUTED CUSTODY**

Discussion of the potential contributions and limitations of psychological assessment when sexual abuse is suspected from both psychological and legal perspectives.

This session is designed to help you:

1. Describe common errors made by parents and professionals when allegations of sexual abuse arise in custody cases.
2. Identify procedures to assist the Court in determining the whether the sexual abuse of a child occurred.
3. Critique and cross-examine expert witnesses regarding child sexual abuse.

**Panel: Kathryn F. Kuehnle, Ph.D., Indian Shores, FL
John E. B. Myers, Esq., Sacramento, CA**

• **#11—*PARENTING EVALUATION APPOINTMENT ORDERS: A CONCEPTUAL AND PRACTICAL APPROACH TO MANAGING EVALUATIONS FROM THE START**

This session will address important elements of parenting evaluation appointment orders, describing rationales underlying each element, in a manner that clearly identifies the court's expectations and the role of the evaluator as the court's expert.

This session is designed to help you:

1. Identify the elements of an Appointment Order for Parenting Evaluations;
2. Describe the rationales underlying each element of the appointment order;
3. Apply the rationales for any element to concerns and specific issues of a particular case.

**Panel: Scott N. Friedman, Esq., Columbus, OH
John A. Zervopoulos, Ph.D., J.D., Dallas, TX**

• **#12 —*PRIVACY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVILEGE OF HEALTH CARE RECORDS AND PSYCHOTHERAPY NOTES**

Discussion of confidentiality and privilege laws (including HIPAA) that control access to the health care records and psychotherapy notes of persons involved in litigation, rationales for seeking such records, and strategies for gaining and denying such access.

This session is designed to:

1. Describe differences between privacy, confidentiality, and privilege as source of confusion between attorneys and mental health professionals.
2. Identify important case law decisions related to privacy, confidentiality, and privilege in the context of mental health practice and records.
3. Demonstrate the complexity of records typically kept by mental health practitioners in the context of state and federal requirements, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and mandated reporting statutes.
4. Demonstrate the challenges presented by the need to prevent misuses and protect the security of psychological testing, while allowing appropriate comparison and challenges in the context of litigation.

5. Describe the challenges posed to the rights of patients in the context of Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) and Section 215 of the USA Patriot Act (Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001).

**Panel: Lisa R. Grossman, J.D., Ph.D., Chicago, IL
Gerald P. Koocher, Ph.D., Chestnut Hill, MA
Carlton D. Stansbury, Esq., Milwaukee, WI**

- #13—***COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE/COLLABORATIVE LAW – IT’S A PROCESS... NOT AN OXYMORON**

This session will provide an overview of this alternative approach to litigation. Panelists will address the roles of the professionals on the collaborative interdisciplinary team as well as the application of social psychology research to collaborative practice.

This session is designed to help you:

1. Comprehend the basic paradigm shift and choreography of collaborative practice.
2. Comprehend how professionals work together as a collaborative team around a family in transition in light of the psycho-social sources of tensions and barriers to resolution.
3. Design psycho-social interventions that will improve collaborative law participants' subjective satisfaction with the process, the working relationships, and the outcome.

**Panel: Mark R. Otis, Ph.D., Dallas, TX
Sherri Goren Slovin, Esq., Cincinnati, OH**

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2008

8:30-10:00 am

Four Concurrent Sessions –

- #14—***CUSTODY EVALUATION STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES: SETTING THE FRAME**

This session will address the nature and role of practice protocols in the custody evaluation process, distinguish professional standards from guidelines, and address the levels of authority governing child custody evaluations. Panelists will discuss how existing and proposed professional practice standards and guidelines impact the work of psychologists, how they are viewed within the legal system and how they can be used in the courtroom to affect the outcome of a case.

This session is designed to help you:

1. Distinguish professional standards from guidelines
2. Analyze the levels of authority governing child custody evaluations
3. Examine existing and proposed professional guidelines in terms of their impact on your work
4. Anticipate how professional standards and guidelines are perceived within the legal system
5. Prepare to mount or respond to an evidentiary admissibility challenge for a custody evaluation

**Panel: Mary A. Connell, Ed.D., Fort Worth, TX
Timothy M. Tippins, Esq., East Greenbush, NY**

- #15—***ADMISSIBILITY OF EXPERT TESTIMONY IN CASES OF DISPUTED CUSTODY**

Discussion of the law controlling, and rationale for admitting expert testimony in cases of disputed custody, with an emphasis on identifying appropriate limitations.

