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Executive Director's Message

Peter Salem, AFCC Executive Director

Basketball, Family Law, Both/And, and the AFCC Scholarship Fund

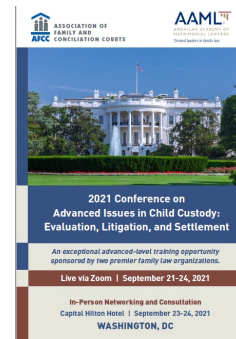
“Nice guys finish last” - Leo Durocher

In 1969, my beloved Chicago Cubs (managed by Leo Durocher) blew the National League East Division title to the upstart New York Mets, who went on to win the World Series. At the time, I was 10 years old, and I hated those Mets. In 1971, my Chicago Blackhawks lost the Stanley Cup finals in seven games to the Montreal Canadiens on a late third period goal by “the Pocket Rocket,” Henri Richard. I was at first devastated, then filled with rage toward

Monsieur Richard and his team. As a Chicago north-sider I was also obliged to despise the Chicago White Sox and the St. Louis Cardinals, and as an Illinoisian to detest the Green Bay Packers. If my teams did not win, I hoped my rivals would lose. I have evolved since then, and my personal growth (and many



AFCC-AAML 2021 Conference on Advanced Issues in Child Custody



September 21-24, 2021
Live via Zoom

September 23-24, 2021
In-Person Networking
and Consultation
Washington, DC

AFCC Fall Conference

November 11-13, 2021
Cincinnati, Ohio

enthusiastic AFCC members) has benefited the AFCC Scholarship Fund. But more on that below. [Read more.](#)

Register Today for the AFCC-AAML 2021 Conference

2021 Conference on Advanced Issues in Child Custody: Evaluation, Litigation, and Settlement

Virtual Conference

September 21-24, 2021
Live via Zoom

In-Person Networking and Consultation

September 23-24, 2021
Capital Hilton, Washington, DC

This exceptional advanced-level training opportunity is sponsored by two premier family law organizations and is packed with must-see sessions from experienced professionals and presenters.

Invest in your professional development and earn up to 21 hours of continuing education credit before the end of the year!

Here's what you should know:

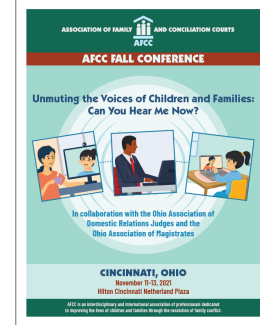
- **All sessions will be delivered online.** Registrants will have access to recordings for a full year afterwards!
- **If you choose to join us in Washington, DC, there will be several in-person activities.** Meeting space will be available for attendees to view programs together.
- **NEW** The consultation and networking component, scheduled for September 23-24, 2021, in Washington, DC, will take place as of this date; however, **proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test within 72 hours** of the event will be required for entry.
- **NEW** All in-person participants will be required to wear a mask except when eating or drinking, per current Washington, DC regulations.
- **Make your reservations now!** Single or double occupancy is available for a reduced special rate of \$229/night. [Make your reservations online](#) or ask for the Capital Hilton and the AFCC-AAML Meeting when you call 1-800-HILTONS (800-445-8667).

Visit the Conference Portal

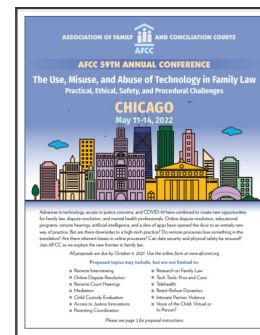
All the information you need is on [the portal](#).

1. Read about and get excited to attend the [sessions](#).
2. Check on [continuing education information](#).
3. Add a listing for your business to the [exhibitor tab](#).
4. **Most importantly, register to attend! Early bird rates end soon, so sign up now for the best price!**

Don't miss this conference! We look forward to seeing you



AFCC 59th Annual Conference May 11-14, 2022 Chicago, Illinois



Submit a proposal to present! The call for proposals is open until October 4, 2021.

