



ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL

TAILORING YOUR APPROACH TO EACH FAMILY

APRIL 24, 2026

**Sheraton Denver West
360 Union Blvd | Lakewood**

Please join us for a day with national and local experts exploring informed and unique approaches to our work with families. We will focus on creating Parenting Plans that take into account attachment needs, ages, developmental needs, and individual differences in children and families, including ideas to address parent-child contact problems. We will focus on how needs and concerns about their family situation impact the planning process for these families. National speakers Mindy Mitnick, Judge Herman Walker, and Linda Limón will join us for thought-provoking and enlightening presentations and discussions. We will also have input from a panel of these national speakers, including Judge Robert Lung from the 18th Judicial District, and moderated by Katy Ellis from the Harris Law Firm. We look forward to seeing you and providing social and networking opportunities at this in-person event!



The Colorado Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts is a non-profit organization with members that include attorneys, mental health professionals, mediators, judges, magistrates and other professional service organizations. COAFCC offers several conferences each year. AFCC is an interdisciplinary, international association of professionals dedicated to improving the lives of children and families through the resolution of family conflict. AFCC promotes a collaborative approach to serving the needs of children among those who work in and with family law systems, encouraging education, research and innovation, and identifying best practices.

COAFCC 2026 Spring Conference & Annual Members'

Featuring:
Mindy Mitnick, EdM, MA
Hon. Herman Walker, Jr.
Lynda Limón, JD
Hon. Robert Lung
Katy Ellis, Esq.

APPROVED FOR THE
FOLLOWING CREDITS

5.5 CONTACT HOURS

7.0 GENERAL CREDITS

1.5 EDI CREDITS

1.5 ETHICS CREDITS

Register at

www.COAFCC.org

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS:



Mindy Mitnick is a Licensed Psychologist practicing in Minneapolis. She received a Master of Education from Harvard University and a Master of Arts from the University of Minnesota. She specializes in work with families in the divorce process and with victims of abuse and their families. She has been a speaker for the National Child Protection Training Center, Office of the Children's Lawyer in Canada, the American A statewide multidisciplinary training programs. Ms. Mitnick has written and taught extensively about the assessment of child sexual abuse allegations during custody disputes. She served as a member of the Minnesota Custody Dialogue Gr and co-chaired the Child-Focused Parenting Time Guide workgroup. Ms. Mitnick is a past President of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts.



Hon. Herman Walker, Jr. serves as a Superior Court Judge in the Third District in the State of Alaska. He was appointed to the bench by the State Governor in 2015. Prior to his appointment, Judge Walker was a partner in Limon & Walker, LLC. in 2000 for 15 years. During private practice, Judge Walker focused on complex trial litigation. Judge Walker was appointed by the Alaska Supreme Court Chief Justice to the Select Committee of Legislative Ethics. From 2005 to 2015, Judge Walker served on the committee hearing complaints and enforcing the Alaska Legislative Ethics Act. Judge Walker was formally the President of the Alaska Association for Justice. In addition, he is a founding member of the Alaska Association for Criminal Defense Lawyers. Currently, Judge Walker is a Judicial Fellow of the International Association of Matrimonial Lawyers. He is a National Board Member and Executive Officer of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. He is a member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges where he created and chaired the Trauma Committee, that moved Alaska Courts towards becoming a trauma informed court system. Judge Walker received his Juris Doctorate Degree from the University of Wyoming, School of Law and his Bachelor of Science from Arizona State University.



Lynda Limón, JD is the owner of Limón Law Firm formerly Limón & Walker in Anchorage, Alaska. Ms. Limón specializes in family law. Ms. Limon has been licensed since 1992. Prior to beginning her private practice in 1995, Ms. Limón served as a law clerk for the Honorable John Reese and the Honorable Elaine Andrews and was an Associate for Mendel & Huntington. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, a member of the American Bar Association, and a member of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. She is the past co-chair of the Alaska Bar Association Family Law Section. Ms. Limón is a 1995 graduate of the Family Law Advocacy Institute, a 2008 graduate of the Trial Lawyers College, and a 2009 and 2010 graduate of the advanced Trial Lawyers College. In 2012, Ms. Limón began teaching trial skills at her alma mater, University of Wyoming College of Law. Ms. Limón has several degrees: a Bachelor of Science in Marketing and a J.D. from the University of Wyoming, Masters in Business Administration and a Masters in Global Finance from Alaska Pacific University. Her passion and expertise provides families with solid legal advice regarding complex property and custody issues. She navigates her clients through the often-daunting legal maze with compassion, empathy and always forward thinking on how this divorce will affect the future of their children.

