

The Ohio Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC)

in collaboration with The Hamilton County Court of Domestic Relations

Annual Conference Course Outline with Faculty Credentials

April 3, 2019

10 am – 12 pm: The Honorable Diana Gould Saltman

Dianna Gould-Saltman is a California Superior Court Judge for Los Angeles County. Appointed in 2010, she sits in a family law department in Los Angeles, California. Prior to her 2010 appointment she practiced family law for 25 years. She is a Judicial Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Law, the International Academy of Family Law and serves as President of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. She received the Pasadena Bar Association Family Law Section 2013 Family Law Judge of the Year award, the AAML, Southern California Chapter 2014 Don Mike Anthony Award as Los Angeles County Family Law Judge of the Year, the Levitt and Quinn Family Law Center 2015 Outstanding Community Service Award and the 2015 Association of Certified Family Law Specialists Hall of Fame Award.

Outline

Custody Investigations: The Good, the Bad and the Great

1. When and why used:

Ohio Rules of Evidence, Rule 702:

A witness may testify as an expert if all of the following apply:

- (A) The witness' testimony either relates to matters beyond the knowledge or experience possessed by lay persons or dispels a misconception common among lay persons;
- (B) The witness is qualified as an expert by specialized knowledge, skill, experience, training, or education regarding the subject matter of the testimony;
- (C) The witness' testimony is based on reliable scientific, technical, or other specialized information. To the extent that the testimony reports the result of a procedure, test, or experiment, the testimony is reliable only if all of the following apply:
 - (1) The theory upon which the procedure, test, or experiment is based is objectively verifiable or is validly derived from widely accepted knowledge, facts, or principles;
 - (2) The design of the procedure, test, or experiment reliably implements the theory;
 - (3) The particular procedure, test, or experiment was conducted in a way that will yield an accurate result.

2. When inappropriate

- a. Common knowledge or experience
- b. End run around hearsay

3. AFCC Model Standards

- a. What they are: minimum requirements versus aspirational goals

- b. Why they're useful
 - c. Why they're "feared"
 - d. Why they shouldn't be feared
4. Good:
- a. Clarity in marching orders (Problems with overly broad requests)
 - b. *Minimum requirements
 - c. Balancing time, depth, cost, turmoil to family (iatrogenic effects)
 - d. Break-down of segments: Data-gathering, analysis, recommendations
5. Bad:
- a. Going beyond data
 - b. Unrealistic time estimates
 - c. Going beyond expertise
 - d. Misuse of social science
 - e. Bias (confirmatory and otherwise)
 - f. Break-down of segments: Data-gathering, analysis, recommendations
6. Great:
- a. Staying within scope of charge
 - b. Staying within promised time
 - c. Seeking clarification when necessary
 - d. Balanced BUT with explanation if uneven
 - e. Appropriate use of appropriate psychometric testing
 - f. Use of multiple hypotheses
 - g. Explanation for how other hypotheses were ruled out
 - h. Descriptions of parents in terms of parenting strengths and challenges
 - i. Alternative parenting plans where applicable
 - j. Break-down of segments: Data-gathering, analysis, recommendations
7. Conclusion

Resources

Ohio Rules of Evidence, Rule 702

Ohio Revised Code, Section 3109.04(C)

Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 509 U.S. 579 (1993)

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluation (2006)

1 pm – 2:30 pm: Magistrate Serpil Ergun, Lynda Kemp, Ph.D., Kimberly Kent, LISW-S, Magistrate Cynthia Martin, Beth Murray, Esq., Gary Okin, Esq. and Melissa Seagro, LISW-S

Serpil Ergun is the Executive Director of Judicial Operations of the Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court in Cleveland, Ohio, one of the largest trial courts in the state. She

has over thirty-two years of experience as an administrator, chief magistrate, and judicial officer, deciding parenting, support, interstate parentage, and property division matters.

