

ACFLS²⁰/₂₆ FALL SEMINAR

Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa, Monterey, CA

**October 9th, 10th,
and 11th 2026**

ACFLS Annual Fall Seminar

Many family law practitioners make a conscious decision not to take domestic violence cases. However, whether we acknowledge it or not, domestic violence is likely a part of many of our cases. One in four women and one in nine men experience some form of domestic violence in their lifetime. The consequences of domestic violence are devastating, and far reaching.

This three half day seminar will provide you with a framework of what domestic violence is, how we got here, assessing risk, firearm and firearm procedures, tips on how to work with Family Court Services and other experts, safety planning and evidence collection in our high tech world, as well as the basics and nuances of litigating a domestic violence case.

2026 Fall Seminar Program

When Conflict Becomes Dangerous

Identifying and Navigating Domestic Violence in Family Law

Friday
OCT 9

11:00 am-1:00 pm

Seminar Registration

Fairway Hospitality

1:00 pm-1:15 pm

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Cypress Ballroom

1:15 pm-3:15 pm

Understanding Conflict and Violence: What We Need to Know to Most Effectively Represent Parties (2 hours)

*Honorable Mark A. Juhas and Julia F. Weber,
JD, MSW*

In this facilitated exercise and discussion, participants will learn about various ways conflict and violence impact family law cases and approaches practitioners can take to increase client safety effectively and fairly. The significance of allegations and findings of domestic violence and addressing questions such as, why victims may not leave and why those perpetrating violence may not stop will also be covered. Faculty will also address the current research on conflict and violence in intimate partner cases relevant to managing these cases.

3:15 pm-3:30 pm

Break (15 minutes)

Foyer

3:30 pm-4:30 pm

What Policymakers Believe: Research and Cases Impacting California Family Law Policy (1 hour)

Honorable Mark A. Juhas

Legislators listen to their constituents. They also listen to and read the news. Specific events may drive the legislature to react by passing legislation. Appellate courts rely on social science literature in reaching policy determinations in DV cases. This session will provide the foundation for some of the laws and opinions that impact how the law is created and interpreted.

4:30 pm-5:30 pm

Assessing Risk: Tools For Family Law Practitioners (1 hour)

*Lorie Nachlis, CFLS, AAML, IAML, and
Julia F. Weber, JD, MSW*

This session explores the critical role family law professionals can play in detecting and reducing risks of harm in family law cases. Participants will learn practical strategies for assessing and addressing risks related to high-conflict situations, domestic violence, and access to firearms or other weapons. Through the use of structured forms, key questions, and evidence-based assessment tools, attendees will gain concrete approaches to enhancing safety for clients, their children, practitioners, and the broader community.

5:30 pm-7:00 pm

Welcome Reception

Plaza

Saturday

OCT 10

6:30 am-8:00 am

Breakfast Buffet

Port Lobos Foyer

7:30 am-8:00 am

Registration

Fairway Hospitality

8:00 am-8:15 am

Announcements

Cypress Ballroom

8:15 am-10:15 am

How We Got Here: Family and Criminal Domestic Violence Law Development (2 hours)

Tülin Açıkalin, CFLS

Domestic violence law has been significantly shaped by legislative changes and court decisions over the last 20 plus years. Effectively advocating for those who have experienced or perpetrated domestic violence requires an in depth understanding of what legally constitutes "domestic violence" and the impact domestic violence has on clients and their children. This session will cover the various types of physical and emotional abuse; coercive control; child custody and visitation issues; mutual allegations; and other related topics, including new and significant cases.

10:15 am-10:30 am

Break (15 minutes)

Foyer

10:30 am-12:00 pm

Firearms, Domestic Violence, Custody and Visitation and Criminal Law Issues: Key Legal Requirements and Procedures (1.5 hours)

Julia F. Weber, JD, MSW

Over the last few years, California has adopted significant policy changes relevant to firearm ownership, domestic violence, child custody and visitation, and criminal and civil court procedures. In this session, attendees will learn about the extensive set of legal requirements and federal court cases on firearms relevant to both criminal and civil matters. Key policies including SB 320 and SB 899 on firearms relinquishment; SB 599 on child custody and visitation - including "virtual visitation" and no contact provisions; and other statutory changes and changes to court forms will be discussed.

12:00 pm-12:15 pm

Break (15 minutes)

Foyer

12:15 pm-1:15 pm

Working with Family Court Services, Evaluators, and Experts (1 hour)

*Honorable Julie A. Emede, Honorable Mark A.
Juhas, and Cheryl J. Scott*

It is very common that a DV case will have a mediation appointment with Family Court Services. The parties may individually or collectively retain an expert on the impact of DV on a parent or child. How can these resources be best used in a DV setting? What do you want to teach the bench officer? Is the case amenable to FCS mediation? Is an expert the right choice? All these questions and more will be addressed in this session.

