

# **Law and Ethics in Counseling Conference 2026**

**(11th Annual)**



**January 27-30, 2026**  
**In-Person and Virtual Options**

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## Law and Ethics in Counseling Conference 2026

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### **In-Person & Virtual Options for the Conference**

- The 11th Annual Law & Ethics in Counseling Conference will be held January 27–30, 2026, with both in-person sessions at the Bourbon Orleans Hotel and virtual sessions occurring simultaneously.
- In-person registrants may also attend any virtual sessions, and virtual registrants can participate in the in-person sessions through live virtual access.
- All participants, regardless of registration type, will have access to session video recordings and may earn continuing education hours for one month after the conference concludes.
- To access the virtual program online with Zoom links, go to <https://uhcno.edu/academics/ways-to-learn/continuing-education.php>

### **Keynote Speakers & Conference Chair**



**Dr. Mary Hermann**



**Dr. Barbara Herlihy**



**Dr. Ted Remley**



**Dr. Warren Wright**



**Dr. Gerard Lawson**

### **Speakers and Professional Content**

The 11th Annual Law and Ethics in Counseling Conference will provide up-to-date, cutting-edge content in counseling law and ethics, with both in-person and virtual participation options available. In-person attendees will enjoy dedicated time to experience the joy and ambiance of the New Orleans French Quarter, and specialists in counseling law and ethics will offer presentations and roundtable discussions based on their areas of expertise. Featured keynote speakers with substantial expertise in counseling law and ethics will also address participants throughout the event.

- Dr. Mary A. Hermann is an attorney and counselor educator who serves as a professor at the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg, Kentucky. She will highlight recent legal cases

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that have implications for the practice of counselors, counselor supervisors, and counselor educators.

- Dr. Warren Wright is this year's Community Impact and Engagement keynote speaker sponsored by NBCC. Dr. Wright will present the keynote address titled "The Burdens We Carry: Ethical Considerations of Black Professional Counselors Addressing Racial Trauma in Counseling."
- Dr. Barbara Herlihy is a national authority on counseling ethics and a professor emerita at the University of New Orleans. She will present "Surviving and Thriving in Tough Times: Maintaining Your Moral Compass Amidst Ongoing Moral Injury and Moral Distress."
- Dr. Gerard Lawson is a professor in the counselor education program at Virginia Tech and a past president of ACA, AASCB, and ACES. He will deliver the keynote "Ethics Complaints and Sanctions: A Licensing Board Perspective."
- Dr. Ted Remley is the conference director and a professor of counseling at the University of Holy Cross in New Orleans, Louisiana. As both an attorney and a counselor, he is widely published in the area of legal and ethical issues in counseling and will contribute his expertise to the conference proceedings.

### **Additional Conference Information**

This annual national refereed conference brings together counselor educators, counseling graduate students, and counseling practitioners to explore the latest developments in counseling law and ethics. In-person participants can earn up to 14 continuing education hours during the conference, while virtual participants may earn up to 20 hours through live Zoom sessions. All attendees can earn additional continuing education hours during the month following the conference by viewing recordings of sessions they were unable to attend. Those joining us in person will also enjoy the sights, music, ambiance, and world-class restaurants of New Orleans.

*NBCC has approved the University of Holy Cross as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 4268. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. The University of Holy Cross is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs.*



## **Sponsors**



**National Board for Certified Counselors**  
[NBCC | National Board for Certified Counselors](#)

The National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) is proud to be a paid sponsor of this conference. For the fourth time this year, NBCC is supporting a keynote presentation.



**Stephens College Counseling Program**  
[Stephens College Master of Education in Counseling](#)



**American Counseling Association**  
[American Counseling Association | A professional home for counselors](#)



<https://northlakebh.org/>



<https://thenesscenter.com/>

***Merci Beaucoup***

## Location



**Bourbon Orleans Hotel**  
[www.bourbonorleans.com](http://www.bourbonorleans.com)



**St. Louis Cathedral in Jackson Square and the famous French Market  
located steps away from the Bourbon Orleans Hotel.**




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### **Conference Daily Schedule Summary** **(Central Time Zone)**

#### **The schedule below is subject to modifications.**

The virtual conference will begin at 8:30 am on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, and the in-person conference will start at 4:30 pm that day. Both formats conclude at 12:30 pm on Friday, January 30, 2026. Virtual participants may also join live broadcasts of in-person sessions during the event. All in-person and virtual sessions—except for in-person roundtables—will be available as video recordings for one month following the conference.

<b>Tuesday January 27, 2026</b>	
8:30 am	Welcome to the Virtual Conference, Dr. Sarah Irvin
8:45 am-4:00 pm	Virtual Presentations
1:00 pm-6:00 pm	Registration and Information: Hotel Foyer
3:00 pm-3:30 pm	Opening Second Line: Meet in Sheraton Hotel Foyer (500 Canal Street)
4:30 pm	In-Person Conference Begins
4:30 pm-6:00 pm	Broadcast of In-Person Conference Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome by Dr. Ted Remley, Conference Director, and Dr. Sarah Irvin, Program Chair</li><li>• Greetings from the University of Holy Cross by Dr. Lisa M. Sullivan, Provost &amp; Vice-President for Academic Affairs</li><li>• Greetings from Dr. Kylie Dotson-Blake, President and CEO, National Board for Certified Counselors,</li><li>• <b>Keynote Address by Dr. Mary A. Hermann, Professor at the University of the Cumberland</b></li></ul>
6:00-7:15 pm	 <i>In-Person Reception: Celebrate New Orleans with a Brass Band, hors d'oeuvres, and a cash bar (Located at St. Mary's)</i>
<b>Wednesday January 28, 2026</b>	
7:45 am-5:00 pm	Registration and Information: Hotel Entry Foyer
8:30 am-9:30 am	In-Person Presentations
9:30 am-10:00 am	Break
10:00 am-11:00 am	In-Person Presentations
11:15 am-12:15 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Keynote Address by Dr. Warren Wright, Owner of Transformational Counseling, Coaching, and Consulting in Austin, Texas; Community Impact and Engagement Speaker sponsored by NBCC</b></li><li>• In-Person Presentations</li></ul>
12:15 pm -1:45 pm	Break: Lunch Provided
1:45 pm-2:45 pm	In-Person Presentations
2:45 pm-3:00 pm	Break
3:00 pm-4:00 pm	In-Person Presentations
3:30 pm-4:30 pm	King Cake: Grab a slice to help finish the day
4:00 pm-4:15 pm	Break

