



CCND CONNECTION- WINTER 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Michael K. Conway, JD



I am pleased to report that this year was a great success for CCND.

Our programs were well attended, beginning with the screening of the film "Split" that provided a break out session to discuss the impact of divorce on children. We followed that up with a seminar "When To Call It Quits" in the spring, answering the difficult questions of how to end a mediation or collaborative process. In the Fall, a panel of experts presented a program on "Pensions: Retirement Assets & Military Benefits in Divorce". This was especially helpful to the attendees as the issues regarding state and military pensions were discussed. A special thank you to all who continue to bring quality educational material to our membership.

This month our Training Institute has just completed another Collaborative training of 17 individuals, and we are set for the mediation training in January of 2024. Also upcoming in 2024, Louise Zito will be offering a three-session program as a follow-up to "When To Call It Quits" called "In Whose Best Interest? Or When To Call It Quits 2.0." Please see our website for more information about these and other events at gooddivorcect.com/events.

CCND is very excited about our Annual Conference scheduled from May 31, 2024, at the Quinnipiac University School of Law entitled "Foundations and Innovations". We invite you to come and be part of this program as we consider the future of CCND in the ever-changing world of families and family law, while standing firm to the core values that CCND represents.

CCND is soon to have a Policy and Procedures Manual thanks to the tireless efforts of Rosemarie Ferrante and Amy Stone. It is a valuable resource that provides "an organizational overview so that new Board members, Committee chairs and staff can achieve a clear and comprehensive understanding of policies, procedures and operations" of CCND. It will also make the transition between administrations more efficient.

While we make ourselves more efficient as an organization, there appears to be no end to the enthusiasm that CCND has for the advancement of non-adversarial dispute resolution, and we are so fortunate to have so many members who work together to make this relatively small group of individuals from a small state, produce not only quality material, but exceptional mediators and collaborative professionals. So it was with great pride that at CCND's Annual Meeting on September 21st, we were pleased to recognize Robert Horwitz and present him with the Howard Krieger Beacon Lifetime Achievement Award. It was appropriate to recognize him as one whose early and continuing contributions to CCND helped create the legacy of a resolute group of advocates for the non-adversarial process.

CCND's staunch commitment to educating lawyers, mental health and financial professionals enables us to continue to provide non-adversarial options. However, the training of professional is only half the battle. We want to make the non-adversarial process the first option. In order to achieve this result, we need to further educate the public. The challenge is, how do we effectively educate the public about non-adversarial options that are available to them? I keep thinking of the 1989 movie Field of Dreams, when a farmer builds a baseball field in the middle of an Iowa cornfield hoping that players will come to play, with the catch phrase, "If you build it, he will come". CCND's Public Education/Marketing committee continues to "build" up the CCND's presence in various ways. It is not always easy to quantify the impact, but I sense a shift in the culture from litigation to mediation and collaborative choices. Our guest speaker at our Annual meeting, retired Judge Douglas Mintz, currently sits on the ABA section for Dispute Resolution Mediation Committee. He is also a member of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals. It is noteworthy that after serving as the presiding civil judge in Danbury hearing litigated cases, that Judge Mintz elected to serve on non-adversarial committees in his retirement.

The good news is that individuals are coming to the realization that a non-adversarial approach to their family issues is the preferred method of resolving their differences, yet there are so many more families that we need to reach. CCND has for decades built a foundation and a process that makes sense and fosters and encourages parties to work together for the good of the family. Thanks to everyone who continues to work towards these laudable goals. We still have more work to do.

Lastly, we are delighted to welcome back Amy Stone as our Executive Director/Administrator. Amy has rejoined us as of last month and is back at work with CCND. We knew that she just couldn't stay away.

I wish you all a happy and safe holiday season.

Michael K. Conway
President, Connecticut Council for Non- Adversarial Divorce



Congratulations to Bob Horwitz!

Congratulations to Robert Horwitz, the **2023 recipient of the Howard Krieger Beacon Lifetime Achievement Award**, presented by CCND at our Annual Meeting. This prestigious honor is awarded to an CCND member who has made a lasting and notable commitment to the advancement of Non-Adversarial divorce, the protection and integrity of children and families during divorce and service to the cause.



Join us in congratulating Bob!

Please see our website for all recipients of the Howard Krieger Beacon Lifetime Achievement Award, [here](#).