Magistrate Ergun's objectives are to enhance access to justice and to increase efficiency and promote public trust and confidence through technology, transparency, and case management practices that improve customer experience. She holds a special interest in civil justice reform, therapeutic jurisprudence, and is committed to alternative dispute resolution and problem-solving processes that produce beneficial outcomes for individuals involved in the legal process. She is trained in mediation, parenting coordination, early neutral evaluation, and collaborative law models of dispute resolution. Magistrate Ergun holds nationally recognized certifications as a court manager and court executive from the National Center of State Courts, and is a Fellow of NCSC's Institute of Court Management. She is certified to teach the Purposes and Responsibilities course in the Court Management Program curriculum offered by ICM and the Ohio Judicial College. Magistrate Ergun received the 2016 Ohio Association of Magistrates' Education Award "in recognition of extraordinary contributions to the education of Ohio's Judiciary."

Magistrate Ergun is a member of the Ohio Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Children & Families, co-chair of its subcommittee on Family Law Reform Implementation, and chair of the child custody evaluator standards work group. She is a member of the Ohio Association of Magistrates, the Ohio Association of Domestic Relations Judges, the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, the Center for Principled Family Advocacy, the National Association of Court Management, the National Association of Presiding Judges and Court Executive Officers, and is a life member of the Judicial Conference of the Eighth Judicial District. She is also a member of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts and was founding president of its Ohio Chapter. Magistrate Ergun has served on the Ohio Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Case Management's subcommittee on Time Guidelines and Civil Justice Grant Program Review Committee, the 2013 Ohio Child Support Guidelines Advisory Council, and the Cuyahoga Support Enforcement Agency Advisory Board. She is active in judicial branch curriculum development and course planning for the Ohio Judicial College, and is a frequent lecturer and writer on civil justice and court reform, case management, parenting coordination, child support and medical support, and other issues for judges, magistrates, attorneys, and others in the legal community.

Lynda Kemp is a licensed professional counselor in private practice in Centerville and Mason, Ohio. She is affiliated with the Counseling and Cooperative Parenting Center of Ohio, located in Mason. Lynda has a master's degree in counseling and a doctorate in counseling and human development from Colorado State University. Prior to relocating to Ohio in 2015, Lynda served as a child and family investigator located in Denver, Colorado, performing court-appointed custody evaluations as a private practitioner in the Denver and Colorado Springs metro areas. Lynda has also completed training as guardian ad litem, parenting coordinator, and mediator. Lynda has been a member of AFCC since 2009; she previously served on the board of the Colorado AFCC and is currently a member of the board of the Ohio AFCC. Lynda also served on the board of the Colorado Counseling Association and is currently member of the Ohio Counseling Association.

Kimberly Kent, MSW, LISW-S, is the Hamilton County supervisor of the Dispute Resolution Department in Hamilton County Domestic Relations Court, overseeing a staff of

eight employees. Her practice focuses on court ordered child custody evaluations/investigations, mediation, and Early Neutral Evaluation sessions. Kimberly regularly testifies in contested custody cases, helps facilitate parenting classes for co-parents, and serves on the Hamilton County Fatality Review Board. She is a licensed mediator and has completed all of her necessary hours of training. In addition she has served as a volunteer for the Supreme Court of Ohio's Basic Mediation sessions. Kimberly has completed the Parenting Coordination and Guardian ad Litem training programs. Prior to joining the court, Kimberly was a Program Director at the Council on Child Abuse of Southern Ohio, Inc. She designed curriculums for school based safety programs, facilitated support groups for adult survivors of abuse and was a spokesperson for the United Way. She is a graduate of Michigan State University and the University of Kentucky.

Cynthia Martin is currently appointed as Chief Magistrate at Greene County, Ohio, Domestic Relations Court. Before joining the Court in 2006, Ms. Martin was a private practice divorce attorney in Greater Dayton as well as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Dayton teaching legal research and writing. She is currently serving as a member of the Child Custody Evaluation Standards Committee and is a past president of the Greene County Bar Association. Ms. Martin holds a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from Iowa State University and a Juris Doctor from University of Dayton. She was licensed in the State of Ohio in 1992.

