Child Custody Evaluations and ADR
Telephone Seminar, August 23, 2017, Noon-1:30 p.m.

Child custody disputes frequently end up before the judge. Courts are increasingly referring these disputes to child custody evaluators. This 90-minute interactive seminar will prepare you to incorporate these evaluations into your custody mediation, either as a mediator or a litigator. Learn what makes a GOOD comprehensive child custody evaluation; when is a CCE appropriate, and how it can be incorporated into the ADR process; and common issues in custody disputes including:

- Domestic Violence
- Move-Aways
- Child Abuse
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Parental Alienation

**Panel:** Ben Burgess, MA, LLP, Fountain Hill Center, Grand Rapids and Connie Thacker, JD, Thacker Sleight PC, Grand Rapids

**Moderator:** Robert E. L. Wright, The Peace Talks PLC, Grand Rapids

**About the Panel:**

**Ben Burgess** is a psychologist with a practice focusing primarily on high-conflict divorce and parental separation, as well as high-conflict child custody and parenting time evaluations. Mr. Burgess received a master’s degree in counseling psychology from Western Michigan University in 2006. Since 2006, he has worked in various private practices, and is currently at the Fountain Hill Center, in Grand Rapids. In addition to private practice, Mr. Burgess worked as office psychologist for the Ottawa County Friend of the Court, where he routinely examined complex cases involving child alienation, intimate partner violence, and other complex custody and parenting time issues. Mr. Burgess’ practice has expanded to include parent-child reunification and parent coordination.

**Connie Thacker** is a Shareholder with Thacker Sleight PC. She concentrates her practice in family law, including complex divorce litigation with issues involving business and professional valuations, child custody and parenting time. Connie is a Fellow in the prestigious American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML). She has been trained in various forms of alternative dispute resolution, is a trained mediator, and has earned certification from the AAML Matrimonial Arbitration Training Institute and the Collaborative Practice Institute of Michigan. Best Lawyers named Connie Grand Rapids’ Family Lawyer of the year for 2017, 2015 and 2011. In 2017, Leading Lawyers recognized her for her work in Family Law and ranked her in Michigan’s Top 100 Women Lawyers for 2017.
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Cost

ADR Section Members ...........................................$10
Family Law Section Members ...........................................$10
Law Students ..........................................................$10
Law students must include their law school e-mail address.
Sitting Judges ..........................................................FREE
Judges must register by mail to receive this discounted rate.
All Other Registrants ..................................................$40

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: August 18, 2017

Questions

For additional information regarding the seminar contact Robert Wright at (616) 682-7000 or bob@thepeacetalks.com.

Register One of Two Ways

Online: visit http://e.michbar.org to register

Mail your check and completed registration form to:
State Bar of Michigan
Attn: Seminar Registration
306 Townsend Street
Lansing, MI 48933

• Information on how to access the dial-in instructions will be provided on your seminar confirmation.
• Registrants will be able to access electronic materials in the event library two days before the seminar.

Additional Information

Law students must include their law school e-mail address.

P #:___________________
Name:______________________________________________________________
Your Firm: ________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Your Law School (if student): ______________________________________________________________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
City:________________________________ State: ____ Zip: ______________________
Telephone: ( _____ ) ______________________
E-mail Address:____________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Enclosed is check # ____________ for $ ________________________________

Please make check payable to: State Bar of Michigan To pay with credit/debit card visit http://e.michbar.org

Cancellation Policy: Registration and payment must be received at the SBM on or before 3PM on August 18, 2017. The registration fee for this event is forfeited if attendance is canceled. As a courtesy to the planners, written notice of your intent not to participate is appreciated. That notice can be made by e-mail (tbellinger@michbar.org), fax (517-372-5921 ATTN: Tina Bellinger), or by U.S. mail (306 Townsend St., Lansing, MI 48933 ATTN: Tina Bellinger.)