

# Cynthia Katz

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## Profile

Experienced clinician with a background in family and children's mental health. Practising as a custody and access evaluator with extensive knowledge of issues of separation and divorce. Striving to promote the best interests of children through the provision of comprehensive custody and access assessments and parent education.

## Education

**Masters of Applied Psychology (M.A.), 1986**

University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, New Brunswick

**Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) with Honours, Psychology, 1983**

Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario

**Diplome d'Études Collégiales (D.E.C.), Social Sciences, 1980**

Dawson College, Montreal, Quebec

## Professional Experience

**Custody and Access Evaluator**, Private Practice

**Clinician - Office of the Children's Lawyer**, 1998 - present

- Complete custody and access evaluations under section 30 and section 112 of the *Courts of Justice Act*
- Collaborate with legal counsel to provide clinical formulations for a legal position under section 89 of the *Courts of Justice Act*
- Prepare reports and co-ordinate disclosure and settlement meetings
- Attend court and testify on behalf of children
- Advocate for community resources including mental health services, substance abuse services, supervised access centres and parent coordination
- Knowledge of court procedures, relevant legislation and case law.

### **Information and Referral Co-ordinator**

Axis Family Mediation – St. Catharines & Welland Court, 2011-present

- Bridge family court and community services at Family Law Information Centre
- Provide information on issues related to separation and divorce
- Provide information on alternative dispute resolution and community resources
- Facilitate Mandatory Information Programme (MIP) sessions
- Facilitate referrals to on-site and off-site mediation

### **Adolescent and Family Therapist**

Niagara Centre for Youth Care (now Pathstone Mental Health), 1991 - 2001  
St. Catharines, Ontario

- Provided child, adolescent and family therapy in a multidisciplinary setting

### **Family Therapist**

Ontario Family Guidance Centre, 1989-1991, Hamilton, Ontario  
Jacquie Herman and Associates, 1989, St. Catharines, Ontario

- Provided individual, family and marital therapy through Employee Assistance Programme (EAP)

### **Psychometrist/Family Therapist**

Centre Jeanne Sauvé Center, 1986-1989  
Kapusksing, Ontario

- Provided child, adolescent and family therapy in a bilingual (English/French) agency with a large First Nations and Indigenous population
- Completed psychometric testing with children under supervision of Psychologist

## **Clinical Skills**

- evaluates family circumstances with sensitivity and fairness
- generates comprehensive written reports
- educates parents and promotes settlement with respect to children's best interests
- collaborates effectively with legal counsel
- attends training provided by the Office of the Children's Lawyer
- attends professional development conferences and workshops
- reviews relevant research, literature and case law regarding custody and access
- conducts educational and informative workshops for communities and schools

## **Professional Memberships**

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC)

Ontario Association of Consultants, Counsellors, Psychometrists and Psychotherapists

Canadian Psychological Association, 1983 to 1998

## **Professional Training**

- Office of the Children's Lawyer Clinical Training - 1998-present
- Hincks Dellcrest High Conflict Forum, annual conference – 2011 - 2013
- Hamilton High Conflict Forum, annual conference – 2014 - present
- Eye Movement and Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) Training, 1997
- Caught In the Middle: Protecting the Children of High Conflict Divorce, Carla Garrity and Mitchell Baris, 2000
- Caught In the Crossfire: Strategic Approaches with High Conflict Families, Jerome Price, 2004
- Smokescreen or Fire? Allegations of Domestic Violence and Child Sexual Abuse in High Conflict Divorcing Families, Peter Jaffe and Mindy Mitnick, 2008
- Interviewing Children/Assessing Children's Preference, Mindy Mitnick, 2009
- Alienation: Implications for Assessment and Treatment, Leslie Drozd & Nancy Oleson, 2010
- Emotional Harm of Children in Separation and Divorce: The Clinical and Legal Conundrum - Dr. Jean Clinton & Nicholas Bala, 2012
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Annual Conference – Attachment, Brain Science and Children of Divorce, Chicago 2012
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Regional Conference – There's No Place Like Two Homes, Kansas City 2013
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Ontario Chapter Conference – Our Families' Faces, Toronto 2013
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Annual Conference – Navigating the Waters of Shared Parenting, Toronto 2014
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Annual Conference – Turning the Kaleidoscope of Family Conflict into a Prism of Harmony, Boston 2017
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Annual Conference – Compassionate Family Court Systems: The Role of Trauma Informed Jurisprudence, Washington, 2018
- Joint Conference – Ontario Collaborative Law Federation/Ontario Association for Family Mediation, Voice of the Child in Consensual Dispute Resolution, Ottawa, 2019

## **Court Experience**

- August 25, 1999     The Honourable Mr. Justice J. Fleury, Superior Court of Justice presented evidence related to the views and preferences of a child under section 89 of the *Courts of Justice Act*
- October 27, 2000     The Honourable Mr. Justice R.L. Budgell, Ontario Court of Justice presented evidence related to the interests of the children under section 30 of the *Courts of Justice Act*
- February 16 & 17, 2004  
The Honourable Madam Justice A. Tucker, Superior Court of Justice presented evidence related to the views and preferences of a child under section 89 of the *Courts of Justice Act*
- March 26, 2008     The Honourable Mr. Justice F.S. Fisher, Ontario Court of Justice presented evidence related to the completion of a section 112 assessment under the *Courts of Justice Act*
- November 11, 2008  
The Honourable Mr. Justice J.E. Sheppard, Superior Court of Justice presented evidence related to the interests of a child under section 89 of the *Courts of Justice Act*
- July 22, 2009     The Honourable Madam Justice E.S. Martin, Ontario Court of Justice presented evidence related to the interests of a child under section 89 of the *Courts of Justice Act*
- January 20, 2010     The Honourable Madam Justice T. Maddalena, Superior Court of Justice - presented evidence related to the views and preferences of the children under section 89 of the *Courts of Justice Act*
- September 29, 2010  
The Honourable Mr. Justice J. W. Quinn, Superior Court of Justice presented evidence related to the views and preferences of the children under section 89 of the *Courts of Justice Act*
- March 25, 2011     The Honourable Mr. Justice G. Edward, Simcoe Family Court declared an expert in providing evidence regarding the views and preferences of the children under the *Child and Family Services Act*
- March 26, 2012     The Honourable Madam Justice E.S. Martin, Ontario Court of Justice presented evidence related to the views and preferences of a child under section 89 of the *Courts of Justice Act*

- June 19, 2013 The Honourable Mr. Justice R.J. Nightengale, Ontario Superior Court of Justice, Family Court – presented evidence related to the completion of a section 112 report under the *Courts of Justice Act*
- June 26, 2013 The Honourable Mr. Justice J. W. Quinn, Superior Court of Justice presented evidence related to the views and preference of the children under section 89 of the *Courts of Justice Act*
- February 7, 2014 The Honourable Madam Justice E.S. Martin, Ontario Court of Justice presented evidence related to the completion of a section 112 report under the *Courts of Justice Act*
- May 16, 2014 The Honourable Madam Justice T. Maddalena, Superior Court of Justice - presented evidence related to the views and preferences of the children under section 89 of the *Courts of Justice Act*
- January 23, 2019 The Honourable Mr. Justice R.B. Reid, Superior Court of Justice - presented evidence related to the completion of a section 112 report under the *Courts of Justice Act*
- April 24, 2019 The Honourable Madam Justice L. Walters, Superior Court of Justice presented evidence related to the completion of a section 112 report under the *Courts of Justice Act*