SAVE THE DATE

We are excited to announce our 2024 Annual Conference on May 31, 2024, at Quinnipiac Law School. The theme of the conference is ***Foundations and Innovations***.

The conference will highlight the need to adapt, evolve and integrate new ideas and technologies into our mediation and collaborative practices while also honoring our foundational principles of cooperation, empathy and conflict resolution.

Susan Guthrie, a nationally recognized trailblazing mediator and collaborative attorney in the realm of virtual practice is one of our keynote speakers. Susan will be joined by Woody Mosten, an internationally known mediator and collaborative attorney who focuses on the craft of innovative conflict resolution.

This will be our first in-person annual conference since COVID, and we are very excited about this dynamic program so stay tuned for more information as we move forward with our planning!

Provisional CCND Membership

CCND is proud of its members. Among our primary objectives are to continue to educate the public about the benefits of non-adversarial divorce, to drive the consuming public to our members, to ensure that our members have basic and advanced trainings, skill building options as well as networking and professional opportunities. Over the years, we have also spent significant resources increasing the legitimacy of divorce mediation and collaborative divorce models as well as increasing the credibility and stature of CCND within the judiciary. It continues to be our priority to require specific professional credentials and training requirements in order to be a member of CCND.

These requirements distinguish CCND members from other professionals offering non-adversarial services. The Board has recently voted to create a provisional membership to allow those who have the professional credentials, but not the required mediation or collaborative training to be a member of CCND while they take the required trainings. Provisional members have a year in which to complete the required trainings. They will receive all CCND notices and once training requirements are met, they will be able to be listed in our professional directory.

We have also clarified our membership requirements.

Please see membership criteria here!



Notes from the Board

Kathryn Bissonnette, J.D.

When I entered family law private practice in 2017, I had a desire to continue the fulfilling work I was previously doing representing children in divorce and custody cases. I wasn't sure how I was going to accomplish this in my role representing the parents, and not the kids. It was the same conflict, just from a different perspective. I knew that this work would potentially leave me burnt out and jaded, and in speaking with my colleagues, this is a daily struggle for all of us. Since the pandemic started, I have noticed that it's been harder to manage client expectations; to get clients to be less selfish and more open to suggestions about how to reduce conflict and take their children out of the middle. There is a sense of entitlement that just wasn't there before. Then I found CCND...

I was recruited to the board by a member who took me under her wing and showed me what this organization could do, not only for my own practice, but for the people of Connecticut facing the end of their marriage. I was introduced to a fresh perspective on conflict resolution, one in which clients are empowered to take control over the outcome of their case in a more dignified and amicable manner.

Our volunteers work tirelessly to spread the word about Mediation and Collaborative Divorce. Our goal is that more people will choose to keep their case out of litigation and work with our trained professionals to reach a result that puts their family first. As a new CCND board member, I joined the website committee in 2018. As many of our volunteers are well aware, the CCND website has been quite the project over the years- some would even call it cursed. However, with the help of a wonderful web developer, and other hard-working members of the board, the website has now been strengthened to provide valuable information to clients. Our website also promotes the accomplishments of our members, lists all of CCND's events, and is a great referral source for individuals trying to find a professional to assist them in a Non-Adversarial process.

Another benefit (and the best perk!) of being a board member of CCND is that I have made lifelong friends. When sitting in meetings and trainings with like-minded individuals, you get a strong sense that you are not alone on this journey. There is no doubt that our work can be challenging. There are times when we all think about how quickly we can retire and get out of this line of work. Then you have a collaborative divorce or a mediation that goes really well, and you're proud of how well you and your team helped this family get through a really difficult time. And you keep going.

At the beginning of my legal career, a wise Judge said to me, "You make a choice from the very beginning how you want to practice law: either like Attila the Hun or like Mother Theresa." CCND is full of individuals who have, like myself, made the choice to practice like Mother Theresa. To say that I am inspired by all the members and volunteers of CCND is an understatement. Their dedication to the organization and the Non-Adversarial practice of law continues to have a large impact on our small state. The work never stops and neither do we.

Attorney Kathryn Bissonnette is a divorce mediator and collaborative professional who works in Glastonbury. She enjoys spending time with her family (including her dog, Trix and Cat, Blue) and mountain biking in her free time.