This session is designed to help you:

1. Analyze the boundaries and limitations of the specialized knowledge base that forms the basis for giving opinions about recommended custody plans.
2. Recognize the key evidentiary arguments for and against admitting

psychologists' opinions about recommended custody plans in custody litigation cases.

3. List new possibilities for cautious judicial handling of expert testimony and for the conduct of psychologists in assessing custody litigants and their children.

**Panel: Stephen J. Anderer, Ph.D., J.D., Philadelphia, PA
Jeffrey P. Wittmann, Ph.D., Albany, NY**

- **#16—*INTERVIEWING CHILDREN AND THE APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION OF CHILDREN'S EXPRESSED PREFERENCES IN CASES OF DISPUTED CUSTODY**

This session will present research findings on appropriate interviewing strategies for young children along with a discussion of psychological factors to consider when attempting to make sense of and give weight to children's presentations, representations, and preferences. (Part I with Part II being Session #20)

This session is designed to help you:

1. Describe the latest scientific findings and best practice guidelines on appropriate interviewing strategies for young children.
2. Identify psychological factors to consider when attempting to make sense of and give weight to children's presentations, representations and preferences.
3. Recognize the current state of the law as to how the expressed preferences of the child are communicated to the court and the extent to which the law governs the weight given the child's preferences considering age and maturity.

**Panel: Donald N. Duquette, Esq., Ann Arbor, MI
Karen J. Saywitz, Ph.D., Los Angeles, CA**

- **#17—LEGAL ETHICS IN CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDINGS (for attorneys)**
Presenters will identify situations in which ethical issues are likely to occur in the context of representing parents in child custody proceedings, ways in which ethical dilemmas might have been avoided, and ways to address the ethical dilemma once it has occurred.

**Panel: Lewis Becker, Esq., Villanova, PA
Michael C. Gottlieb, Ph.D., Dallas, TX
Dianna J. Gould-Saltman, Esq., Los Angeles, CA**

10:00-10:15 am
Morning Break

10:15-11:45 am

Four Concurrent Sessions ---

- **#18—*HEARSAY: USES AND PROBLEMS IN CHILD CUSTODY DISPUTES**
Discussion of the value of and need for third party information in cases of disputed custody, while highlighting admissibility issues. This session will address different types of collateral sources, appropriate information gathering approaches, procedures for securing "informed consent," assessing the objectivity and validity of third party information, and hearsay concerns from a legal perspective.

This session is designed to help you:

1. Describe the role of third party information in child custody disputes as utilized by mental health professionals.
2. Identify procedures to use in gathering third party information.
3. Identify admissibility issues regarding hearsay.

**Panel: James N. Bow, Ph.D., Northville, MI
Barton R. Resnicoff, Esq., Great Neck, NY**

- **#19—*THE UTILITY OF PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING IN CUSTODY EVALUATION CONTEXTS**
Reviewed in this program is the use and misuse of psychological testing in custody evaluation contexts. Different classes of psychological tests are discussed, a checklist to use when considering the use of a particular test is provided, errors commonly made by mental health professionals when employing psychological tests and reporting test results are identified, and strategies attorneys can use when

reviewing test-based reports and testimony are provided.

This session is designed to help you:

1. List three types or classes of psychological tests which may be employed in custody evaluation contexts
2. Identify the strengths and limitations of tests frequently employed by psychologists in custody evaluation contexts
3. Identify a list of questions to ask when considering the appropriateness of use of a particular test in a custody evaluation context,
4. Identify errors commonly made by mental health professionals when using and reporting the results of psychological tests in custody evaluation contexts,
5. Identify effective cross examination strategies to employ when questioning an examiner about the psychological test results.