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS:



Honorable Robert Lung brings more than 22 years of legal experience in Douglas, Ebert and surrounding Colorado counties. Robert has served as a judicial officer in the 18th and 23rd judicial districts of Colorado. He has vast experience in various dockets; however, domestic relations disputes are close to his heart as Robert deeply desires to help people and families navigate difficult situations. Robert has received numerous awards and recognition for his work as a judicial officer. He has been appointed to committees by former and current Chief Justices of the Colorado Supreme Court and currently serves on a number of committees to improve the practice of domestic law in Colorado and to improve the culture of the judiciary. Judge Lung has provided presentations for over twenty-five years on a variety of topics including domestic relations, trauma-informed courts and other issues nationally and in two adopted sons, hiking and biking.



Katherine Ellis has been practicing law since 2007. She practices family law, with an emphasis on appellate law and marital agreements. Katy finds this area of law fulfilling because it allows her to assist clients with difficult, deeply personal issues. As an attorney, she believes it is important to use the training and knowledge that she has earned to help her clients achieve fair and reasonable results in their cases. She also feels strongly that it is our duty as attorneys to provide our clients with realistic expectations about their cases. She always remembers that, for her clients, the case at hand is very important to their lives and those of their families. When Katy first graduated from law school, she spent one year clerking for the Honorable Russell Carparelli at the Colorado Court of Appeals. She has been in private practice since that time, and her practice includes litigation, transactional law, and appellate law. Katy is an active member of the American Inns of Court because she believes that professionalism and collegiality with the Bar is part of our professional responsibility. Katy is also an active member of the Colorado Association and served as a vice-chair and chair of the International Law Section of the Colorado Bar Association. Katy has always been a student of international affairs and international law, and she earned a Masters Degree in International Studies while she was earning her law degree. She remains actively involved in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. She also enjoys taking on cases with an international component, including child abduction cases and cases in which assets or parties are located overseas. This includes estate planning for parties who have accounts, property, or beneficiaries in other countries. Katy is fluent in Spanish and French.

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CONFERENCE INFORMATION

COAFCC Members can save up to \$75.00 on conference registration rates!

*Register and pay by **March 14, 2026** to receive the lowest early bird rate! This rate is only available to COAFCC members (To all others: Join AFCC and COAFCC today and get the same low rate!!) See registration details. Register online at www.coafcc.org.*

Hotel Accommodations

The conference will be held at the newly renovated Sheraton Denver West, located at 360 Union Boulevard, Lakewood, CO. Please use the online reservation link below. Conference registrants can enjoy a special rate of \$145.00 per night. The last day to book at this rate is April 10, 2026. [Book your group rate for COAFCC Spring Conference April 2026](#)

Conference Materials

Materials for this conference will be delivered to you electronically a few days before the event at no additional charge. If you wish a hard copy in front of you during the program, please print them before you come.

Continuing Education Credits

COAFCC will provide a certificate of attendance, including **5.5 hours of educational contact** at no charge. Mental health professionals will need to verify approval with their licensing or credentialing boards to meet any continuing education requirements.

Continuing Legal Education Credits (CLEs) for Colorado Attorneys and Judges have been requested.

Meals

Continental breakfast and a buffet lunch are included in the price of registration.

COAFCC Silent Auction

Come ready to support COAFCC by bidding at the silent auction! Items will be on display and ready for bid when the conference begins on Friday morning. Bidding will be open during breaks and through the early afternoon. Winners will be announced during the afternoon break. All items must be paid for before you leave. Must be present to win.

Bid early and bid often! Your support enables COAFCC to keep dues low (only \$25 for past 15+ years!) and helps bring amazing speakers and programs to you for reasonable prices. Thank you for supporting COAFCC!

Networking

Join us on Thursday evening at 8:00 p.m. in the hotel lounge for an opportunity to connect with old friends and colleagues and meet new ones! And for those who are planning to stay after the conference on Friday evening, drop your name at the registration desk so we can help facilitate a group dining experience!

Cancellation Policy

Transfer of registration to another person may be done at any time without a fee. All requests for refunds must be made in writing or by email notification. Notice of cancellation received by email or postmarked by **April 3, 2026** will be issued a full refund minus a \$35 administrative fee. No refunds will be issued for cancellations received after **April 3, 2026**. COAFCC reserves the right to cancel any training or substitute any presenter should circumstances arise that are beyond our control.