The Connecticut Council
for Non-Adversarial Divorce

Kelley Hopkins- Alvarez, LPC

As a licensed mental health neutral, I see couples in my Ridgefield, CT office, when it's difficult for them to make decisions about their potential separation or divorce. If a legal process begins before partners have had a chance to contemplate and discuss options available to them, an adversarial energy is created of alienation, distrust, and escalation. Before long, all hope for healing the relationship or for a constructive dissolution is gone. Many potential clients who are at this stage think their first stop should be at a lawyer's office. Discernment Counseling or Healing Separation are time limited interventions, where clients can get clarity and confidence on next steps forward. Both models promote positive co-parenting strategies. Few clients are aware that Discernment Counseling and Healing Separation exist; this is where you come in.

Cues That Your Clients Would Benefit from Learning about Discernment Counseling or Healing Separation

One person seems ready & the other partner is crying, stating brain fog, health issues, is scared, etc.

A client states: "I don't want to fight in court, but I can't get my spouse to move forward with anything and I'm tired of being stuck. He/she won't go to mediation, and threatens that, if I file, they will do X, Y or Z...."

If the process has started, you feel like you or the other partner is pulling or pushing the other client through. You are having difficulty scheduling appointments; you are receiving conflicting messages.

The fallout from unprocessed affairs often results in the divorce process being thwarted and stalled.

How To Screen Initial Sessions to See If You Should Refer for Discernment Counseling or Healing Separation

Always ask each new client whether they agree that divorce is the right path for them. Often their answers make it clear that one partner is still leaning in, in these cases, give them materials on both models.

What is Discernment Counseling?

Discernment Counseling is not Couples Therapy, it is a way for them to pause and look at their relationship options. It is a short-term process (maximum 5-7 sessions) where at least one is undecided if they want to work on the relationship any longer, will not agree to Couples Therapy, and/or has participated in Couples Therapy in the past.

Consists of exploration of three narratives: 1) the divorce narrative (what has gone wrong), 2) the repair narrative (how they have tried to fix things), and 3) a possible reconciliation narrative (if there is a path that might lead to restoring health to the relationship).

Will help clients explore the possibility of healing the relationship or making an informed and careful decision about whether to head toward a Healing Separation or end the relationship.

Emphasizes the importance of each party seeing their own contributions to the problems, rather than blaming.

What is Healing Separation Support?

Many of our clients are already in some form of a separation when we first meet them. Thus, separations sometimes are occurring parallel to Discernment Counseling. Lack of structure in these ambiguous separations can be an amplifier.

Discernment Counseling and/or Healing Separation Is NOT Suitable When:

- there is a danger of domestic violence.
- there is an Order of Protection from the court.
- one partner is coercing the other to participate.
- one or both partners is unable to peacefully participate.
- one or both partners have a medical condition which prevents participation.



**Kelley Hopkins-Alvarez, LPC, LLC: Licensed Professional Counselor, CST
Credentials:**

***Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) *Certified Sex Therapist (CST)
*Certified Discernment Counselor *Emotionally Focused Couples
Therapy trained *Gottman-Method Couples Therapy Trained *40-hr
Mediation Course, CT Council for Non-Adversarial Divorce *Collaborative
Divorce Class, CT Council for Non-Adversarial Divorce *Master's in
Education *Master's in Counseling
100B Danbury Road, Suite #201 D, Ridgefield, CT 06877
kelleytherapy@icloud.com / Office: (203) 948-0938 /
www.KelleyHopkinsAlvarez.com**



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The Connecticut Council
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About CCND - Join CCND - For the Public - For Professionals - News & Events

Divorce with Respect Week 2022: Recorded Events



Kick off Divorce with Respect week began with CCND President Jennifer Luise Champagne and CCND Board Member Deborah Noonan join Susan Guthrie, former CT attorney and host of the well-known Divorce and Beyond podcast to discuss what it means to divorce respectfully, how CCND and its members are committed to non-adversarial divorce and an overview of the week's event.



During this information session, participants will have had the opportunity to hear about the collaborative process and ask questions of the professionals. Presenters: Yvonne Shoff, Katie Bissonnette, Traci Cipriano, Elaine Ducharme, and Brenda Larkin.



This discussion focuses on college education and how it can be best addressed within the collaborative process. Presenters: Bob Opotzner, Sophie Koven, Vicki Volper, and Patricia Carrera.

We've updated our website! See our collection of videos- use them to educate your clients about non-adversarial divorce options!



