

MCFM BIOS
Family Mediation: It's Not Just for Divorce Anymore

Speakers and Topics:

Beth L. Aarons, Moderator
Halee Burg, Guardianships
David A. Kellem, Neighbor Disputes
Lisa J. Marino, Open Adoption
Ben Stich, Parent-Teen Mediation
Crystal Thorpe, Housing Decisions of Aging Relatives
Jack Wofford, Family Enterprise

Beth L. Aarons

Aarons Law & Mediation
60 Austin Street, Suite 210
Newtonville, MA 02460
617-964-7870
beth@aaronslaw.net
www.aaronslaw.net

Beth maintains her law practice, Aarons Law & Mediation, in Newtonville, MA, and is *Of Counsel* to Skylark Law & Mediation, PC in Southborough, MA. While her career is focused in law, her background in social work, psychology, and special needs populations has informed her connection with clients, child-focused family law work, and ability to finesse complex family dynamics. Beth is an MCFM Certified Mediator, primarily mediating divorces, parenting plans, prenuptial agreements, and probate & estate matters. Beth is also a Collaboratively trained attorney for divorce and probate matters. Beth's law practice also includes adoption, birth family search, guardianships of minors and adults, Guardian Ad Litem appointments, estate planning, and probate. Beth is an active member of the professional community with MCFM, APFM, MCLC, WBA, AALAM, and MAGAL.

Halee Burg

Mediator
Elder Decisions, a division of Agreement Resources, LLC
30 Walpole St., Norwood, MA
(617) 621-7009, ext. 28
Halee@elderdecisions.com
www.elderdecisions.com

Halee Burg mediates elder, adult family, divorce, post-divorce and other family disputes. For many years, Halee has had a strong interest in helping families make collaborative decisions around health care, finances, living arrangements, end of life care, estates and trusts,

guardianships, and family roles and responsibilities concerning ill and/or aging family members. Having served as an elder care nursing home ombudsman (under the auspices of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs) and having addressed serious caregiving issues within her own family, Halee understands the wrenching challenges families face in talking about and making decisions in each of these critical areas.

As a member of the mediation panels for several Boston area community mediation programs, Halee also provides community mediation services and mediates in a number of greater Boston District Courts.

Halee is a member of the New England Chapter of the Association for Conflict Resolution, the Academy of Professional Family Mediators, and the Massachusetts Council on Family Mediation. She has made presentations regarding elder mediation for various organizations, including the Academy of Professional Family Mediators.

Halee's articles regarding elder mediation can be found at Mediate.com. She is a graduate of the University of Rochester (B. A., Psychology) and the Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley (J.D.).

David A. Kellem

Kellem*Mahoney Family Law+Mediation
100 Recreation Park Drive, Ste. 201
Hingham, MA 02043
(781) 804-1303 (direct)
dkellem@kellemlawgroup.com
www.kellemlawgroup.com

David Kellem is an MCFM-certified family law mediator practicing in Hingham and Newton MA. He has worked as a mediator for 15 years, and a family law attorney for 30. David is a blogger and frequent presenter on family law topics with MCFM, MCLE, and ADFP. His blog, David's Divorce Dictionary, like his band, Assisted Living, rocks.

Lisa J. Marino, Esq.

Wilson, Marino & Bonnevie, P.C.
288 Walnut Street
Newton, MA 02460
(617) 964-8090
marino@wmblawfirm.com
www.wmblawfirm.com

Lisa J. Marino is a founding partner of Wilson, Marino & Bonnevie, P.C. in Newton, where she focuses on family law, including divorce, custody, paternity, post-divorce modification and

contempt actions, as well as prenuptial agreements. In addition to this work, Ms. Marino also practices adoption law and ART (Assisted Reproductive Technology) law, and is a fellow of the Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys (AAAA). Ms. Marino is trained in mediation and Collaborative Law and she enjoys being able to work with clients in both of these modes. Ms. Marino is the editor of MCLE's Adoption and Reproductive Technology Law in Massachusetts (anticipated publication in 2018) and is a member of the Greater Boston Family Law American Inn of Court and the Massachusetts Bar Association. Ms. Marino was named a Top Woman of Law by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly in 2017 and was nominated as an Angel in Adoption by Senator Elizabeth Warren through the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute in 2016. Ms. Marino holds a J.D. from Suffolk University Law School and an A.B. from Mount Holyoke College.