Elizabeth (“Beth”) Murray is a member of Frost Brown Todd, practicing in the Cincinnati office. She has spent over two decades delivering a family law practice which helps parents and children find solutions to painful and complex personal and relationship problems. Beth strongly believes collaboration is often the best method of resolving conflict. Beth co-chairs the Cincinnati Academy of Collaborative Professionals and has been a member since 1997 of this organization which focuses on collaboration and alternative dispute resolution. Beth is a certified mediator. In family law matters, Beth's commitment to children is underscored by her tireless efforts as *guardian ad litem* protecting children's rights in custody disputes and she is a certified parenting coordinator. In addition, Beth handles prenuptial agreements, adoption, custody, divorce, dissolution, post decree matters, child and spousal support, and visitation. Beth received her J.D. from the Salmon P. Chase College of Law, Northern Kentucky University, and her B.S. from the University of Cincinnati. Beth is licensed to practice law in Ohio and Kentucky as well as the Supreme Court of the United States. Beth has served on multiple community boards including the Junior League of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Sports Club, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Alliance, Camp Ernst Capital Campaign, PTO President at St. Mary School as well as volunteering for Junior Achievement, St. Mary School, Walnut Hills High School and Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Beth is currently a member of the Cincinnati Bar Association, the Ohio Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Cincinnati Academy of Collaborative Professionals, the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals, the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts and was recently named one of the 100 Wise Women of Cincinnati.

Gary S. Okin is certified as a specialist in Family Law by the Ohio State Bar Association. His focus includes divorce and dissolution, child custody, support and alimony, domestic violence, litigation & appeals, adoption and juvenile law. Gary Okin is admitted to practice before the Ohio Supreme Court and the United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio. Gary is a contributor to several journals and Continuing Legal Education seminars. He

is one of the first attorneys to be designated a Certified Specialist in the area of Domestic Relations Law by the Ohio State Bar Association. Mr. Okin received his B.A., cum laude, from Washington & Lee University and his J.D., cum laude, from Cleveland State University Cleveland Marshall College of Law. He is a partner at Dworken & Bernstein Co., L.P.A. located in Painesville and downtown Cleveland.

Melissa Seagro, LISW-S is the Director of Family Evaluation Services of the Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court in Cleveland, Ohio. She has over fifteen years of experience in addressing the needs of children and families. In her current role, she leads a team of mental health professionals who conduct Child Custody Forensic Evaluations. Ms. Seagro's objectives are to enhance services provided to promote equal access to justice in addition to supporting positive relationships among those seeking services of the Court. She holds a special interest in working with high-conflict families who are struggling with mental health including substance abuse. Recently, she has begun the process of enhancing the Court's Forensic Case Management Service which addresses the needs of high conflict families by monitoring communication, the progression of parenting time plans, and resolving disputes related to parenting and other psycho-social issues with the goal of decreasing Court filings by proactively offering solutions and increasing consumers knowledge and ability to productively co-parent, despite their differences.

Ms. Seagro is a member of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts and is on the Board of Directors for the Ohio Chapter. Within this role, she is the Chairwoman of the Education Committee and holds special interest in increasing training opportunities for Forensic Evaluators in the State of Ohio. She is a graduate of Cleveland State University earning her Master's in Social Work with an emphasis in Macro studies. Ms. Seagro is an Independently Licensed Social Worker in the State of Ohio with a Supervision Designation.

Outline

Child Custody Evaluation Standards: Should Ohio Adopt Uniform Rules?

This will be a 90-minute presentation on proposed child custody evaluation standards in Ohio. The presentation will include a panel discussion with a court-connected custody evaluator, private child custody evaluator, judge/magistrate, attorney, and guardian ad litem, who will provide diverse perspectives. The target audience is social workers, psychologists, attorneys, judges, magistrates, guardians ad litem, and allied professionals.

I. Background: why a rule is necessary

- An overview of existing legal authority in Ohio applicable to child custody evaluations
- Absence of statute or rules of procedure or practice governing child custody evaluations
- Trend toward standards of practice for court appointees and in other states
- Rise and growth of custody evaluation fueled by the "best interest of the child" standard
 - Value and importance of evaluations
- Why competent high-quality evaluations are important
- Problems associated with custody evaluation:
 - Lack of uniform methodology and process components for data collection
 - psychological testing
 - Clinical judgment model