HAVE NEWS?

Hosting an event? Writing an article?
Please share your news, so we can highlight you!



The Connecticut Council
for Non-Adversarial Divorce

Meghan Freed , JD

The Connecticut Parentage Act's goal is that all Connecticut children – regardless of the circumstances of their birth or the marital status, gender, or sexual orientation of their parents – have equal access to the security of a legal parent-child relationship. To accomplish that, the CPA creates clear and accessible pathways to legal parentage. It represents a major modernization of Connecticut's views on the parent-child relationship.

The CPA's sweeping changes profoundly impact Connecticut's approach to the parent-child relationship. Today we'll also shed light on its implications for us as collaborative professionals, mediators, and, most importantly, on the families we serve.

Background on the Connecticut Parentage Act

The Connecticut Parentage Act, enacted in 2020, modernizes the state's laws regarding parentage, ensuring that all children have equal access to legal parentage regardless of the circumstances of their birth. The CPA provides clarity and guidance on issues such as assisted reproduction, surrogacy, and same-sex parentage, reflecting the evolving landscape of modern families.

By establishing clear procedures for establishing parentage, the CPA aims to protect the rights of all parties involved while prioritizing the children's best interests. This legal framework sets the stage for a more inclusive and equitable approach to family law, emphasizing the significance of parental relationships beyond biological ties. The CPA's comprehensive nature addresses the complexities of modern family structures, acknowledging the diverse paths through which individuals become parents. Its overarching goal is to create a more supportive and secure environment for families, recognizing the multifaceted nature of parenthood.

Intended Parents & Updated Terminology

The CPA updates provisions regarding "intended parents," now defined as a person, married or unmarried, who consents to assisted reproduction with the intent to be a parent of the resulting child. In addition, the CPA updates Connecticut's terminology to reflect "parentage" or "person" instead of "paternity" or "father."

Acknowledgment of Parentage

Previously, Connecticut non-biological LGBTQ+ parents could only establish parentage through the marital presumption, a surrogacy agreement, or co-parent adoption. While the extension of co-parent adoption to same-sex couples was a significant victory for LGBTQ+ advocates, in practicality, it has had its downsides – chief among them the inequality and offense of making same-sex parents adopt their own children. Then, there was the expense, complexity, and sometimes inconsistent approaches to home study waiver – despite this author's very emphatic belief that the legislature intended that "shall" it be waived – from probate court to probate court. With the CPA, parents may now sign an Acknowledgment of Parentage form (a much-needed reform of the old "Acknowledgment of Paternity.") Both the birth parent and the other parent – who can now be either a genetic parent, an intended parent of a child born through assisted reproduction other than surrogacy, or a presumed parent – sign.

De Facto Parents

The CPA's "de facto parent" approach is one of the most significant changes. It creates a path to parentage for a person who wasn't a parent at the time of the child's birth but who, through conduct and care and with the support of the child's parent, established a parent-child relationship. It's a high bar, though. A prospective parent must establish, by clear and convincing evidence, that it meets the CPA's seven factors for de facto parentage.

Third Parent

When there's a basis, Connecticut courts can now find that a child has more than two legal parents if it determines that failure to recognize more than two parents would be detrimental to the child. Given the CPA's strict requirements, it's unlikely that courts will order a significant number of these. It's important to note that we don't yet know the impact of a third parent on child support. The current Child Support Guidelines anticipate only two parents, and the CPA doesn't provide specific guidance.

The Intersection of the Connecticut Parentage Act and Non-Adversarial Divorce

In our family law practice at [Freed Marcroft](#), we have seen far too many divorce and custody disputes where litigants attempt to deny the parental rights of their child's non-biological parent. The more widespread collaborative practice and mediation become, the better it is for children – and the CPA enhances our ability to protect children's relationships with both their parents.

While the Connecticut Parentage Act and ADR practices offer promising avenues for empowering families and resolving disputes, their intersection also presents specific challenges and opportunities. A key challenge lies in ensuring that non-adversarial practitioners are well-versed in the nuances of the CPA and equipped to navigate its complexities within the context of family disputes. This necessitates ongoing education and training to enhance our understanding of the CPA's implications for establishing legal parentage and addressing related family law matters.

