Call for Submissions - 2027 AFCC CA Annual Conference : Entry # 371

Title of Your Presentation

Beyond Peace at Any Cost: Listening to Survivors, Shifting Professional Practice, and the Promise of Piqui's Law

Preferred Length of Presentation

90 Minute Workshop

Presentation Abstract

With the implementation of Piqui's Law (SB 331), California has drawn a legislative line around the most harmful therapeutic practices in family law, but the law's implications extend beyond reunification therapists to every professional in the family court system. This multidisciplinary workshop reframes the conference theme of "peace" by asking: whose peace, and at what cost? Through a legal update, survivor video stories, and role-specific reflection, participants will examine how common professional frames, including neutrality, "high-conflict" labels, and reunification models, can cause harm when domestic violence or coercive control is present. We will explore who the law covers (and who it doesn't, including a critical gap for Minor's Counsel), how institutional betrayal compounds harm, and how judges, attorneys, evaluators, mediators, and therapists can each respond with accountability. Attendees will leave with safety-centered strategies tailored to their professional role.

One-Page Outline of Proposal

- Beyond-Peace-at-Any-Cost.docx

Learning Objective #1

Describe at least three key provisions of Piqui's Law (SB 331) and explain how they create new expectations for family court professionals, including judges, Minor's Counsel, evaluators, mediators, and therapists.

Learning Objective #2

Identify and articulate at least two risks of applying neutrality-based models in cases involving coercive control or domestic violence, and explain how these risks manifest differently across professional roles.

Learning Objective #3

Apply at least two trauma-informed, safety-centered strategies appropriate to their professional role when working with divorcing or separating families in which domestic violence has been identified or alleged.

Citation #1

Meier, J. S. (2022). Denial of family violence in court: An empirical analysis and path forward for family law. Georgetown Law Journal, 110, 835–912.

Citation #2

Stark, E., & Hester, M. (2019). Coercive control: Update and review. Violence Against Women, 25(1), 81–104.

Citation #3

Harsey, S. J., & Freyd, J. J. (2020). Deny, Attack, and Reverse Victim and Offender (DARVO): What is the influence on perceived perpetrator and victim credibility? Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma, 29, 897–916.

Number of Presenters

Call for Submissions - 2027 AFCC CA Annual Conference : Entry # 371

One

Presenter #1

Lucy Ridgway

Professional Designation (#1)

LCSW, JD

Address (#1)

1980 Mountain Blvd, Suite 211
Oakland, CA 94611
United States
Map It

Phone (#1)

(415) 305-0070

Email (#1)

lucy@lucyridgway.com

100-Word Biography of Presenter #1

Lucy Ridgway, LCSW, is a licensed clinical social worker and attorney whose practice bridges clinical and legal perspectives in family court. She works as a parenting coordinator and co-parent counselor by appointment of Bay Area family courts, and serves as an expert witness in cases involving child abuse, domestic violence, coercive control, and contested custody. Her forthcoming article in the Journal of Forensic Social Work examines core competencies for DV-informed forensic practice. Lucy serves on the board of the Family Violence Appellate Project and is a member of AFCC and APSAC. She has presented on domestic violence, coercive control, and Kayden's Law to family court professionals and at the CAMFT Annual Conference.

Resume or CV of Presenter #1

- Lucy_Ridgway_Resume_CV.pdf

Reference #1

Donna Guillory

Professional Designation of Reference #1

MFT

Email

donna.guillory@gmail.com

Phone

(510) 654-1328

Call for Submissions - 2027 AFCC CA Annual Conference : Entry # 371

Address

United States
Map It

Reference #2

Christing Pigeon

Professional Designation of Reference #2

PhD

Email

cdpigeon@comcast.net

Phone

(510) 304-7875

Address

United States
Map It

Notes

Admin Notification (ID: 5f458bd3c01c8)
added July 2, 2026 at 9:59 pm

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.

Submission Confirmation (ID: 5f46f5da5bcea)
added July 2, 2026 at 9:59 pm

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.