



Stronger Together

Surviving &
Thriving



New York State Council on
Divorce Mediation
Annual Conference (Online)

APRIL
29 & 30

2021

Dear Esteemed Members and Colleagues,

We are grateful for you and hopeful that an end to this pandemic seems likely later this year. As we wait for the day when we can all be in person again, we are looking forward to catching up with each of you online during our 2021 Annual Conference: ***Stronger Together - Surviving & Thriving***. In response to the unprecedented year we have all experienced, the Annual Conference Committee, with support from the NYSCDM Board, has designed an online event that takes many things into consideration to give you the best experience possible.

- The conference will be online on Thursday, April 29th (half-day), and Friday, April 30th (full day).
- We have a fantastic lineup of top speakers discussing practical and intriguing topics that will benefit your practices and advance the profession.
- Along with their robust content, speakers will incorporate numerous interactive techniques to keep sessions engaging and lively.
- All sessions will be recorded, so you will not miss out on anything!
- You will be able to get continuing education credits for sessions you attend live as well as the sessions you watch on demand.
- We will offer 18 continuing education credits, 16.5 of which are pending for CLEs. Three contact hours for Social Workers. This is in line with what we typically offer.
- We have built in opportunities to connect with each other on a social level.
- Plus, we have reduced the price of the conference - ***for this year only*** - in response to the pandemic. We reduced our pricing this year for a number of reasons.
 - While some members have been busier than ever, others have been struggling.
 - Since we are online, we will not have the costs for food and conference facilities, which usually make up a large portion of the conference fees. We want to pass along those savings to you.

So please review the pages that follow for all the details on this conference. We hope to see you there. As always, we hope that this year's Annual Conference will be the best one ever!



Deborah Hope Wayne, Esq.
NYSCDM President
Accredited Mediator &
Collaborative Lawyer



Mark Josephson, Esq.,
CPA, CFP, CFE, CGMA
Founder & Senior Partner
Murray & Josephson, CPAs

In Loving Memory

*Some of our colleagues and loved ones
were lost this past year due to the
pandemic and other causes.*

*Please join us in taking a moment to
remember them all, especially
Doris Friedman, who was a founding
Council leader, and Susan Ingram, who
was a dear member of our
Annual Conference Committee and
past Board Member.*

Annual Conference Committee

Ada Hasloeher, Speakers & Logistics
Jill Sanders-DeMott, Speakers & Logistics
Andrea Hirshman, Speakers & Logistics
Sheryl-Anne Sastow, Speakers & Logistics
Donna La Scala, Sponsorships
Stephen Linker, Auction
Connie Fraser, CEs & CLEs
Mark Josephson, Chairperson
Patty Murray, Executive Director

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NYSCDM Contact Details

director@nysmediate.org

(516) 227-2595

Join: www.nysmediate.org

Schedule At A Glance

Thursday, April 29

11:30 AM Welcome, Announcements, &
Stronger Together Activity

12:00 PM Plenary Session

2:05 PM Break

2:15 PM Plenary Session

3:30 PM Break

3:45 PM Town Hall

5:15 PM Cocktail Hour, Abel Award,
Brief Auction & Fun!

6:15 PM After Party

Friday, April 30

8:30 AM Welcome & Announcements

8:45 AM Plenary Session

10:30 AM Break

10:45 AM Choice of Track 1 or Track 2

12:00 PM Lunch Break

12:30 PM Annual Meeting

1:15 PM Choice of Track 1 or Track 2

2:30 PM Break

2:45 PM Choice of Track 1 or Track 2

4:00 PM Plenary Session

5:15 PM Break

5:30 PM Cocktail Hour, Entertainment
& Fun!

6:30 PM After Party

Thursday, April 29, 2021

11:30 AM Welcome, Announcements, & Stronger Together Activity

12:00 PM Transforming Impasse: The Joys of Stubbornness

2.5 CLEs Pending

Join us for a frank discussion on the principles of Marshal Rosenberg.

- See how all behavior in mediation, no matter how bombastic, can mine for understanding the needs of your participants
- Consider how enforcing rules may actually be reinforcing the building blocks of an impasse
- See the clarity in vulgarity, the potential in ultimatums, the hope in accusations
- Learn how to stop pushing towards dead ends and open doors to true movement and creativity
- Most importantly, understand how impasse is not about them, it is in fact, about us

This interactive, two-hour workshop will explore techniques for transforming impasse with Mediator Duke Fisher and Jill Sanders-DeMott. Please be aware that ugly, angry, vulgar, bigoted language will be used, and studied openly throughout this workshop.