Moreover, promoting awareness and accessibility of non-adversarial approaches within diverse communities is essential. This is the only way to ensure that families from all backgrounds can benefit from the empowerment of the CPA and non-adversarial divorce. Additionally, the CPA's emphasis on inclusivity and equitable parentage requires us, as ADR practitioners, to cultivate culturally sensitive approaches that honor the diverse familial structures and values present within the community. By embracing these challenges as opportunities for growth and innovation, we can expand our ability to create better outcomes for all families.

Meghan Freed serves as the Managing Co-Partner at Freed Marcroft, a Connecticut law firm specializing in divorce and family law. Recognized nationally as a prominent divorce attorney and relationship thought leader, Meghan's approach to divorce as an opportunity for transformation has earned her acclaim. With expertise in alternative dispute resolution, including arbitration and mediation, Meghan's leadership in the legal community has been acknowledged through accolades such as inclusion on the New England Super Lawyers® Rising Star list and recognition by organizations like the Hartford Business Journal and Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund.

Members Spotlight

Four CCND members, **Abby Cole, Elaine Ducharme, Wendy Habelow and Elizabeth Thayer** recently published an article on Collaborative Divorce in the American Psychological Association's journal, Practice Innovations. The article, entitled "Collaborative Divorce: A paradigm shift in theory and practice", explains to psychologists the process of collaboration, and clarifies how the role of divorce coach differs from more traditional roles like therapist or forensic evaluator. This is the first comprehensive description of collaborative divorce coaching in a peer-reviewed national psychological journal, and it forms a foundation for clinicians nationwide to understand what coaching is, to work with collaborative divorce teams, and to become trained in the collaborative process.

[Link to article here!](#)

We are pleased to share CCND Board Member **Susanne Snearly**'s article on the collaborative divorce process published in the ABA Family Advocate, Vol. 46, No.2, Fall 2023. The article explores the evolution of collaborative divorce since its inception in the 1990s by Stu Webb, a divorce litigation attorney. Collaborative divorce involves a team approach where each spouse retains a collaboratively trained family lawyer, and a Participation Agreement is signed to commit to a non-litigious process. Key features include a commitment to no litigation, transparency, joint decision-making, and the use of multidisciplinary teams that may include mental health professionals, financial experts, and divorce coaches. The article notes the growth of collaborative law, with the Uniform Collaborative Law Act (UCLA) being introduced in 2010 and adopted by 22 states and D.C. The team approach has gained acceptance, and the article suggests that collaborative family law may extend beyond divorce to areas like pre-nuptial agreements, child custody for unmarried parents, divisions of assets in long-standing partnerships, surrogacy, private adoptions, termination of parental rights, post-nuptial agreements, estate planning, closely held family business disputes, and real estate/neighbor boundary disputes. Susanne envisions the term "collaborative family law" becoming more prevalent, indicating the continued expansion of this alternative dispute resolution method.

[Link to article here!](#)



D. Susanne Snearly is a family attorney in Southbury, Connecticut. She offers collaborative divorce, mediation, arbitration, and litigation services and serves as a special master, both privately to other attorneys and to the courts. She has served as a court-appointed guardian ad litem since 1996. Most recently, she presented the case for endorsing the UCLA to the Connecticut Bar Association's Family Law Executive Committee, which received unanimous endorsement.



The Connecticut Council
for Non-Adversarial Divorce

National Conferences

APFM Conference 2023



CCND was a proud partner of the APFM 2023 Conference!

The theme for the 2023 conference was Mediating in an Increasingly Diverse World. Hon. Anita Santos' Keynote Address was "Embracing the Tapestry: Mediating in a Vibrantly Diverse World. focusing on diversity, equity and inclusion.

The conference was a combination of technological advances in our field (AI and the Future of Mediation with Colin Rule and Technology and Virtual Parenting time) as well as great practical workshops on topics such as "De-escalating Clients Strong Emotions" and "properly pacing Divorce mediation cases" with Don Saposnek, Chip Rose, Larry Fong and Alexandra Crampton.

A special treat was our own Lili Vasileff moderating a panel on financial issues in mediation. Some resources shared with respect to Trauma Informed Tools for Divorce Mediation are below.

Closing plenary Transforming Conflict into Cooperation: Creative options for keeping divorced parents focused on their kids instead of each other by Ellen Bruno and Christina McGhee.