AFCC Chapter Conferences & Webinar Series

Wisconsin Chapter Annual Conference
September 30, 2021
Delafield, Wisconsin

Maryland Chapter Annual Conference
October 7, 2021
Being held virtually

Colorado Chapter Annual Conference
October 8-10, 2021
Being held virtually

Ontario Chapter Annual Conference
October 15, 2021
Toronto, Ontario

Illinois Chapter Annual Conference

there, online or in person!

[Register now!](#)

Ask the Experts

What I Have Learned in 44 Years of Investigating and Litigating Custody Matters Where Child Sexual Abuse and Family Violence is Alleged or Suspected

Seth L. Goldstein, JD

1. You cannot trust what you see and hear: Children deny, adult victims deny and, above all, those who commit abusive acts deny. Courts recognize that mothers who learn of their children's abuse by their husbands often do counterintuitive things. *People vs McAlpin*, 53 Cal.3d 1289, 1302 [mothers not reporting abuse even though they know about it]. A child's recantation after disclosing sexual abuse is a common occurrence and too often taken as the truth of what happened. [Read More](#).

October 22, 2021
Being held virtually followed by a live social gathering (COVID-19 restrictions permitting)

Arizona Chapter Annual Conference
January 21-23, 2022
Sedona, Arizona

California Chapter Annual Conference
February 4-6, 2022
San Francisco, California

Resource of the Month

Paths Forward for Online Meditation

The Final Report of Mediate.com's Online Mediation Training Task Force.

The AFCC Fall Conference Comes to Cincinnati, Ohio!

AFCC Fall Conference

Unmuting the Voices of Children and Families: Can You Hear Me Now?

In collaboration with the Ohio Association of Domestic Relations Judges and the Ohio Association of Magistrates

November 11-13, 2021
Cincinnati Netherland Plaza
Cincinnati, OH

The Conference Brochure Is Now Available!

The conference brochure outlines the full conference, providing descriptions of all sessions, a comprehensive conference schedule, registration information, resources on the hotel and transportation, and continuing education credit matters. [Read the brochure](#) to learn more!

Hotel Reservations

A special rate of \$147/night for single or double occupancy is available exclusively to AFCC attendees. [Make your reservation online](#) or call 1-800-HILTONS (800-445-8667), ask for Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza, and request the group code **AFCC**.

Apply for a Scholarship!

Thanks to the generosity of [donors to the AFCC Scholarship Fund](#), AFCC will offer several scholarships to attend the AFCC Fall Conference. Each scholarship includes conference registration, one pre-conference institute, welcome reception, luncheon, and a certificate of attendance. **To be considered for a scholarship, complete the [online application](#).** The application deadline is September 7, 2021.

Exhibitors Welcome!

We anticipate the Fall Conference will be delivered in person, giving exhibitors the first opportunity to interact with AFCC attendees face-to-face in two years! [Read the prospectus](#) and contact Gina Wentling at gwentling@afccnet.org or 608-664-3750 for more information. Space is limited. Sign up now!

Safety Protocols and Health Considerations - Please Read

AFCC will require **proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test within 72 hours** of the event in order to participate in the conference. At present, we anticipate requiring all participants to wear a mask, and will monitor CDC guidance as we approach the conference dates. Please rest assured that we will continue to follow the CDC guidance, as we have since the beginning of the pandemic, and that we will also be guided by all state and local regulations. Specific health and safety protocols for the conference will be reevaluated closer to the actual date when we have the most up-to-date public health information.

AFCC's DE&I Webinar Series Continues on October 5th

Identifying and Addressing Microaggressions

Lindsey S. Davis, PhD

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

4:00pm-5:00pm Eastern Time US/Canada

Registration closes on October 4, 2021 at 9:00am Eastern Time US/Canada

Microaggressions are subtle verbal, behavioral, and environmental expressions that serve to derogate or exclude individuals based on their marginalized identities. This webinar will introduce audience members to the concept of microaggressions; the research on racial, ethnic, gender, and sexual orientation microaggressions and their detrimental impact on mental and physical health; and ways to intervene effectively when a microaggression is recognized.

Free registration includes a certificate of attendance. You *must* register to attend.

