



NY State Council on
Divorce Mediation

Leveraging the Experts: Building on the Best

Pre-conference: May 2
Main Conference: May 3 - 4

Doubletree Hotel
Tarrytown, NY



**Kenneth Cloke,
JD, PhD, LLM**



**Hon. Matthew F.
Cooper, Esq.**



**Joan
Levenson, Esq.**



**Referee Carol
Swidler, Esq.**



**Don
Boice, LCSWR**



**Renée
LaPoint, MS**



**Elizabeth
Clemants, MSW**



**Michele
Kern-Rappy, Esq.**



**Jean
Norton**



**Steve
Abel, Esq.**



**Hon. Allen
Hochberg, Esq.**



**Hon. Patricia
Brimais-Tenemille Esq.**



**Dan
Burns, Esq.**



**Julie
Mersereau, Esq.**



**Rod
Wells**



**Steve
Linker**



**Hon. Richard
Mandell, Esq.**



**Jill Sanders-
DeMott, Esq.**



**Linda
Gunsberg PhD**



**Jordan
Trager, Esq.**



**Thomas
Stedina**



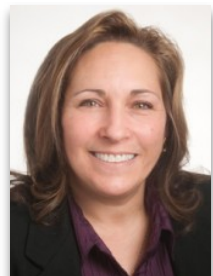
**Ron Heilmann
LCSW, LMFT**



**William
Hoefer, Esq.**



**Gabrielle
Hartley, Esq.**



**Stephanie
Mauro**

"On behalf of the Annual Conference Committee and the NYSCDM Board, we look forward to seeing you for several days of valuable education, networking and camaraderie."



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

Annual Conference Committee Members

Mark Josephson, Chair
Dan Burns, Speakers & Logistics
Ada Hasloeher, Speakers & Logistics
Jill Sanders-DeMott, Speakers & Logistics
Connie Fraser Standard CEs & CLEs
Kate Bar-Tur, Mental Health CEs
Susan Ingram, Sponsorships
Patty Murray, Executive Director

Exhibiting at the Business Expo & Placing an Ad in the Conference Brochure

Are two effective ways to promote your services to NYSCDM members and help support the Council

For more information, please contact:

[Susan Ingram](#) or [Patty Murray](#)

[Click here to register today!](#)

Schedule At A Glance

Thursday, May 2

11 AM Registration Desk Opens
Business Expo Opens

Noon Lunch

1 PM Pre-Conference Starts

5:30 PM Pre-Conference Ends

6:30 PM Opening Reception
Welcome to New Members

7:30 PM Dinner, Abel Award,
Keynote Address

Friday, May 3

7:30 AM Registration Desk Opens
Business Expo Opens
Breakfast Starts

8:30 AM Opening Plenary

10:20 AM Coffee Break & Networking

10:40 AM Plenary: Judge's Panel

12:45 PM Lunch & NYSCDM Annual Meeting

2:30 PM Breakout Sessions

3:45 PM Coffee Break & Networking

4 PM Plenary: Update on the Law

5:40 PM Plenary Ends

7 PM Dinner & Entertainment (New!)

Saturday, May 4

8 AM Registration Desk Opens
Business Expo Opens
Breakfast Starts

9 AM Breakout Sessions

10:40 AM Coffee Break & Networking

11:15 AM Breakout Sessions

12:55 PM Lunch & Closing Plenary:
Spousal Maintenance

3:45 PM Conference Ends

*Mark Your Calendars for
Next Year's Annual Conference
April 30, May 1 & 2, 2020*

When Civility Breaks Down: Designing Interest-based Approaches to Chronic Conflicts

Noon Lunch

1PM to 5:30 PM Pre-conference

5 CLEs Pending

In all conflicts, there is a better outcome than winning and losing, a more successful process than accusing and blaming, and a deeper relationship than exercising power over and against others. As divorce mediators, we understand better outcomes are achieved when adversaries participate in meaningful dialogue to jointly solve common problems.

Globally, we are mired in political conflicts filled with incivility, bitterness, personal attacks and divisive language that diminish our ability to work together and negatively infiltrate all types of relationships. Politically and relationally, we need to design new ways of discussing our differences that lead to learning, empathy and collaboration.