Duke Fisher
Mediator, Trainer
Restorative Justice
Facilitator & Professor



Jill Sanders-DeMott, Esq.
Moderator, Accredited
Mediator & Attorney

***Promotional
Opportunities
New This Year!***

Video Sponsor Spotlights

Digital Ad Booklet

In-event Banner Loop

Digital Lit Drops

Learn how you can promote your services to NYSCDM members and help support the Council. For information on promotional and sponsorship opportunities, please contact:

Donna La Scala or Patty Murray

Thursday, April 29, 2021

2:05 PM Break

2:15 PM *Co-sponsored by the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission*

Family Mediation: Why Diversity and Inclusion Matter

1.5 CLEs Pending



During this lively, roundtable discussion, attendees will gain a better perspective on what diversity looks like in the family mediation space and why it matters, not only to clients and counsel, but to mediators. Encouraging everyone to bring their authentic selves with them and an open mind, attendees will be challenged to think about their own behaviors, implicit bias and how - together - we can make those who use family mediation, often at the most challenging times in their life, feel heard, welcomed and at ease.



Moderator: Lauren A. Jones, Esq.
Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission



Jacqueline Harounian, Esq.
Wisselman, Harounian & Associates



Andy Izenson, Esq.
Diana Adams Law & Mediation, PLLC



Sharon Matthie, Esq.
New York State Unified Court System



Maxine Park, Esq.
Park Law and Mediation

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Thursday, April 29, 2021

3:30 PM Break

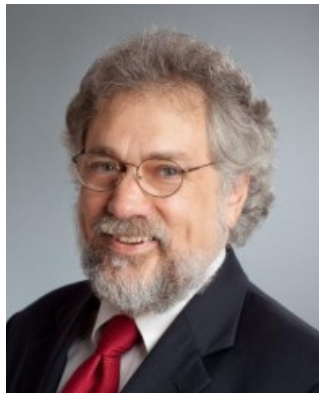
3:45 PM TOWN HALL: How Far Can You Stretch the Boundaries and Remain Impartial?

1.5 CLEs Pending

In this interactive Town Hall, we will explore the boundaries of mediation, the places that make us uncomfortable and make us walk the razor's edge. American philosopher Ken Wilbur, in his visionary book, *A Brief History of Everything*, says that in order to evolve intellectually, culturally and spiritually, we must "include (what happened before) BUT transcend it". Are we as mediators now on the cutting edge of transcendence? While we have our playbook that guides our ethics, techniques and skill sets, what about that mysterious, intangible, nuanced "something" that we must bring to our work? That x-factor that you cannot quite put your finger on, but without which, our beloved mediation process may not evolve? When all else fails – what is that special something that your clients need from YOU? Ask of YOU? Come join us for a breakthrough conversation!



Ada L. Hasloecker
Divorce and Family
Mediation Center, LLC



Bob Collins, Esq.
Mediator & Attorney
Common Sense
Divorce Mediation



Christine Hickey, Esq.
CNY Mediation
Services, Inc.

5:15 PM Cocktail Hour!

Join us with your favorite libation for a cocktail hour filled with fun, entertainment and camaraderie! We also will announce the 2021 Steve Abel Award recipient.

6:15 PM After Party?

For those of you who want to keep socializing with your long-time colleagues and new friends, we will keep the event open longer. If you want a special breakout room, please let us know in advance.

Friday, April 30, 2021

8:30 AM Welcome & Announcements

8:45 AM Ask the Judges: Spousal Maintenance & Child Support

2.0 CLEs Pending

Two major issues many couples have to resolve when divorcing are spousal maintenance and child support. It is important for mediators, as well as litigators, to understand and gain insights on how courts in different New York Counties are handling various issues in determining spousal maintenance orders and child support. For example, when and on what basis do the courts deviate from the statutory guidelines? What are the court's major considerations in determining spousal support and child support caps? During this session, these and other questions will be answered.



Hon. Jeffrey
Goodstein
Nassau County



Hon. Matthew
Cooper
NY County



Hon. Cheryl
Joseph
Suffolk County



Hon. Richard
Dollinger
Monroe County



Hon. Lewis
Lubell
Westchester County

Registration Details

Conference Pricing (Reduced This Year Only!)