[Register now!](#)

Submit a Proposal for the AFCC 59th Annual Conference by October 4th

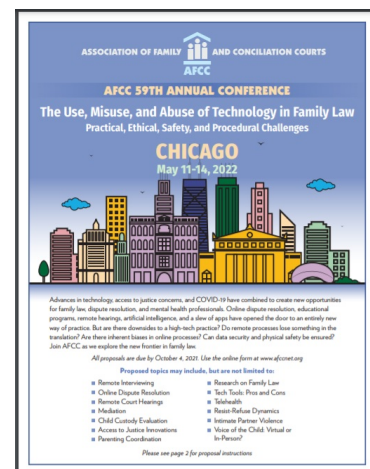
The Use, Misuse, and Abuse of Technology in Family Law: Practical, Ethical, Safety, and Procedural Challenges

Chicago, Illinois

May 11-14, 2022

AFCC is accepting proposals for 90-minute workshop sessions for the 59th Annual Conference.

Advances in technology, access to justice concerns, and COVID-19 have combined to create new opportunities for family law, dispute resolution, and mental health professionals. Online dispute resolution, educational programs, remote hearings, artificial intelligence, and a slew of apps have opened the door to an entirely new way of practice. But are there downsides to a high-tech practice? Do remote processes lose something in the translation? Are there inherent biases in online processes? Can data security and physical safety be ensured? Join AFCC as we explore the new frontier in family law.



All proposals are due October 4, 2021. [Read the complete instructions](#) and use the [online form](#) to submit your proposal.

AFCC Virtual Training Programs Coming Soon!

Join AFCC for one or both of the virtual training programs coming later this year. Save the dates and check back soon for more information, including the full schedule, course descriptions, and training team!

The Fundamentals of Parenting Coordination

November 29, 2021 - December 2, 2021

Advanced Issues for Family Law and Dispute Resolution Professionals

December 6-7, 2021

AFCC Webinar Corner

All Dressed Up and Nowhere to Go: Attachment Measures and Theory in Family Law Practice

Benjamin Garber, PhD

September 14, 2021 | 1:00-2:00pm Eastern Time US/Canada

Registration closes on September 13, 2021 at 9:00am Eastern Time US/Canada.

Wouldn't it be nice to have a test that answered best interests' questions on par with the way that MRI identifies cancer and MMPI identifies psychopathology? Sorry, but attachment measures are not (yet) that. This is not an introduction to attachment theory and measurement. This is an advanced discussion of the value of attachment theory and the limitations of attachment measures in the context of family litigation. Topics to be covered will include (1) the meaning of assessment under stress, (2) critical differences between individual assessment and systemic assessment, i.e., diagnoses versus dynamics, (3) the attachment network as a window on the development of self-regulation rather than an assessment of a particular relationship, (4) the vulnerability of attachment assessments to concurrent stressors, and (5) the greater efficiency and value of assessing parents' capacity for sensitive and responsive care.

Benjamin Garber, PhD is a New Hampshire licensed psychologist, parenting coordinator, child and family therapist, and expert consultant to family law matters. Dr. Garber routinely conducts trainings in all areas of child and family development and family law around the world. His popular press and professional publications include seminal articles concerned with the dynamics of the transitioning and conflicted family system. Dr. Garber is the author of ten books, most recently including "A practical Field Guide to Understanding and Responding to High Conflict Family Relationships" (American Bar Association, in press).



Registration

Members: \$15

Non-Members: \$50

Certificate of Attendance

Members: \$15

Non-Members: \$20

Continuing education credit may be available for lawyers, judges, psychologists, social workers, counselors, and other professionals. [Learn more.](#)

[Register today!](#)

Register Now for AFCC's October webinar!

Parent Education for Divorcing and Separating Families: Are We Accomplishing Our Goals?

Irwin Sandler, PhD

October 12, 2021 | 1:00-2:00pm Eastern Time US/Canada

[Register now!](#)

In Memoriam: Gary Kretchmer

Gary Kretchmer, AFCC member from Kansas City, Missouri, passed away in December 2020. Gary began his career at Johnson County Court Services, initially as a probation officer. Eventually, he became one of a small group of pioneers, guided by Judge Herbert Walton, who introduced family mediation to the Johnson County court system. The current program has grown into one of the most successful court-ordered mediation programs in the nation.