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4:15 pm-5:15 pm	In-Person Presentations
<b>Thursday January 29, 2026</b>	
7:45 am-12:30 pm	Registration and Information: Hotel Entry Foyer
8:30 am-9:30 am	In-Person Presentations
10:00 am-11:00 am	In-Person Presentations
11:15 am-12:15 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keynote Address by Dr. Barbara Herlihy, Professor Emerita at the University of New Orleans</li> <li>• In-Person Presentations</li> </ul>
<b>Friday January 30, 2026</b>	
7:45 am-12:30 pm	Registration and Information: Hotel Entry Foyer
8:30-9:30 am	In-Person Presentations
10:00-11:00 am	In-Person Presentations
11:15 am-12:15 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keynote Address by Dr. Gerard Lawson, Professor of Counselor Education at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia</li> <li>• Conference Closing by Dr. Ted Remley, Conference Director, and Dr. Sarah Irvin, Program Chair</li> </ul>
12:30 pm	In-Person and Virtual Conference End

To access the virtual program online with Zoom links, go to <https://uhcno.edu/academics/ways-to-learn/continuing-education.php>





## Daily Presentation Schedule (Central Time Zone)

**Tuesday  
January 27, 2026**

**1:00 pm-6:00 pm**

**Registration and Information: Hotel Entry Foyer**

**3:00 pm-3:30 pm**

### **Opening Second Line**

Gather in the lobby of the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel (500 Canal Street) to join NBCC participants for a second line to the Bourbon Orleans Hotel. The parade will last approximately 20–30 minutes and follow a brass band for about 10 blocks. Wear comfortable shoes and feel free to bring Mardi Gras umbrellas or festive attire.

**4:30 pm-6:00 pm**

### **In-Person Conference Opening Session**

Dr. Ted Remley, Conference Director,  
Professor, University of Holy Cross  
Dr. Sarah Irvin, Program Chair, Assistant Professor,  
Stephens College

Dr. Lisa M. Sullivan, Provost & Vice-President for Academic  
Affairs, University of Holy Cross

Dr. Kylie Dotson-Blake, President and CEO, National Board for  
Certified Counselors

#### **Keynote Speaker:**

Mary Hermann, JD, Ph.D., LPC  
Professor at the University of the Cumberland in Williamsburg,  
Kentucky

#### ***Update on Legal Cases Involving Counselors***

#### **Location: Orleans Ballroom**

**ABSTRACT:** This keynote session will address recent legal cases related to the counseling profession. The impact of these cases on the legal responsibilities of counselors, supervisors, and counselor educators will be discussed. The role of ethical codes in relation to these cases will be clarified. Suggestions for minimizing legal liability will be provided.

**6:00 pm-7:15 pm**

### **In-Person Reception**



**Celebrate New Orleans with a Brass Band, *hors d'oeuvres*, & cash bar (Located at St. Mary's)**

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# Wednesday January 28, 2026

7:45 am-5:30 pm

Registration and Information: Hotel Entry Foyer

**8:30 am-9:30 am**

### **Formal Presentations**

- **Seeing Beyond Words: Bridging Polarized World Views in Counseling**

ABSTRACT: The highly polarized political climate challenges counselors to forge alliances with clients with disparate ideologies. Clashing values in counseling and supervision threaten the alliance and risk burnout. Navigating difficult conversations is a crucial skill for counselors and supervisors. Let's experience evidence-based strategies to connect with those with whom we disagree.

Carol Benoit, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, Adjunct Faculty of Counseling, University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg, KY

Location: Orleans Ballroom

- **Conversion Therapy, Free Speech, & The Supreme Court**

ABSTRACT: Kaley Chiles, an LPC in Colorado, wants to practice conversion therapy (CT). Colorado has banned CT for minors. She sued the state for denying her Free Speech rights and lost at the district and appellate levels. She has appealed to the Supreme Court. What are the arguments and implications for the counseling profession?

Perry C. Francis, Ed.D., LPC, NCC, ACS, BC-TMH, Private Practice, Perry C Francis Counseling Services, PLLC (Ypsilanti, MI)

Location: St. Joseph

- **When Ethics Meets Crisis: Reducing Malpractice Risk through the Three Pillars of Competent Care**

ABSTRACT: Suicidality is among the most ethically and legally challenging clinical issues. This presentation unites ethics, law, and clinical skills through three key pillars: Assessment, Treatment, and Clinical Follow-Through to reduce malpractice risk. Attendees will learn practical strategies to lower liability, strengthen ethical care, and protect both clients and clinicians.

Adrian Lira, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, Director, Professional Development/Clinical Assistant Professor, The Menninger Clinic/ Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX; Patricia Daza, Ph.D., ABPP, Director, Psychology and Clinical Training/Associate Professor, The Menninger Clinic, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX

Location: St. Anne 1

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- **Unlocking the Mental Health Crisis in Academia: Updates & Implications**

ABSTRACT: Various campus incidents have cultivated mental health concerns in academic faculty. Mental health factors in academia underscore the need for crisis services for faculty based on previous successful models used for students. Collaboration among academic stakeholders can help develop crisis models to address faculty mental health in academia.

Nicole Harris, EdD, LPC, LCMHC, LSATP, CRP, CCTP, CSTIP, HSBCP, BCTHP, Graduate Clinical Instructor, Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA; Keesha Kerns, Ph.D., LPC, LCMHC, LSATP, CRP, NCC, ACS, CCTP, PSC, Counseling Education Graduate Coordinator, Associate Professor, Norfolk State University Norfolk, VA; Jennifer Perry, Ph.D., LCMHCA, NCC, ACS, PSC, Assistant Professor, Norfolk State University Norfolk, VA; Phillip Riddick, DSW, LCSW, CCTP, Assistant Professor, The Ethelyn R. Strong School of Social Work, Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA

Location: St. Anne 2

- **Featured Presentation** **Licensure at Risk: Safety, Equity, and Ethics in Counseling**

ABSTRACT: This session challenges growing arguments for deregulation, notably those from The Licensing Racket (Allensworth, 2025). Drawing on extensive collective experience, we'll explain how occupational licensure safeguards against inherent risks associated with professional counseling and mental health practice, distinguishes counseling from lower-risk fields, and builds professional identity, public trust, and ethical practice. Finally, attendees will examine targeted reforms to enhance accountability and protect the licensure framework.

John P. Duggan, Ed.D., LPC, LCPC, Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin Parkside (Online Modality); Lynn Linde, Ed.D., NCC, Chief of Professional Practice, American Counseling Association, Alexandria, VA

Location: Bourbon O

- **Quality Assurance in Forensic Hospitals**

ABSTRACT: Forensic Hospitals have existed since the Forensic Services section was created in 1932 to intervene from prison-like maximum security units. In 1972, attention on the criminal justice system and the intersection of mental health led to treatment in Forensic Hospitals. Characteristics of mental health symptoms and criminogenic thinking require quality assurance treatment plans.

