Call for Submissions - 2027 AFCC CA Annual Conference : Entry # 341

Title of Your Presentation

Domestic Violence Restraining Orders: The Impact on Custody, Co-Parenting, and Case Trajectory

Preferred Length of Presentation

90 Minute Workshop

Presentation Abstract

Domestic Violence Restraining Orders carry immediate and profound consequences in family law proceedings, particularly where custody is at issue. This presentation examines the evolving role of DVROs in custody disputes, with a focus on what happens after the order is issued or denied. Drawing from the perspectives of the bench, legal practitioners, and mental health professionals, the panel will explore how DVRO findings—whether substantiated, contested, or strategically pursued—can shape custody outcomes, influence co-parenting dynamics, and set the trajectory for the case moving forward.
While recognizing the critical importance of DVROs as a protective tool in cases involving genuine abuse, this program also addresses the complex realities courts face when allegations intersect with custody litigation. Topics will include the legal and practical implications of the “rebuttable presumption” against custody, the impact of resist/refuse dynamics on children, and the ways in which DVRO proceedings can either clarify or complicate underlying family conflict.

One-Page Outline of Proposal

- AFCC-proposal-20260509-DV-Wayser-Hanasab-Sax.docx

Learning Objective #1

Participants will be able to identify and analyze the legal and practical consequences of DVROs on custody determinations, including the application of the rebuttable presumption against custody.

Learning Objective #2

2. Participants will be able to evaluate how DVRO proceedings influence family dynamics, co-parenting relationships, and resist/refuse behaviors in children within high-conflict custody litigation.

Learning Objective #3

3. Participants will be able to distinguish between appropriate protective use and potential strategic misuse of DVROs and apply interdisciplinary approaches to promote child-focused and ethically sound outcomes in family law

Citation #1

Lemon, N. K. (2001). Statutes creating rebuttable presumptions against custody to batterers: How effective are they. Wm. Mitchell L. Rev., 28, 601.

Citation #2

Stark, Debra P., Jessica M. Choplin, & Sarah E. Wellard. Properly Accounting for Domestic Violence in Child Custody Cases: An Evidence-Based Analysis and Reform Proposal. Michigan Journal of Gender & Law, Vol. 26, No. 1, 2019, pp. 1–180

Citation #3

Tucker, Joan S. Domestic Violence as a Factor in Child Custody Determinations: Recognizing Coercive Control. Fordham Law Review, Vol. 90, Issue 6, 2022, pp. 2673–2706.

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Number of Presenters

Three

Presenter #1

Robin Sax

Professional Designation (#1)

JD and LCWW

Address (#1)

215 S Robertson Blvd # 375
Beverly Hills, California 90211-2810
US Minor Outlying Islands
Map It

Phone (#1)

(424) 402-1729

Email (#1)

robin@robinsax.com

100-Word Biography of Presenter #1

Robin Sax is both an attorney and a clinical therapist, offering a truly one-of-a-kind practice that seamlessly blends legal and therapeutic skills. Her legal practice exclusively focuses on the criminal justice system. Dear Co-Parent is the part of Robin's practice that exclusively focuses on family law, where she works with parents individually and jointly on parenting and custody issues.

Through Dear Co-Parent, Robin serves as a co-parenting therapist, behind-the-scenes coach, custody coach, mediator, and parenting plan coordinator, helping families navigate high-conflict situations with both legal precision and therapeutic insight. Many professionals transition from law to therapy or vice versa, Robin uniquely integrates both disciplines at once, providing a holistic, solution-oriented approach to co-parenting challenges.

Resume or CV of Presenter #1

- 20260210-SAX-RESUME-1.pdf

Presenter #2

Honorable Josh Wayser

Professional Designation (#2)

Judge

Address (#2)

Call for Submissions - 2027 AFCC CA Annual Conference : Entry # 341

Los Angeles Superior Court
111 Hill Street, CA Los Angeles
United States
Map It

Phone (#2)

(310) 962-1316

Email (#2)

JWayser@lacourt.ca.gov

100-Word Biography of Presenter #2

The Hon. Joshua D. Wayser is a judge for the Los Angeles County Superior Court in California. He succeeded Cesar C. Sarmiento who received from the bench. Wayser was appointed by former Governor Jerry Brown on November 17, 2015. Judge Wayser received his B.A. from Columbia University, New York. He went on to earn his J.D. from Columbia University School of Law.

Resume or CV of Presenter #2

- Wayser-Resume.doc

Presenter #3

Michael Hanasab

Professional Designation (#3)

JD

Address (#3)

9320 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 204 Beverly Hills, CA 90212
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
United States
Map It

Phone (#3)

(310) 278-9001

Email (#3)

michael@jamralaw.com

100-Word Biography of Presenter #3

Michael Hanasab, a partner at Jamra, Jamra & Hanasab, has been exclusively practicing family law since he graduated from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles. Michael has a clients-practical resolution outlook and an aptitude for aggressive litigation when necessary. Michael's versatile personality allows him to be a tenacious member of a litigation team while persevering in efforts to facilitate a settlement.

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Resume or CV of Presenter #3

- Hanasab.docx

Reference #1

Harvey Silberman

Professional Designation of Reference #1

Retired Judge

Email

hsilberman@signatureresolution.com

Phone

(626) 394-4239

Address

n/a
United States
Map It

Reference #2

Mary Lund

Professional Designation of Reference #2

Psychologist

Email

mlund@lundstrachan.com

Phone

(310) 200-0102

Address

United States
Map It

Notes

Admin Notification (ID: 5f458bd3c01c8)
added May 20, 2026 at 5:38 am

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