In this session we will discuss how to think about political and relational conflicts, the neurophysiology, morality and ethics of political and relational conflicts, and how to create heartfelt, emotional communication and design interest-based conflict-resolution systems in our mediation practices.



Kenneth Cloke JD, PhD, LLM

- World-recognized mediator, dialogue facilitator, conflict resolution systems designer, teacher, public speaker, author of numerous books and articles.
- Founder of the Center for Dispute Resolution in Santa Monica, CA, where he has been a mediator, arbitrator, facilitator, coach, consultant and trainer.
- Specializes in communication, collaborative negotiation, dialogue facilitation, and resolving complex multi-party disputes, including thousands of marital, divorce and family disputes.
- Co-founder of Mediators Beyond Borders, which mobilizes mediators around the world to support individuals, organizations, communities, and governments in building conflict-resolution literacy and capacity in under-served communities.
- Taught and mediated in: Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, Denmark, England, Georgia, Greece, India, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Puerto Rico, Scotland, Slovenia, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, USSR and Zimbabwe.

6:30 PM Cash Bar ~ Opening Reception & Welcome to New Members!

7:30 PM ~ Dinner, Keynote Address & Abel Award Ceremony

Keynote Address: Kenneth Cloke JD, PhD, LLM

“Personal Reflections from a Pioneering Leader in the Field of Mediation and Conflict Resolution”

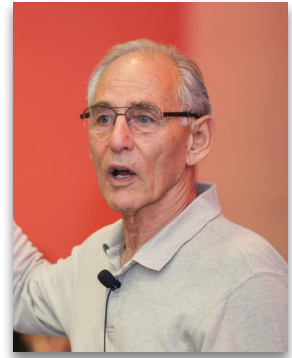
Day 1: Friday, May 3

7:30 AM Registration Desk Opens, Business Expo Opens
Breakfast is Served; Welcome

8:30 AM Opening Plenary 2 CLEs Pending

Designing Questions that Reveal Hidden Dynamics & Release People from Conflict

Questioning is an art and science that conflict-resolution professionals at all levels continually hone in order to advance their techniques to the highest levels. By asking deeper questions in strategic ways, mediators ultimately reveal the secret to a couple's problem that transforms it, makes it resolvable and suggests new paths forward. Participants will take a fresh look at forms of persuasion and advocacy while learning to design questions that reveal the hidden substructures and emotional logic in a variety of conflicts and settings.



**Kenneth Cloke,
JD, PhD, LLM**

Mediator, Dialogue Facilitator,
Conflict Resolution Systems Designer,
Arbitrator, Trainer, Coach, Author

10:20 AM Coffee Break & Networking

10:40 AM Plenary 2.5 CLEs Pending

Anatomy of Divorce: How Mediators and Courts Collaborate

We are welcoming a panel to share with us the anatomy of a divorce and how the court and mediators can collaborate to help participants create better and more sustainable agreements. The panel will explore the following: What happens when a divorce mediation breaks down and a couple goes to court? What happens to our agreements when the parties no longer agree with what was decided in mediation and they choose not to return to mediation? How can we improve the agreements to avoid the pitfalls that bring the agreement to court? What support exists for mediation in the court system now and what is the future of mediation in the courts? Judge Matthew Cooper will share his thinking and insights on his recent decision on shared parenting, which was the 2018 Case of the Year in NYSCDM's Annual Update on the Law.