Kelsey Wilson, Ph.D., CPC, EMT, LPC, Doctor of Counseling in Private Practice at Counseling Center, Planning Quality Assurance Specialist at Forensic Hospital; Taylor Hardin Secure Medical Facility (Forensic Hospital), Lifecare Wellness Counseling, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Location: TJ's

**8:30 am-9:30 am**

**Roundtables**

**Location: St. Mary 1-2**

- **Trauma-Informed Care as an Ethical Imperative in Counseling Practice**

ABSTRACT: Many counseling clients have trauma histories that often go unrecognized by both clients and providers. Without a trauma-informed lens, counselors risk overlooking key aspects of care, leaving

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clients vulnerable to harm. This session explores trauma-informed principles, ethical standards, and decision-making to help counselors ethically integrate trauma awareness into their clinical practice.

Aaliyah Bond-Richardson, M.Ed., LPC, NCC, Counselor in Private Practice and Doctoral Student, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

Location: Table 1

- **The Balancing Act: Ethics, Supervision, and the Counselor Educator's Dual Role**

ABSTRACT: Graduate practicum and internships are vital for counselor training. Quality supervision and support are crucial for student and client well-being. Recent uncertainties have challenged educators and supervisors in their ethical discussions of sensitive topics. This session will address ethical dilemmas and offer strategies to improve curricula, strengthen supervision, and foster transformative learning.

Adwoa Bonney-Graves, Ph.D., LMHC, Assistant Professor of Practice & Practicum and Internship Coordinator, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg, Texas; Nikki Russell, Ph.D., LPC-S (TX), LPCC (NM), RPT-S, NCC, Program Chair and Assistant Professor, University of the Southwest, Hobbs, New Mexico

Location: Table 2

- **Making the Most of Ethical-Decision-Making Models with Documentation**

ABSTRACT: Counselors don't look for ethical dilemmas, many of which materialize despite good intentions. Counselors are guided to utilize an ethical decision-making model before determining the best steps toward resolution. Documentation is the cornerstone of resolution, but also for navigating potential professional liability and licensing board complaints when things go horribly wrong.

Ann M. Ordway, JD, PhD, NCC, Program Director, AFCC, Madison, WI, Aprille Woodson, Ph.D., JD, LPC, NCC, Program Manager of Ethics, American Counseling Association, Alexandria, VA

Location: Table 3

- **Counselor Wellness: Exploring Ethical Foundations and Case Studies to Support the Case for Counselor Well-Being**

ABSTRACT: Counselors must possess a range of essential characteristics when working with clients. Among these is the commitment to maintaining their own wellness. This presentation will explore case studies of professional hazards inherent in the Counseling profession and utilize ethical guidelines that Counselors should adhere to prevent professional impairments.

Bianca D. Goodrum, Ph.D., LPC-S, IPPE-Certified, Assistant Professor, Counselor in Private Practice, Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU), San Antonio, TX

Location: Table 4

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- **Unplugged: Ethical and Legal Implications of Technology Use and Digital Detox in Mental Health Treatment**

ABSTRACT: As technology use grows, counselors increasingly work with clients whose mental health, sleep, and daily functioning are affected by digital engagement and social media. This presentation examines these concerns through ethical and legal lenses, addressing issues such as digital communication, parent–child technology conflicts, informed consent, triangulation, limit-setting, and sleep disruption. Participants will review relevant ethical codes, case examples, and strategies for digital detox planning, leaving with practical tools to support digital well-being and help clients develop healthier relationships with technology.

Amy M King, Ph.D., NCC, NCSC, LPC-MS, Counselor Educator, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS; Alex Kerwin Hodges, Ph.D., LPC-S, Wright Counseling Group

Location: Table 5

- **Once Upon an Ethical Dilemma: Using Fairy Tales to Teach Ethical Decision-Making in Counseling**

ABSTRACT: Ethical decision-making is essential in counseling, yet ethics instruction can feel dry and abstract. This presentation introduces a creative, story-based approach that uses classic fairy tales as case vignettes to explore confidentiality, dual relationships, and mandated reporting, engaging participants in applying ethical codes in clinical and school counseling contexts.

Kimberly McGough, Ph.D., LPC-S, CSC, Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Houston Clear Lake, Houston (Pearland Campus), Texas; Tiffany Simon, Ph.D., LPC-S, CSC, NCC, Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Houston Clear Lake, Houston (Pearland Campus), TX

Location: Table 6

- **Collateral Damage: Moral Injury and the Machinery of Higher Education**

ABSTRACT: This presentation explores moral injury in clinical training, highlighting its emotional and ethical toll on educators facing systemic pressures. Using real-world vignettes, participants will examine its impact on professional identity, differentiate it from burnout, and collaboratively generate strategies for advocacy, healing, and resilience across mental health education fields.

J.C. Ausmus, Ph.D., LPC, CPCS, NCC, CMPC, BC-TMH, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Assistant Dean of Student Wellness, University of Texas Permian Basin, Odessa, TX; Elizabeth Brittany Dennis-Hancock, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Assistant Professor of Counseling, Clinical Co-Director, Troy University, Troy, Alabama; Kevin White, Ph.D., LPC, CPCS, NCC, Assistant Clinical Professor, CACREP Liaison, Auburn University, Auburn, AL

Location: Table 7

- **Is this for real? Or Deepfake?**

ABSTRACT: This discussion presents ethical implications and counseling issues that emerge with the use of "Deepfake" or technologically altered images and data. Counseling and ethical matters, case studies, and other examples will be shared—pros and cons of digitally created information, as well as the potential for significant harm.

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Barb Andrews, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Core Faculty, School of Counseling, Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Lori Milo, Ph.D., LPCC-S, Coordinator of Academic Integrity, School of Counseling, Walden University, Minneapolis, MN; Stacy Overton, Ph.D., LPC, LAC, BC-TMH, Core Faculty, School of Counseling, Walden University

Location: Table 8

**9:30 am-10:00 am**

**Break**

**10:00 am-11:00 am**

**Formal Presentations**

- **Featured Presentation** **Non-Suicidal Self-Injury: Ethics and Legal Considerations for Counselors**

ABSTRACT: Non-suicidal self-injury is a challenging issue that counselors frequently encounter, yet often feel unprepared to address. This session will provide practical strategies and essential knowledge for effectively supporting clients who self-injure, with a focus on risk assessment, ethical decision-making, and legal considerations. Attendees will leave with greater confidence and competence in navigating this sensitive area of practice.

Victoria Kress, Ph.D., LPCC-S, ACA President Elect, Distinguished Professor, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, OH

Location: Orleans Ballroom

- **School Counseling Roles Across States: A Content Analysis Using the ASCA National Model**

ABSTRACT: State policies and school district regulations play a significant role in shaping school counselors' responsibilities, yet these policies do not always align with ASCA's recommended practices. This presentation shares findings from a problem-driven content analysis, using an ASCA-informed rubric to evaluate state policy alignment. It will also explore how school counselors and counselor educators can use these results to guide strategic advocacy efforts and promote clearer, more consistent expectations for school counseling roles.

