

CURRICULUM VITAE

LOU A. COPPOLA, M.Sc.

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- ◆ Masters of Science degree in *Marriage & Family Therapy* (University of Guelph); Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology (University of Waterloo)
- ◆ 26 years counselling experience in diverse clinical settings; 17 years mediation experience
- ◆ Strong systemic orientation with training in both strategic and structural therapies
- ◆ Registered Marriage & Family Therapist, Approved Supervisor (1997-2012) and Clinical Member (1992-Present) American Association for Marriage & Family Therapists (AAMFT)
- ◆ Accredited Family Mediator - Ontario Association for Family Mediation (1999), Member OAFM (1998-Present); Board of Directors (2000-2004)
- ◆ Member, Family Mediation Canada (1998-2006)
- ◆ Member, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (2008-present)

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

FAMILY MEDIATION & INFORMATION SERVICES:

SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE, St. Catharines, ON (1999 to Present);

SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE & ONTARIO COURT OF JUSTICE, Welland, ON (July 2011-Present)

- Manage the *Centre for Family Mediation* including staffing/scheduling, developing and managing budget; ensure reporting requirements are met and prepare reports as required
- Ensure accurate and up-to-date information and resources regarding separation/divorce is provided through the Family Law Information Centre; ensure an Information & Referral Coordinator is available during operating hours
- Provide comprehensive family mediation services including on-site and off-site mediation
- Oversee intake procedures and assign files to roster mediators; provide ongoing supervision for mediators and oversee quality assurance activities for the Centre,
- Promote and facilitate mandated information seminars for separated parents
- Active member of the *Community Resources Committee* and *Community Liaison Committee* for the Family Court, St. Catharines (February 2000-Present); active member of Welland Bench - Bar Committee (July 2011- Present)

PRIVATE PRACTITIONER, St. Catharines (1995 to Present)

- Provide individual, marital, family and group counselling to varied clientele
- Mediate custody and access *Memorandums of Understanding*
- As a Clinical Investigator with the Office of the Children's Lawyer: investigate, report on and make recommendations to the court on all matters pertaining to custody of and access to a child, pursuant to Section 112 of the *Courts of Justice Act*; and provide clinical assistance to legal counsel appointed pursuant to Section 89 of the *Courts of Justice Act*.
- Provide clinical supervision for clinicians interested in membership with AAMFT; provide clinical consultation and skill development services for staff of various community agencies

SUPERVISOR – FAMILY COUNSELLING CENTRE, St. Catharines (1998 - 2000)
ADOLESCENT & FAMILY THERAPIST - Niagara Centre for Youth Care, St. Catharines (1994 - 1998)
CLINICAL MANAGER - Family Counselling Services, Peterborough (1991-1994)
FAMILY THERAPIST - Catholic Family Counselling Centre, Kitchener (1989-1991)
FAMILY THERAPIST - Surrey Place Centre, Toronto (1988-1989)
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST - Halton Family Services, Burlington (1987-1988)

SUMMARY OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2 Day: OAFM AGM & Conference (June 2013). **Comprehensive Mediation – Unlocking the Mysteries of Financial Mediation.**
- 2 Day AFCC Symposium (November 2012): **Child Custody Evaluations – Research and Practice: Bridging the Gap and Finding the Balance.** Sessions attended: *Utilizing Research In Practice: Family Law’s Catch 22; Roadmap to Research in Child Custody Evaluations (CCE); Integrating Parenting Time Research into CCE; Practical ways to Apply Alienation Research in Custody Cases; Best Interests of Young Children; Understanding How Children of Divorce Add Fuel to the Fire; Crafting Developmentally Sensitive Parenting Plans for Young Children.*
- 1Day Workshop (February/2012): **Family Law for Family Mediators.** Presenter: Richard Sheilds.
- 1 Day Symposium (April 2012): **Emotional Harm of Children in Separation and Divorce- The Clinical and Legal Conundrum.** Presenters: Dr. Jean Clinton & Professor Nicholas Bala.
- 1 Day Workshop (March 2012): **Assessing for Domestic Violence and Power Imbalances for Court Based Mediation Services.** Presenters: Antoinette Clarke & Darlene Murphy.
- 1 Day conference AFCC (Ontario Chapter): **Experience and Brain Development: How childhood events shape the children and families we serve.** Presenter: Dr. Bruce Perry (October 2011).
- 1 Day: Office of the Children’s Lawyer Training (November 2011). **Giving Evidence Effectively.**
- 1 Day: OAFM AGM & Conference (May 2011). **Family Mediation - Focus on the children.**
- 1 Day: OCL training (April 2011). **The impact of toxic stress on the developing brain.** Presenter: Dr. Jean Clinton.
- 1 Day conference AFCC (Ontario Chapter): **The Future of Family Law** (October 2010). Sessions attended: *What is “normal” in custody and access?; Should there be presumptions? Children’s statements; Assessments: Practice issues and risk management; High Conflict Think Tank; and The Family Law Rules, what you need to know.*
- 4 Day Conference AFCC: **Traversing the Trial of Alienation.** (June 2010). Sessions attended: *Parental Alienation & the DSM-V; Helping families with children who reject Parents; Divorce Detox: Tools for reducing acrimony & enhancing cooperation; Best Interest Parenting time schedules: The intersection of developmental needs & parenting style; Mediation in the Shadow of Domestic Violence; Addressing Allegations of Alienation: Judicial Dilemmas; Interviewing children concerning domestic violence; Advanced Forensic Case Analysis; Listening to Children’s Preferences in Alienation & Estrangement Cases; Reunification Therapy when a Child Rejects a Parent.*