As a professional mediator, Gary filled a unique role in his community. Over a 35-year career, he quietly and confidentially helped tens of thousands of divorcing families avoid litigation by resolving their child custody disputes in his office. While his labors were often hidden from plain sight, there are so many families that are better off because of him. Gary modeled for divorcing families a certain selflessness and decency that was, thankfully, highly contagious. The world, and especially those that knew and loved Gary, will forever be enriched by the joy, love, and deliciously snarky good humor that he freely shared with all. Rest in peace, Gary.

Member News

Linda Fieldstone, MEd (top), former AFCC President in Miami, Florida, and **Judge Michelle Morley**, AFCC member in Bushnell, Florida, created and co-chaired the Florida Chapter of AFCC Task Force on Eldercaring Coordination, which included 20 statewide entities and a well-credentialed advisory committee. Thanks in part to their work, Florida is the first state in USA to statutorily recognize eldercaring coordination, a court-ordered dispute resolution process for aging persons and their families that promotes respect for the voice, autonomy, and safety of older adults.



Sen. Dennis Baxley (R-Ocala) and Rep. Brett Hage (R-The Villages) sponsored the legislation, which won unanimous approval of all committees and subcommittees of reference and on the floors of both houses during the 2021 Legislative Session. Gov. Ron DeSantis signed CS/CS/HB 441 on June 4 and Section 44.407, Florida Statutes, became law on July 1.

Eldercaring coordination can protect older adults and help families avoid the costs, time and heartache involved in court battles over the care and safety of older adults. A trained eldercaring coordinator may be appointed by the court for up to two years to assist with transitions that families experience in caring for their aging loved ones. Eldercaring coordination can help to resolve non-legal issues more quickly, with less conflict and in a private forum rather than in court. Congratulations, Linda and Michelle! [Read more.](#)



Do you have a notable achievement to share? Email [Gina Wentling](#) with your story and a professional head shot (PNG preferred), if you have one, to be featured in next month's Member News!

AFCC eNEWS

The *AFCC eNEWS* is the monthly e-newsletter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. The *eNEWS* provides up-to-date information for professionals including practice tips, international news, and the latest initiatives in family law and conflict resolution. The *AFCC eNEWS* is provided at no charge to you; anyone can subscribe.

[Subscribe here](#).

AFCC members are free to share eNEWS content.

EDITOR:

[Ann Ordway, JD, PhD](#)

ASSOCIATE EDITOR:

[Gina Wentling](#)





Basketball, Family Law, Both/And, and the AFCC Scholarship Fund

Peter Salem, AFCC Executive Director

“Nice guys finish last” - Leo Durocher

In 1969, my beloved Chicago Cubs (managed by Leo Durocher) blew the National League East Division title to the upstart New York Mets, who went on to win the World Series. At the time, I was 10 years old, and I hated those Mets. In 1971, my Chicago Blackhawks lost the Stanley Cup finals in seven games to the Montreal Canadiens on a late third period goal by “the Pocket Rocket,” Henri Richard. I was at first devastated, then filled with rage toward Monsieur Richard and his team. As a Chicago north-sider I was also obliged to despise the Chicago White Sox and the St. Louis Cardinals, and as an Illinoisian to detest the Green Bay Packers. If my teams did not win, I hoped my rivals would lose. I have evolved since then, and my personal growth (and many enthusiastic AFCC members) has benefited the AFCC Scholarship Fund. But more on that below.

When I moved from Chicago to Montreal to attend McGill University, my perspective on sports fanaticism began to shift. Around the corner from my apartment was my regular hangout. It was called Brasserie Henri Richard, owned and frequented by the Pocket Rocket himself. Henri, it turned out, was an affable fellow who periodically bought a beer for poor students. I got to know many Canadians fans, and the memorabilia that adorned the tavern helped me understand the rich and illustrious history of their hockey team. Forty years later I remain a fan of “my” teams, but my hatred for their opponents has been replaced by an appreciation for their excellence. I rooted hard for the White Sox in 2005 when they won their first World Series since 1917. And after living in Wisconsin for more than 30 years, I even root for the Packers (if they are not playing the Bears).

