

Disability and Divorce Conference November 14 and 15, 2024 (9am - 4pm)
Creekside Community Centre (1 Athletes Way), Vancouver, BC

8:30 am – Check in and Registration

9:00 am- Welcome /housekeeping etc.
MC's: Jennifer Rowbotham and Michelle Kooy

Day One Outline

9:15 am – 10:15 am

What is disability from a legal, financial and mental health perspective

Presenters:

Roxanne Mykitiuk: *BA, LLB, LLM, JSD, Full Professor at Osgoode Hall Law School (with a focus on research and teaching in the areas of Disability Law, Health Law, Bioethics and Family Law)*

Shelley Kierstead: *LLB, LLM, PhD, Assistant Professor at Osgoode Hall Law School (with a focus on Family Law, Access to Justice, and Dispute Resolution)*

10:15 am– 10:30 am - Break

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Recommendations for professionals working with people with disabilities, including accommodations

Presenters:

Gisella la Madrid; *BA, MA, RCC-ACS, Child and Family Counsellor, Child Specialist and Divorce Coach (with a focus on neurodivergent children), Founder of Strong Ties, Child and Family Services*

Elisa Court; *MSW, RSW, RCC, Clinical Director and Counsellor at EC Family Support Services, Teacher and Author with a focus on working with neurodivergent individuals*

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm - Lunch

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Actuarial Valuation of Defined Benefit Pensions and Insurance Policies (and the effect of disability on pensions and insurance policies)

Presenter:

Stephen Cheng; *Managing Director and Senior Consulting Actuary with WestCoast Actuaries*

2:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Parenting Plan Workshop Part 1

Presenters:

Alyson Jones: *MA, RCC, President and Clinical Director of Alyson Jones & Associates, Child & Family Therapist, Divorce Specialist*

Leanne Harder: *RSW, Child Professional, Divorce Coach (at Olive Branch Consulting)*

2:30 pm - 2:45 pm – Break

2:45 pm – 4:00 pm

Parenting Plan Workshop Part 2

Hosts: Alyson Jones and Leanne Harder**Panelists:**

Eve Minuk: *Teacher consultant regarding children with disabilities*

Lily de Sousa: *Education Assistant*

Sally Turner: *Parent with an adult disabled child*

Day Two Outline

9:00 am - Welcome /housekeeping etc.
MC's: Jennifer Rowbotham and Michelle Kooy

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Financial resources available to families with a disability (child or parent) and how these resources impact child and spousal support

Presenters:

Cathie Hurlburt: *R.F.P., FMA, CFP, CLU®, CHS, Senior Financial Planner, Chartered Financial Divorce Specialist*

Nicole Garton-Jones: *B.A., LL.B, LL.M., C.Med, FEA, TEP*

10:00 am - 10:15 am– Break

10:15 am – 11:30 am

Neurodivergent children and adults: considerations for parents and other professionals

Presenters:

Dr. Annie Simpson: *Ph.D., Registered Psychologist (with a focus on anxiety disorders), Director of Cornerstone Child and Family Psychology Clinic, Clinical Associate in the Department of Psychology at Simon Fraser University.*

Dr. Grace Iarocci: *Ph.D., Registered Psychologist, Director of Autism and Developmental Disabilities Lab, Professor in the Department of Psychology at Simon Fraser University*

11:30 am – 12:30 am

Panel Discussion – Experiences with neurodivergent children and parents on separation and divorce

Panelists (parents of neurodivergent children):

Mary Swan

Renée le Nobel

Elizabeth Kivari

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch

1:30 PM –2:30 PM

Case Law Update – Spousal Support and disability and

Case Law Update – Adult children; child support and disability

Presenters:

Johanna Stein: *LLB, Partner at Coal Harbour Law*

Joe Broadhurst: *LLB, Partner at Broadhurst Kooy LLP*

2:30 PM- 2:45 PM - Break

2:45 pm – 3:45 pm

Long term financial planning for children and adults with disability

Presenter:

Nicole Garton-Jones: *B.A., LL.B, LL.M., C.Med, FEA, TEP, Senior counsel at Lindsay Kenney LLP and Co-founder of Heritage Trust*

3:45 pm – 4:00 pm Closing remarks

Mc/Host: Jennifer Rowbotham and Michelle Kooy

Presenters Bios

[Roxanne Mykitiuk](#) is a Full Professor at Osgoode Hall Law School, where she engages in research and teaching in the areas of Disability Law, Health Law, Bioethics and Family Law. She is the founder and Director of the Disability Law Intensive clinical program and the Director of Osgoode's part-time LLM program specializing in Health Law. She is a member of the core faculty in the graduate program in Critical Disability Studies at York University.