**Panel: Sarah Stark Oldham, Esq., Westport, CT
Randy K. Otto, Ph.D., M.L.S., Tampa, FL**

• #20—***APPROPRIATE IDENTIFICATION AND CONSIDERATION OF CHILDREN'S INTERESTS**

Panelists will discuss appropriate representation of children involved in custody litigation, including differentiation between the two major types of child-attorney roles: *best interests attorney* and *child's attorneys*. Psychological and contextual issues relevant to considering children's input in custody proceedings will be presented. The panel will further address problems encountered when roles and duties of attorneys are not adequately defined, and offer guidance for attorneys and mental health professionals who practice in this area. (Part II with Part I being Session #16)

This session is designed to help you:

1. Differentiate between the two major types of child-attorney roles: best interests attorney and child's attorney.
2. Explain psychological and contextual issues relevant to considering children's input in child custody proceedings..
3. Provide guidance in professional practice issues that confront attorneys working with children in the child custody context.

**Panel: Hon. Debra H. Lehrmann, Fort Worth, TX
Martin Guggenheim, Esq., New York, NY
Matthew J. Sullivan, Ph.D., Palo Alto, CA**

• #21—***SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND CUSTODY**

Discussion of the law regarding custody/access and sexual orientation, and review of psychological research regarding impact of parents' sexual orientation on parent-child interactions and children's adjustment and functioning.

This session is designed to help you:

1. Identify legal issues for lesbian and gay parents who are involved in child custody disputes.
2. Recite and utilize up-to-date social science research on children of lesbian and gay parents.
3. Recognize and discuss reliable sources of updated information on legal and public policy issues relevant to custody concerns for lesbian and gay parents and their children.

**Panel: Hon. Patricia M. Logue, Chicago, IL
Charlotte J. Patterson, Ph.D., Charlottesville, VA**

11:45-1:30
Lunch Break

1:30-4:30 pm

#22—***MOCK TRIAL CUSTODY HEARING**

This program will include two mock trial hearings of approximately one hour each, followed by a judicial panel of approximately one hour. In each hearing a

psychologist will give testimony regarding a contrived custody evaluation under direct and cross-examination before a judge. Following the two hearings, a panel of judges will discuss the issues presented more generally. The focus of the program will attend chiefly to the process of eliciting and/or impugning expert testimony in such cases. Likely topics will include: a. consideration of collateral sources – assessing credibility; b. voir dire; c. production of file/reference to file while testifying; d. access to test data; e. substantive discussion of test data; f. privilege including for therapists and children; g. methodology such as observations of the child; H. whether the expert will express an opinion as to the ultimate recommendation.

This session is designed to:

1. Demonstrate for attorneys and psychologists effective and ineffective approaches to conducting custody evaluations and presenting the results in court.
2. Demonstrate analyses and responses when addressing psychological test data in custody evaluations and hearings (including more and less controversial approaches, such as the Rorschach and MMPI-2, respectively).
3. Compare and critique effective and less effective ways of eliciting and explaining psychological data in the courtroom.
4. Describe differences between the legal system and psychological assessment with respect to matters of expertise, competence, data quality, and assessment methodologies.
5. Identify steps by which both psychologists and attorneys can become more effective during custody hearings where behavioral science or mental health data are presented.

Panel: Hon. John T. Carr, Chicago, IL
Hon. Edward R. Jordan, Chicago, IL
Hon. Maxine Aldridge White, Milwaukee, WI
Robin M. Deutsch, Ph.D., Boston, MA
Gerald P. Koocher, Ph.D., Chestnut Hills, MA
Ken Lester, Esq., Columbia, SC
Dorene Marcus, Esq., Chicago, IL
Greg J. Ortiz, Esq., Highlands Ranch, CO
Catherine Holland Petersen, Esq., Norman, OK

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2008

8:30-10:00 am

Four Concurrent Sessions –

- #23—***THE ROLE AND APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION OF THERAPISTS' OPINIONS AND INFORMATION IN CASES OF DISPUTED CUSTODY**

The presenters will discuss the role of the treating expert in cases of disputed custody, factors to consider in evaluating therapist information, the appropriate limits on treating expert opinion, and factors to consider in privilege decisions, evaluating the effectiveness of therapy and considering whether to request or recommend a change in children's treatment.

This session is designed to help you:

1. Recognize positive and negative therapeutic influence, the differences between appropriate and problematic treatment and the paths through which therapeutic information or influence can enter the court process.
2. Describe the role of the treating expert and identify criteria for assessing the reliability and relevance of therapeutic information.
3. Identify advantages and disadvantages of various treatment and privilege structures for effective representation of parents or children.