Isabel Farrell, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Associate Professor and Associate Chair, Department of Counseling, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC

Location: St. Joseph

- **Navigating Ethical Dilemmas in Play Therapy**

ABSTRACT: This presentation will explore common ethical challenges in play therapy through a child-centered lens. This engaging presentation offers practical guidance for navigating boundaries, confidentiality, documentation, and mandated reporting while maintaining the integrity of the therapeutic relationship.

Lauren Chase, Ph.D., LCMHC, NCC, BC-TMH, PMH-C, Core Faculty, Walden University, Charlotte, NC

Location: St. Anne 1



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- **Board Action and Discipline: What We Can Learn from Them**

ABSTRACT: This presentation will review the actions and discipline of the Ohio counselor board from 2024/2025. Attendees will learn the frequencies of the violations and the discipline associated with the violations. Participants will learn the ethical and legal constructs behind the violations and how to safeguard their practice.

Butch Losey, EdD, LPCC-S, CEO, Waybridge Counseling Services, Cincinnati, Ohio

Location: St. Anne 2

- **Ethical Supervision Considerations with Counselors Working with Eating Disorders**

ABSTRACT: Disordered eating (DE) and eating disorders (EDs) can be challenging to treat ethically, and supervisors often feel ill-equipped to help supervisees navigate how to help clients facing DE and ED behaviors. We address the role of ethical supervision in DE and EDs within counseling supervision.

Laura Campbell, EdS, LCPC-S, Clinical Director for Center for Change, Boise, ID, Ph.D. student, Idaho State University, Center for Change, Boise, ID; Idaho State University, Boise, ID; Bella Colson, M. COUN, LPC, Idaho State University Ph.D. student, Meridian, ID

Location: Bourbon O

- **Thinking Critically, Acting Ethically: Integrating Emotional Intelligence and Dispositions in the AI Era**

ABSTRACT: This interactive session reimagines how counselor educators can teach students to think critically, apply emotional intelligence, and embody professional dispositions through the use of technology applications such as Artificial Intelligence. We'll show how integrating emotional intelligence and professional dispositions transforms ethics instruction into reflective, real-world learning that equips future counselors to navigate complex, technology-driven dilemmas with clarity and integrity.

Ariel K. Hernandez, Ph.D., LMHC, QS, NCC, Program Director and CACREP Liaison, Albizu University, Miami, FL (Remote); Kathleen Levingston, Ph.D., LPC-S, Associate Dean/Academic Program Director, Walden University (Remote); Walter Frazier, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, BC-TMH, Associate Dean /Director of Academic Quality, Walden University, Chicago, IL (Remote)

Location: TJ's

**10:00 am- 11:00 am**

**Roundtable Presentations  
Location St. Mary 1-2**

- **When and How Should Counselors Talk About Medication? An Ethical Exploration**

ABSTRACT: Through an ethical and practical lens, this roundtable explores when and how counselors should discuss medication, what they should know about psychotropics, and how neurobiology can support client understanding of mental health and medication use.

Amanda Brown, Ph.D., LCPC-S (KS), Assistant Professor, Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS

Location: Table 1

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- **Conversion Therapy and Counselor Ethics in the Era of Free Speech**

ABSTRACT: In the current Chiles v. Salazar Supreme Court case, a licensed counselor is challenging Colorado's ban on conversion therapy as a violation of free speech. This raises a critical question: how can counselors uphold their ethical responsibility to provide evidence-based, affirming care and act as advocates for LGBTQIA2S+ populations while confronting potential legal and political ramifications if the ban on conversion therapy is deemed unconstitutional?

Ava R. Grubin, B.A., First Year Mental Health Counseling Graduate Student, Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology at Yeshiva University, Bronx, New York; Sarah Spitz, B.A., First Year Graduate Student, Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology at Yeshiva University, Bronx, New York; Stella Kim Hansen, Ph.D., Clinical Assistant Professor and Program Director of the Masters in Mental Health Counseling Program, Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology at Yeshiva University, Bronx, New York

Location: Table 2

- **School Counseling Ethics in Balance: Parents, Policy, and Practice**

ABSTRACT: This session explores ethical challenges in school counseling as professionals balance parents, policies, and practice. Participants will examine real-world scenarios, discuss implications for ethical decision-making, and identify strategies to support counselor preparation and professional integrity in today's complex educational environment.

Amy W. Upton, Ph.D., NCC, NCSC, Assistant Professor of instruction, School Counseling Coordinator, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL; Malti Tuttle, Ph.D., LPC (GA), CPCS (GA), NCC, NCSC, Associate Professor and School Counseling Program Coordinator, Auburn University, Auburn, AL, Daniel Birdsong, Ph.D., Ed.D., LPC-S (AL), MFT-A (AL), ACS, NCC, NCSC, RPT, Assistant Professor of Counseling and Program Coordinator, University of Montevallo, Montevallo, AL

Location: Table 3

- **Adding Counselor Education Coursework to Enhance Health and Wellness Education**

ABSTRACT: Recognition of mental health issues by health and medical professionals has reached a national level of awareness. In addition to learning their prospective professions, graduates of health and medical programs need supplementary multicultural competency underpinnings through coursework to serve their prospective populations and become more effective practitioners with mental health training.

Beatrice Darden-Woody, Ph.D., Associate Professor in Health Education, Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA; LaConda Ambrose Fanning, PsyD, RN, LPC, LSATP, ACS, CCTP, Director of Assessment and Resident Mentorship, Macon and Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences, Norfolk, VA; Keesha Kerns, Ph.D., LCMHC-NC, LPC, CRP, LSATP-VA, NCC, ACS CCTP, PSC, Counseling Education Graduate Coordinator, Associate Professor, Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA; Keith Vukasinovich, LPCC-S, 500 RYT, Counselor Education and Criminal Justice Doctoral Candidate, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH

Location: Table 4

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- **Ethical Supervision as Prevention: Lessons from a Case Study**

ABSTRACT: Supervision is vital for protecting clients and ensuring pre-licensed counselors practice ethically. This session reviews a case in which an Associate Licensed Counselor lost their license due to credential misrepresentation and improper treatment, illustrating how trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and ethically grounded supervision could have prevented the violations. Drawing on the ACA Code of Ethics, ABEC Standards of Practice, and Bernard's Discrimination Model, participants will examine strategies for accurate credentialing, effective gatekeeping, and competent decision-making. The case study provides practical guidance for reducing ethical risks, supporting supervisee growth, and maintaining alignment with professional standards.

Brandi Chamberlin, Ph.D., LPC (VA), Professor, Director of Assessment, University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg, KY; Robyn Trippany Simmons, Ed.D., LPC-S (AL), RPT-S, Department Chair, University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg, KY; Jenny Li, Executive Clinical Director at Crownview Co-Occurring & Psychiatric Institute, Owner & Psychotherapist at JL Psychotherapy Training Practice, Doctoral Student at the University of Cumberlands CES program, Carlsbad, San Diego

Location: Table 5

- **Leading Through Ethical Complexity: Supporting Doctoral Students Amid Political and Personal Tensions in Counselor Education**

ABSTRACT: This session explores how counselor education administrators ethically navigate political and cultural tensions while mentoring doctoral students. Participants will examine strategies for balancing advocacy, academic freedom, and professional responsibility, using ethical leadership and decision-making frameworks to foster inclusive, developmentally supportive environments within ethically and politically complex educational spaces.

