

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Michael Saini, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto and holds the endowed Factor-Inwentash Chair of Law and Social Work. He is the Co-Director of the Combined J.D. and M.S.W. program with the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto and the Course Director of the 40-hour Foundations to Custody Evaluations with the Continuing Education Program at the University of Toronto. For the past 16 years, he has been conducting custody evaluations and assisting children's counsel for the Office of the Children's Lawyer, Ministry of the Attorney General in Ontario. He has over 50 publications, including books, book chapters, government reports, systematic reviews, and peer-reviewed journal articles. His publications have been in the area of high conflict, alienation, supervised visitation, virtual visitation and parent competencies post separation and divorce. He is an editorial board member for the *Family Court Review* and a Board Member of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts.

Christine Anthony, Esq. is a 1996 graduate of Suffolk University Law School. She has an extensive divorce litigation practice, but also offers mediation and conciliation services. She also handles appeals from family and juvenile court matters. Christine has been on the board and conference committee of AFCC Massachusetts Chapter. She is involved in the Massachusetts Probate and Family Inns of Court, having previously served on the Board of Directors. She was one of the attorneys in the 2015 case of *Murray v. Super*.

Hon. Amy Blake is a 1992 graduate of New England Law School. Initially an Assistant District Attorney, from 1994 to 2008 she focused her private practice on all aspects of domestic relations law with the firms of White, Inker & Aronson, Yasi & Yasi, and Casner & Edwards. In addition, she served as a guardian *ad litem*, discovery master, attorney for the child, and conciliator. She is currently on the Board of Editors of the *Boston Bar Journal*, and an associate editor of the *Massachusetts Law Review*. She was appointed to the Probate and Family Court bench in 2008 and was named "Distinguished Jurist" in 2013 by the Massachusetts Association of Women Lawyers. In 2017, she received the Jurist of the Year Award by the Middlesex County Bar Association. She was appointed to the Appeals Court in September 2014.

Karen Cohen, M.A., Esq. is a 1991 graduate of Northeastern University Law School. She has worked as a family law attorney for over 25 years. From 1991-2001, she specialized in family law, first at the Boston law firm of Sherin & Lodgen, then, in 2002, for the Concord firm of Susan Stamps. She began a solo family law practice in Concord in September 2016. Previously, she worked as a Master's level psychologist with children and families, often those involved with DCF and the courts. In 2005, Karen expanded her family law practice to include mediation, parent coordination, and GAL work. Karen is currently serving a two-year term as President of the Massachusetts Association of Guardians Ad Litem (MAGAL),

where she has been on the board and Education Committee since 2007.

Anne Cremonini, L.I.C.S.W. joined Dr. Peggie Ward and Dr. Mira Levitt at the Co-Parenting Assessment Center in Natick, MA, after retiring from her position as an Assistant Chief Probation Officer at the Norfolk Probate and Family Court. In her current practice, Anne routinely serves as a Parent Coordinator and as guardian *ad litem* and has been a presenter in continuing education programs over the years offered by MCLE, AFCC, and MAGAL. In addition, Anne has served on the Board of Directors for both AFCC and MAGAL. Anne is a graduate of Simmons School of Social Work.

Hon Patricia Gorman is an Associate Justice in the Middlesex Probate and Family Court. She was appointed to the bench in May 2011. She is a graduate of Boston College Law School. Prior to her appointment, she was managing partner in law firm of Gorman & Greenberg in Canton, MA. There, she focused on family law, guardian *ad litem*, and conciliator appointments, representation of children and parents in care and protection matters, probate matter, and real estate law. She also was an Adjunct Professor at BC Law School, supervising and working with law students in areas of family law, elder law, landlord/tenant law and social security disability law. Judge Gorman was the trial judge in the 2018 S.J.C. case of *Miller v. Miller*.

Alexander Jones, M.S.W., Esq. is a partner at Brick, Jones, McBrien & Hickey, LLP. He practices in all areas of domestic relations, from mediation to litigation of domestic relations proceedings. He is often appointed to serve as a neutral in contested cases. Alex was a past President, Treasurer, and board member of the AFCC Massachusetts Chapter and is on its conference committee. He regularly presents on continuing education topics. Alex graduated with degrees from Boston College Law School and Boston College Graduate School of Social Work. Alex has been selected and named in *Boston Magazine* as a Super Lawyer in 2014-2018 and prior to that as Rising Star from 2005-2013.

Richard Novitch, Esq. is a 1997 graduate of Suffolk University Law School. He is of counsel with the Boston law firm of Todd and Weld. He returned to that practice, after being a partner in the Framingham firm of Lander and Lander, PC, from 2005-16. He represents clients in all aspects of domestic relations law, including complex matrimonial matters, and high net worth property division. Richard has extensive experience handling complex cases and issues on appeal, including matters before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and Massachusetts Appeals Court. He was one of the attorneys in the 2018 case of *Miller v. Miller*.



