

The Massachusetts Council on Family Mediation, Inc.
presents its 20th Annual (2nd Virtual)

FAMILY MEDIATION INSTITUTE

Thursday, December 2, 2021

8:30 AM - 1:10 PM

and

Friday, December 3, 2021

8:45 AM - 12:45 PM

By Zoom Videoconference

INSTITUTE THURSDAY AGENDA

8:30 AM - 8:45 AM Welcome

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

8:45 AM - 9:55 AM

Fern L. Frolin, J.D.

The New Child Support Guidelines

Fern Frolin will provide an update on the important changes to the 2021 Child Support Guidelines to help mediators and their clients navigate the ever-changing landscape of alimony and child support.

10:05 AM - 11:30 AM

Laurie Israel, J.D.

Mediating Prenups and Postnups: Challenges and Opportunities

Laurie Israel will lead us in a discussion of the benefits to clients of mediating their prenuptial and postnuptial agreements. She will walk us through the process of mediating a prenup, as well as the substantive law of prenups and postnups in Massachusetts. Typical fact patterns will be used to generate a range of solutions to difficult issues. The benefit and structure of a term sheet and advice about drafting the agreement and bringing in reviewing attorneys will be discussed, as well as how to level the playing field between the “more moneyed” and “less moneyed” spouse. Bring your experiences, good and bad, to the session for discussion.

11:40 AM - 12:55 PM – KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Stephanie Coontz, M.A.

The Changing Landscape of Marriage and Divorce

Stephanie Coontz will discuss the challenges facing couples -- and mediators who work with them -- in light of the changing dynamics of marriage formation and breakup. Professor Coontz will discuss how historical and sociological perspective can help clients see important issues in a different way. She will also provide data on how “the tyranny of averages” can distort our understanding of the causes and effects of divorce.

1:00 PM - 1:10 PM

Video Clip: MCFM's 17th annual presentation of the John Fiske Award for Excellence in Mediation to Howard Goldstein (recorded May 2021); remarks by Alex Goldstein.

1:10 PM - 2:00 PM

Optional Lunch in Breakout Groups

When you register, please let us know if you want to be assigned to a group to “lunch together” virtually.

INSTITUTE FRIDAY AGENDA

8:45 AM - 8:50 AM Welcome

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

8:50 AM - 10:15 AM

Beth L. Aarons, J.D., MSW; Dr. Magdalena J. Fosse; Jennifer Hawthorne, J.D.; Rebecca G. Neale, J.D.; and Kim U. Whelan, MBA, CDFA®

Sometimes It Takes More Than Two to Tango

Polyamory, and consensual nonmonogamy in general, are becoming increasingly common. These nonnormative relationships represent a different set of challenges in divorce mediation. We will explore the difference between various forms of consensual nonmonogamy and their impact on families. Panelists will discuss how the related family dynamics emerge in the mediation process and how to address them. The specific topics include:

- The language of polyamory and consensual nonmonogamy
- The different types of consensually nonmonogamous relationships
- The challenges around polyamorous and consensually nonmonogamous relationships in divorce
- The impacts of polyamory and consensual nonmonogamy on divorce mediation
- Practice considerations relevant to these types of family relationships

10:25 AM - 11:30 AM

Susan Klebanoff, J.D., and Mary Sheridan, J.D.

The Write Stuff: Drafting Separation Agreements

MCFM will present a workshop on drafting certain provisions of Separation Agreements in various situations, including prepayments of child support and waivers of alimony, health insurance, parenting plans, division of assets (including issues such as a disparate division of assets and dividing retirement assets), and taxes.

11:40 AM - 12:45 PM

Jonathan Fields, J.D.

Family Law: The Year in Review

Attorney Fields will present his annual review of the recent case law affecting family lawyers and mediators. Hear the latest legal trends in Massachusetts family law with MCFM's annual year in review and find out how they will affect your mediation/family law practice.

**MCFM's 20th ANNUAL
FAMILY MEDIATION INSTITUTE**

December 2 and 3, 2021

8:30 AM - 1:10 PM Thursday; 8:45 AM - 12:45 PM Friday
by Zoom Videoconference

REGISTER EARLY

Early registration (received by November 23):

MCFM members \$170

Nonmembers \$210

Regular registration (received after November 23):

MCFM members \$200

Nonmembers \$240

Fee includes live sessions, conference materials (PDF) and session recordings.