Join & Register Early to Save!

Join Now and Get Member Pricing Rates include all online activities live and on demand.	Super Early Bird Register by March 31	Early Bird Register April 1-15	Regular Pricing Register Apr. 16 or Later
Member Rate: Thursday, April 29th, & Friday, April 30th	\$295	\$325	\$355
Non-member Rate: Thursday, April 29th, & Friday, April 30th <i>(Become a Member & Save!)</i>	\$495	\$525	\$555
Option: First-time Member Dues <i>(Become a Member & Save!)</i>	\$75 (half-year rate starts 3/1)	\$75	\$75
Option: Past Member Dues <i>(Renew & Save! Get New Benefits!)</i>	\$200	\$200	\$200

See page 11 for additional registration information.

10:30 AM Break

10:45 AM Choice of Track 1 or Track 2

Track 1: "But I Don't Want To Go": Supporting Families When Their Children are Resistant

1.5 Contact Hours (pending) for Social Workers provided in partnership with FamilyKind

We will cover how to support parents when their child may not want to visit with a parent.

We will examine common causes, reactions that families experience and real life interventions to support these families.

Attendees will learn:

- Important factors for parents to consider in maintaining strong relationships with their children, based on developmental stages
- Common causes of resistance and visitation refusal
- Effective communication strategies to encourage long-term parental relationships
- Simple strategies to empower parents when dealing with refusal and resistance
- Prioritizing long-term relationships with children over a short-term reaction to a circumstance
- Validating children's feelings while also maintaining healthy parental boundaries
- Not personalizing rejection



Gordon Gooding, LCSW
Gooding Wellness Group



Carmela Tufano, LCSW
Long Island Teletherapy

Track 2: Practice (Alone) Does Not Make Perfect: Excellence Through Reflective Practice

1.5 CLEs Pending

Reflective practice helps practitioners become more effective, responsive and resilient. When practitioners engage in self-reflection that results in insights, they improve the quality of their work. The presenters will address:

- Learning from experience to become more proficient and resourceful
- What is reflective practice and its differences from other forms of feedback
- The practical benefits of learning through and from experience

This session will role play a reflective practice scenario and feature a group exercise.



Michael Lang
Mediator,
Educator,
Author

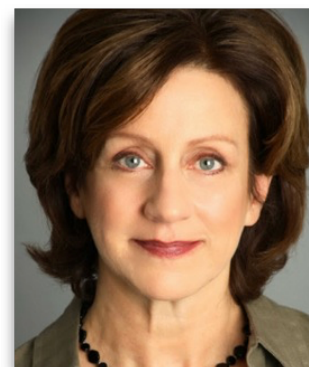


Laurie Amaya, Esq.
Full-time Mediator,
Collaborative Divorce
Attorney

[Click Here](#)
[To Register Today!](#)

12:00 PM Lunch Break

**12:30 PM NYSCDM Annual Meeting
President's Report & Elections**



Deborah Hope Wayne, Esq.
NYSCDM President
Accredited Mediator & Collaborative Lawyer

1:15 PM

**Track 1: Inequitable
Distribution: Reasons,
Mistakes and Common Pitfalls**
1.5 CLEs Pending

During this session, participants will review one comprehensive case study involving divorce finances. The group will be broken up into breakout sessions during which the common mistakes and pitfalls will be identified and discussed. Each group will come back to the General Session to present their findings.

Participants will learn:

- How to identify hidden assets
- Common errors in taxation of assets
- Differences in how to handle retirement assets
- Common misconceptions in business valuations
- Issues with life insurance

**Track 2: Consider A Modified
Approach: MED/ARB for
Matrimonial Matters**
1.5 CLEs Pending

This round-table conversation will explore the use of MED/ARB in general and for matrimonial matters while reflecting on the elements of MED/ARB, ethical and practical challenges. Speakers will address needed disclosures and waivers, consider challenges with caucusing and ex parte communications, and reflect on bias, insight, and party self-determination. They will offer practical advice based on experience and professional standards of conduct. Can MED/ARB offer parties a form of individualized justice that accounts not only for legal considerations, but also for life realities, party needs and principles, and also addresses impediments to party decision making?



Donna LaScala,
RFC, CDFA, CLTC
American Portfolios
Financial Services



Stephen Linker,
CPA, CVA,
CFF, FACFEI
Linker LLC



Eli Uncyk, Esq.
Kamerman,
Uncyk, Soniker
& Klein P.C.



