

Focusing Forward

New York State Council on Divorce Mediation
Annual Conference (Online)
April 28 & 29, 2022



[Click Here To Register Today!](#)

2022



NY State Council on
Divorce Mediation

Dear Esteemed NYSCDM Members and Colleagues,

We are grateful that you are part of our wonderful community. Thank you for your work in the field of mediation, which is needed now more than ever. We also appreciate your support of the Council. We look forward to seeing you online during our 2022 Annual Conference: ***Focusing Forward***. The Annual Conference Committee, with support from the NYSCDM Board, has designed an online event that takes many things into consideration to build on the engaging experience we had at last year's online conference.

- The conference will be online on Thursday, April 28th, and Friday, April 29th.
- We have a fantastic array of speakers discussing practical and intriguing topics that will benefit your practices and advance the profession.
- Along with their robust content, speakers will incorporate numerous interactive techniques to keep sessions engaging and lively.
- All sessions will be recorded, so you will not miss anything!
- You will be able to get continuing education credits for sessions you attend live.
- We plan to offer 20.5 continuing education credits, 14.5 of which are pending for CLEs and 13.5 of which are pending for Social Worker Contact Hours. Credits are available for sessions that are attended live.
- Networking and social engagement will be integrated throughout the conference.
- Plus, the reduced conference price we introduced last year will continue ***in 2022*** in response to the pandemic and since there are no costs for food or conference facilities.

Please review the pages that follow for all the conference details. We hope to see you on April 28th and 29th. As always, we look forward to the best conference ever!

Joelle Perez, Esq.
NYSCDM
President



Mark Josephson, Esq.,
CPA, CFP, CFE, CGMA
Annual Conference Chair

Promotional Opportunities!

- ✦ *Video Sponsor Spotlights*
- Digital Ad Booklet* ✦
- ✦ *In-event Banner Loop*
- Digital Lit Drops* ✦

Learn how you can promote your services to NYSCDM members and help support the Council. For information on promotional and sponsorship opportunities, please contact:

[Donna La Scala](mailto:dels1960@gmail.com) or [Patty Murray](mailto:director@nysmediate.org)
dels1960@gmail.com director@nysmediate.org

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Annual Conference Committee

- Connie Fraser, CEs & CLEs
- Ada Hasloecher, Speakers & Logistics
- Andrea Hirshman, Speakers & Logistics
- Mark Josephson, Chairperson
- Jessica Kent, Speakers & Logistics
- Donna La Scala, Sponsorships
- Stephen Linker, Entertainment
- Jill Sanders-DeMott, Speakers & Logistics
- Sheryl-Anne Sastow, Speakers & Logistics
- Patty Murray, Executive Director

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NYSCDM Contact Details

director@nysmediate.org

(516) 227-2595

Join: www.nysmediate.org

Schedule At A Glance

Thursday, April 28

- 8:30 AM Networking
- 8:45 AM Welcome & Announcements
- 9:00 AM Keynote Address
- 10:45 AM Break
- 11:00 AM Choice of Track 1 or Track 2*
- 12:30 PM Lunch Break
- 1:00 PM Choice of Track 1 or Track 2
- 2:30 PM Break
- 2:45 PM Choice of Track 1 or Track 2
- 4:45 PM Cocktail Hour, Abel Award, Mediators Got Talent!
- 5:30 PM End of Day 1

Friday, April 29

- 8:45 AM Welcome & Announcements
- 9:00 AM Choice of Track 1 or Track 2*
- 10:30 AM Break
- 10:45 AM Choice of Track 1 or Track 2
- 12:15 PM Lunch Break
- 12:45 PM Annual Meeting
- 1:30 PM Plenary
- 3:30 PM Break
- 3:45 PM Plenary Session
- 5:15 PM Closing Remarks
See you next year!

**You can select sessions from either track throughout the conference.*

Thursday, April 28, 2022

8:30 AM Networking

8:45 AM Welcome, Announcements

9:00 AM Opening Keynote Address

The Intersection of Human Justice and Conflict Management

1.5 CEs, SW Contact Hours Pending

When we first met K. Bain several years ago, he spoke to us about his experience as a violence interrupter mediating conflicts on the streets of US cities. Today, Bain is an advisor to US Presidents and other world leaders providing guidance on human justice solutions for multilateral systems of inequity.

Bain's unique insights into the complexities and dynamics of conflict resolution will educate, challenge and motivate us. At the core of all conflict is the need to restore and ensure human dignity and rights. Bain will share with us his mediation strategies and negotiation techniques for resolving, managing, preventing and transforming conflict. His infectious passion and compelling experiences will inspire and energize.

