



MAGAL

Massachusetts Association of Guardians ad Litem

Registration is now open!

<https://www.magalinc.org>

(MAGAL members must first sign into the website to receive member rates.)

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Family Law Disputes

*Keynote Speaker
Abbie Goldberg, Ph.D.*

**October 6, 2023
8:30am-4:30 pm**

The Conference Center at Waltham Woods, Waltham, MA
(Lunch included at Waltham Woods only.)

*The MAGAL conference will also be live streamed to the
UMass Center at 1500 Main Street, Springfield, Room 003, same date, and time.
The cost for the simulcast is \$30 off the regular price. (No lunch.)*

The challenges of divorce and custody disputes experienced by all families who engage with the Probate Court are often augmented for marginalized communities, including LGBTQ+ families. This conference will provide a solid research-based understanding of developmental pathways for gender identification and sexual orientation. It will explore how parenting, divorce, and co-parenting can be better understood when a parent or child is gay or trans, including the misconceptions and biases that may operate when these families engage with the legal system. Clinical services for children and parents will be discussed, the legal realities that LGBTQ+ families and children face will be introduced, and case-based experiences of professionals working in the trenches will be shared. This conference is aimed toward lawyers, clinicians, Guardian *ad litem*, and other forensic professionals working with LGBTQ+ families to evaluate, advocate, and forge pathways

forward in a more informed, professional, and compassionate manner through a combination of lecture and interactive audience engagement.

Learning Objectives

- Participants will be better equipped to evaluate, advocate for and/or treat LGBTQ+ individuals and families.
- Participants will learn how parenting, divorce, and coparenting can be impacted when a parent or child identifies as being part of the LGBTQ+ community.
- Participants will learn about the legal realities that LGBTQ+ families and their children face.
- Participants will learn how to recognize misconceptions and biases that may operate when LGBTQ+ individuals and their families engage with the legal system and/or mental health systems.

Conference Schedule

- 8:30 – 8:45 **Welcome & Introduction**
Donald Tye, Esq. Education Committee Chairperson
- 8:45 - 10:15 **Keynote Speaker: Abbie Goldberg, Ph.D.**
- 10:15 - 10:30 Break
- 10:30 - 12:00 **Keynote Speaker: Abbie Goldberg, Ph.D. (continued)**
- 12:00 - 1:00 **Lunch** (provided for those at Waltham Woods)
- 1:00 - 2:30 **Clinical Implications of Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation**
Francie Mandel, LICSW
Cecil Webster Jr, MD
- 2:30-3:00 **Audience questions and discussion** for Ms. Mandel and Dr. Webster
- 3:00-3:15 Break
- 3:15-4:00 **Panel Discussion of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Law Practices and in the Court.** (case hypothetical)
Hon. Nan. M. Sauer (Associate Justice, Essex Probate and Family Court)
Michael Xavier, Esq.
Joyce Kauffman, Esq.
Fern Frolin, Esq., JAMS, Moderator
- 4:00 - 4:45 **Audience questions and discussion**

Keynote Speaker:

Abbie Goldberg, Ph.D. is a Professor in the Department of Psychology at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, where she also currently serves as the Director of Women’s & Gender Studies and is the current holder of the Jan and Larry Landry Endowed Chair. She is also a trained mediator. Dr. Goldberg is an internationally recognized scholar, speaker, and consultant, who is regularly interviewed by media outlets including the New York Times, The Atlantic, the Boston Globe, and New York Magazine. Her research, funded by multiple foundations and institutes, examines diverse families, including LGBTQ-parent families and adoptive-parent families, as well as the experiences of marginalized groups such as trans youth. She is the author

of over 150 peer-reviewed articles, over 25 book chapters, four books, and is the co-editor of five books. Her research has been cited in numerous amicus briefs filed in cases related to marriage equality, gay adoption, trans civil rights, and other topics. She currently serves as a Deputy Editor of the Journal of Marriage and Family and is an editorial board member on seven journals. She teaches courses on diversity in contemporary families, research methods with diverse families, human sexuality, the psychology of sexual orientation, gender and crime, and ethics in clinical psychology.

Panelists:

Joyce Kauffman, Esq. is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts/Amherst (B.S. in Child Development), Lesley University (M.Ed. in Counseling Psychology), and Northeastern University Law School (J.D.). Attorney Kauffman has practiced family law and adoption for the past thirty years. Throughout, she has maintained a special focus on issues impacting the LGBTQ+ community in the areas of adoption, relationship recognition, and parentage. Attorney Kauffman is a frequent presenter at continuing legal education seminars and conferences and has published a number of articles concerning the legal rights of LGBT families. Attorney Kauffman is a founding member of the National Family Law Advisory Council (NFLAC) of the National Center for Lesbian Rights and former President of the Board of Directors of Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD). She is currently a member of the coalition working to pass the Massachusetts Parentage Act. Attorney Kauffman is the recipient of several awards; most recently, she was selected for inclusion to the inaugural class of the Lawyers Hall of Fame.