Candace N. Park, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, Associate Professor, Dean, University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg, KY; Matthew L. Lyons, Ph.D., Professor and Dean, University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg, KY

Location: Table 6

- **Virtue Signaling vs. Real Social Change**

ABSTRACT: This session explores the difference between symbolic gestures and authentic reform. Through humor, history, and ethics, participants will learn how to distinguish virtue signaling from meaningful action, apply professional codes to real-world scenarios, and develop strategies that transform awareness into measurable social change and tangible impact.

Cynthia Williams, Ph.D., LMFT, LPC, Contributing Faculty Member-School of Counseling, Walden University, Houston, Texas (Remote); LeAnn M. Morgan, Ph.D, LPC, ACS, Core Faculty/Contributing Faculty Supervisor- School of Counseling, Walden University, Washington (remote)

Location: Table 7

- **Balancing the Age of Consent and the Age of Majority in Adolescent Counseling**

ABSTRACT: This presentation will facilitate open discussion on an ethical dilemma written for an Ethics in Individual, Marriage, and Family Counseling course. The theoretical case concerns adolescent counseling, Louisiana's consent laws, and fundamental issues in confidentiality. Audience members will

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be challenged to apply moral principles and ethical decision-making models (EDMMs) to the case for brainstorming strategic and appropriate interventions.

Dominic Collara, BS, MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling Student, Loyola University New Orleans, New Orleans; Christine Ebrahim, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, Associate Professor, Loyola University New Orleans

Location: Table 8

**11:00 am-11:15 am**

**Break**

**11:15 am- 12:15 pm**

**Keynote Address:**

**Dr. Warren Wright, Owner of Transformational Counseling, Coaching, and Consulting in Austin, Texas, Community Impact and Engagement Speaker**

***The Burdens We Carry: A Transcendental Phenomenological Exploration of Black Professional Counselors Working with Clients Who Experienced Racial Trauma***

**Location: Orleans Ballroom**

**ABSTRACT:** The presentation delves into five central themes that emerged from the narratives of Black counselors on the frontlines of racial healing: Bearing Witness, Collective Woundedness, Barriers and Challenges, Healing-Focused Approaches, and Counselor Preparation and Development. Through the integration of research, personal testimony, and ethical inquiry, this keynote challenges the counseling profession to move beyond performative equity efforts and engage in ethically sound, justice-oriented practice. Attendees will critically examine how Anti-Blackness, institutional silence, and systemic harm show up in clinical spaces and what it means to respond ethically. Moreover, this keynote is a call to action for professional counselors, counselor educators, supervisors, and leaders to examine their ethical responsibilities in addressing racial trauma while honoring the labor and legacy of those who carry its burden daily.

**11:15 am- 12:15 pm**

**Formal Presentations**

- **Best Practices for Ethical Supervision of School Counselors-in-Training**

**ABSTRACT:** This session explores the distinct supervision needs of school counselors-in-training, highlighting ethical issues and consequences of inadequate or improper supervision. Participants will examine best practices and recommendations for counselor education programs and site supervisors to promote ethical, developmentally appropriate, and effective supervision that fosters competence and professional growth among future school counselors.

Anita M. Pool, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, NCSC, Assistant Professor and School Counseling Program Coordinator, University of Louisiana at Lafayette (Lafayette, LA); Liz Wiggins, Ph.D., LSC, LPC, Assistant Dean and Associate Professor, Colorado Christian University, Lakewood, CO

Location: St. Joseph

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- **Smart Tech, Safe Sessions: Ethical & HIPAA Compliance**

ABSTRACT: Learn to identify vulnerabilities in devices, apps, and AI tools that challenge ethical and HIPAA compliance. Gain practical strategies to strengthen informed consent, create an audit checklist, and build digital-ethics confidence across counseling roles, such as private practice, agencies, and supervision. This session helps counselors safeguard confidentiality as technology evolves.

Lori Vien, Ph.D., LPCMH, NCC, ACS, Assistant Professor & Private Practice Owner, Neumann University, Aston, PA; Elizabeth Adair, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Director CMHC Program & Private Practice Owner, Wilmington University, New Castle, DE

Location: St. Anne 1

- **Ethical Guidelines for Court-Involved Counselors**

ABSTRACT: Regardless of the origin of the counselor's court involvement, counselors must know their role, understand the related parameters of confidentiality, and communicate clearly with the client. Join us to explore ethical guidelines for counselors who intentionally or unwittingly find themselves involved as fact, expert, or educational witnesses in court.

Ann M. Ordway, JD, Ph.D., NCC, Program Director, AFCC (Madison, WI); Aprille Woodson, Ph.D., JD, LPC, NCC, Program Manager of Ethics, American Counseling Association, Alexandria, VA

Location: St. Anne 2

- **Beyond Compliance: Ethical Decision-Making Through a Trauma-Informed and Culturally Responsive Lens**

ABSTRACT: Ethical counseling requires more than adherence to codes and laws—it calls for cultural responsiveness, trauma-informed awareness, and recognition of the systemic factors shaping client experiences. This presentation connects ethics, law, and lived realities through research and case examples involving historical trauma, systemic oppression, and counselor identity. Attendees will examine how bias, power dynamics, and inequities influence ethical decision-making in practice, supervision, and counselor education. Using real-world vignettes and practical tools, this session guides counselors in navigating complex dilemmas with cultural humility and integrity, promoting ethical decisions that support equity, healing, and advocacy.

Cicelia M. Como, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, CSC, BCCC, Assistant Professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program, Psychotherapist in Private Practice, Lamar University/Capacity Awakened, PLLC, Houston, Texas

Location: Bourbon O

- **Supervisor, Advocate, Scapegoat: When Ethics and Liability Collide**

ABSTRACT: Clinical supervisors navigate complex, conflicting roles amid ethical and legal pressures. This session uses real cases to explore dilemmas in gatekeeping, risk, and advocacy, offering strategies for ethically navigating supervision while promoting student growth, protecting client welfare, and sustaining professional integrity within institutional constraints.

J.C. Ausmus, Ph.D., LPC, CPCS, NCC, CMPC, BC-TMH, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Assistant Dean of Student Wellness, University of Texas Permian Basin, Odessa, TX; Tiffany Collier, M.A., LPC-

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S, Lecturer in Psychology, Director of Counseling & Psychological Services, University of Texas Permian Basin, Odessa, TX

Location: TJ's

**11:15 am- 12:15 pm**

**Roundtable Presentations**

**Location St. Mary 1-2**

- **Counselors in Recovery: Ethical Boundaries and Professional Responsibilities**

ABSTRACT: Counselors with lived experience of addiction face unique ethical challenges in practice. This session explores boundaries, self-disclosure, impairment, and dual-role considerations. Participants will gain strategies grounded in the ACA Code of Ethics to navigate recovery-informed practice while protecting client welfare and professional integrity.

