



The American
Professional Society
on the Abuse of Children[™]

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Pre-Conference – Advanced Training Institutes Speaker Bios

Marla R. Brassard, PhD, is Professor in the School Psychology Program at Teachers College, Columbia University. For 37 years her research has focused on psychological maltreatment of children by parents, teachers, and peers. She has co-authored four books, many articles/chapters, co-wrote the Guidelines for the Psychosocial Evaluation of Suspected Psychological Maltreatment (APSAC, 1995; 2017), and is an expert witness in capital and custody cases involving psychological maltreatment. Throughout that time, she has trained graduate students in individual psychological assessment and diagnosis. She is a licensed psychologist and has conducted and/or supervised hundreds of individual psychoeducational evaluations for individuals ages 2 to 50. Among her many publications is a coauthored graduate text, Brassard & Boehm (2007), *Preschool Assessment: Perspective and Strategies*. New York: Guilford Press. Since 1995 she has been a consultant, testing agencies on applicant requests for accommodations on their exams for neurodevelopmental and mental health problems. She is a fellow of the American Psychological Association and past president of the Council of Directors of School Psychology Programs (CDSPP).

Janet Rosenzweig, PhD., MPA holds a BS in Family Studies and an MS in Health Education from The Pennsylvania State University. She earned certification as a sex educator and in 1978 brought that perspective to one of the first child sexual abuse programs in the country located in East Tennessee. Dr. Rosenzweig managed child welfare programs in Tennessee and Texas before moving to New Jersey in 1984. She earned a PhD in Social Work from Rutgers University. Janet founded one of the first County Commissions on Child Abuse in New Jersey and served for nine years as the cabinet level Mercer County Director of Human Services. She earned an MPA from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government in 2008, and then joined the faculty of Montclair State University as a Visiting Associate Professor of Child Advocacy. Rosenzweig later served as the Vice President for Research and Programs for Prevent Child Abuse America with managing a national technical assistance center for sex abuse prevention among her responsibilities. In 2011, she drew on her

experiences as a sex educator working with child abuse prevention to write *The Sex-Wise Parent: The Parent's Guide Protecting Your Child, Strengthening Your Family, and Talking to Kids about Sex, Abuse, and Bullying*, (Skyhorse Publishing, 2012). As an alumnus of The Pennsylvania State University, she returned multiple times in 2012 and 2013 to conduct workshops for faculty, staff, students and families and helped write and is featured in the University's required on-line training program in sexual abuse prevention.

Janet is currently the Executive Director of The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) and a Lecturer at The Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania.

Mel Schneiderman, Ph.D. is a clinician, researcher, author, frequent lecturer, and leader of numerous public health efforts in the area of child maltreatment. His research interests and expertise include the mental health treatment of traumatized children and psychological maltreatment.

Dr. Schneiderman co-founded the Center with Dr. Vincent J. Fontana in 1997 and served as its director from 1997 to 2007. He assumed this role again in March 2015 when the Center became incorporated under auspices of The New York Foundling. Dr. Schneiderman has served in leadership roles at The New York Foundling continuously since 1977: first as its Chief Psychologist (1980-2006) and then as Senior Vice President of Mental Health Services (2006-2015), with responsibility for all program development, evidence-based treatment, and evaluation services for The Foundling's Mental Health Services department, serving between 800 and 1200 maltreated children and their families living in foster boarding homes and congregate care placements. Dr. Schneiderman also directed and supervised The Foundling's staff psychiatrists, psychologists, clinical social workers, mental health counselors and creative arts therapists.

Dr. Schneiderman serves on the Executive Committee and Boards of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) and Prevent Child Abuse New York (PCANY) and helped forge the formal partnership between APSAC and The New York Foundling in October 2016. He is past President of APSAC-New York; co-founder and former Chairperson of New York City's Committee of Clinicians in Child Welfare; Founder and former Chair of New York City's Inter-Group Coalition on Problematic Sexualized Behaviors; and former Board member of the New York City Alliance against Sexual Assault. Dr. Schneiderman has previously served on the Clinical Division of New York State's Psychological Association, the New York City Alliance against Sexual Assault, and The Center for Learning Differences, and the Healthy Families New York State Home Visiting Council. He currently serves on the Advisory Board of the New York Center for Children and the Board of PARTNERS Clinic at St. John's University, and he is currently Chair of the Executive Committee of the National Summit to End Corporal Punishment in the United States.

In 1986, Dr. Schneiderman founded the first child sexual abuse treatment program located within a child welfare agency. He established the first ever Healthy Family

Visiting Program in Staten Island, providing home-based services to expectant and new mothers to prevent child abuse and neglect. Dr. Schneiderman had an early career in the public schools as a special education teacher and school psychologist, and had a private practice from 1979 to 2007.

Dr. Schneiderman is co-author of *Bonded to the Abuser: How Victims make Sense of Childhood Abuse* (Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, May 2015) with Dr. Amy Baker. His article "Mental Health Referrals and Treatment in a Sample of Youth in Foster Care" appeared in *Children and Youth Services Review* in 2017. He has presented at over 50 conferences and workshops, is the recipient of numerous foundation grants, and has published over 20 articles in peer-reviewed journals.