- Lack of formal appointment and court direction as to scope and protocol of evaluation
- Lack of neutrality and objectivity, bias, ex parte communications, party hired experts
- Dual role conflicts
- Lack of knowledge of relevant law
- Poor reports: utility, relevance, conciseness
- Poor testimony: inability to meet evidence rule requirements to qualify as an expert, inadmissibility of testimony
- Damage to families: delay, financial, emotional, conflict, time
- Lack of formal training and education in this forensic psychology subspecialty
- Disparity of practice
- Lack of knowledge of domestic violence, trauma, abuse, sexual abuse, parental alienation/gatekeeping, relocation, substance abuse, high conflict parenting
- Why competent, high quality evaluations are critically important
- Development of standards of practice as minimum threshold: APA, AAML, AACP, AFCC
 - Scientific model: collection of data from multiple sources using reliable methods to allow for data convergence
 - Best practices
 - Aspirational
 - Lack of enforcement mechanism
 - Licensing bodies not overseeing custody evaluation per Serpil Ergun
 - Risk management tool
 - Resources for lawmakers to incorporate into legal framework
- AFCC Model Standards for Child Custody Evaluation
 - Training, education, competency issues
 - Knowledge of the law
 - Record keeping and release of information
 - Communication with litigants, attorneys, and courts
 - Data gathering
 - Use of formal assessment instrument issues
 - Team approach to evaluation
 - Role conflict and dual role issues
 - Interviewing children
 - Observational/interactional assessments
 - Use of collateral source information
 - Presentation and interpretation of data
- Need for standards to assure accountability, set common understanding of expectations by legal and mental health professionals of what the role is and isn't
 - Responsibility of court to ensure they are performed properly
- Goals:
 - Recognize importance of custody evaluator role in influencing outcomes and deserves to be governed by standards like other roles (mediator, GAL, PC)
 - Increase quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of evaluations
 - Pool rules affecting evaluation within one rule (instead of local rules)

- Create a common understanding of role for providers of custody evaluation services with different mental health professional training and experience and legal professionals and judiciary
- To promote uniformity, consistency, clarity and predictability
- To minimize harm to families and children
- To promote credibility, trust and confidence in the evaluation process
- Rule must strike a balance:
 - Apply to private and court connected evaluators
 - Require rigor w/o deterring use of evaluation where MHPs are scarce and economic resources are limited
 - Standardize the information gathering process while providing flexibility
 - Be flexible to require meaningful education that can be offered or approved by judicial college
 - Be suitable for large urban courts and small rural courts
 - Be applicable to domestic relations and juvenile courts
- Workgroup process and rule development
 - California rule

II. Audience input: participation/questions

- What problems associated with custody evaluation?
- What should or should not be in a rule?

Resources

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts *Model Standards for Child Custody Evaluations* (1994, revised 2006)

<https://www.afccnet.org/Portals/0/ModelStdsChildCustodyEvalSept2006.pdf>

American Psychological Association *Guidelines for Child Custody Evaluations in Family Law Proceedings* (1994, revised 2010)

<https://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/features/child-custody.pdf>

American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers *Child Custody Evaluation Standards* (2011)

<http://aaml.org/library/publications/child-custody-evaluation-standards-doc>

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry *Practice Parameters for Child Custody Evaluation* (1997)

[https://www.jaacap.org/article/S0890-8567\(09\)62594-6/pdf](https://www.jaacap.org/article/S0890-8567(09)62594-6/pdf)

California Rules of Court

- Rule 5.220 Court-ordered child custody evaluations
https://www.courts.ca.gov/cms/rules/index.cfm?title=five&linkid=rule5_220
- Rule 5.225 Appointment requirements for child custody evaluators
https://www.courts.ca.gov/cms/rules/index.cfm?title=five&linkid=rule5_225

2:45 pm – 3:15 pm: The Honorable Jeffrey T. Kirby

Jeffrey T. Kirby is the judge for the Warren County Domestic Relations Court. On January 1, 2017, Judge Kirby took office for a six-year term. From June 2013 until December 2016, he served as a Magistrate for the Warren County Domestic Relations Court working for Judge Tim Oliver on parenting, contempt, civil protection orders, and new divorce cases. For over twenty-five years prior to joining the Warren County Domestic Relations Court, Judge Kirby practice law as an attorney with Kirby & Kirby Law Office in Springboro. Ninety percent of his practice was in the area of domestic relations, GAL, and collaborative law. Judge Kirby has also served as a Magistrate on both the Springboro Mayor's Court and the Franklin Municipal Court. He worked with OVI, assault, trespassing, traffic offenses, evictions, civil litigation and small claims. Judge Kirby has a B.A. in English from Miami University and a J.D. from the University of Dayton School of Law.