Candance Brunyate, Ph.D. Candidate, LPCC-S, LCADC, CCS, Clinical Director and Adjunct Professor of Counseling, University of the Cumberland

Location: Table 1

- **No 'AI Therapy' Allowed: Understanding Illinois WOPR Act and Its Nationwide Reach**

ABSTRACT: Illinois WOPR Act is here: no AI therapy, tight rules on decision support, real penalties. We'll demystify therapy vs. admin tech, flag cross-state reach through telehealth and platforms, and co-create practical policies and consent language that protect clients and your license, as well as quick contrasts with other states' AI therapy laws.

Emma Mikan, MA, LCPC, NCC, Doctoral Candidate, Counselor in Private Practice, University of the Cumberland, Palatine, IL; Jayna Bonfini, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Associate Professor, University of the Cumberland, Williamsburg, KY

Location: Table 2

- **Hidden in Plain Sight: The Overlooked Faces of ADHD**

ABSTRACT: This session will explore ethical standards and multicultural considerations in the assessment and diagnosis of ADHD. Current gaps in culturally responsive assessment and diagnostic practices will be examined. Strategies for integrating culturally and ethically informed approaches to ADHD assessment and diagnosis will also be discussed.

Kristen Barho, LPC-Associate, LCDC, Supervised by Shawna Munson, Ph.D., LPC-S, LMFT-S, LCDC, Graduate Research Assistant and Substance Use Counselor, Sam Houston State University and Serenity House Counseling, Huntsville, TX and Anderson, TX; Esther Mutombo, M.S., LPC - Associate, NCC, supervised by Diane Herrero, Ph.D., LPC-S, Sam Houston State University, Houston, TX; Sarah Stewart M.A., LPC, NCC, Team Lead Triage Counselor II - Magellan Federal, Sam Houston State University, The Woodlands, TX

Location: Table 3



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- **The Ethics of Supervision: What Happens When Site and Faculty Disconnect**

ABSTRACT: Many site supervisors provide essential clinical training to counseling students without ongoing formal supervision preparation. Gaps in competence and unclear communication with faculty supervisors can create ethical risks affecting client welfare and student development. This session examines vulnerabilities and offers strategies to strengthen ethical supervision practices and inter-supervisor communication.

Heather Ambrose, Ph.D., LCMHC, LMFT, AAMFT Approved Supervisor, Core Faculty, Walden University, Layton, UT; Kimberly Mason, Ph.D., LPC-S, Core Faculty, Walden University; Christie Jenkins, Ph.D., LPCC-S, NCC, Core Faculty, Walden University; John Robbins, Ph.D., LMFT, AAMFT Approved Supervisor, Core Faculty, Walden University

Location: Table 4

- **Ethical Challenges Working with First Responders**

ABSTRACT: Mental health clinicians face unique challenges when working with first responders. These include balancing client confidentiality with organizational reporting, navigating stigma and potential career repercussions, respecting their hypervigilant job mindset, managing power imbalances, the high likelihood of dual relationships, and addressing conflicts between clinical practice and first responders' culture or their organization's demands.

Imre (Emeric) Csaszar, PhD, LPC-S, NCC, Associate Professor of Professional Practice, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

Location: Table 5

- **In the Gray: The ACA Code of Ethics in Everyday Practice**

ABSTRACT: Both novice and seasoned professional counselors frequently grapple with ethical issues in clinical practice. In this presentation, participants will work through a real-world scenario that centers on clinical practice, supervision, and the management of personal ethics when there is conflict among upper management, supervisors, and frontline staff.

LaNeisha J. Glass, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, ACS, Associate Professor of Counseling and Counseling Training Clinic Coordinator, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI

Location: Table 6

- **Beyond the Counseling Room: A Roundtable on Counselors' Ethical Mandate for Advocacy Efforts**

ABSTRACT: This roundtable examines advocacy as an ethical responsibility grounded in the values of professional counseling. Participants will apply ethical decision-making models to common client dilemmas, explore moral courage and systemic barriers, and identify strategies for integrating advocacy-informed education and supervision practices that strengthen the counselor-advocate pipeline and promote a justice-oriented professional identity.

Luke Thompson, LPC, NCC, Course Designer & Counselor Educator, Ph.D. Student, Doctoral Assistant, and Counselor in Private Practice, The College of New Jersey; Kean University; Crossing Wellness, Ewing, NJ (The College of New Jersey); Union, NJ (Kean University)

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Location: Table 7

- **Gatekeeping in the Digital Age: Ethical Remediation of Dispositional Concerns in Online Counselor Education**

ABSTRACT: This session examines ethical and practical challenges in addressing counseling students' dispositional concerns in online academic environments. Presenters will explore strategies for structured assessment and remediation processes, ethical decision-making, and due process, and highlight strategies that uphold fairness, accountability, and effective gatekeeping in virtual counselor education and supervision contexts.

Luis E. Lacourt, Ph.D., LPC, School Counselor, Academic Coordinator, Walden University, (Virtual) Massillon, OH; Tina Lott, EdD, LCPC, ACS, BC-TMH, NCC, Academic Program Coordinator & Core Faculty, Walden University, (Virtual) Naperville, IL; Dr. Rich Stapleton, NCC, LMHC (IA), LPCC (MN), ACS, BC-TMH, Academic Program Coordinator, Walden University, (Virtual) North Liberty, IA; SaDohl Goldsmith Jones, Ph.D., LPC, ACS, Academic Program Coordinator, Walden University, (Virtual) Atlanta, GA

Location: Table 8

**12:15 pm-1:45 pm**

**In-Person Lunch**

**Location: Orleans Ballroom Foyer**

**1:45 pm-2:45 pm**

**Formal Presentations**

- **Championing Olympic Mental Health on the Global Stage: Enhancing Athlete and Coach Mental Health Literacy in Professional Soccer**

ABSTRACT: As mental health awareness grows in the global, multibillion-dollar sport industry, soccer offers a multicultural platform for change. This multidisciplinary panel, working with Olympic gold medalists and professional coaches, shares research and collaborative education initiatives that enhance mental health literacy, reduce stigma, and promote psychologically safe, high-performance team cultures.

