

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## **LOU A. COPPOLA, M.Sc., AccFM(OAFM)**

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### **SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS**

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- ◆ Masters of Science degree in *Marriage & Family Therapy* (University of Guelph); Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology (University of Waterloo)
- ◆ Over 30 years counselling experience in diverse clinical settings; 20+ years mediation experience
- ◆ Strong systemic orientation with training in both strategic and structural therapies
- ◆ Accredited Family Mediator - Ontario Association for Family Mediation (1999), Member OAFM (1998-Present); OAFM Board of Directors (2000-2004)
- ◆ Member, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (2008-present)
- ◆ Member, Family Mediation Canada (1998-2006)
- ◆ Previously a Registered Marriage & Family Therapist, Approved Supervisor (1997-2012) and Clinical Member (1992-2014) American Association for Marriage & Family Therapists (AAMFT)

### **CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

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#### **CENTRE FOR FAMILY MEDIATION (1999-2019)**

**SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE**, St. Catharines, ON (1999 to March 2019);

**SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE AND ONTARIO COURT OF JUSTICE**, Welland, ON (July 2011- March 2019)

- Managed the *Centre for Family Mediation* including staffing/scheduling, developing and managing budget; service documentation/budgets, compiling service reports as required
- Ensured accurate and up-to-date information and resources regarding separation/divorce was provided through the Family Law Information Centre; ensured an Information & Referral Coordinator or Mediator was available during operating hours
- Provided comprehensive family mediation services including on-site and off-site mediation, information and referral coordination (IRC)
- Oversaw the development and administration of intake procedures and assigned files to roster mediators; provided ongoing supervision for roster mediators and interns and oversaw quality assurance activities for the Centre,
- Scheduled, staffed and promoted the Mandatory Information Sessions (MIPs) for separated parents and presented the social service/mental health component when needed
- Active member of the *Community Resources Committee* and *Community Liaison Committee* for the Family Court, St. Catharines (February 2000-May 2019) and the Welland Bench - Bar Committee (July 2011- May 2019)

#### **PRIVATE PRACTITIONER**, St. Catharines (1995 to Present)

- Mediate custody and access *Memorandums of Understanding* for The Ontario Child Protection Mediation service (February 2019-present)

- Provided individual, marital, family and group counselling to varied clientele (1995-2014)
- Former Clinical Investigator with the Office of the Children's Lawyer (1999 to 2012): investigated and made 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 provided clinical assistance to legal counsel appointed pursuant to Section 89 of the *Courts of Justice Act*.
- Provided clinical supervision for clinicians interested in membership with AAMFT; provided clinical consultation and skill development services for staff of various community agencies (1997 to 2004)

**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 RECENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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- 5 Day: Child Protection Mediation (CPM) Training (February 2019). OAFM. Topics included: *CPM Model; Child Welfare System Overview; Intimate Partner Violence in CPM; Diversity and Culture; and, Issues Affecting First Nations.*
- 1 Day: Child Protection Mediation Training (November 2018). Lincoln Law Society & FACS Niagara. Topics included: *Terminology and an Overview of the New Act; What is Openness?; Services for 17-18 Year Olds; Status FNMI; Alternative Dispute Resolution Services.*
- 2 Day: OAFM Conference (September 2018). **Making a Difference.** Sessions attended: *Practicing Insight Mediation; The Effect of Violence.*
- 1 Day: OAFM Child Protection Mediation Training (January 2018). **Bringing Understanding: Turning Strengths into Differences.**
- 3 Day: Ontario Collaborative Law Federation (September 2017). **Power of Interest Based on Negotiation.** Sessions attended: *Elder Mediation-A Vision for Handling Disputes; The Emotional Life of Your Brain; Mediation, Multiple Minds and Handling the Negotiation Within.*
- 1 Day: (March 2017). **Advanced Interviewing Techniques.** Presenter: Zaia Lazar.
- 1 Day: The Mediation Centre (October 2016). **Domestic Abuse: Screening for Power Imbalances including Domestic Violence and Abuse (Refresher).** Presenters: Lisa EmmsWice and Claudette Reimer
- 2 Day: OAFM Conference (September 2016). **Responding to Conflict Behaviour Using the Insight Approach.** Sessions attended: *Diversity Competence; Transgender Awareness; Using Insight Mediation for Elder Mediation; Maintaining Standards.*
- 1 Day: (April 2015). **Powerful Non-Defensive Communication.** Presenter: Sharon Ellison
- 1 Day: Jewish Family & Child High Conflict Forum (March 2014). **Parental Gatekeeping: An Alternative Approach to High Conflict Family Law Disputes.** Presenters: William Austin and Marsha Kline Pruett.

- 3 Day: AFCC Symposium (May 2014). **Navigating the Waters of Shared Parenting: Guidance from the Harbour.** Sessions attended: *Difficult Conversations at the Intersection of Domestic Violence and Mediation; Making Custody Mediation More Effective-Getting to Yes; New Ways for Mediation; Evidence-Based Decision Tree for Considering Shared Parenting; It's About Time, Right? Well Actually, No!; Overnights and Young Children: Unified Principles from Attachment and Parenting Involvement and a New Practice Framework.*
- 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.*
- 1 Day Workshop (February/2012): **Family Law for Family Mediators.** Presenter: Richard Shields.
- 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 Conference (May 2011). **Family Mediation - Focus on the children.** Sessions Attended: *Parenting Plans for High Conflict Families; Then Entanglement of Adolescents in Child Protection Mediation; Multi-Directional Orders in High Conflict Custody Cases; Children's Participation in Family Law Decision-Making: Considerations for Striking the Balance.*
- 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.*

Summary of professional development courses taken between 2000-2009 available upon request.