Panel: Lyn R. Greenberg, Ph.D., Los Angeles, CA
David H. Levy, Esq., Chicago, IL

- #24—***LEGAL AND CLINICAL ISSUES IN CASES OF RELOCATION**

This session will provide an update on the state of the law regarding relocation

and address psychological factors to consider as well as appropriate assessment techniques and reasoning in relocation disputes.

This session is designed to help you:

1. Achieve an understanding of the variety of legal standards adopted by the states for resolving child custody disputes involving the relocation of a child with a parent. Issues will include: factors considered by courts, burden of proof, and remedies of the court.
2. Comprehend issues and approaches to the crafting of long distance parenting plans and court orders from the perspective of the court and child custody evaluators.
3. Recognize the relevant scientific research on the effects of relocation on children of divorce; the framework of the risk assessment approach to relocation; and issues involved in a competently conducted forensic evaluation for relocation disputes.

**Panel: Jeff Atkinson, Esq., Wilmette, IL
William G. Austin, Ph.D., Steamboat Springs, CO**

- **#25—MODEL MENTAL HEALTH AND CHILDREN'S LAW PROJECTS**
Two years ago, the ABA funded and began studying projects where mental health professionals and children's attorneys partnered to create resources, training, representation, and mental health services for children. This session will present the results of this work, including presentations by two model programs. In addition, the ABA Child Custody and Adoption Pro Bono Project will share the resources it has produced to assist attorneys, mental health professionals and judges in their roles in child custody cases.

**Panel: Genie Miller Gillespie, Esq., Chicago, IL
Justine Rakich-Kelly, Esq., Hartford CT
Linda M. Rio Reichmann, Esq., Hinsdale, IL
Dana Toole, Esq., Helena, MT**

- **#26—*THIRD PARTIES' CUSTODIAL INTERESTS**
Discussion of disputes regarding the role of grandparents or other third parties in parenting, case law, the impact of severed attachments, and exploration of assessment issues.

This session is designed to help you:

1. Distinguish the qualitative differences between secure and insecure attachment relationships/behaviors, and identify subsequent outcomes.
2. Analyze the usefulness of differing definitions of attachment in the identification of key attachment figures for children.
3. Compare monotropic and polytropic models of the attachment network
4. List several instruments currently used in research to assess multiple attachment relationships, and describe the potential for their future use in family court.

**Panel: Ann M. Haralambie, Esq., Tucson, AZ
Shelley A. Riggs, Ph.D., Denton, TX**

10:00-10:15 am
Morning Break

10:15-11:45 am

Four Concurrent Sessions ---

- **#27—NEGOTIATION AND SETTLEMENT TECHNIQUES (for attorneys)**
Discussion of effective negotiation techniques.
Speaker: Sandra Morgan Little, Esq., Albuquerque, NM
- **#28—ATTORNEYS WORKING WITH HIGH CONFLICT FAMILIES (for attorneys)**
This workshop includes a discussion of the phenomenology of high conflict separation and divorce, and presentation of strategies for attorneys to employ when working with clients who are in conflict and difficult opposing counsel.

**Panel: William J. Howe, III, Esq., Portland, OR
Sanford M. Portnoy, Ph.D., Waban, MA**

• **#29—*ALIENATION ISSUES: ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION**

This session will address complex and controversial issues associated with “alienation” both when it is unrecognized and when it is inaccurately diagnosed. Panelists will describe a valid and useful way to provide the courts with a differential analysis of reasons for children to resist contact with one parent and ways to define accurately the effects of alienation and/or abuse. Some potential avenues for intervention will be presented and discussed from both psychological and legal perspectives.

This session is designed to help you:

1. Define and describe alienation
2. Describe and analyze the factors for differential assessment of alienation and family abuse.
3. Decide when to conduct investigations or evaluations, what professional should conduct them and what information is necessary to address each family problem.
4. Analyze facts the courts consider to prove alienation; and how courts handle "alienation cases".