**Hon. Matthew F.
Cooper, Esq**
NY Supreme
Court Justice



Joan Levenson, Esq.
Chief of Staff to
Administrative Judge
for NY County



**Referee Carol
Swidler, Esq.**
Head of Post-judgment
in Westchester



Jean Norton
OCA Asst.
Deputy Counsel for
ADR/CIP for NYS



**Michele
Kern-Rappy, Esq.**
Sr. Settlement Coordinator
NYS Supreme Court

12:45 PM Lunch

NYSCDM Annual Meeting

Annual Report by NYSCDM President Renée LaPoint

Elections



Renée LaPoint, MS

NYSCDM President
Accredited Mediator
The Mediation Center

2:30 PM Breakout Sessions

Alternative Ways of Dealing with Conflict & Trauma

1.5 Mental Health* CEs Pending

*** Mental Health CEs Co-sponsored by R. Cassidy**

According to the CDCP, 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys experience sexual abuse. Such trauma is considered an antecedent to crime, drug and alcohol abuse, incarceration, school dropout, teen pregnancy and suicide attempts. Hidden Water is a restorative justice program designed to interrupt this cycle, starting where abuse happens most often – in the family. Our model is based on the indigenous practice of Peacemaking Circles, and founded on the belief that abuse harms all members of a family, not just the person directly impacted. This session will explain this alternative process and its impact.

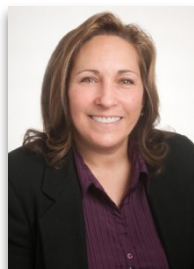


Elizabeth Clemants, MSW
Founder, Hidden Water

College Planning 101 for Divorced Families

Families of divorce face greater challenges when deciding how to pay for college. This session will help mediators better understand how to guide families by addressing:

- Which parent files the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)?
- How should the CSS/Financial Aid Profile be filled out?
- Which tax year is counted and what tax forms are required?
- What is Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and how is it calculated?
- How is child support & alimony counted on the financial aid forms?
- How do IRS rules differ from FAFSA rules?
- How does being separated affect the filing?



Stephanie Mauro
President, College Planning 101

Power Balancing in Divorce Mediation: Things are not always as they seem!

1.5 CLEs and 1.5 Mental Health* CEs Pending

*** Mental Health CEs Co-sponsored by R. Cassidy**

Every training in divorce mediation and all standards of practice emphasize that power balancing is a required task of the mediator. Yet, little is known about the topic except that every one of us is impacted by the application of power dynamics in ALL relationships. This workshop will look more closely at power and how it impacts the mediation process. But YOU will bring your experience on power dynamics and discuss it with our panel of experts in an “open mic” format. You will find the person sitting next to you a great resource.



Ron Heilmann
LCSW, LMFT
Accredited Mediator
Mediation Network of
Syracuse, NY



William Hoefer, Esq.
Divorce and
Family Law

3:45 PM Coffee Break & Networking

4 PM to Annual Plenary

5:40 PM Update on the Law 2 CLEs Professional Practice 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.
Attorney & Accredited Mediator
Center for Mediation and Training
Editor, Federal Family Law

7 PM Dinner and Entertainment

8 AM Registration Desk Opens, Business Expo Opens, Breakfast is Served

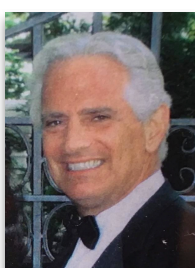
9 AM Breakout Sessions

Magistrates Share Insights on Child Support and Shared Custody 2 CLEs Pending

This presentation will focus on the issue of child support agreements when parents share equal time or almost equal time with the children. The child support magistrates will discuss the different options couples might use to calculate child support in a shared parenting arrangement. The magistrates will give the court's perspective and discuss how mediation decisions might face challenges. In those cases, the judges will discuss what mediators can do to protect their clients.



**Hon. Patricia
Brimais-Tenemille Esq.**
Family Court Support
Magistrate



**Hon. Allen
Hochberg, Esq.**
Family Court Support
Magistrate (Ret.)



**Hon. Richard
Mandell, Esq.**
Family Court Support
Magistrate (Ret.)



**Jill Sanders-
DeMott, Esq.**
Moderator

Critical Incidents in Mediation: Saving the Process

2 Mental Health* CEs Pending

*** Mental Health CEs Co-sponsored by R. Cassidy**

Let's expand our collective wisdom on best practices when dealing with bad behavior in the mediation room and avoid using Duct tape and Tasers. This facilitated discussion is a different type of workshop where peers will review specific situations, share ideas and learn from each other. We will think through effective responses to challenging situations including: entitled attitudes, sexism, testing mediator neutrality, affairs, imputed income, etc. Attendees will learn to:

- Recognize and deal with their own personal triggers
- Avoid being judgmental when clients are challenging them
- Understand how to best respond and fine-tune skills when the going gets rough.