About K. Bain

Emerging as one of the world's leading experts in the field of community-led public safety, K Bain is a socialpreneur, public speaker and activist for human rights, human development and human justice. Bain is a nationally recognized thought leader and strategist in the areas of conflict resolution and mediation, intergenerational wealth building, and youth development.

As the founder and principle of Global Bain consulting practice, he has successfully brought together leading experts to address and elevate the skill sets, capacity and scalability of for profit and nonprofit organizations dedicated to uplifting marginalized communities. He also serves as the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Community Capacity Development (CCD), a Human Justice organization dedicated to community renewal, community-led public safety, and grassroots-driven economic and social development.

Bain is a Commissioner to New York City's Racial Justice Commission and often is a guest lecturer and keynote speaker. Bain is a graduate of Brooklyn College, where he earned his B.A. in African Studies and Sociology, and a M.A. in Urban Policing and Public Administration.



K. Bain
Founder & CEO
Community Capacity Development

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Thursday, April 28, 2022

10:45 AM Break

11:00 AM Choice of Track 1 or Track 2

Track 1: Will Divorce Mediation Become the Last Bastion for Joint Sessions? What the Latest Research in Mediation and Neuroscience Tells Us About the Use of Caucus versus Joint Session **1.5 CLEs Skills, SW Contact Hours Pending**

National studies and surveys show that a growing number of commercial, employment, business, and other mediators have forsaken the joint session and moved towards a primarily caucus-based practice. Divorce mediators may become the last bastion of professionals prioritizing joint sessions in mediation. Why do divorce mediators value joint sessions so much? Why are other mediators embracing shuttle diplomacy instead? Are the benefits shortsighted? Lela Love will share her latest research on caucusing and other mediation trends. Dan Weitz will discuss the neuroscience behind both methods. Is it that divorce mediators are stuck in our ways? Or do we understand the true value of joint sessions?



Lela Love, JD
Professor
Cardozo Law



Dan Weitz, Esq.
Director, Professional and
Court Services, NY Courts



Ken Neumann
Mediator
Therapist



**Katie L.
Kestel Martin,
Esq., MSW**



**Moderator
Jess Kent**
CMS Mediation
Director

Track 2: How Age Impacts the Divorce Mediation Process **1.5 CLEs Skills, SW Contact Hours Pending**

We have all welcomed parties of various ages into our mediation spaces and heard how “divorce at a X or Y age is the hardest”. What are specific considerations for millennial divorces? How are gray divorces unique? Does a wide age-gap between parties affect the way mediators broach a topic? Join a lively discussion between Ken Neumann, Katie Martin, and Jess Kent about how age matters and share your own ideas for best practices too.

Learning points:

- Ways to balance power between two parties with a wide age-gap.
- Topics to consider for millennial divorces when grandparents are involved with finances.
- Topics to consider for gray divorces when retirement is a major discussion topic.

[Click Here To Register Today!](#)

Thursday, April 28, 2022

12:30 PM Lunch Break

1:00 PM Choice of Track 1 or Track 2

Track 1: More Than Race: What does Diversity Mean in Family Mediation and how can Mediators Better Account for this Dynamic?

1.5 CLEs Diversity, Inclusion & Elimination of Bias, SW Contact Hours Pending

Co-sponsored by the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission

This roundtable discussion will focus on what diversity means in the context of family mediation, how mediators can recognize this dynamic and ways to navigate it. Diversity, for some, can unconsciously be seen as a barrier or source of discomfort for some mediators, but this discussion will focus on ways to adapt, utilize different mediation skills and overcome difficult conversations or situations.



Moderator
Lauren A. Jones, Esq.
Franklin H. Williams
Judicial Commission



**Hon. Llinet
Rosado**
Supreme Court
Bronx County



Dr. Camille Jones
Mediator
DEI Expert
Psychotherapist



John Harrison
CEO, Community
Mediation
Services, Inc. (CMS)



**Jennifer
Lupo**
Arbitration and
Mediation



Maria Natapov
Stepparenting
Coach and
Podcast Host



**Jonathan
Latimer**
Lawyer and
Mediator

Track 2: Bankruptcy & Divorce

1.5 CLEs Areas of Professional Practice Pending

In 2005, BAPCPA (Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act) made substantial changes to how a bankruptcy filing will affect a divorce. The major changes give special classification to debts arising from a divorce and actions that may continue despite the bankruptcy filing; and therefore decreases the use of bankruptcy as a divorce litigation tactic.