The metaphor for family law professionals is obvious. Children don’t have to pick one parent over the other; they can love and appreciate both. Professionals should avoid choosing sides in gender wars, whether related to intimate partner violence, parent-child contact problems, joint or sole custody, and so on. They should seek to understand each parent and family dynamics on a case-by-case basis. In general, I believe that things tend to work out better when we seek to

understand the perspectives of others, appreciate their strengths, accept their weaknesses, and try to shift from either/or to both/and.

And it was in the spirit of both/and that members of AFCC Chapters in Wisconsin and Arizona challenged one another in the National Basketball Association Championship Finals last month, featuring the Phoenix Suns against the Milwaukee Bucks. I happen to live a short walk from the arena where the Bucks play, so I had some serious skin in the game. Wisconsinites and Arizonans bet on their respective teams, with the provision that backers of the losing team donate to the AFCC Scholarship Fund in honor of the winners. The esteemed and Honorable Bruce Cohen, former Arizona Chapter President, challenged me to a side-bet in which he would donate to the scholarship fund in exchange for a photo of me in the *AFCC eNEWS* wearing a Suns shirt. Bruce also shared that he was a New Yorker, and a fan of those hated 1969 Mets, who, it turns out, I still hate.



In the end, we watched a great series featuring extraordinary shooting by Devin Booker and veteran leadership by Chris Paul of the Suns, and gritty defense of Jrue Holiday, and sheer brilliance of Giannis Antetokounmpo of the Bucks. The Bucks won the championship, and I got a small measure of satisfaction by defeating the Mets-loving Bruce Cohen. More importantly, the AFCC Scholarship Fund took in more than \$2,200.

A special thank you to everyone who donated to the AFCC Scholarship Fund. It is worth noting that some people bet both sides to assure a contribution, many Wisconsin Chapter members donated even though they won, and members of the AFCC Scholarship Committee also took the opportunity to contribute.

I would also like to point out you can donate to the AFCC Scholarship Fund in your name, or in honor of any person, for any reason. Don't be like Leo Durocher. Be nice, and be generous. If you want to donate to the AFCC scholarship fund, just [click here](#) or call the AFCC office at 608-664-3750.

Contributors in Honor of the NBA World Champion Milwaukee Bucks:

Michael Aaron	Josie Cusma	Irwin Sandler
Karen Adam	Ben Deguire	Amy Shapiro
Dan Bestul	Mike Dwyer	Phil Stahl
Dolores Bomrad	Mary Ferriter	Robert Simon
Shelby Brandsma	Lynn Galbraith-Wilson	Kris Thelen
Richard Brigham	Ramona Gonzalez	Herman Walker
Sid Buckman	Joi Hollis	David Weinstock
Annette Burns	Chris Knudtson	Gina Wentling
Bruce Cohen	Peter Salem	



What I Have Learned in 44 Years of Investigating and Litigating Custody Matters Where Child Sexual Abuse and Family Violence is Alleged or Suspected

Seth L. Goldstein, JD

1. You cannot trust what you see and hear: Children deny, adult victims deny and, above all, those who commit abusive acts deny. Courts recognize that mothers who learn of their children's abuse by their husbands often do counterintuitive things. *People vs McAlpin*, 53 Cal.3d 1289, 1302 [mothers not reporting abuse even though they know about it]. A child's recantation after disclosing sexual abuse is a common occurrence and too often taken as the truth of what happened. See *People vs McAlpin*, 53 Cal.3d 1289, 1399- 1301 and the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, *Brodit v. Cambra*, 350 F.3d 985, 991 (9th Cir. 2003); *United States v. Bighead*, 128 F.3d 1329 (9th Cir. 1997) (per curiam); *United States v. Antone*, 981 F .2d 1059 (9th Cir. 1992).

For example: The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges caution judges that "The absence of allegations of abuse or the absence of requests for sole custody does not mean that safety risks are not present. For any number of reasons, victims of abuse may fail to disclose the abuse in their initial pleadings; among them, a fear of increasing the level of dangerousness, embarrassment or shame, or advice from an attorney that asserting such claims may be detrimental to their case or delay resolution." *A Judge's Guide to Child Safety in Custody Cases*, 2008, Sec. C. 7 .3, p.20.