Michele Kerulis, EdD, LCPC, LMHC, CMPC, Associate Professor, Director of Community Engagement; U.S. Soccer Federation Mental Health and Wellness Consultant, The Family Institute at Northwestern University; U.S. Soccer Federation, Cape Coral, FL; Laura McLane, MA, ACT, Senior Athletic Trainer, Women's National Team, Mental Health Liaison, U.S. Soccer Federation, Fayetteville, GA

Location: Orleans Ballroom

- **An Introduction to Forensic Mental Health Evaluation**

ABSTRACT: Many counselors want to diversify their practice, and forensic mental health evaluation is an impactful and lucrative option. This session offers a helpful overview of this unique area of specialization.

Aaron Norton, Ph.D., LMHC, LMFT, MAC, CRC, CFMHE, Assistant Professor of Counselor Education, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Location: St. Joseph

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- **The Complex Ethics of Intimate Dual Relationships**

ABSTRACT: We will explore intimate dual relationships and their effects on the therapeutic relationship. We will discuss our own original ethical dilemmas and apply them to an ethical decision-making model. We will also discuss our thought processes, clinical implications, and ways to promote client autonomy.

Christine Ebrahim, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, Associate Professor, Department of Counseling, Loyola University, New Orleans; Aboorva Sivasankaran, B.S, and Margaret Adams, B.A., Masters of Clinical Mental Health Counseling Students, Loyola University, New Orleans, LA

Location: St. Anne 1

- **Beyond Policy: Building Trust in Faculty Environments**

ABSTRACT: This session explores how trust forms the foundation of effective faculty culture. Participants will examine how transparency, communication, and collegiality protect both faculty and institutions. Through discussion and case studies, attendees will learn strategies to build environments of trust that promote integrity, reduce risk, and sustain academic excellence.

Matthew L. Lyons, Ph.D., Professor and Dean, University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg, KY; Candace N. Park, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, Associate Professor, Dean, University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg, KY

Location: St. Anne 2

**1:45 pm-2:45 pm**

**Roundtable Presentations**

**Location: St. Mary 1-2**

- **Gatekeeping the Gatekeeper: Navigating Your Way with an Unethical Supervisor**

ABSTRACT: Power imbalances in supervision can be intimidating and challenging to navigate when your supervisor is engaging in questionable ethical behavior. This session explores how supervisors' impairment can affect supervisee development and client care, emphasizing the need for accountability, ethical training, and systemic safeguards in counselor education and supervision.

Kimberly Nelson, Ph.D., LPC, ACS, BC-TMH, Core Faculty in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Counselor in Private Practice, Walden University, Austin, TX; Bergen Caulfield, MA, LPC, Director of Clinical Services; Clinical Therapist, Leora Behavioral Health, Columbus, OH

Location: Table 1

- **Ethics in Action: Teaching and Maintaining Digital Boundaries in Online Counselor Education**

ABSTRACT: As online counselor education expands, legal and ethical responsibilities grow. This session explores the importance of teaching and maintaining digital boundaries to ensure professional integrity, confidentiality, and ethical communication in virtual classrooms and supervision, equipping counselor educators with essential strategies for navigating today's digitally driven educational environments.

Kellie Giorgio Camelford, PhD, LPC-S, Core Faculty, Walden University, Minneapolis, MN; Kathleen Levingston, Ph.D., LPC-S, Associate Dean, Program Director, Walden University, Minneapolis, MN

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### Location: Table 2

- **Navigating Political Discussions in the Classroom**

ABSTRACT: Engaging counseling students in political conversations can offer meaningful insights into social justice, advocacy, and professional ethics, but it also raises several ethical issues that educators and supervisors must carefully navigate. Ethical concerns may include power dynamics, respect for diverse beliefs, relevance to counselor competence, boundary blurring, psychological safety, confidentiality, and bias in evaluation. These and other concerns will be explored, along with possible avenues for engaging in these sensitive but important discussions.

Martha Mason, EdD, LCPC, Associate Professor, North Park University, Chicago, IL

### Location: Table 3

- **Ethics and School Counselors: Self-Efficacy Towards AI Practice**

ABSTRACT: This presentation highlights findings from a national study examining school counselors' and counseling graduate students' attitudes and self-efficacy regarding the ethical use of AI. Presenters will share key insights and facilitate an interactive discussion on ethical considerations, challenges, and opportunities surrounding AI integration in school counseling practice and counselor preparation.

Malti Tuttle, Ph.D., LPC (GA), CPCS (GA), ATS, NCC, NCSC, Associate Professor and School Counseling Program Coordinator, Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, and Counseling, Auburn University, Auburn, AL; John McCall, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, and Counseling, Auburn University, Auburn, AL; David T. Marshall, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Educational Foundations, Leadership, and Technology, Auburn University, Auburn, AL; Katelyn R. Nelson, Ph.D., M.B.A., Academic Innovation & Emerging Technology Specialist, Biggio Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, Auburn University, Auburn, AL

### Location: Table 4

- **From Discomfort to Competence: Ethical Imperatives for Addressing Sexuality Concerns in Counseling**

ABSTRACT: Sexuality remains taboo in counseling and is shaped by cultural norms, systemic avoidance, and training gaps. Counselor preparedness is not optional; it's ethical. The presenter provides sex-positive strategies that integrate sexuality into practice, strengthening inclusivity, competence, and client care.

Sandra Urzua, LPC, CCTIP, Counselor in Private Practice, Ph.D. Candidate, Walden University, San Antonio, Texas

### Location: Table 5

- **Avoiding Ethical Misconduct in the Treatment of Substance Use Disorders**

ABSTRACT: Avoiding Ethical Misconduct in the Treatment of Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) treatment is rife with ethical pitfalls that differ from such issues in the treatment of other diagnoses. This round table presentation seeks to cover these differing dilemmas, including potential problems with confidentiality and other issues of informed consent, group counseling, Alcoholics Anonymous, client

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autonomy, couples' needs, and boundaries.

Quintin Gustin, Ph.D., LPC-S, Instructor - Psychology Department, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

Location: Table 6

- **Helping Supervisees Manage Sexual Attraction**

ABSTRACT: Navigating sexual attraction in the therapeutic relationship is a complex yet essential area of professional competence, particularly for supervisees who are still developing clinical judgment and ethical awareness. This presentation explores current literature on managing sexual attraction in counseling, highlights the lived experiences of clinical supervisors who support supervisees through these challenges, and examines how ethical principles guide decision-making in such circumstances.

Rashunda Miller Reed, Ph.D., NCC, LPC-S, LMFT-S, Private Practice, Relationships Matter LLC, Slidell, LA

Location: Table 7

**2:45 pm-3:00 pm**

**Break**

**3:00 pm-4:00 pm**

**Formal Presentations**

- **Ethics in Diagnosis: How Gender Intersects in the Diagnostic Process**

ABSTRACT: This presentation focuses on the intersectionality of the diagnostic process and client gender. The DSM-5-TR discusses gender prevalence for some diagnoses. However, it does not discuss how symptoms present differently in clients of different genders. This presentation will enable attendees to discuss some diagnoses and gender differences in symptom presentation.

