

## **2022 Idaho Family Law Conference**

*Sponsored by the Idaho State Bar Family Law Section*

**Friday, October 28 and Saturday, October 29, 2022**

**The Coeur d'Alene Resort  
115 S. 2nd Street – Coeur d'Alene**

\*In-Person Attendance Only

**13.5 CLE credits of which 1.25 is Ethics and 3.0 are NAC Approved (pending)**

### **Registration:**

Family Law Section Members: \$350.00

Standard Registration / Non-Section Members: \$375.00

Law Students: \$200.00

### **Conference Agenda**

**Thursday October 27, 2022**

**5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Welcome Reception and Networking Opportunity**

**Day 1**

**Friday October 28, 2022**

**7:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast**

**8:00 a.m. Keynote Address**  
**Handling High Conflict Family Law Disputes**  
*Bill Eddy, LCSW, Esq., High Conflict Institute*

One of the foremost experts in the country on conflicts within families, Bill Eddy, co-founder of the High Conflict Institute, will be the keynote speaker at the Annual Conference. Mr. Eddy is a dynamic, engaging presenter who is a leading authority on high conflict personalities. Mr. Eddy will explore a number of areas. He will also be offering a workshop during the breakout sessions.

Bill Eddy is HCI's co-founder and chief innovation officer. He pioneered the High Conflict Personality Theory (HCP) and is the world's leading expert on managing disputes involving people with high conflict personalities. Bill has worked as the senior family mediator at the National Conflict Resolution Center, a certified family law specialist representing clients in family court, and a licensed clinical social worker therapist. In 2021, he received the Lifetime Achievement

award from the Academy of Professional Mediators. He serves on the faculty of the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at the Pepperdine University School of Law in California and is a conjoint associate professor with the University of Newcastle Law School in Australia. He has delivered talks and trainings in more than 30 U.S. states and ten countries and is the author or co-author of 20 books. His popular blog on the Psychology Today website has more than 5 million views. In 2021, Bill received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Academy of Professional Family Mediators.

**12:00 p.m. Hosted Lunch**

**1:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions**

**Breakout 1**

**Being part of the Solution Instead of Part of the Problem, Resolving High Conflict Cases**

*Sarah K. Mello, Mello Law, PLLC*

*Frances R. Stern, MSBT Law*

Humorous and engaging, these two seasoned Idaho Supreme Court Certified Mediators and family law practitioners will explore the challenge of dealing with difficult client(s) in high conflict cases; in dealing with difficult attorneys; and generally, how we can litigate high conflict cases without being part of the problem. They will give tips and tricks on how, as an attorney – or a mediator – you can be part of the solution and not the problem. The duo will dive into how mediation can be the practitioner’s best tool. If you are a mediator, or are thinking about trying out mediation, this is the session for you.

Ms. Stern graduated from Willamette University School of Law in 1994 and started her career clerking for Judges Schwartzman and McKee in the 4th district. She then began her long career in family law in Idaho. She has been with MSBT Law, Chartered, since 2014. Ms. Sterns’ practice focuses on mediation and parenting coordination. She works with families all over the state.

Ms. Mello graduated from University of Kentucky College of Law in 2006 and started her legal career in Frankfort, Kentucky. She has been engaged in family law practice for her entire career, now focused on dispute resolution. In addition to her profession, Ms. Mello is an avid whitewater kayaker, ski patroller, and outdoor recreationalist.

**Breakout 2**

**Assessing Risk, Safety, and The Children’s Best Interests: What we Know and What We Don’t**

*Dr. Steven Tutty, PhD, Northwest Family Psychology*

For any practitioner who has ever proclaimed “I think s/he needs a psych eval” this is the session for you. Dr. Steven Tutty, Ph.D., will enlighten participants

on the usefulness and limitations of a “psych eval” and what obtaining one means, and how a forensic evaluation can assist the court in its best interest’s analysis by assessing safety risks, attachment, parental alienation, and other factors.

Steve Tutty, Ph.D., is a clinical and forensic evaluator at NWFP – Premier. Dr. Tutty is a licensed clinical psychologist with expertise in evaluating youth and adults over the past 25 years who find themselves at crossroads with the court system, such as family (custody, relocation, domestic violence) and tort (personal injury) matters. Dr. Tutty regularly evaluates and testifies across multi-US states. He collaborates with his forensic team to provide a comprehensive evaluation to the courts to inform best interest recommendations for the parties. Dr. Tutty has presented nationally on such matters and is published in peer-reviewed journals (e.g., JAMA), particularly in the areas of major depression and ADHD. Dr. Tutty is trained in the scientist-practitioner model of evidence-based care standards for forensic interviews, psychological and neurological testing, reporting, and testimony per APA and AFCC guidelines. He is a member of the American Psychological Association, Division of Law, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC – WA/UT, Board Member), and International Neuropsychological Society (INS).