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Friday April 24, 2026 | Morning Sessions

8:15-8:45 **Registration | Light Continental Breakfast**

8:45-9:00 **Welcome & Overview**

9:00-10:30 **Child Focused Parenting Plans**

Mindy Mitnick, EdM, MA

Family law professionals assist parents in mediation, evaluations, and court processes to center the child's developmental status and needs when creating and modifying parenting plans. Using child development concepts, this presentation will assist family law professionals in helping their clients focus on their children's needs and parental responsibilities.

10:30-10:45 **A word from our sponsor | Soberlink**

10:45-11:00 **Break**

11:00-12:30

Mindy Mitnick, EdM, MA

Parent-child contact problems are typically seen through the lens of coparent conflict. This presentation will focus on how children's developmental status may affect their resistance and refusal to live with/spend time with a parent. We will incorporate the child's developmental needs and functioning into a family systems approach to resist/refuse dynamics.

SILENT AUCTION

Come ready to support COAFCC by bidding at the silent auction! Items will be on display and ready for bid when the conference begins on Friday morning. Bidding will be open during breaks and through the early afternoon. Winners will be announced during the afternoon break.

More than 10 baskets chock full of goodies will be available. Travel. Self-care. Wine lovers. Game night. And more!

***All items must be paid for before you leave.
Must be present to win.***

ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL

Friday April 24, 2026 | Afternoon Sessions

12:30–1:30 **Lunch | Provided**

1:30–2:00

2:00–3:15 **Cultural Competency as a Professional Responsibility**

Hon. Herman Walker, Jr.

Lynda Limón, JD

This presentation explores cultural competency as a professional responsibility within the family law system. Effective legal advocacy and judging require more than knowledge of statutes and case law; they require an awareness of the many factors that shape how individuals experience the legal process. Legal professionals regularly work with families whose lives are influenced by race, ethnicity, language, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, immigration status, education, trauma history, and socio-economic circumstances. Family law practitioners also encounter diverse family structures and systems, including blended families, guardianship, and non-traditional parenting arrangements. Judges, attorneys, psychologists, guardian ad litem, parent coordinators, mediators, mental health professionals, and evaluators each play an important role in helping courts understand the dynamics affecting children and families. We are not a homogeneous society. The importance of understanding cultural competence, no matter how minimal, will expand access to justice.

1.5 EDI credits approved

3:15–3:30 **A word from our sponsor | Our Family Wizard**

3:30–3:45 **Break**

3:45–5:00 **Panel Presentation | Ethical Considerations for Professionals Assisting Court Involved Families**

Katy Ellis, JD (moderator)

Mindy Mitnick, EdM, MA

Hon. Herman Walker, Jr.

Lynda Limón, JD

Hon. Robert Lung

Our panel of judicial officers, family law practitioners, and mental health professionals, will discuss ethical considerations that mental health providers and legal professionals need to navigate as they work with court-involved families. Among the topics this panel will discuss will be questions concerning privilege and disclosure issues, confidentiality, questions regarding consent of parties and their children, the ability of mental health professionals to work with families knowing that they may be called upon to perform court-related duties as an officer of the court may stand in conflict with their loyalty to their clients.

1.5 Ethics credits approved

5:15 **Evaluations and Adjourn**

COAFCC Spring Conference 2026 Registration Form

Register and pay online at www.coafcc.org or mail registration form and check to April Freier at 4307 W 6th Street, Greeley, CO 80634. Checks should be made payable to **COAFCC**.

on Friday, April 24th from 1:30-2:00.

Registration Fees:

- COAFCC Member \$225
- Nonmember \$275
- Student \$95 **Limited Availability**
(must use student email)
- Colorado Judicial Officers and Court Staff \$95 **Limited Availability**
(must use judicial email)

Please check no more than two boxes that best describe you:

- Judicial Officer
- Lawyer
- Court Personnel
- Mediator
- CFI/PRE
- Mental Health Professional
- Psychologist
- Student
- Therapist

Registration will remain open until April 17, 2026.

Name

Pronouns he/him she/her they/them prefer not to say

Address

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email (print clearly) _____

I require a CLE Affidavit: _____

I require a Certificate of Attendance: _____

Conference Scholarships A limited number of scholarships are available. The scholarship application can be found on the COAFCC website (www.COAFCC.org). Application deadline is **March 27, 2026**. Recipients will be notified in early April. If you have any questions, please contact the COAFCC Administrative Assistant, April Freier, at coloradoafcc@gmail.com