Sunday

OCT 11

6:30 am-8:00 am

Breakfast Buffet

Point Lobos Foyer

8:00 am-8:15 am

Announcements

Cypress Ballroom

8:15 am-9:15 am

The Intersection of Hi-Tech Stalking in Domestic Violence and Family Law Cases (1 hour)

Steven Bradley

As our dependency and use of technology increases, we rely on electronic devices to complete many daily activities. Unfortunately, these same technologies are being seen more and more in family law cases where offenders have identified ways to exploit them to facilitate harm towards their victims and co-parents alike. In this interactive workshop, Steven Bradley will explore the risks and benefits of technology, not only for the clients we serve, but also for you in your personal and professional lives. Attendees will learn safety planning and evidence collection strategies for phone technology, location apps, social media, and more. Non-technical language will be used throughout the presentation and how to safely navigate the world of technology.

9:15 am-9:30 am

Break (15 minutes)

Foyer

9:30 am-11:30 am

Basics and Nuances of Litigating Domestic Violence (2 hours)

*Honorable Monica F. Wiley, Honorable Andrew
G. Liu, and Jillian Duggan-Herd, CFLS, AAML*

This panel explores the critical stages of domestic violence litigation in family law, from initial client intake through trial preparation. We'll examine essential considerations when conducting sensitive client interviews, strategic decisions in filing and responding to domestic violence restraining orders, and key procedural issues practitioners commonly encounter. The discussion will cover discovery strategies including when and how to make requests, timing considerations for extending or expediting evidentiary hearings, burden of proof standards, witness preparation techniques, best practices for trial readiness, and presenting your case in court. Whether you're handling your first domestic violence case or refining your approach, this session will provide practical insights into both foundational principles and sophisticated tactical considerations in this complex area of practice.

11:30 am-11:45 am

Break (15 minutes)

Foyer

11:45 am-12:45 pm

Ask the Judges - The Last Word (1 hour)

*Honorable Mark A. Juhas, Honorable Monica
F. Wiley, Honorable Andrew G. Liu, and
Honorable Julie A. Emede*

Registration

for ACFLS 2026 Fall Seminar

Register online at <https://acfls.org/event/2026-acfls-annual-fall-seminar>, or mail/fax registration form to:

Leanna Reynolds, ACFLS Executive Director
1296 E. Gibson Rd., Ste. A #253, Woodland, CA 95776
Phone: 916-217-4076 • Fax: 916-930-6122

Pay by credit card or envelope check payment to ACFLS.

Registration is not complete until tuition payment is received.

Seminar Registration Includes:

- Three half days (12.5 hours of MCLE and Family Law Specialization credits, with 1 hour of Technology.)
- Friday evening Welcome Reception
- Saturday and Sunday Breakfast Buffets
- Coffee and snacks at breaks
- Electronic materials including seminar handbook and additional materials.

ACFLS Members: \$750; Non-members: \$825

NOTE: SEMINAR REGISTRATION FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE & NON-TRANSFERABLE.

ACFLS Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa Room Reservations.

2026 Fall Seminar attendees are solely responsible for making their own transportation and lodging arrangements.

The 2026 Fall Seminar discounted room rates start at \$309 per night exclusive of resort fee and parking.

Discounted room rates may apply for three nights before and three nights after the seminar dates, subject to availability.

If you have a succinct question for the Judges' "Last Word" panel on a topic related to this year's theme –no more than 25 words, not related to any pending case– please email your question to Leanna Reynolds at Executive.Director@acfls.org.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY/STATE/ZIP:

Is a Guest Attending the **FRIDAY NIGHT RECEPTION**?

Yes No

GUESTS MUST BE PREREGISTERED AND HAVE A NAME TAG.

EMAIL ADDRESS: (REQUIRED)

ACFLS MEMBER PRICE @ \$750

NON-MEMBER PRICE @ \$825

ATTORNEY PRACTICING UNDER 5 YEARS @ \$650

DATE ADMITTED TO STATE BAR: (REQUIRED)

NON-PROFIT @ \$650

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: (REQUIRED)

BENCH OFFICERS (CURRENTLY SITTING ON FAMILY LAW ASSIGNMENT) (NO CHARGE)

ALL ATTENDEES WILL RECEIVE PROGRAM AND MATERIALS ELECTRONICALLY.

GRAND TOTAL: \$

CHECK ENCLOSED

TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD PLEASE GO TO [HTTPS://ACFLS.ORG/](https://acfls.org/event/2026-acfls-annual-fall-seminar) EVENT/2026-ACFLS-ANNUAL-FALL-SEMINAR AND REGISTER ONLINE.