



ASSOCIATION OF
FAMILY AND
CONCILIATION COURTS

Alberta Chapter



Alberta *family* Mediation Society

The Association of Family and Conciliation Courts - Alberta Chapter and the
Alberta Family Mediation Society are pleased to present:

**PROFESSIONALS AT THE CROSSROADS:
HELPING FAMILIES AND CHILDREN ACCESS THE LEGAL SYSTEM**

APRIL 9 & 10, 2015 – EDMONTON, AB
PROVIDENCE RENEWAL CENTRE
3005 119 STREET NW
EDMONTON, AB T6J 5R5



Thursday, April 9, 2015, 8:30am – 4:30pm

Dr. Pamela Ludolph and Leslie Ellen Shear

- Bringing up Baby – Parenting Plans for Very Young Children
- Hypothetical Case

Wine and Cheese Reception for Conference Attendees: 4:30-6:30pm

Friday, April 10, 2015, 8:30am – 4:30pm

Dr. Nicholas Bala

- Legal Responses to Alienation and Emotional Abuse of Children in High Conflict Separations
- Facilitation of Mock Court

Thursday, April 9, 2015

Pamela S. Ludolph holds advanced degrees from the University of Toronto and the University of Michigan. She long served as the psychological consultant to the Child Advocacy Law Clinic at the University of Michigan Law School. She maintains a private practice in Ann Arbor, Michigan, with an emphasis on issues of divorce, child custody and access, and child maltreatment. Her research interests include attachment; alienation; relocation; shared parenting; and parenting time evaluation and consultation.



Leslie Ellen Shear has practiced family law in California since 1976. She is certified by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization as a specialist in Family Law and a specialist in Appellate Law. Leslie is a fellow of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. Her practice interests include complex child custody matters including, but not limited to, relocation, parenting plans for infants and small children, interstate and international custody, Hague Abduction Convention proceedings, UCCJEA proceedings, parenting plans for special needs children, and legal custody issues.



8:30am - 12:00pm (Coffee Break 10:30 - 10:45am)

Bringing up Baby: Parenting Plans for Very Young Children We will focus our workshop on development, implementation, and adaptation of practical parenting plans for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers whose parents live apart. Our workshop will address the contribution of attachment and other cognitive and affective theories of early development to effective parenting plans; the role of gatekeeping in young families; and methods for helping these parents move from competition to complementarity. We will discuss the response of the legal system to the special challenges of these cases, including the impact of the changed circumstances doctrine. Our workshop will also address the role of practitioners in reforming practices and policies to better serve the needs of this population.

- What is attachment theory?
- What does attachment theory contribute to our understanding of child development?
- What are the current critiques of attachment theory?
- Is there invariably a primary parent?
- Attachment is an additive factor, not a determinative one in child custody.
- The terrible detriment to young children of high conflict divorce.
- Assessment of attachment and other relevant issues in evaluations of young families.
- The state of the current empirical literature on shared care of preschoolers (briefly!).
- The problems with presumptions.
- Recommendations for parenting plans for infants and young children.

LUNCH 12:00 - 1:00pm

Thursday, April 9, 2015, (Continued) 1:00 - 4:30pm
(Coffee Break 2:15 - 2:30pm)

Hypothetical Case - A Three-year-old in Shared Custody, with a Proposed Long-distance Relocation Issue If the child has been in a 50/50 custody regime since infancy, what is the level of harm that the child will experience if deprived of one of her two primary attachment figures? The child will have to be away from one of them for long periods. Both parents are competent and seem securely attached to their child. Conference attendees will be provided a hypothetical fact pattern for review and participation will be facilitated by Dr. Ludolph and Leslie Shear.

WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION FOR CONFERENCE ATTENDEES: 4:30 - 6:30PM

Friday, April 10, 2015

Dr. Nicholas (Nick) Bala has been a Professor at the Faculty of Law at Queen's University in Canada since 1980. His primary area of teaching and research is Family and Children's Law. Much of his research work is interdisciplinary and he has undertaken collaborative projects with psychologists, social workers, and health professionals. He has published extensively on a range of topics, including separation and divorce, parental alienation, spousal violence, child witnesses and youth justice. His work is regularly cited by all levels of court in Canada, including the Supreme

Court, as well as by courts in Australia, Britain and the United States.



9:00am - 12:00pm (Coffee Break 10:30 - 10:45am) Legal Responses to Alienation & Emotional Abuse of Children in High Conflict Separations

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. Although in theory the courts focus on the “best interests of the child,” in reality, judges often are trying to determine what the “least detrimental alternative” is for these children.

Professor Bala will discuss how the Family Courts deal with emotional harm in the context of high-conflict separations, including responses to parental alienation. Professor Bala will explore the role of the Family Courts in high conflict custody and access disputes between parents, as well as considering the role of child protection agencies in these cases.