### **Breakout 3 Interactive Workshop**

*Bill Eddy, LCSW, Esq., High Conflict Institute*

Bill Eddy will conduct an Interactive workshop with participants exploring new ways to address high conflict cases in families.

**3:15 p.m. Break**

### **3:30 p.m. Idaho Magistrate Judge’s Panel**

*Hon. Lori T. Meulenberg, 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Magistrate*

*Hon. Karin R. Seubert, 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Magistrate*

*Hon. Kerry E. Michaelson, 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District Magistrate*

*Hon. Laurie A. Fortier, 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Magistrate*

*Hon. Diane M. Walker, 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Magistrate*

*Hon. Calvin Campbell, 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Magistrate*

*Hon. Aaron N. Thompson, 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Magistrate*

Join eight esteemed magistrates from Idaho’s seven districts in this interactive Judge’s panel. This is an excellent opportunity to understand the Bench better, and for the Bench to understand the practitioner better. The discussion will focus on high conflict cases that come before the Courts, what practitioners can do to help de-escalate these cases, and the acknowledged tension between being a creative and collaborative problem solver and a fierce advocate for the client. There will be discussion about what happens when the case just won’t settle, and a trial becomes necessary. This session promises to be lively and insightful.

**5:30 p.m. Conference Concludes for the Day**

**6:30 p.m. No Host Cocktail Social**

**7:00 p.m. Hosted Dinner and Awards Presentation**

**Day 2**

**Saturday October 29, 2022**

**7:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast**

**8:00 a.m. Idaho Family Case Law Update**

*Mackenzie E. Whatcott, Cosho Humphrey, LLP*

Ms. Whatcott has been tirelessly gathering, reviewing, and summarizing the latest Supreme Court decisions affecting family law practitioners. Ms. Whatcott has been graciously giving her time to this project for many years. McKenzie's case law update presentation is the caramel corn at the fair. It is a session not to be missed. Practitioners who sit in on the case law updates know changes and trends in the law almost before the judges do!

**9:00 a.m. Dealing with a Pro Se Party: How to Navigate  
The Professional Ethics Mine Field**

*Anne Solomon, Flammia & Solomon, PC*

Ms. Solomon will provide pro tips on how to deal with a pro se party without giving away the farm or getting into hot water. Ms. Solomon will discuss the boundaries of an attorney's ethical responsibilities when dealing with a pro se litigant which practitioners often must do. Ms. Solomon is a Coeur d'Alene attorney and has been deeply involved in family law and domestic relations matters in the First District for more than three decades. Ms. Solomon grew up in northern Idaho, graduated from Stanford University and University of Idaho School of Law. She practiced in San Jose, California for two years, and returned to Idaho in 1980 to work with her sister, Sue Flammia. She now works with her son, Beck Roan. She has served on the Magistrate Commission, Idaho Legal Aid board, Women's Center board, CASA board, Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy board, Park Foundation, Inns of Court, Idaho Judicial Council, and Citizens' Council for the Arts, which runs Art on the Green. She has received the Idaho State Bar Pro Bono, Professionalism, and Service awards. It is hard to find a person who has not met Anne and impossible to find a person who does not have immense respect for the work she has done in her community. This presentation will include 1 ethics credit.

**10:15 a.m. Dumpster Fires: Managing Parent Child Contact  
Problems (PCCP)**

*Jennifer M. Ritter, LCPC*

*Nekane Arrieta-Resnick, LCPC*

*Kristie Browning, MPA, CPM*

This engaging presentation will first explore the multi factor theory of PCCP, with tools for attorneys to differentiate between different groups where PCCP is rooted in normal developmental processes, high conflict divorce

dynamics, in response to poor parenting, arising from alienating behaviors, child behaviors, favored parent behaviors, and target parent behaviors. The second part of the presentation will focus on what reunification therapy is, what it is not, its limitations, and how attorneys can advocate and not cause harm.

**1:15 p.m. Conference Concludes**

**To register for this conference, click [here](#).**