Francie Mandel, LICSW, is a Senior Clinical Social Work Supervisor at Boston Childrens Hospital in GeMS, the Gender Multispecialty Service. Since 2009 she has participated in the development of GeMS protocols and programming and provided clinical services to gender-diverse youth, teens, young adults, and their families. As a recipient of the David S. Weiner Award for Leadership and Innovation in Child Health in 2012, Ms. Mandel developed several conferences for clinicians, families, and schools. She has provided testimony in support of bills supporting LGBTQI+ rights and presented widely both nationally and internationally regarding current trends in pediatric gender care.

Hon. Nan M. Sauer is an Associate Justice presently sitting in Essex Probate and Family Court. Judge Sauer was appointed by Governor Charlie Baker in May 2022 to fill the Honorable Arthur J. Ryley's seat. She is a cum laude graduate of the University of Notre Dame and magna cum laude graduate of New England Law | Boston. Upon her law school graduation in 2004, Judge Sauer served as a Judicial Law Clerk for the justices of the Probate & Family Court, serving in Barnstable, Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, and Plymouth counties. Prior to serving on the bench, Judge Sauer practiced family law with Lee & Rivers LLP (2006-16), Roberts & Sauer LLP (2016-21), and the Law Offices of Nan M. Sauer (Jan-May 2022). In addition to litigating, Judge Sauer served as a Guardian Ad Litem, Parenting Coordinator, Discovery Master, Mediator, and Conciliator. Judge Sauer remains active in several bar associations and Inns of Court, and participates in a variety of continuing legal education activities. Judge Sauer is a former co-chair of the Massachusetts LGBTQ Bar Association, for which she also served as a board member for a number of years.

Cecil Webster, MD is a child, adolescent, and adult psychiatrist, and a lecturer in psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and McLean Hospital. Dr. Webster writes and presents extensively on racial, sexual, and gender identity development through psychoanalytic and intersectional lenses. He has built a consulting practice working with area schools and organizations such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to develop constructive responses to racial animus, form gender and sexual identity-inclusive policy, and transform difficult moments into important conversations. In addition, he frequently teaches organizations, including the White House, about intersectional thinking. He is an advanced candidate in adult psychoanalysis at the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute, where he serves on the Board of Trustees. Dr. Webster also serves on the Board of Editors for the Psychoanalytic Study of the Child. He enjoys the application of psychoanalytic techniques in understanding large scale complex human problems and individual and family psychotherapy.

Michael Xavier, Esq. is a partner at Prince Lobel Tye LLP in their Domestic Relations Department. A graduate from College of the Holy Cross and Northeastern University School of Law, Michael is a seasoned trial lawyer with more than 20 years of experience working with families in distress caused by divorce, custody, child removal, modification, guardianship, same sex marriages, will contests, and related issues. Michael's practice helps same-sex families establish and protect their legal rights while also helping to build cohesive, safe, and protected family structures. Michael has made it a priority to stay up-to-the-minute on the complex and ever-changing laws by participating in a wide range of professional seminars, conferences, and training programs. He has served as a faculty member of Suffolk University Law School's Continuing Legal Education program titled, *Same-Sex Marriage, Divorce and Parentage Issues*. Michael spoke on the topics including *What is the Portability of Legal Rights for Same Sex Couples: Marriage, Divorce, Parentage, Adoption, and Helping Your Clients With Cultural Issues/Differences in the Courtroom*. He has served as the President of the Greater Boston Family Law Inns of Court and a Board Member of the Massachusetts LGBTQ Bar Association.

Register: <https://www.magalinc.org>

(MAGAL members must first sign into the website to receive member rates.)

Early Bird Registration (until September 22nd, 2023): \$200 for MAGAL members, and \$225 for non-members and \$275, with cost of membership for one year included at no additional cost.

Late Registration (after September 22th, 2023) \$215 for members, and \$240 for non-members.

The cost for the simulcast: \$30 off the regular price. (No lunch)

Please plan on joining your peers and colleagues, in person!

In person venue: *The Conference Center at Waltham Woods, 860 Winter St., Waltham, MA*
(781) 434-7499.
<https://www.massmed.org/About/Directions-to-MMS-Headquarters/>

Simulcast: **UMass Amherst Center at Springfield, 1500 Main St., Springfield, MA**
(413) 788-6277
<https://www.massmed.org/About/Directions-to-MMS-Headquarters/>

CE Credits

- 7.0 Credits awarded for licensed psychologists,
- 7.0 Credits awarded for licensed independent clinical social workers,
- 7.0 CE Credits awarded for MA for Category V - Parenting Coordinators.
- 7.0 CE credits awarded for licensed mental health counselors, and licensed marriage and family therapists.
- 7.0 Credits awarded for CPCS/CAFL