The Yada Yada Roadtrip to the 2023 IACP Forum Michelle Adelman, Jill Bicks, Lisa Gresham, & Beth Karassik

Planning to attend the IACP Forum means days of learning with colleagues from all over the world, but traveling with friends to this Forum provided an intangible element that turned it into an adventure. We left on Wednesday morning from the rendezvous site at On the Border in Rocky Hill for the trip to Toronto, stopping overnight at Canandaigua, NY. Michelle was our Driver, with Lisa, our Navigator, up front in the passenger seat so she wouldn't throw up. Jill and Beth sat in the back seat and shared peanut butter filled pretzels - well, Beth admits it wasn't quite 50/50. We passed around other snacks and talked - about work, where we went to school, other experiences from our pasts. Michelle, Jill and Lisa were the original travel mates on this journey. Traci Provost, the original 4th cancelled with mixed feelings so she could do grandchild coverage for the weekend and Beth was lucky to step in and take the 4th seat at the last minute. She chose to take advantage of this opportunity to travel with soon-to-be-better friends rather than attending the Pre-Forum Institute she had paid for and couldn't get refunded. Having an adventure traveling to a conference with colleagues and friends: PRICELESS.

On our way to Toronto, besides the colorful fall leaves that we enjoyed through the Berkshires and Amish country of upstate New York, we had the opportunity to share with each other our own family experiences - both growing up as kids, and also as parents, and have a deeper understanding of our different perspectives, and maybe even what contributed to us moving in the direction of collaborative work. Michelle was a fantastic law-abiding driver all the way. We knew this for sure because her driving was being monitored and measured on Beth's new app that she agreed to put in her phone for a discount on her new car insurance. She's definitely keeping Michelle's drives in her history to get her score higher than it would otherwise be.

It's about an 8-hour drive to Toronto. We planned an overnight stop at Canandaigua, New York, where we went out for a great dinner, had a night cap at the hotel bar, and awakened the next morning to take a long walk to a recommended breakfast place. We continued past Niagara Falls to the US/Canada Border. We stopped there and, when asked where we were going, Michelle let the agent know "The Westin Harbor Castle," while Jill and Beth yelled, "Toronto!" from the back seat. Friday and Saturday we attended sessions at the Forum, had an incredible sushi dinner, walked, shopped a bit, and heard a great keynote speech on teamwork and collaboration in healthcare applied to Collaborative Practice by Dr. Brian Goldman.

When we got back into the car on Sunday, having soaked up as much information as possible, we discussed the seminars that each of us had attended. We compared notes and experiences, and took advantage of impromptu peer supervision, bringing up cases to illustrate themes we had learned and debating how to best move forward on those that had us stumped. The Forum was wonderful but it was really only one small part of what made this experience feel complete.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

2023 has been a year filled with exciting events.

The monthly cycle of Collaborate & Connect, Mediator Meetups, and CDFA Meetings – a member benefit – continued on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Lunch & Learn events are another Member Benefit.

In February our 40-Hour Mediation Training was a great success thanks to course leaders Attorneys Louise Zito and Eva DeFranco, with guest presenters. The Introductory Interdisciplinary Collaborative Training followed in March, led by Liza Thayer, PhD; Kim Duell, Esq; and Lisa Gresham, CDFA. These CCND Training Institute courses keep getting better and better. When the email announcements come to you, be sure to pass them on for friends and colleagues to register.

March also brought a double header on Marketing and Technology with Susan Guthrie and Gary Doernhoefer.

In April SPLIT: A Film Screening and Training for Divorce Professionals was presented at Quinnipiac University School of Law for viewing and discussion of SPLIT: The Early Years and SPLIT UP: The TEEN Years, in which 12 children reflect early on and then 10 years later on childhoods marked by divorce. The turn-out was great and our own Jennifer Luise Champagne, LPC and Michelle Adelman, M.S. Ed. presented and led a robust discussion.

May brought a half-day in-person advanced training, When to Call It Quits: Learn When and How to End your Mediation and Collaborative Cases. Louise Zito, JD organized a panel that included Bob Horwitz, PhD; Louise McGlynn, JD; Eva DeFranco, JD; Karly Mitchell, MDA, CDP; and Liza Thayer, PhD, who each presented and led exercises related to particular challenges in our divorce cases, our general tendency to keep working and pushing through, and the importance of realizing there are times when it is in everyone's best interest to terminate the case.

July's Lunch & Learn with Marc Meglio, CDLP taught about Divorce Mortgage Planning to many interested participants.