2. What you think you see is not always what it is: Victims and offenders do things that are counterintuitive, some subconsciously, and others intentionally to mislead those whom they must impress or are investigating reports or suspicions of abuse—that includes the victim, the person reporting the abuse and, most importantly the person committing the abuse.

For example, a child who tells their mother may not tell others who try to verify what the mother has reported the child said. When children do disclose of all other family members, mothers are most likely the ones to be told. Few disclose abuse to authorities or professionals. *No One Noticed, No One Heard: a Study of Disclosures of Childhood Abuse*, Debbie Allnock and Pam Miller, National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, London, Eng. (2013) p.23; Also see, *Interviewing Children About Sexual Abuse*, Faller, K., Oxford, 2007, pp 183-190.

3. The science hasn't caught up with what we encounter in investigations and there is no exact science to determine every aspect of what we need to know. Valid reports of abuse often have "paradoxical" qualities. See *People vs Patino* (1994) 26 Cal.App.4th 1737, 1744-45.
4. The professionals, police, CPS, mental health professionals, the courts all have different views of these allegations and if you are investigating it is not always possible to rely upon the opinions, observations and "facts" established by others. They often do not follow best practices or even their own policies, guidelines, and/or regulations. Oftentimes it's like a CPS or law enforcement investigator's eyes glaze over when custody is mentioned along with facts that indicate abuse.

For example, many interpret when a child who is reported being sexually abused hits or otherwise becomes antagonistic towards the "protective parent"¹ that is proof the child is not being abused by the other parent and is expressing anger about being kept from the abusive parent. When, in fact, it is often the child expressing anger at the protective parent for not protecting them. Victims of sexual abuse often have secondary responses, including substance abuse, eating disorders, self-mutilation, and suicidal ideation and attempts. Victims of childhood sexual abuse also suffer long-term mental health symptoms, including anxiety, depression, and oppositional defiant behavior or aggression." Cited as above in dicta, *People v. Mckee* 2012 WL 3008783 *10 (Cal.App. 4 Dist.)

5. It is necessary to keep up on the literature, science, and generally accepted principles about all aspects of this subject so that those conclusions that are made come with something other than "clinical experience" which by its very definition has a built-in bias. What the clinician, investigator, attorney, judge, or other professional involved has experienced is unique to that individual. There are many characteristics of abuse that must be considered when assessing the facts as discovered, uncovered, or presented.
6. There are distinct patterns of behavior that provide a conducive environment for abuse. Grooming appears nearly universal, either in place of or in addition to coercion as technique for gaining sexual access to children. The establishment (and eventual betrayal) of affection and trust occupies a central role in the child molester's interactions with children." Salter, A, *Transforming Trauma*, Sage Publications, 1995, pp. 74-83, 88-97. *Los Angeles County Dept. of Children & Family Services v. Superior Court*, (2013) 222 Cal. App. 4th 149 [grooming sufficient evidence to sustain 300 WIC Petition for Dependency]
7. Abusers are very adept at misdirecting those making inquiries about their conduct. I call it "Deception Delight." Others have their own terms for it. Offenders actually get great satisfaction sending those who seek to intervene on distracting journeys. See Anna Salter, [*Sex, Lies and Sex Offenders*](#); Dr. Bill Eddy, PhD, JD, Presentation AFCC, Toronto, 2019.

¹Parent seeking protection for the child.

8. Too often we find conclusions are mistakenly made that sexual abuse did not occur because there are no medical findings or evidence. The reality is that there is rarely any medical evidence and for that very reason when evidence is found it is so significant. See Adams, Harper, Knudson & Revilla, *Examination Findings in Legally Confirmed Child Sexual Abuse: It's Normal to be Normal*, 94 Pediatrics 310 (1994).
9. Mental health professionals and others too often believe that because a person isn't found to be a "pedophile" they could not have molested the child in question. Offending parents do many things for reasons other than being sexually motivated. Is it possible that what was done was for the purpose of antagonizing the other parent? – of generating a report just before a significant event in the case so that it can be claimed that the other parent is trying to manipulate the outcome of the case?
10. Mental health professionals and others too often discount the finding of nude pictures of children in a suspected offender's possession as insignificant, when in fact, the image is often a view into the offender's mind. See: *United States v. Crisman* (D.N.M. 2014) 39 F. Supp. 3d 1189, 1191 good discussion on merits of studies and cases as of 2014; Seto, M, et al "Child Pornography Offenses Are a Valid Diagnostic Indicator of Pedophilia" *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 2006, Vol. 115, No. 3, 610-615.