Outline

The New Child Support Rule and the Impact on Custody

- The impact of new child support guidelines on parents
- The Court's use of Temporary Orders to establish, right from the beginning of a case, that parents are encouraged to help find solutions to the family's problems rather than create additional ones
- The Court's new divorced parenting class that gives parents a more in-depth look at how their actions in fighting for their children can cause more harm than good
- The Court's use of one-hour pre-trial conferences, mediation, and early neutral evaluation to assure parents that respect and cooperation can help them succeed in divorce more than the anger, motions, and the use of witnesses and exhibits that are generally thought to be necessary

3:15 pm – 3:45 pm: The Honorable Denise McColley and Abbie Badenhop

Judge McColley commenced her first term as Judge of the Henry County Family Court on January 1, 2005, where she is presently serving her third judicial term. Prior to her election, she was a magistrate of Henry County and Fulton County Common Pleas Courts for eight years. Before becoming Magistrate, she worked as a private practice attorney in the firm of Lankenau, Wesche & McColley for fifteen years. During that time, she also served as a mediator in private practice the last seven years. She is a past-president of the Association of Family & Conciliation Courts, was a member of the Ohio Task Force for Family Law and Children, is a past-president of the Henry County Bar Association, past-chair of the Continuing Legal Education and Public Education Subcommittee of Ohio State Bar Association Dispute Resolution Committee, and was a member of the American Bar Association Pro Bono Child Custody Project Advisory Committee, Ohio Lawyers' Assistance Program Judicial Advisory Group and the Ohio Judicial College Board of Trustees. For 2012 and 2013, she served as president of the Board of Ohio Association of Domestic Relations Courts Judges. She also presently serves as a member of the Ohio Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Children and Families, the Ohio Judicial Conference Juvenile Law and Procedure Committee and the Domestic Relations Law and Procedure Committee. She is the author of Chapter 6 *Alternative Forms of Dispute Resolution*, contained in Baldwin's Ohio Practice: Domestic Relations

Law, Beatrice K. Sowald and Stanley Morganstern, editors. She was the recipient of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts John E. VanDuzer Distinguished Service Award (2008) and President's Award (1999), the Ohio State Bar Foundation Public or Government Service Award (2001), the Ohio Association of Magistrates Judicial Award (2008), the Northwest State Community College Making a Difference Award (2017), and is a member of the 2017 class of Napoleon High School Distinguished Alumni. She is presently serving on the board of the Ohio State University Alumni Club of Northwest Ohio and the Symphony of Trees board. Judge McColley received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees from Bowling Green State University and her Juris Doctor degree from The Ohio State University.

Abbie Badenhop graduated in 2006 from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Criminology. Abbie completed an internship with Franklin County, Ohio, juvenile probation department prior to graduating. In 2007, Abbie was hired by Franklin County as a Pre-Sentence Investigator in the juvenile probation department and remained in that role until 2013, when she took a new position within the department as a juvenile probation officer, supervising juvenile sex offenders. In 2015, she was employed by Henry County Job and Family Services, working in the Children Services unit as the Family Intervention Court Coordinator. In 2016, Abbie's title did not change, though became employed through Henry County Family Court, where she is currently working. Abbie is the coordinator for the Family Intervention Court- Juvenile Treatment Court and Family Dependency Treatment Court dockets. In 2018, she became a member of the Commission on Specialized Dockets through The Supreme Court of Ohio.

Outline

Specialized Dockets

The Henry County Family Intervention Court is designed to assist individuals suffering from substance abuse and/or mental illness. The Court, along with team partners, work together to assist families with specific needs aimed at improving the family unit as a whole.