In October the Lunch & Learn Kelley Hopkins-Alvarez, LPC and Beth Karassik, PhD presented on Discernment Counseling and Healing Separation as referral options for those mixed-agenda couples "on the brink" who continue to be uncertain about the direction for their relationship.

November's Introductory Interdisciplinary Collaborative Training was well attended and sent another set of graduates into the world of non-adversarial divorce.

For 2024, starting immediately in January members have the opportunity to register for In Whose Best Interest? Or Quits 2.0, a 3-session Zoom program on Wednesdays from 12:30-2:00pm to continue the inquiry begun in the May panel. This package is for anyone – attendance at the When to Call It Quits panel is not required.

Jan 17 – Bob Horwitz, PhD will join Louise Zito for "Challenging Beliefs About Termination and Failure."

Feb 21 – Beth Karassik, PhD will join Louise for "Screening Interventions to Prevent Impasse."

March 20 – Louise, Liza Thayer, PhD and Lisa Gresham, CDFA will discuss "What to Do When Your Neutrality is Challenged."

[REGISTER HERE](#)

The monthly cycle of Collaborate & Connect, Mediator Meetups, and CDFA Meetings – a member benefit – continues on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 12 noon. Zoom links will arrive in your email the day before the events.

Our next 40-Hour Mediation Training is coming on January 24-27 and Jan 30-Feb 2. Think of others who want to expand or transform their practices in the new year and spread the word. Taught by Louise Zito, Esq and Eva DeFranco, Esq, joined by Sidney Horowitz, PhD; Beth Karassik, PhD; Liza Thayer, PhD and Lisa Gresham, CDFA for specific sections.

*** [REGISTER HERE](#)***



UPCOMING EVENTS

CCND Conference!

May 31, 2024
All day, in person
Quinnipiac University
School of Law

Monthly Member Only Events:

*The Second Tuesday of every month
at noon*

January 9, 2024 12 pm - 1 pm
Mediator Meet Up

February 13, 2024 12 pm- 1 pm
Collaborate & Connect

March 12, 2024 12 pm - 1 pm
CDFA Meet Up

April 9, 2024 12 pm - 1 pm
Mediator Meet Up

May 14, 2024 12 pm - 1 pm
Collaborate & Connect

June 11, 2024 12 pm - 1 pm
CDFA Meet Up

and so on...

REGISTER NOW



In Whose Best Interests?

When to Call it Quits 2.0

Join us for this 3 part series!

Earn 4.5 CLE

12:30 – 2:00 pm

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Are you wondering, "Why am I continuing this Mediation/Collaboration – we are so off course, or we are so stuck, or they are way too adversarial, or they are so annoying, or at least one of them clearly doesn't want to settle, or is not being truthful, or I (or we) don't think I'm (we're) helping them?" How do you decide if you should continue? Can anything be done to make you want to continue? Is it possible that not continuing might be better for them (and you)? If so, how do you go about terminating the process?

In this three-session program we will be exploring: challenging your own belief that to terminate is to fail, screening interventions to prevent impasse, what to do when your neutrality is challenged.

There will be time at the end of each session to discuss problem cases. Sample cases and questions will be made available before each session. A second follow-up series is in the works for later in the year. In the next segment we will explore: having the difficult conversations with the clients and other professionals, how knowing yourself leads to better results and how to terminate ethically.

This online program has been conceived as a follow-up to the half-day "Calling it Quits" workshop held in North Haven on May 10, 2023, but attendance at that event is not a prerequisite for this course, which will more deeply explore some of the issues raised at that presentation.

40 Hour Basic Divorce Mediation Training:

This comprehensive training is designed to give each participant the theoretical and practical knowledge necessary to mediate family matters. The training utilizes role plays (don't be shy) & exercises in breakout rooms, lectures, demonstrations, videos, games (fun) and discussions in small and full group settings. Our multifaceted and practical training approach is designed to immerse you in every aspect of divorce or custody mediation. You will gain actual mediation experience, from conducting the initial meeting through the filing of the final dissolution papers and/or uncontested hearing. You will be provided with tools, techniques and practical advice to enable you to be a competent divorce mediator.

Share this link with your colleagues!



The Connecticut Council
for Non-Adversarial Divorce



*Members! Are you interested in joining a
CCND committee? Please reach out!*

*Public Education Committee
Membership Committee
Professional Development Committee*

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