



Managing High Conflict Personalities in Family Cases
January 6, 2012

Co-Sponsored by Marion County Family Law Advisory Committee and the Marion County Bar

Presenter: Bill Eddy, LCSW, Esq.

Bill Eddy is a lawyer, therapist, mediator and the President of High Conflict Institute. He developed the "High Conflict Personality" theory (HCP Theory) and has become an international expert on managing disputes involving high conflict personalities and personality disorders. He provides training on this subject to lawyers, judges, mediators, managers, human resource professionals, businesspersons, healthcare administrators, college administrators, homeowners' association managers, ombudspersons, law enforcement, therapists and others. He has been a speaker and trainer in over 25 states, several provinces in Canada, Australia, France and Sweden.

8:00 a.m. Registration

8:30 Welcome and Remarks by Honorable Thomas M. Hart

8:45 Understanding High Conflict Personalities

High conflict family and juvenile cases are often driven by parties with predictable high conflict personalities. The dynamics of these personalities and their parenting behavior will be presented, including five possible personality disorders which may be involved. Attachment theory and brain research will be explained which provides insight into managing high conflict clients and opposing parties. The frequent occurrence of Negative Advocates will be explained, which commonly includes family members, new partners and sometimes professionals.

10:15 Break

10:30 Managing High Conflict Personalities in Litigation and ADR

Four key skills will be presented, which include practical methods for connecting with and calming upset clients; methods of responding to hostile communications; and ways to stay calm while dealing with high conflict opposing parties, opposing counsel and negative advocates. In litigation, there are predictable problems and sources of useful evidence. In mediation and negotiation there is frequent resistance to settlement which may be overcome with increased structure and management skills. In parenting

12:00 Lunch
Catered by Bon Appétit

1:00 p.m. HCPs in Domestic Violence cases

There are two common HCP patterns in domestic violence cases. One type is over-reactive and unable to manage emotions and distress. The other is more purposeful and intentionally dominating. There are important differences in responding to each.

Assessing Abuse Allegations

True and false allegations of abuse (domestic violence; physical and sexual child abuse; neglect) are very common in high conflict cases and look very similar on the surface. However, there are several factors to consider which may help find and understand evidence, maintain credibility and avoid the pitfalls of confirmatory bias. A new computer-based way of presenting patterns of abusive behavior will be described.

2:45 Break

3:00 HCPs in Alienation Cases

Children with one or two high conflict parents often absorb their emotions and all-or-nothing views of each other, which increasingly results in child alienation against some fathers and some mothers. A new understanding this often-unconscious transfer from parent to child will be presented, as well as methods for preventing, managing and reducing alienation.

Professional Splitting and Incivility

In high conflict cases, professionals often become “split” with intensely emotional conflicts arising between them. Understanding why this occurs and methods to manage professional splitting with civility will be presented.

Coaching Clients Dealing with High Conflict Co-parents

In today’s high conflict cases, professionals are often trying to help reasonable parents deal with a high conflict co-parent. Half to two-thirds of high conflict families appear to have one such reasonable parent. Methods of focusing them on specific skills for dealing with the other parent and for helping the child will be addressed.

4:15 Overview of Day, Wrap, and Final Comments by Honorable Thomas M Hart

4:30 to Reception including Appetizers, Hosted Bar Service and Social Networking

6:30 Catered by Bon Appétit

Applications for 6 NASW and 6 MCLE Credits will be submitted including one hour Ethics Credit, consisting of ½ hour in morning session in the ethical treatment of personality disordered clients and ½ hour in the afternoon session regarding professional splitting and civility.

High Conflict Symposium VIII

Managing High Conflict Personalities in Family Cases
Presenter: Bill Eddy, LCSW, Esq., High Conflict Institute LLC

January 6, 2012

Paulus Lecture Hall

Willamette University College of Law
245 Winter St., Salem, Oregon

Schedule of Events

- 8:00 a.m. Registration
- 8:30 **Welcome and Introductions**
Judge Thomas Hart, Marion County Circuit Court Judge
- 8:45 **Understanding High Conflict Personalities (HCP)**
- 10:30 **Managing HCPs in Litigation and ADR**
- 12:00 noon **Lunch Break**
Catered by Bon Appétit
- 1:00 p.m. **HCPs in Domestic Violence Cases**
Assessing Abuse Allegations
- 3:00 **HCPs in Alienation Cases**
Professional Splitting and Incivility
Coaching Clients Dealing with High Conflict Co-Parents
- 4:15 **Overview of Day, Wrap, and Final Comments**
Judge Thomas Hart
- 4:30 Adjourn to Social Networking

Applications for 6 NASW and 6 MCLE Credits will be submitted

QUESTIONS? Contact David.L.Bertram@ojd.state.or.us or phone 503- 584-4754 for more information.

Sponsored by the Marion County Family Law Advisory Committee and the Marion County Bar Association. Special thanks to Willamette University for providing the space. Willamette students and faculty may attend free of charge, but must preregister. Limited scholarships and group discounts available, please contact for details.

REGISTRATION FORM

Last Name, First Name

Address

City State Zip

Daytime Telephone

Email Address

Willamette Student / Faculty

Boxed lunches will be served at Noon

Please check lunch preference:

- turkey roast beef
 ham vegetarian

Fill out this form and mail check for \$75 payable to "Marion County Bar Association" to:

Marion County Courthouse
Attention: David Bertram
PO Box 12869
Salem, OR 97309-0869

REGISTER EARLY - SPACE IS LIMITED