**Limited scholarship assistance is available
upon email request to [Mary Sheridan](mailto:Mary.Sheridan@mcfm.org).**

REGISTRATION ACCEPTED ONLINE ONLY

www.MCFM.org

Accepted credit cards:

Visa/MasterCard/Discover/AmEx

CANCELLATION POLICY

Full refunds (less the \$25 cancellation fee) will be issued if you cancel your registration by **November 26, 2021**. **No refunds will be granted after November 26, 2021**. Substitutions are permitted at any time. The cancellation will be acknowledged but refunds will not be issued until after the Institute.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*In addition to our faculty, MCFM gratefully acknowledges the efforts of **Susan Klebanoff, Mary Sheridan, Laurie Udell, Barbara Kellman, Jennifer Hawthorne, and Fran Whyman** without whose contributions this Institute would not have been possible.*

MCFM INSTITUTE FACULTY

Beth Aarons, principal of Aarons Law & Mediation and Of Counsel to Skylark Law & Mediation, P.C., both based out of Southborough, Massachusetts, has focused her practice on dispute resolution for family law and trusts and estates for over 20 years. She is active in the dispute resolution community, as past president of the Massachusetts Collaborative Law Council and a member of the boards of the Massachusetts Council on Family Mediation and the Academy of Professional Family Mediators. Beth also teaches mediation at Suffolk Law School in Boston.

Stephanie Coontz is an award-winning author, historian, and faculty member at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. She is also Director of Research and Public Education for the Council on Contemporary Families. Stephanie has authored and co-edited seven books about the history of families, gender relationships, and marriage, and she is a frequent guest columnist for the *New York Times* and CNN.

Jonathan Fields, a founding partner of the Wellesley, Massachusetts, family law firm, Fields and Dennis, L.L.P., practices exclusively in family law, both as an attorney and mediator. He has been practicing law for more than 30 years and has been named to “Best Lawyers in America” in the field of family law and named to Massachusetts “Super Lawyers.”

Dr. Magdalena Fosse is a clinical psychologist, AASECT Certified Sex Therapist, and author. She is on the faculty and the board of directors of the Psychodynamic Couples and Families Institute of New England. She works with individuals and couples of all genders, sexual orientations, and racial and cultural backgrounds, who struggle with issues related to sexuality, relationships, and intimacy. Her particular expertise is in polyamory and consensual nonmonogamy, and she has published a book entitled *The Many Faces of Polyamory: Longing and Belonging in Concurrent Relationships*. In her work, Dr. Fosse focuses on the intersectionality of normative and non-normative approaches to love and life, and the lessons we can learn from them.

Fern Frolin is a lawyer and mediator. She served on the 2008, 2016 and 2020 Child Support Guidelines Review committees and the drafting committee for the 2013 Massachusetts Alimony Reform Act. Fern strongly believes that matrimonial cases can and should be settled and that parties negotiating family matters should consider the best interests of their children as paramount.

Jennifer Hawthorne is a mediator and collaborative law attorney focusing mainly on family law matters at Skylark Law & Mediation, P.C., in Southborough, Massachusetts. Jennifer is on the board of the Massachusetts Council on Family Mediation, the Massachusetts Collaborative Law Council, and the Academy of Professional Family Mediators. She is a co-chair of the MCFM Publishing Committee and the MCFM Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

Laurie Israel is a lawyer/mediator practicing in Brookline and in western Massachusetts. She has represented clients in connection with their prenups for over 25 years and mediated prenups and postnups for over 10 years. Laurie’s book, “The Generous Prenup: How to Support your Marriage and Avoid the Pitfalls,” was published three years ago and is available on Amazon.

Susan Klebanoff is a mediator and collaborative family and business law attorney with over 35 years of experience. Susan's experience as a corporate lawyer provides a unique perspective to her family law clients facing complex financial and legal issues related to divorce, prenuptial and postnuptial agreements, and other family matters. Susan is a member of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Council on Family Mediation and a Past President and current member of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Collaborative Law Council.

Rebecca Neale is a mediator, collaborative attorney, and litigator. Rebecca owns her solo law firm, Bedford Family Lawyer. Her hybrid practice of litigation and out-of-court resolution allows her clients to decide how to resolve some of the biggest challenges of their lives in the ways that are most effective for their circumstances. Attorney Neale has trained attorneys on representing survivors of domestic violence and is President of the Domestic Violence Services Network, a community partnership providing support to survivors. Rebecca earned her J.D. from U.C. Hastings College of the Law, B.A. from University of Rochester, and clerked for the New York State Court of Appeals. Learn more about the practice at www.BedfordFamilyLawyer.com.

Mary Sheridan began her unofficial career as a mediator when her second child was born and has concentrated her practice on mediating and litigating Massachusetts divorce and post-divorce issues. She served as a Probate and Family Law Clerk and has been appointed as a Parenting Coordinator and Guardian ad Litem in the Probate and Family Court. Mary's practice also includes working closely with families to help parents get the appropriate educational services for their children through the public schools.

Kim Whelan is a Certified Divorce Financial Analyst[®], mediator and collaboratively trained financial neutral. Kim has an MBA from Harvard Business School and, after an eclectic business career, established her mediation practice in 2012 and earned her CDFA[®]. Kim has spoken at national conferences, including IACP and the Academy of Professional Family Mediators. She serves on the board of the Massachusetts Collaborative Law Council and serves as Treasurer on the board of the Massachusetts Council on Family Mediation.