- 2 Day training: **Children caught in the crossfire: responding effectively to high conflict families in custody disputes** (August 2009). Facilitators: Howard Herwitz & Dr. Rachel Birnbaum.
- 1 Day: OAFM AGM & Conference (June 2009). **Working with multiple stories of relationship in Mediation: A Narrative Perspective**. Facilitator: John Winslade.
- 1 Day workshop: **Improving your interviews with children** (May 2009) Facilitator: Mindy Mitnick.
- 1 Day workshop AFCC: **Improving the lives of children and families in conflict** (April 2009).
- 1 Day OAFM: AGM & Conference (June 2008). **Staying with conflict: The challenge of working with long term disputes**. Facilitator: Bernie Mayer.
- 4 Day Conference AFCC: **Fitting the Forum to the Family**. (May 2008). Sessions attended: *Advanced Mediation Practice Strategies; Conflict resolution in Child Protection; Listening to children's views in disputed custody and access cases part 1 & 2; advances in child development research applied to scientifically informed parenting plans part 1 & 2; intersection of mediation and family group conferencing; drafting parenting plans that really work for families*.
- 3 Day Workshop: **Child Protection Mediation Training** (April 2007).
- 4 Day Conference AAMFT: **Behavioural Genetics & Therapy**. (October 2006). Sessions attended: *Ethical Issues when Working with Children; Couples on the Brink; Honouring Children's Voices in Family Therapy; Facilitating Family Resilience in Clinical Practice; Approved Supervisor Refresher*.
- 1 Day Workshop: **Divorce Poison ~ Working with Families of Alienated Children** (April 2006). Facilitator: Dr. Richard A. Warshak, Ph.D.
- 3 Day Smart Marriages Conference: **Healthy Families** (June 2005). Sessions attended: *Mending Infidelity; Effective Conflict Resolution; Keeping Love Alive*.
- 2 Day Workshop: **Caught in the Cross-Fire ~ Strategic Approaches with High Conflict Families** (November 2004). Facilitator Jerome Price.
- 4-Day Institute: **Marital & Premarital Assessment & Intervention: Scientifically-Based Couples Practice** (August 2004). Facilitator: Dr. Jeffrey Larson, Ph.D.
- 1-Day Workshop: **Developmental Considerations in Creating Parenting Plans**. (April 2004). Facilitator: Dr. Barbara Jo Fidler.
- 2-Day Conference: **Managing High Conflict in Divorced Families: Protecting the Children Caught in the Middle** (November 2002). Attended 2-day session on *Ethics & Practice Standards for Professionals Working with High Conflict Families*.
- 3-Day Conference: **Conflict Resolution: Building A Culture of Peace** (June 2002). Sessions attended: *Difficult Conversations; Getting the Agreement; Setting Up For Success; Parent Education Program*.
- 1-Day Workshop: **Child Welfare Mediation** (June 2002). Facilitator: June Maresca.
- 2-Day Workshop: **Advanced Mediation Training** (May 2001). Facilitator: Peggy Malpass.
- 2-Day Conference: **Caught in the Middle: Families of High Conflict Divorce** (November 2000).