Speaker will cover:

- Different Applications of BAPCPA in different bankruptcy chapters Chapter 7 vs Chapter 13 DSO (Support) versus Property Settlement
- Timing of a bankruptcy filing and negative effect on a divorce deal
- In a dispute the Bankruptcy Court is supreme
- Divorce Agreements



**Nathan
Horowitz, Esq.**

Thursday, April 28, 2022

2:30 PM Break

2:45 PM Choice of Track 1 or Track 2

Track 1: Key Things All Mediators Need to Know about QDROs and Top Mistakes to Avoid **2 CLEs Skills Pending**

Retirement plans and QDROs are probably the most challenging tasks a mediator has to deal with. No matter how long you have been mediating and drafting MOUs and Settlement Agreements, getting things settled in your own mind is crucial to helping your clients get this right. Our esteemed panelists, have vast experience with QDROs and have seen it all. Join this curated discussion to advance your own knowledge as they share their expert opinions and advice on this very important topic.



**Carolyn
D'Agostino, Esq.**



**Sallie Mullins
Thompson, CPA/PFS
CFP®, CDFA®**



**Kristen
Jenks, CFA**



**Steve
Abel, Esq.**



**Moderator
Ada Hasloeher**

Track 2: Keeping the Children in the Center, Not in the Middle of the Mediation Process **1.5 CEs, SW Contact Hours Pending**

This session will provide insights on ways to have a more child-inclusive process during divorce mediation. Speaker will address:

- How to bring the children "into the room" for a more child-centered approach during mediation
- Exercises for clients to remove their emotions from the process and focus on the children
- What divorcing clients wish their mediators understood, lessons from a divorce coach



**Michelle Dempsey-Multack, MS, CDS®
Coach & Certified Divorce Specialist**

MEDIATORS GOT TALENT!

Sent us your videos - singing, playing a musical instrument or any interesting talent you would like to showcase.

Contact:

[Steve Linker](#) or [Sheryl-Anne Sastow](#)

4:45 PM Cocktail Hour, Mediators Got Talent, The Abel Award

5:30 PM Day 1 Concludes

Friday, April 29, 2022

8:45 AM Welcome & Announcements

9:00 AM Choice of Track 1 or Track 2

Track 1: Life Insurance and Trusts in our Mediations: Avoiding Problems and Recognizing Opportunities

1.5 CLEs Areas of Professional Practice, SW Contact Hours Pending

Life Insurance can be difficult to navigate during a divorce mediation. Knowing what your clients own, how to protect assets, and managing equitable distribution can be daunting. During this interactive session, participants will hear from an insurance expert, an estate planning attorney and a fellow mediator about insurance issues that can arise, how to avoid complications and recognize opportunities to achieve a better overall outcome.

- Achieve a better understanding of life insurance
- Learn the nuances of beneficiary designations
- Discuss how life insurance fits into an estate plan and how to mediate it
- How to use life insurance to protect children and spouses after divorce.



Steve Kramer, Esq.
Estate Planning Attorney



Mark Badami
Insurance Specialist



Jill Sanders-DeMott, J.D., NCM
Attorney &
Divorce Mediator



Moderator
Donna LaScala
RFC, CDEA, CLTC

Track 2: De-escalating the Drama

1.5 CLEs Ethics and Professionalism, SW Contact Hours Pending

Reflective practice helps practitioners become more effective, responsive and resilient. When practitioners engage in self-reflection that results in insights, they improve the quality of their work.

The presenters will address:

- What is reflective practice and its differences from other forms of feedback
- How to become more proficient, creative and resourceful
- This session will role play a reflective practice scenario and feature a group exercise.



Erika
Lamarre



Mark Josephson, Esq.
CPA, CFP, CFE, CGMA

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Donna La Scala
dels1960@gmail.com

or **Patty Murray**
director@nysmediate.org

Friday, April 29, 2022

10:30 AM Break

10:45 AM Choice of Track 1 or Track 2

Track 1: Learning to Settle: The Intersection of the Practitioner's Nervous System Regulation and Client Satisfaction

1.5 CEs, SW Contact Hours Pending

As mediators we strive to support our clients in reaching well-informed, mutually acceptable, self-determined resolutions to tangible interpersonal conflict. We do our best to keep ourselves out of it by paying close attention to our impartiality. However, humans are social animals, designed to co-regulate. It is important to consider that the mediator's internal state will likely have an impact on the process and our clients. In this interactive session we will explore the ways in which our own ability to regulate may impact our ability to provide a quality process to clients in mediation. The session may include multi-media, small group discussions, and plenty of time for questions.



Elena Sapora
CDRC/Part 146 Trainer

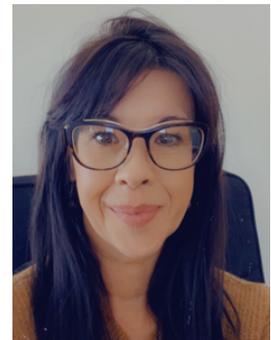
Track 2: Mediating When the Parties and/or Their Children have Developmental Disabilities or Special Needs

1.5 CEs, SW Contact Hours Pending

This two-part presentation will provide information, context and skills to allow an inclusive and accessible mediation process and to better understand the needs and nuances of divorcing parents who are planning for a child with lifelong developmental needs.