For example, an individual's own beliefs may misguide their conclusions. In one case involving a metropolitan sheriff's department deputy who discounted child pornography depicting images of teenager cheerleaders with the focus of the camera on their underwear found by a concerned mother, parting her company, he said "...every man has a sexual fantasy of a teen in a cheerleader's outfit."

11. Too often a sexual abuse report is summarily dismissed as false because it comes during some form of relationship between parents living together. In fact, the actual rate of maliciously made false reporting of abuse is not statistically significant. Over the years there have been several studies on false allegations that establish these facts. In fact: Studies show a low rate of false accusations (Jones, 1987; Oates, 2000). Both studied all referrals into the Denver Colorado Child Protective Services division over a one-year period. The 1987 study found a fictitious report rate of 5% arising from adult coaching and 1% from the child's own motivations. In 2000, the rate was .02% from adult coaching and 2.5% from children's own motivation. Another report covered 9 states with data reported on intentionally false allegations. Rate of intentionally false allegations were .002% -statistically insignificant. Results are consistent with previous national reports which were as low as .001 in 2010. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. (2019). [Child Maltreatment 2017](#).

In 7,600 cases across Canada in 1998 a study found 4% maliciously false allegations overall; 12% in context of custody dispute. Fathers were more likely to make intentionally false allegations than mothers/children. Not all false allegations are intentional. Trocme, N & Bala, N. "False Allegations of Abuse and Neglect When Parents Separate", *Child Abuse and Neglect* 29 (2005) 1333-1345

12. Judges, private attorneys, and custody evaluators were more likely than domestic violence

workers and legal aid attorneys to believe that mothers make false allegations. *Child Custody Evaluator's beliefs About Domestic Abuse Allegations: Their relationship to Evaluator Demographics, Background, Domestic Violence Knowledge and Custody-Visitation Recommendations*, Saunders, Daniel, et al (2012) U.S. Dpt. Of Justice

13. Litigating these issues requires someone who knows the law, the nuances of the research, what evidence is possible, where and how to find that evidence, what the evidence that exists means, and, finally, how to get all of the evidence properly into court. It means having an attorney who has these characteristics, an investigator and mental health professional sensitive to these issues, and an expert who can put all of this into perspective for the court.
14. That is how the child abuser vertical prosecution program I ran became so successful. We worked with the agencies who brought the cases to us in looking for admissible evidence, took the cases to court, and secured convictions on 96.5% of the charges we filed, at charging, not superior court. In the civil sector, family court, the same can be achieved with the right combination of professionals working for the family. It is important to get the case going in the right direction at the start. Once a tree falls in the forest, it is almost impossible to get it to grow straight up again.

Seth Goldstein is a trial lawyer, trial consultant, expert witness, and trainer. He was in law enforcement for 20 years, the latter part of his career as a district attorney's investigator preparing sexual abuse cases for trial. He ran a Child Abuser Prosecution Program that achieved a 96.5% conviction rate, at charging, charging 75% of the cases brought to the program. He has repeatedly testified as an expert on child abuse issues throughout California and in several states, consulting as an expert and as co-counsel on hundreds of cases over his 44 years working in that field. His 25-year law practice has concentrated on sexual abuse and interpersonal violence in child custody matters. His book *The Sexual Exploitation of Children: A Practical Guide to Assessment, Investigation, and Intervention, 2nd Edition* (1999) is still the standard for analysis of these cases.



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9. *Representing the Domestic Violence Survivor: Critical Legal Issues, Effective Safety Strategies*, 2nd Ed., Civil Research Institute, N.J. (2019)
10. *The Sexual Exploitation of Children: A Practical Guide to Assessment, Investigation and Intervention*, 2nd Ed., Goldstein, S., CRC Press, Boca Raton, Fla. (1999)