LUNCH 12:00 - 1:00pm

Friday, April 10, 2015 (Continued)

1:00 - 2:15pm Facilitation of Mock Court Testifying on Behalf of Children: The Professional in Court

This presentation is intended to provide professionals without a legal education with a better understanding of the court process in Canada and the role of the witnesses in that system. It will offer practical advice for preparation for court and testifying in family cases. There will be a discussion of the role of expert witnesses, and the use of notes.

2:15 - 2:30pm Coffee Break

2:30 - 3:30pm Mock Testimony (Family law lawyers Elise Lavigne and Trish Hebert, psychologists Dr. Larry Fong and Dr. Steve Carter will be assisting in the Mock Court.) When alienation issues are raised, they pose unique challenges for lawyers, litigants and judges dealing with custody, access and other child related issues in the Family Courts. Social workers, child protection workers and mental health professionals can have a very important role in the appropriate handling of these cases in the courts. Some of the unique challenges and dilemmas in this area will be illustrated through a mock testimony and cross- examination of a professional, who is being put forward as an expert witness.

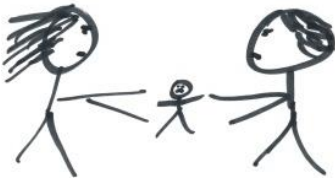
3:30 - 4:30pm Comments The participants and Professor Bala will comment on the testimony and cross-examination, including consideration of implications for providing effective service delivery.

INVITE YOUR CLIENTS TO ATTEND THIS FREE SEMINAR!

(An invitation to this event that you can send directly to your clients will come under separate cover.)

Wednesday, April 8, 2015: 7:00 - 9:00pm Parent and Community Talk

SHARED PARENTING: HELPING YOUR YOUNG CHILD THRIVE



Two households, separated parents – and one or more little ones under the age of 5. For you and your child, this period is crucial: it's a time for your child to bond with each of you; that bonding lays the foundation for their ability to develop lasting relationships in the future.

It's also important for the development of their thinking and memory. In the first hour, you'll learn how you and your ex can foster healthy development in your infants, toddlers or pre-schoolers. In the second hour, you'll gain new insight into the effects of conflict on young children and learn how to replace arguing over how to care for your beloved child with shared goals and solid parenting practices.

Speaker: Dr. Pamela Ludolph is a psychologist in private practice in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Her practice specializes in divorce, child custody, and access. For many years, she was the psychological consultant to the Child Advocacy Law Clinic at the University of Michigan Law School. She has done extensive research in attachment, alienation, relocation, shared parenting, and parenting time evaluation and consultation.

Registration for this free event will be by email to conference@afms.ca.

REGISTRATION: Online at www.afms.ca for members *and* non-members. Or, you can submit the form below.

VENUE: Providence Renewal Centre, 3005 119 Street NW, Edmonton, AB T6J 5R5

ACCOMMODATION: There are a very limited number of rooms available at Providence Renewal Centre. Please contact Sue at AFMS for details (conference@afms.ca). Please do NOT contact Providence directly. Other accomodation options are the responsibility of the attendee.

MEMBERSHIP: Information about membership with AFCC - Alberta Chapter can be found at: www.afccalberta.org. For membership with AFMS, please visit www.afms.ca.

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| Name: | |
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AFMS/AFCC Alberta Chapter MEMBERS

| | <i>Early Registration by February 2, 2015</i> | <i>After February 2, 2015</i> | Amount |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Thursday, April 9, 2015 only | _____ \$240 | _____ \$300 | |
| Friday, April 10, 2015 only | _____ \$240 | _____ \$300 | |
| Both days | _____ \$380 | _____ \$480 | |

AFMS/AFCC Members travelling further than 125 km one-way may request a \$25 discount on their total conference registration.

NON MEMBERS

| | <i>Early Registration by February 2, 2015</i> | <i>After February 2, 2015</i> | Amount |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Thursday, April 9, 2015 only | _____ \$320 | _____ \$400 | |
| Friday, April 10, 2015 only | _____ \$320 | _____ \$400 | |
| Both days | _____ \$525 | _____ \$650 | |

All registrations include wine and cheese reception on Thursday, April 9, 2015 4:30-6:30 pm and breakfast, lunch and coffee breaks on Conference days of registration

Payment by Visa or MasterCard or Cheque payable to AFMS

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------|--------------|
| _____ MasterCard | _____ VISA | _____ Cheque |
| Expiry date: ____/____ | Card # | |
| Signature | | |

Please mail, fax or scan & email this form with payment to: Alberta Family Mediation Society
 #1650 – 246 Stewart Green SW, Calgary, AB T3H 3C8 conference@afms.ca fax: 403-532-0988
 Phone Toll Free: 1-877-233-0143 or 403-233-0143

>>>>or go online to register: www.afms.ca

Cancellation Policy: Registration will be refunded up to 30 days prior to event (a \$50 administration fee will be withheld). Registration is fully transferable, please provide the names of substitute attendees to AFMS at the earliest possible date (conference@afms.ca).