

**In The
Beginning:
Starting Well to
End Well**

Opening Speaker:
Dr. James McHale



Association of Family Law Professionals
Annual Conference LIVE!
Attendance in Zoom, if preferred

October 1, 2021

9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

At The Landings in the Helm Dining Room
Silent Auction to benefit the Family Resource Center

Continuing Education Credits:
5.5 CEU for 490s & 491s
4.2 CE Mediators (1.2 in Cultural/Diversity)
6.5 CLE

Take Advantage of **Early Bird** Registration by September 1, 2021:
** \$150 for Early Bird AFLP Members, \$125 Judicial Supports &
Paralegals, and \$175 for Early Bird Non-members
Rates after Early Bird Registration: \$175 AFLP Members, \$200-Non-
members

Register Online: aflpnetwork.com

Schedule for the Day

- 9:00-11:00 Advances in Co-parenting 2021: Supporting Children in Diverse Family Circumstances
Dr. Jamie McHale
- 11:00-11:15 Break
- 11:15-12:15 Lightening Round: Setting the Stage for the Best Outcome
Reuben Doupé, Esq., Kelsey Griffin, CPA, Sheba Katz, PhD., Robert Schwartz, Esq., Moderator Judge Gilberto Perez
- 12:15-1:30 Lunch and Silent Auction
- 1:30-3:00 Words Matter: Essential Communication Skills for the Professional
Margaret Hambrick, PhD & Amanda Parke, MA
- 3:00-3:15 Break & Think Outside the Box Award
- 3:15-4:15 Judges Panel: Creating a Good Start in the Courtroom



About Our Presenters

Dr. James McHale

Dr. McHale was founding chair of the Department of Psychology on the University of South Florida's St. Petersburg campus. He is now Executive Director of the USF Infant-Family Center and directs the internationally recognized USF Family Study Center. His studies of coparenting and child development in diverse family systems have been sponsored since 1996 by the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Institute of Child Health and Development, and he has authored more than 200 conference research reports and published over 100 articles, books, and other manuscripts on the topic of coparenting. He is currently Principal Investigator on numerous grants and initiatives, including an NIH-sponsored randomized controlled trial

Gilberto Perez

Gilberto Perez is a Circuit Court Judge presiding over juvenile dependency, juvenile delinquency, and related marital and family law matters in the Unified Family Court division in the 20th Judicial Circuit, Lee County, Florida. He was appointed to the Circuit Bench by Governor Ron DeSantis October 2020.

Previously, Judge Perez served as a Magistrate in the 20th Judicial Circuit in the Lee County, Family Division, from May 2015, to October 2020. In addition to presiding over marital and family law matters, he also heard Baker Act and Marchman Act proceedings. Prior to this appointment, Judge Perez practiced exclusively in the area of marital and family law since 2005, both as a solo-practitioner and in the family law division of a full-service firm, becoming Board Certified in Marital and Family Law in 2011. Judge Perez moved to S.W. Florida in 2002 to serve as an Assistant State Attorney, ultimately serving in the Special Victims' Unit prosecuting sex crimes and crimes against children. He was previously a Bureau Chief at the Office of the Attorney General, Children's Legal Services Division in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and he began his career as a family law litigator at Legal Aid in Miami, Florida. Judge Perez is a member of the Family Law Section of The Florida Bar and has served as co-chair of the Family Law Section of the Lee County Bar Association. He has served on the Laboratory Theater of Florida's Board of Directors since 2010, and was a United Way Allocations Team Member from 2006 to 2015. He completed two terms on The Florida Bar Grievance Committee, and is a former president of the Association of Family Law Professionals, former board member of the Lee County Legal Aid Society and past Barrister with the Calusa Inns of Court. Throughout his career, Judge Perez has lectured throughout the state in legal ethics and all areas of family and dependency law. He graduated with high honors with a B.A. in psychology from Florida International University in 1990, and obtained his J.D. *cum laude* from the University of Notre Dame Law School in 1993.