A 2019 Perspective on Removal: Social Science Research, Case Law, and Best Practices

March 29, 2019

Regis College
Wellesley St.
Weston, MA

Keynote Speaker:

Michael Saini, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Social Work
Co-Director, Combined Social Work and
Law Program; University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada

Co-Author of:

Drozd, L., Olesen, N., & Saini, M. (2013). *Parenting Plan & Child Custody Evaluations: Increasing Evaluator Competence & Avoiding Preventable Errors*. Sarasota, FL: Professional Resource Press

Fidler, B., Bala, N., & Saini, M. (2012). *Children who resist postseparation parental contact: A differential approach for legal and mental health professionals*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Saini, M., & Shlonsky, A. (2012). *Systematic synthesis of qualitative research: A pocket guide for social work research methods*. New York: Oxford University Press.

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration before March 15, 2019

MAAFCC Member	\$190
Non-Member	\$215
Membership + Conference (New Members Only)	\$250

Registration March 16, 2019 and after

MAAFC Member	\$210
Non-Member	\$235
Membership + Conference (New Members Only)	\$270

Online Registration & Special Rates available at: WWW.MAAFCC.ORG

Name _____ Profession _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Email _____

CE CREDIT: The Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) parent organization is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. AFCC maintains responsibility for this program and its content. The conference is approved for 7.0 hours of continuing education for psychologists. Applications for continuing education for S.W., L.M.F.T., L.M.H.C., L.M.H.C., CPCS/CAFL and categories E/F GAL and PC credits have been made.

Enclose check and mail to:
 Mass AFCC: c/o Rebecca Ryan
 P.O. Box 24
 Leeds, MA 01053
 or
Register on-line
 at www.mafcc.org/pay.html
 For further information, call Rebecca Ryan
 @ 413-537-5684 or e-mail at
admin@mafcc.org

Massachusetts Chapter – Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Presents:

A 2019 Perspective on Removal: Social Science Research, Case Law, and Best Practices.

March 29, 2019
 Regis College, Weston, MA

FRIDAY, March 29

8:00 - 8:30 A.M.
 Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 - 8:45 A.M. **Introduction**
Mira Levitt, Ph.D., Committee Co-Chair

8:45-9:30: **The Law of Removal in Massachusetts**
Hon. Amy Blake, Massachusetts Appeals Court

9:30 – 10:45 A.M **Keynote Address:**

- Michael Saini, Ph.D.*
- I. What does research tell us about relocation?
 - o What do we know about how children fare?
 - o How does this vary by age, temperament, gender?
 - How do we assess the quality of that research?
 - o Its strengths and weakness

II. Relocation in other jurisdictions

10:45 – 11:00 A.M. **Break**

11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. **Keynote Address Continued:**
Michael Saini, Ph.D.

- III. How does the research inform forensic practice?
 - How should one go about assessing best interest?
 - How should parenting plans be crafted?

- IV. What is the role of technology in assessing the impact of removal?
 - Do video visits mitigate the effects of removal in a meaningful way?

1:00 – 1:45 P.M.
Lunch/Professional Networking/Presidential Remarks
Patricia Brady, L.M.H.C., MA-AFCC President

1:45 – 3:15 P.M. Practitioner Panel Discussion
View From the Trenches:
Karen Cohen, MA, Esq.
Anne Cremonini LICSW
Alexander Jones, M.S.W., Esq
David Medoff, Ph.D., Moderator

3:15 – 3:30 P.M. **Break**

3:30 – 5:00 P.M. Judicial Panel Discussion
Legal Perspectives:
Hon. Patricia Gorman
Christine Anthony, Esq.
Richard Novitch, Esq.
Vicki Shemin, M.S.W, Esq., Moderator

5:00: Day Ends.

DIRECTIONS
Regis College
235 Wellesley St.
Weston, MA 02493

781.768-7000

North on Rt. 95/128: Exit 24 to Rt. 30 West. Continue approx. 2 miles to right onto Wellesley St. Regis is about ¼ mile on left.

South on Rt. 95/128: Exit 26 to Rt. 20 West. Continue approx. 2 miles to right onto Wellesley St. Regis is about ¼ mile on left.

Mass. Pike West: Ext 15 to Rt. 30 West. Continue approx. 2 miles to right onto Wellesley St. Regis is about ¼ mile on left.

Rt. 30 East: From Framingham/Natick. Rt. 9 to Rt. 27 North to Rt. 30 East to Wellesley St. on left. Traffic is heavy on Rt. 30 in the morning.

Conference in Rm 202 College Hall

FREE PARKING

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

- Donna Feinberg, L.I.C.S.W.
- Jonathan Fields, Esq.
- Lisa Gallagher, Ph.D.
- Lesley Goldsmith, Esq.
- Alexander Jones, Esq., M.S.W.
- Mira Levitt, Ph.D.
- David Medoff, Ph.D.
- Jessica Greenwald O'Brien, Ph.D.
- Vicki Shemin, Esq., L.I.C.S.W., A.C.S.W.
- Robert Zibbell, Ph.D.