Professor [Shelley Kierstead's](#) research interests lie in the areas of family law, access to justice, and dispute resolution. Professor Kierstead has also coordinated a parent education program for separating parents entitled the "Parent Information Program." This program is an initiative of Osgoode's Centre for Public Law and Public Policy. Research Interests: Family Law, Legal Process

[Gisella La Madrid](#) is a Registered Clinical Counsellor (RCC) with a Master's degree in Counselling Psychology from Adler University. Gisella has a general counselling practice and successfully works with toddlers, children, tweens, adults of all ages, and families. She specializes in behaviour problems, parent coaching and separation and divorce.

[Elisa Court](#) As the creator of Neuro-environmental Integration (NEI) Therapy. Her mission is to prevent and heal trauma for neurodivergent individuals by offering a comprehensive roadmap to understanding their unique perspectives, sensory and social needs, and cognitive and learning differences.

[Alyson Jones](#) is the Clinical Director and the visionary at Alyson Jones & Associates. She enthusiastically leads one of the largest counselling centers in the province of British Columbia and approaches her work with passion and commitment. She enjoys contribution, connection and community. Her work as clinical director, counsellor, public speaker, parent educator, teacher and author enables her to touch the lives of many.

[Leanne Harder](#) uses various therapeutic approaches including strength-based, cognitive-behavioural, family systems, and anti-oppressive. Leanne finds adult attachment research informs much of the work she does. Leanne helps parents to protect their children from the coparent conflict which is the best predictor of children's healthy emotional adjustment to their parents' separation.

[Cathie Hurlburt](#) has received numerous awards for her work as a financial advisor, including the Five Star Wealth Manager Award in 2011, 2012 and 2013. She was named BC's Advisor of the Year in 2003 by Advisor's Edge Magazine. Cathie is a partner and Senior Financial Planner at Integrated Planning Group. She has been providing financial planning services and advice to clients since 1987. Cathie is licensed with Assante Financial Management and is also a licensed life, accident and sickness insurance agent.

[Nicole Garton](#) has been a lawyer since 2001 and co-founded Heritage Trust in 2018 with Brian Dougherty, B.Comm., CPA, CA. Nicole has many years of experience advising on all aspects of estate planning and administration, including wills, powers of attorney and trusts, as well as applications for probate and letters of administration. Nicole is a member of the Society of Estate and Trust Practitioners (STEP) and the Estate Planning Councils of Vancouver and the Fraser Valley. Nicole volunteers and has leadership roles with a number of community non-profit organizations.

[Dr. Annie Simpson](#) has a clinical practice that focuses on anxiety disorders, particularly those affecting young children. In addition to her work with Cornerstone, she is a Clinical Associate in the Department of Psychology at Simon Fraser University and has been a staff psychologist in the Pediatric OCD Program at BC Children's Hospital. Dr. Annie also works as a consultant for Anxiety BC, providing lectures and workshops, and developing self-help materials for children and adolescents. She is a member of several professional organizations, including the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, the Selective Mutism Group – Childhood Anxiety Network, the International OCD Foundation, Anxiety and Depression Association of America, and the BC Psychological Association.

[Dr. Grace Iarocci](#) is the Director of the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Lab (ADDL) and a Professor of Psychology at Simon Fraser University. She was also a Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Scholar and a faculty mentor of the Autism Research Training Program (ART). The ART program was funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR), designed to recruit and train outstanding researchers of autism in disciplines such as psychology, genetics, imaging, epidemiology, and neurology.

[Johanna Stein](#) has practiced exclusively in the field of family law for more than 10 years. Johanna supports her clients in all areas of family law, including those relating to children, support, property division, and drafting marriage and separation agreements. As an accredited family law mediator and collaborative law professional.

[Joe Broadhurst](#) obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree, with a Joint Specialty in Political Science and Philosophy, from the University of Toronto in 2005. Joe completed his law degree at the University of British Columbia in 2008. Throughout Joe's professional career he has focused exclusively on family law. He understands the value of being able to negotiate fair settlements. Joe's view is that there is no single best process, and that achieving the best result for an individual client requires close attention to their goals, their needs, and their comfort level with the process we employ.

Early Bird Pricing (Ends September 30, 2024):

as Low as

\$467 (Non-Lawyers, early bird price)

\$467 1-Day (Lawyers, early bird price)

\$764 2-Day (Lawyer, early bird price)

In-Person Training at Creekside Community Centre

*Please note pricing is a 2 for 1 for non-lawyers. Pricing is the same for 1 day or 2 day

attendance for non-lawyers (although please indicate if you only plan to attend 1 day).

Presenters, please reach out to [Beatrice](#) for pricing.