Reuben Doupé

Attorney Reuben A. Doupé is a Fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and is Board Certified in Marital and Family Law from the Florida Bar. Born in Ontario, Canada and raised in Ft. Myers, Florida. He received undergraduate degree in Finance from the University of Miami with general honors in 1999. In 2002, Mr. Doupé received his Juris Doctorate with high honors from the University of Florida. In law school, he also received recognition in academic achievement through admission into the Order of the Coif and was presented the Book Award in Legal Accounting. In June 2009, Mr. Doupé became Board Certified in Marital and Family Law, a distinction granted by the Florida Bar and in November 2013, Mr. Doupé became a Fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, which is a national association whose purpose is to promote the highest degree of professionalism and excellence in family law. Mr. Doupé is a frequent speaker at webinars and law conferences throughout Florida on behalf of the Family Law Section of the Florida Bar as well as the AAML. Mr. Doupé also enjoys officiating high school and college football as a member of the Greater Naples Official's Association and the NAIA Mid-South Conference Officials.

Kelsey Griffin

Kelsey Griffin is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE). She is partner-in-charge of the Litigation Support, Forensic Accounting and Mediation Services team at Markham Norton Mosteller Wright & Co, PA, providing financial expertise and testimony in matters and disputes involving financial analysis or estimation of loss, including shareholder and partner disputes, fraud investigations, malpractice claims, personal injury and wrongful death claims, and family law litigation, among others. Kelsey graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of South Florida's (USF) College of Business with a dual Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and Management, and from USF's Honors College. Thereafter, she earned a Master's degree in Accounting and Taxation from Florida Gulf Coast University. Kelsey joined MNMW in 2006 and became a partner in the firm in 2017. She has been recognized on several occasions for her leadership and service to the community. leadership and service to the community.

Dr. Sheba Katz

Dr. Katz is a licensed psychologist and school psychologist who enjoys working with families as they heal and grow from difficult life and family transitions. She served as a board member for the Florida Chapter of the AFCC. Dr. Katz is also the co-owner of Katz Counseling and Educational Psychology in SWFL which provides a variety of psychological services including evaluations and therapy to both adults and children.

Robert M. Schwartz

Robert M. Schwartz has over 45 years of legal and accounting experience as an attorney and certified public accountant. He is an "AV" rated family law attorney and is presently counsel to the law firm of Boies Schiller Flexner. During his legal career he has participated in numerous mediations in connection with client representation and as a Certified Family Mediator. Mr. Schwartz has also written and lectured on the subjects of prenuptial agreements, and the division of real estate and retirement plan interests in connection with divorce. In addition, as an adjunct instructor, he has mentored students seeking to obtain a college degree in paralegal studies.

Margaret Hambrick, PhD:

Professor of Communication and Director of Com Lab at FGCU. She is former chair of the Department of Communication and Philosophy. Dr. Hambrick currently teaches Rhetoric of Popular Culture, Persuasion and Propaganda, Gender Communication, Dysfunctional Communication, History of Rhetorical Theory, Interpersonal Communication, Rhetorical Criticism, Organizational Communication, and Senior Seminar. Her research expertise and publication record focuses on persuasion and issues of social change, politics, and culture. Dr. Hambrick was co-author with Dr. Christy Stanlake, professor of Theatre at the Naval Academy, of *Soul Force*, a work of documentary theatre which was performed as a professional staged reading at the Castillo Theatre, in New York City on September 24, 2019. She recently published her chapter titled: "Al Feldstein and *Mad's* Humor of Social Critique" in *Essays on Mad Magazine's Humor and Legacy from Cover to Fold-In* and has another chapter in press with Lexington Books, due November 2021. In addition, she has a book under contract with Michigan State University Press focusing on Prophetic Dissent Rhetoric.

Amanda Parke, MA Communication

Amanda is a professor at Florida Gulf Coast University and Assistant Director of the Communication Lab. She teaches Nonverbal Communication, Interpersonal Communication, Intrapersonal Communication, Theories of Human Communication, Gender Communication, Fundamentals of Communication, and Public Speaking. Amanda's area of focus is in Intrapersonal Communication, which examines the conscious, automatic, and authentic ways in which humans speak to and about themselves. It also examines the ways in which language creates and shapes an individual's experience of reality and explores theories and tools which can be applied in order to examine one's own beliefs and values. Amanda recently presented at the Southwest Florida Symposium on Teaching and Learning, which focused on specific ways in which faculty and staff can build connections in virtual environments.

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