We will challenge our current view and understanding of "disabilities" and introduce the Social Model of Disability – the internationally recognized way to address "disability". We will then practice applying this model in realtime by working in small groups and debriefing together. We will then address:

- How do parents plan differently for a child with lifelong developmental needs?
- What do mediators need to know to inform parents of choices for child support (age extensions), education, guardianship, caretaking or financial planning and benefits?
- What NYS resources are available to provide parents information and support?



Amber Kane
ADR CONNECTS

Conference Pricing (Reduced Rates Continue)

Join & Register Early to Save!

Join Now and Get Member Pricing <i>Rates include all online activities and on demand</i>	Super Early Bird Register by March 31	Early Bird Register April 1-15	Regular Pricing Register Apr. 16 or After
Member Rate: Thursday, April 28th & Friday, April 29th	\$295	\$325	\$355
Non-Member Rate: Thursday, April 28th & Friday, April 29th <i>(Become a Member & Save!)</i>	\$395	\$425	\$455
Option: First-time Member Dues <i>(Become a Member & Save!)</i> <i>New first-time membership rate. \$50 half-year rate starts 3/1)</i>	\$100	\$50	\$50
Option: Past-members <i>(Renew & Save! Get New Benefits!)</i>	\$200	\$200	\$200

Friday, April 29, 2022

12:15 PM Lunch Break

**12:45 PM NYSCDM Annual Meeting
President's Report & Elections**



Joelle Perez, Esq.
NYSCDM President

1:30 PM Plenary
Ask the New York Judges
2 CLEs Law Practice Management Pending

It's always a conference highlight for those of us in the mediation world to hear from New York Supreme Court Judges. Even if you are not litigating divorces, it's important to understand what judges in different courts require. During this curated roundtable discussion, Sheryl-Anne Sastow will present your questions to the judges. Critical topics to be covered could include equitable distribution, parenting plans, QDRO submissions, spousal maintenance, child support and the protocols of remote submissions. For example: When, and on what basis, do the Courts deviate from the Statutory guidelines? Do courts split assets unevenly and why? How to handle QDROs in the different courts? What are the various Courts' major considerations in determining spousal support and child support caps?



Moderator
Sheryl-Anne Sastow, Esq.



Hon. Stacey Bennett
Nassau County



Hon. Michael Katz
NY County



Hon. Deborah Poulos
Suffolk County



Hon. Richard Dollinger
Monroe County



Hon. Lewis Lubell
Westchester County

Friday, April 29, 2022

3:30 PM Break

3:45 PM Plenary

Update on the Law

1.5 CLEs Law Practice Management Pending

Review and analysis of the significant cases that were decided during the past year. Topics will include marital and separate property, pensions and retirement accounts, the marital residence, maintenance, child support and a host of other cases that will help you provide your clients with the information they will need to make informed decisions.



Steve Abel, Esq.
Accredited Mediator

5:15 PM Closing Remarks - See You Next Year!

Additional Registration Information

NYSDRA members and MEMBERS OF OTHER STATE ORGANIZATIONS THAT DO NOT PRACTICE IN NEW YORK, are eligible for NYSCDM member rates. Government and court employees are eligible for member rates as well. Please email director@nysmediate.org

We offer a \$25 discount for presenters; for details, contact director@nysmediate.org.

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION: "New York State Council on Divorce Mediation has been certified by the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board as an Accredited Provider of continuing legal education in the State of New York through December 31, 2024. CLE credits will be earned depending on sessions attended. All sessions are suitable for newly appointed and experienced attorneys. Continuing Education credits are provided for beginning and advanced mediators." ContinuingEd@NYSmediate.org

CONTACT HOURS for Social Workers will be provided for specific sessions (identified in brochure) in partnership with [FamilyKind](#) at NO additional cost.



CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS for other professionals will be provided for all sessions by NYSCDM at NO additional cost.

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP: NYSCDM's Financial hardship policy is available upon written request. To apply, write Connie Fraser at Crossbridge Office Park, 2000 S. Winton Road, Bldg. 4, Suite 305, Rochester, New York 14618 ContinuingEd@NYSmediate.org

REFUNDS: Since this event will be offered online and recordings will be provided to all paid attendees, no refunds will be offered for this event.

ACCESSIBILITY: If you have any requirements for accessibility or other needs, please let us know on the event registration form or contact director@nysmediate.org

Schedule is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

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