Sheryl-Anne
Sastow, Esq.
Sastow Law &
Mediation



Simeon Baum
Resolve
Mediation
Services, Inc.



Gary Shaffer,
Esq. Shaffer
Mediation

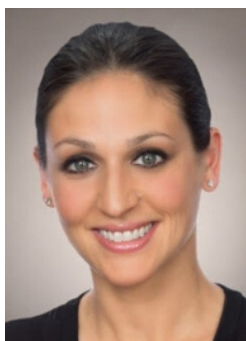
2:30 PM Break

2:45 PM

Track 1: Navigating Family Formation & Avoiding Conflict Under the New Child Parent Security Act

1.5 CLEs Pending

The program will delve into the impact of New York's new parentage law governing children conceived using assisted reproductive technologies, the Child-Parent Security Act, on family formation and dissolution. We will explore how the intent-based construct of the CPSA facilitates third-party reproduction including egg, sperm, and embryo donation arrangements, and gestational surrogacy, and allows for one party's use of jointly created embryos following separation or divorce. Special consideration will be given to how divorce mediators and family law practitioners can best anticipate and assist clients in resolving the complex and often intertwined emotional and legal issues or conflicts that arise in this context.



Alexis L. Cirel, Esq.
Warshaw Burstein, LLP

Track 2: What's a Mediator to Do? How the Pandemic Will Continue to Change How Mediators Work

1.5 CLEs Pending, Contact Hours (pending) for Social Workers provided in partnership with FamilyKind

The pandemic has mediators dealing with more modifications of child support than ever and parties are still trying to leverage Covid-19 to get what they want. Strategies, techniques and practical ideas to these and other scenarios will be addressed.

When the pandemic ends, will mediators transition back to in-person, stay virtual, or create a hybrid model? When? How? What changes will need to be made to infrastructure? The practical and emotional implications will be discussed during this interactive session.



Renee LaPoint, MS
The Mediation Center



Kevin Clark, Esq.
Wesley, Clark & Peshkin

4:00 PM Update on the Law

1.5 CLEs Pending

Review and analysis of the significant cases that were decided during the past year. Topics will include marital and separate property, pensions and retirement accounts, the marital residence, maintenance, child support and a host of other cases that will help you provide your clients with the information they will need to make informed decisions.



Steve Abel, Esq.
Accredited Mediator
Attorney,
Editor,
Federal Family Law

Friday, April 30, 2021

5:15 PM Mix Your Favorite Libation! Plate Your Favorite Snacks and Join Us for Cocktail Hour!

5:30 PM Cocktail Hour!

Join us with your favorite libation for a cocktail hour filled with fun, entertainment and camaraderie! We also will have an auction featuring select items.

6:30 PM After Party?

For those of you who want to keep socializing with your long-time colleagues and new friends, we will keep the event open longer. If you want a special breakout room, please let us know in advance.

Additional Registration Information

NYSDRA members and MEMBERS OF OTHER STATE ORGANIZATIONS THAT DO NOT PRACTICE IN NEW YORK, are eligible for NYSCDM member rates. Government and court employees are eligible for member rates as well. Please email director@nysmediate.org We offer a \$25 discount for presenters; for details, contact director@nysmediate.org.

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION: "New York State Council on Divorce Mediation has been certified by the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board as an Accredited Provider of continuing legal education in the State of New York from July 25, 2018 – July 24, 2021. CLE credits will be earned depending on sessions attended. All sessions are suitable for newly appointed and experienced attorneys. Continuing Education credits are provided for beginning and advanced mediators." ContinuingEd@NYSmediate.org

CONTACT HOURS for Social Workers will be provided for specific sessions (identified in brochure) in partnership with [FamilyKind](#) at NO additional cost.



CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS for other professionals will be provided for all sessions by NYSCDM at NO additional cost.

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP: NYSCDM's Financial hardship policy is available upon written request. To apply, write Connie Fraser at The Park @ Allens Creek, 150 Allens Creek Road, Ste. 250, Rochester, New York 14618 or ContinuingEd@NYSmediate.org

REFUNDS: Since this event will be offered online and recordings will be provided to all paid attendees, no refunds will be offered for this event.

ACCESSIBILITY: If you have any requirements for accessibility or other needs, please let us know on the event registration form or contact director@nysmediate.org

[Click Here To Register Today!](#)