Stacie LeBlanc, J.D., M.Ed., is the Executive Director of the New Orleans Children's Advocacy Center (NOCAC) and Audrey Hepburn CARE Center, non-profit programs of Children's Hospital New Orleans that provide forensic exams for over 1,500 children annually.

Twenty-seven years ago, Stacie began her career as a child abuse prosecutor, started CACs in urban and rural parishes, became the chief of the Felony Child Abuse Division and began the Family Violence Program. As assistant district attorney at the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office, Stacie led a successful child abuse felony prosecution program for ten years that reached a 94% conviction rate. She helped start a child abuse pediatric fellowship and along with her child abuse pediatricians published a book, *Check Out the Check-Up*.

Stacie has created three sought after programs which provide interactive adult learning for the translation and dissemination of research into practice including *Beyond Mandatory Reporting; Teens, Sex, and the Law;* and *Painless Parenting* and has provided over 400 trainings. She has trained over 27,412 individuals in the last five years. She has also created a social media campaign, *Dear Parents*, which aims to translate the most prevalent risk factor for child physical abuse, corporal punishment, utilizing images of community leaders and national experts.

Stacie was recognized for 11 successful legislative amendments and named the Champion for Children for Policy and Legislation. She has received the FBI Directors and Community Leadership Award, Outstanding Prosecutor Award and Health Care Hero Award by New Orleans City Business.

Stacie is currently the President of the Louisiana Alliance of Children's Advocacy Centers and the Vice President of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC). Victims and Citizens Against Crime awarded Stacie the Lifetime Achievement Award. Stacie is thrilled to implement her CAST certification at Tulane University and the pilot class was highly rated by over 100 undergraduates.

Julie Kenniston, MSW, LISW is a Program Manager for the National Criminal Justice Training Center, a program of Fox Valley Technical College. She is also an independent contractor and trainer presenting nationally and internationally on interviewing and investigation of child abuse and exploitation cases. Ms. Kenniston conducts forensic

interviews for the Northern Kentucky Children's Advocacy Center and for the Southwest Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. Ms. Kenniston has nonprofit management experience as the former Executive Director of The Center for Family Solutions, Butler County's developing family justice center in Hamilton, Ohio. She specializes in the areas of forensic interviews, interdisciplinary teamwork, peer review, sexual abuse and exploitation issues, domestic violence dynamics, and child sex trafficking. Ms. Kenniston is a licensed independent social worker in Ohio. As a board member of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) having served two terms, she remains as the co-chair of the forensic interview committee and chairs the APSAC Media Guidelines committee. Ms. Kenniston is co-author and co-editor of the 3rd Edition of Handbook on Questioning Children: A Linguistic Perspective, originally written by Anne Graffam Walker, Ph.D., and published by the American Bar Association.

Ms. Kenniston organized and coordinated the Forensic Training Institute for The Childhood Trust in Cincinnati, Ohio starting in August 1997 and manages an updated version of this five-day forensic interviewing course. She co-authored the Forensic Interview Training Manual for the state of Illinois with Erna Olafson, Ph.D., Psy.D and authored the State of Wisconsin Forensic Interview Guidelines curriculum. She has also co-authored and edited Beyond the Silence, a two and a half-day forensic interviewer course provided by the Ohio Network of Child Advocacy Centers. Ms. Kenniston is a faculty member for Finding Words Ohio. She trains for the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children Forensic Interviewing Clinics.

Ms. Kenniston was a contributor on three U. S. Department of Justice documents on the topic of abduction: What About Me? Coping with the Abduction of a Brother or Sister; You're not Alone: the Journey from Abduction to Empowerment; and The Crime of Family Abduction: A Child's and Parent's Perspective. Ms. Kenniston volunteered in clinical support positions for Take Root, an organization established by adults who were abducted as children. She assisted in both face-to-face and online support.

As a trainer for the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program, Ms. Kenniston trained both standardized and advanced skills trainings, in addition to mentoring in the field. Ms. Kenniston co-authored the Developing Skills in Interviewing Techniques with Young Children curriculum with Cynthia King, MSSA, LISW, and Sally Fitch, MSW, LSW. She also contributed to Building Skills in Family Risk Assessment, Overview of Child Sexual Abuse, and Investigative Interviewing in Child Sexual Abuse Cases curricula.

Ms. Kenniston has worked in two child protective services agencies in Ohio. She was a Sexual Abuse Investigator for the Hamilton County Department of Human Services where she conducted over 3,000 forensic interviews of alleged child victims of sexual abuse. In this capacity, she testified in juvenile court, domestic relations court, and criminal court. Ms. Kenniston was also a Training Director in Butler County Ohio where she trained and mentored staff and worked with multidisciplinary team members for cross systems collaboration. Prior to investigating for Hamilton County, Ms. Kenniston worked with adjudicated delinquents at the United Methodist Children's Home.