- History of the Program and Who is Involved
- Mission Statement
- Referrals
- Henry County Juvenile Court Flow Chart
- Program Goals
- Program Components
- Results so far...
- Contact Information

Resources

Guidance to States: Recommendations for developing Family Drug Court Guidelines - OJJDP
FDTC Standards – Supreme Court of Ohio

Rules of Superintendence Appendix 1

Ohio Family Dependency Treatment Court Resource Guide 101 & 201 – Supreme Court of Ohio

3:45 pm – 4:15 pm: The Honorable Stephen Michael and Frank Ezzo, Ph.D.

Stephen D. Michael is the judge for the Jackson County Court of Common Pleas Probate and Juvenile Division in Jackson, Ohio. He was first elected to the court in 1991. Michael was re-elected to the Jackson County Court of Common Pleas Probate and Juvenile Division in 2014, winning a new term that expires on February 8, 2021. Prior to his time on the bench, Judge Michael worked in private practice for 11 years in Jackson County. Judge Michael graduated from the Ohio Northern University Petit College of Law in 1978 after obtaining his B.A. from Ohio University.

During his tenure on the bench, Judge Michael has served as President of the Ohio Association of Juvenile Judges and is currently a member of the Executive Committee and the Policy and Procedure Committee of that organization. Further he has served two terms as a trustee of the Ohio Judicial College, as a member of the Ohio Probate Judges Policy and Procedure Committee. Judge Michael has also served on the Board of Directors of the Hocking Valley Community Residential Center for 20 years.

Currently, Judge Michael is serving as a member of the board of the Ohio Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. The Judge has also served on many committees and workgroups including the Ohio Supreme Court Committee to design a working curriculum for the systematic training of Ohio's Juvenile Judges and the Governor's Council on Juvenile Justice.

Dr. Frank Ezzo accepted a position as the Associate Director of Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court Diagnostic Clinic in January 2018 after a brief return to the private sector in private practice. Previously, Dr. Ezzo was the Director of Family Evaluation Services in Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court. He is cofounder of the Institute for the Study of Interpersonal Violence, and was a consultant in the Diagnostic Clinic in Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court for over 20 years. He maintained a private practice in Lake County for many years prior to accepting a position training doctoral students in an APA approved predoctoral internship program. Dr. Ezzo is Board Certified in Couple and Family Psychology, and Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology (American Board of Professional Psychology), and is Past President of the American Board of Couple and Family Psychology. He has made national presentations in the areas of juvenile risk assessment, allocation of parental rights and responsibilities, and child maltreatment. He has published articles in peer reviewed journals in child maltreatment focusing on parental risk and protective factors, use of the Jesness Inventory in identifying oppositional and defiant children/adolescents, in comparison to adolescents with conduct disorders, and he has conducted research comparing MMPI-2-RF profiles in high conflict divorces with cases involving termination of parental rights.

He is currently involved in a research project at Northwestern University where his semi-actuarial instrument for risk and protective factors in child maltreatment is being further validated. Dr. Ezzo has testified in over 100 cases involving child maltreatment, allocation of parental rights and responsibilities, and termination of parental rights. His testimony has been the subject of several rulings in the Court of Appeals and in the State of Ohio Supreme Court. In July 2011 he was appointed to the American Psychological Association's Council of Specialties representing the specialty of Couple and Family Psychology. Dr. Ezzo received the Ohio Psychological Association's Distinguished Psychologist Award for 2012 for his clinical and research contributions and advocacy with children, adolescents, and families. In 2013 he was

elected a Fellow in the American Psychological Association for his contributions to psychology on a national level, and presented a Fellow's Address at the American Psychological Association's Annual Meeting in August 2014. In June 2014 he was elected to the Board of Directors of the Ohio Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts and was appointed chair of the Educational Committee. The American Psychological Association, Division 43, Society for Couple and Family Psychology awarded Dr. Ezzo the 2017 Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Ezzo has participated in a National Institute of Mental Health research project on pediatric bipolar disorders. His clinical interests involve the treatment of children, adolescents, adults, couples, and families using evidence-based practices; with a special interest in the role of expressed emotion within the family in maintaining or alleviating the symptoms of a family member.

Outline

Allocation of Parental Rights: Domestic Relations Court vs. Juvenile Court... Differences and Similarities

- Best Interest of the Child Standard
- Parental Resources: Does money drive litigation?
- Parental Resources: Does stability vs chaos drive litigation
- Inter-parental conflict