Renée LaPoint, MS
NYSCDM President
Accredited Mediator
The Mediation Center



Don Boice, LCSWR
Mediator & Clinical
Social Worker
Boice Mediation

Better Together Apart: The Five Pillars of an Elegant Divorce 2 CLEs Pending

By offering tools to support clients in self care, we can elevate their consciousness, open their portals to compassion and teach them to listen with then same passion with which they want to be heard. By consciously cultivating patience, respect, clarity, peace and forgiveness, mediators will be able to help clients better regulate their responses to disputes during the divorce process. This approach will eventually save couples significant time and money. By encouraging them to reset and recalibrate, we can help them to create a positive future beyond divorce. This session also will address self-care strategies and techniques for mediators.



Gabrielle Hartley, Esq.
Hartley Law and Mediation
Your Elegant Divorce

10:40 AM Coffee Break & Extra Time for Checking Out of the Hotel

11:15 AM Breakout Sessions



11:15 AM Breakout Sessions

From QDRO to COAP and RBCO: Decoding the World of Federal Pensions 2 CLEs Pending

The Federal lexicon of retirement is daunting by itself - what are FERS, COAPs, TSP, Tier 2 RRB, and at least a half-dozen different retirement systems? The largest Federal government plan is the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) with over 3,000,000 members, while the older CSRS program now has only 200,000 members (but they are the older group closest to retirement). Dividing these plans as part of the property division upon divorce is similar to state government plans and many corporate/union plans but there are differences. This workshop will start with the essentials and build up to the nuanced differences that can be critical.



Steve Abel, Esq.

Attorney & Accredited Mediator
Center for Mediation and Training
Editor, Federal Family Law

What Every Mediator Needs to Know About Parental Alienation: Psychological and Legal Perspectives 2 CLEs & 2 Mental Health* CEs Pending * Mental Health CEs Co-sponsored by R. Cassidy

This workshop will help mediators better understand what parental alienation (PA) is and how it affects family members. Linda Gunsberg will present the psychological perspective and discuss treatment interventions for families entrenched in this phenomenon. She will discuss the role of the forensic expert in determining if PA exists, how it impacts on a particular family, and remedies for the Court to consider. Jordan Trager will discuss the legal perspective and how PA is treated in the New York courts, legal remedies available to alienated parents, as well as an overview of New York case law. Mediators will be able to use this information to develop effective mediation strategies for these clients.



Linda Gunsberg PhD
Washington Square
Institute



Jordan Trager, Esq.
Wisselman, Harounian &
Associates, P.C.

Lessons Learned from Divorce Mediations Involving Law Enforcement Officers: Strategies for All Challenging Personalities

This session is a how-to on dealing with the moral and mental characteristics of members of law enforcement, in particular, how many personality traits correlate to certain positions within the department. Simply stated - choose any characteristic in a client - overbearing, meek, compulsive, paranoid, lazy, over aggressive or narcissistic. From that, you will learn how to:

- tell what position a party most likely holds in law enforcement
- identify them early in the mediation process
- work around challenging traits and complete the mediation successfully.



Thomas Stedina
Director of Divorce
Empowered and Smart

12:55 PM Lunch and Closing Plenary

Spousal Maintenance Under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act 2.5 CLEs Pending

How will the Spousal Maintenance Guidelines be applied now that spousal support is no longer a deduction to the payor nor income to the payee? During this closing plenary a panel of experts will discuss how he/she believes the TC&JA will impact spousal support in the future and what we might be able to do to assist our clients in reaching an agreement that feels appropriate to each of them.



Dan Burns, Esq.
Attorney &
Accredited Mediator
Burns Mediation



Julie Mersereau, Esq.
Attorney & Mediator
Mersereau Law Office, PLLC



Rod Wells
Mediator



Steve Linker
Founder and Chairman
Linker LLC

Doubletree Tarrytown

**455 South Broadway,
Tarrytown, New York, 10591
+1-914-631-5700**

The special rate for our room block is **\$159 per night**, available on first-come, first-serve basis.