Ben Stich, LICSW, M.Ed

10 Eliot Street
Natick, MA 01760
617-872-7731
ben@benstich.com
www.benstich.com

Helping families resolve conflict – particularly high conflict -- has been Ben's passion during each path of his career. Today, at his firm Mediation and Family Services he mediates divorce, co-parenting conflict, parent-teen disputes, marital issues, and most other family issues.

Reducing conflict for parents is his particular niche. His part-time work at Think:Kids (division of MGH's Department of Psychiatry) involves teaching adults how to collaborate effectively with the most challenging kids and teens. And his work as an instructor for the state's only court-mandated High Conflict Parent Education Program teaches parents' child-centered approaches to more cooperative co-parenting.

When he's not helping other families, he's spending as much time as he can with his own son, wife and dog! While still grieving the Super Bowl loss, Ben is a die-hard Boston sports fan, loves to work out, and tries to be outside as much as possible.

Crystal Thorpe, Principal

Elder Decisions®
A division of Agreement Resources, LLC
Mediation, Consulting & Training
30 Walpole Street
Norwood, MA 02062
Direct Line: 781-492-4562
Main Office: 617-621-7009 x24
crystal@ElderDecisions.com

www.ElderDecisions.com

Crystal Thorpe a mediator, trainer, and co-founder of Elder Decisions® and its parent company, Agreement Resources, LLC. She mediates disputes among family members about eldercare, living situations, family communication, decision making, trust and estate issues, and shared property, as well as divorce and parenting.

Crystal trains mediators from around the world in the growing field of Elder (Adult Family) Mediation, and provides customized training for eldercare professionals in Conflict Resolution Skills. She has presented seminars and workshops for the Academy of Professional Family Mediators, the Harvard Law School Program on Negotiation, the National Association for Community Mediation, the New York State Bar Association, and the Judges Institute of the Connecticut Probate Assembly, among others. She has been quoted in The New York Times and other national press.

Crystal is the co-author, with Rikk Larsen, of “Elder Mediation: Optimizing Major Family Transitions” for Marquette Elder’s Advisor Law Journal. She and her colleagues co-authored the book Mom Always Liked You Best: A Guide for Resolving Family Feuds, Inheritance Battles & Eldercare Crises. Crystal serves on the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Council on Family Mediation, and is a member of the Association for Conflict Resolution and the Academy of Professional Family Mediators. She served on the Public Awareness Working Group and the Court Systems Working Group for the Massachusetts Trial Court’s Standing Committee on Dispute Resolution. Crystal holds an MSW and an MBA from Boston College and an undergraduate degree in Cognitive Science/ Psycholinguistics, magna cum laude, from Brown University.

John G. Wofford, Esq.

13 Cottage Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-661-3200

johnwofford@earthlink.net

Jack Wofford is a mediator, facilitator and arbitrator with his own national and international practice based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He is a lawyer who for over 30 years has provided only impartial services, assisting people and organizations in managing and resolving over 500 disputes in a wide range of subject areas, including commercial, construction, closely held business, development, employment, environment, estate, family enterprise, financial, insurance, labor-management, organizations, public policy, real estate, transportation, and other areas. He has had his own dispute resolution practice since 1993.

Jack was law clerk for a United States District Judge, a partner in the real estate department of a Boston law firm, and held positions of responsibility in universities (Associate Director, Institute of Politics, Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government) and in government, both state

(Associate Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Public Works) and federal (Deputy General Counsel, US Department of Transportation). From 1999 to 2002, he was a Presidential appointee to the Federal Service Impasses Panel, resolving disputes in negotiations between the federal government and its unionized employees.

He is a Fellow and former board member of the Family Firm Institute, the international association of advisors to family enterprises. He is also a member of the Association for Conflict Resolution, the international association of professionals in the dispute resolution field.

He is a graduate of Harvard College, Harvard Law School, and of Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He is a member of the Bars of Massachusetts, New York and the District of Columbia.