**Panel: Joy Feinberg, Esq., Chicago, IL
Nancy Williams Olesen, Ph.D., San Geronimo, CA**

• **#30—*EFFECTIVE PARENTING PLANS FOR CHILDREN: INSIGHTS FROM EMPIRICAL RESEARCH**

This presentation provides an overview of empirical research that contributes to our understanding of appropriate living arrangements for children and adolescents following separation and divorce. The integration of divorce research focusing on various factors associated with children’s adjustment following divorce and child development research on attachment and parent-child relationships provides useful road maps for those involved in developing parenting plans. Child and adolescent views of their post-divorce access arrangements, type and extent of paternal involvement associated with positive outcomes, parental conflict and access, and effective post-divorce parenting will receive particular attention.

This session is designed to help you:

1. Integrate the relevant divorce and child development research into considerations for beneficial parenting plans or schedules for children
2. Comprehend the views of children and young adults on their custody and access arrangements and parent-child relationships post-divorce
3. Utilize research based principles for developing age-appropriate parenting plans for preschool, school-age, and adolescent children

Speaker: Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D., Corte Madera, CA

11:45-1:30
Lunch Break

1:30-3:00 pm

Three Concurrent Sessions ---

• **#31—*PARENT COORDINATORS: THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE UGLY**

Discussion of legal underpinnings, rationale and efficacy of Parent Coordination, with an emphasis on identifying effective components of these programs, management of the distinction between intervention and evaluation, identifying parents and children who are most and least likely to benefit from Parent Coordination, and possible limitations.

This session is designed to help you:

1. Describe the role and functions of a parenting coordinator
2. Explain qualifications for Parenting Coordinators and how they are appointed
3. Contrast the role of the Parenting Coordinator with other professionals involved in high conflict families
4. Describe the steps to begin the parenting coordinator process

**Panel: Bruce A. Copeland, Ph.D., J.D., Bozeman, MT
Robin M. Deutsch, Ph.D., Boston, MA
Sondra I. Harris, Esq., Rockville Centre, NY**

• **#32—*THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS FOR HIGH CONFLICT FAMILIES**
(for psychologists)

This workshop includes a discussion of the phenomenology of high conflict separation and divorce, with an emphasis on identifying effective psychological interventions, as well as parents and children who are most and least likely to benefit from them.

This session is designed to help you:

1. Identify realistic goals with families in high conflict over child custody
2. Identify methods for intervening with these families
3. Identify systemic problems in treatment and work to ameliorate those problems

Speaker: Jay L. Lebow, Ph.D., Evanston, IL

• **#33—*CRAFTING VISITATION AND ACCESS ORDERS**

Discussion of critical components of visitation and access orders, including legal custody, physical custodial arrangements/parenting plans, relocation, and resolution of disputes. Specific provisions will be discussed.

This session is designed to help you:

1. Design parenting plans that are developmentally appropriate and complete in their consideration of potentially complicating factors
2. Evaluate the appropriateness of parenting plans constructed for families in which domestic violence was present in the past or current history of the family, and describe necessary safety measures
3. Critique the current state of legal and empirical knowledge about relocation cases and to gain familiarity with the factors that should be considered for children facing one parent's move-away

**Panel: Hon. Nancy J. Katz, Chicago, IL
Shiel G. Edlin, Esq., Atlanta, GA
Marsha Kline Pruett, Ph.D., M.S.L., Northhampton, MA**

3:00-3:15pm
Break

3:15-4:45 pm

#34—*WORKING GROUPS' REPORTS

This session will include brief presentations of projects underway and being contemplated by the seven APA-ABA Working Groups established under the auspices of the overarching APA/ABA Collaborative Steering Committee on Children, Families, Divorce and Custody. The Working Groups are charged with exploring legal, psychological, and professional interaction issues as well as development of collaborative activities and projects. The Working Groups are as follows:

- Psychological Evaluation and Assessment
- Custody and Parenting Plans
- Issues of Alleged Abuse, Neglect, and Endangerment
- Representing and Advocating for Children
- Ethics and Standards
- Psychological and Legal Interventions with Parents, Children, and Families
- Alternatives to Current Models and Process

**Panel Co-Chairs: Mary A. Connell, Ed.D., Fort Worth, TX
Gregg M. Herman, Esq., Milwaukee, WI**

CONFERENCE ADJOURNS