Please make your reservations before the cutoff date, **March 31st, 2019**, by calling **914-524-6418**

You can also book your hotel room online via www.Tarrytown.Doubletree.com then enter the group code **CDM** under the Special Rate/ Group code.

Room cancellations need to be made 72 hours in advance of hotel stay.

Tarrytown Train Station is an 8-minute drive away. Shuttle is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Call hotel when nearing train station. Taxis and other ride services are available. One-way cost is about \$10.

Hotel has beautiful guest rooms, free parking, free wifi, pool, fitness center and many other amenities.

The hotel is situated in Tarrytown-Sleepy Hollow, home to Washington Irving's Legend of Sleepy Hollow and voted one of the Prettiest Town's in America. Take in majestic views of the Hudson River or see one of the many historic sites such as Lyndhurst Castle or Rockefeller Estate. Complimentary shuttle offered to area attractions and local venues.



NYSCDM Contact Details

For more information, email director@nysmediate.org

Or call: (516) 227-2595

To become a member, visit our website: www.nysmediate.org



Conference Pricing (Same As Last Year!)

Join & Register Early to Save!

Join Now and Get Member Pricing (Rates do not include Hotel Guest Room, see page 8.)	Super Early Bird Register by March 31	Early Bird Register April 1-15	Regular Pricing Register Apr. 16 or Later
New! Combo Pricing Deal:			
Thursday, Friday & Saturday. All Meals, All Program Offerings. Member Rate* (Best Value!)	\$595	\$695	\$745
Thursday, Friday & Saturday. All Meals, All Program Offerings. Non-member Rate (Become a Member & Save!)	\$825	\$925	\$975
A la Carte Pricing You'll Recognize:			
Pre-conference Only, Member Rate* (Includes Thurs. Lunch & Dinner)	\$165	\$185	\$205
Pre-conference Only, Non-member Rate (Includes Thurs. Lunch & Dinner)	\$285	\$305	\$325
Friday & Saturday Only, Member Rate* (Includes Meals on Fri. & Sat., as well as Thurs. dinner.)	\$495	\$575	\$595
Friday and Saturday Only, Non-member Rate (Includes Meals on Fri. & Sat., as well as Thurs. dinner.)	\$625	\$705	\$725
Friday Only Member Rate* (Includes All Fri. Meals)	\$375	\$395	\$425
Friday Only Non-member Rate (Includes All Fri. Meals)	\$485	\$505	\$525
Saturday Only Member Rate* (Includes All Sat. Meals)	\$275	\$295	\$325
Saturday Only Non-member Rate (Includes All Sat. Meals)	\$385	\$405	\$425
First-time Member Dues (Half-price on 3/1! Become a Member & Save!)	\$75	\$75	\$75
Past Member Dues (Renew & Save! Get New Benefits!)	\$200	\$200	\$200
Three-day Guest (Meals Only, Thursday, Friday & Saturday)	\$350	\$360	\$370
One-day Guest (Meals Only)	\$130	\$140	\$150
* Estimated Fee for Mental Health CE's paid directly to R. Cassidy, see below.	\$40*	\$40*	\$40*

Register Online Via This Link

*NYSdra members and MEMBERS OF OTHER STATE ORGANIZATIONS THAT DO NOT PRACTICE IN NEW YORK, are eligible for NYSCDM member rates. Government 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."

CONTINUING EDUCATION for Mental Health Professionals are approved for select presentations and co-sponsored by R. Cassidy Seminars. Attendees can choose to purchase MH CE's during or shortly after the conference via an online portal provided by R. Cassidy. For details, please consult the brochure or contact Kate Bar-Tur at kbartur@nydivorce-mediation.com

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP: NYSCDM's Financial hardship policy is available upon written request. To apply, write Connie Fraser at 95 Allens Creek Road, Building 2, Suite 123, Rochester, New York 14618.

REFUNDS: For requests received via email by April 15, refunds will be granted as follows: amount paid, less a \$75 administrative fee. Thereafter, no refunds will be granted.

SPECIAL NEEDS: If you need dietary or ADA accommodations or have other special needs, please indicate them on the online registration form or email director@nysmediate.org