Laura Squires, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, CCTP, Assistant Professor of Counseling Graduate Program, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, LA

Location: Orleans Ballroom

- **Supporting Counselors Who Work with Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence**

ABSTRACT: This presentation will explore the emotional, ethical, and professional demands placed on counselors working with clients affected by intimate partner violence (IPV). We will examine effective strategies for organizational support, clinical supervision, and the development of trauma-informed workplaces that prioritize counselor well-being and ethical practice.

Maggie Butler, MA, LAC, Counselor in Private Practice, Doctoral Student, University of Holy Cross, New Orleans, Bentonville, AR; Scott Butler, Ph.D., LPC, Co-owner and counselor at Cypress Counseling Collective, LLC in Bentonville, AR.

Location: St. Joseph

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- **Ethical Practice in the Schools: Being There for Each & Every Student**

ABSTRACT: School counselors ethically advocate for students by fostering inclusive relationships, applying culturally responsive counseling models, engaging stakeholders, and using data to identify disparities, even amid restrictive laws. This discussion will highlight current events and legislation related to working with students or school-age clients and share strategies and examples of how school counselors can continue to practice ethically and legally.

Mariama Sandifer, Ph.D., LPC, ACS, Associate Professor of Counseling, Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, Arizona; Lee Grimes, Ph.D., LPC, Associate Professor of Counseling, Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, Arizona

Location: St. Anne 1

- **Balancing Belief and Boundaries: A Therapeutic Approach to the Paranormal**

ABSTRACT: This presentation explores counseling approaches for clients reporting paranormal experiences, emphasizing unconditional positive regard, ethical bracketing, and cultural sensitivity. Participants will learn to differentiate delusional pathology from anomalous experiences while integrating innovative tools (including virtual reality) to enhance therapeutic engagement, counselor self-care, and client well-being within ethically sound, inclusive mental health practice.

Kristopher K. Garza, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, Associate Professor of Counseling, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, Texas; Steve F. Bain, D.Min., Professor, LPC-S, NCC, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, Texas

Location: St. Anne 2

**3:00 pm-4:00 pm**

**Roundtable Presentations**

**Location: St. Mary 1-2**

- **Forensic Placements: Unique Legal & Ethical Considerations**

ABSTRACT: Emerging counselors increasingly work with forensic populations, including in jails/prisons, community correctional settings, and with CPS- or court-mandated clients. There are unique considerations for counselor educators and supervisors in preparing students for these settings. This presentation will provide information on these unique considerations and best practices that minimize potential violations.

Leigh Falls Holman, Ph.D., LPC-S (TX), LMHC-S (TN) RPTS, Professor & Department Chair, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX

Location: Table 1

- **Ethical Obligations for Counselors in Preparing for Incapacitation or Death**

ABSTRACT: What is our ethical obligation to self-disclose to clients if we learn that we have a health crisis that could potentially lead to our incapacitation? Should we have a professional will in the event of our unexpected death? We will discuss these and other difficult ethical questions in this presentation.



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Mark Leggett, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Core Faculty Member / Counselor in Private Practice, Walden University, School of Counseling, Clinical Mental Health Program, Minneapolis, MN Online Program; John Marszalek, Ph.D., LPC, ACS, BC-TMH, Core Faculty, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Online Program, University of Phoenix

Location: Table 2

- **Can Embracing AI Reduce Counselor Burnout**

ABSTRACT: Counselors have the rewarding profession of enabling clients to achieve wellness! That reward also comes with the risk of burnout from long notes, limited providers, and tedious tasks. But there is a controversial resource that could change the game for counselors. Let's discuss how AI, when implemented ethically, can prevent impairment and promote quality care.

Dr. Meredith Nelson, Professor, LPC-S, Louisiana State University of Shreveport, Shreveport, Louisiana; Lauren Thompson, B.S., LSU-S M.S. Clinical Mental Health Graduate Student, University: Louisiana State University of Shreveport, Shreveport, Louisiana

Location: Table 3

- **Rooted in Ethics: The Right Use of Power in Counselor Education**

ABSTRACT: This presentation explores the ethical use of power in counselor education faculty relationships using Cedar Barstow's "Right Use of Power" framework. Participants will examine power dynamics in academic settings, identify common challenges, and learn practical strategies to create collaborative program cultures that model ethical use of power for students and counselors-in-training.

Karena J. Heyward, Ph.D., LPC, LMFT, ACS, Associate Professor, University of Western States, Portland, Oregon (Online), Kristi Cannon, Ph.D., LPC, Associate Professor, University of Western States; Tiffany M. Darby, Ph.D., ACS, LPCC-S (OH, KY, PA), PSC (OH), Clinical Coordinator & Associate Professor, University of Western States, Online

Location: Table 4

- **Ethical Nondiagnosis: Legal, Ethical, and Clinical Considerations**

ABSTRACT: The ACA Code of Ethics specifies that counselors may refrain from diagnosis when it could cause harm. Yet many counselors do not consider the implications or potential harm of a diagnosis. This roundtable explores critiques of the diagnostic system and considers how ethical nondiagnosis can be applied in client-centered, justice-oriented care.

Robert Burdine, LPC, Doctoral Candidate, University of the Cumberlands, Liberty, SC

Location: Table 5

- **Ethics in Action: Connecting Counselor Trainees to Real-World Ethics Through HPSO Cases and Media**

ABSTRACT: Ethics becomes meaningful when students see how counselor decisions unfold. Using HPSO cases, media, and film, this session demonstrates how real ethical missteps and successes influence client welfare, licensure, and counselor liability. Participants will learn engaging strategies for helping counselor trainees link ethical standards to practical outcomes in the field.

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Tiffany Simon, Ph.D., LPC-S, CSC, Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Houston-Clear Lake, Houston; Kimberly McGough, PhD, LPC-S, CSC, Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Houston-Clear Lake, Houston, TX

Location: Table 6

- **Adjunct Instruction and Ethics: Beyond CACREP Standards**

**ABSTRACT:** This presentation explores the ethical responsibilities of adjunct instructors in CACREP programs, from system-level compliance to micro-level student interactions. Topics include standardized syllabi, gatekeeping, fieldwork communication, evaluation of dispositions, and program support structures, highlighting strategies for exceeding accreditation standards while fostering ethical, equitable, and effective counselor education practices.

Emma Vdoviak-Markow, LPCC-S, LMFT-S, NCC, ACS, BC-TMH, Doctoral Candidate, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM; Ashley Martin-Cuellar, Ph.D., LMFT, Senior Lecturer, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM; Cortny Stark, Ph.D., LPCC, LADAC, CRC, NCC, ACS, Assistant Professor, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

Location: Table 7

**3:30 pm-4:30 pm**

**King Cake Break**

Enjoy Carnival King Cake and beverages compliments of conference sponsors Northlake and The Ness Center from 3:30-4:30 pm in the Orleans Ballroom foyer and outside St. Mary's 1&2.

**4:00 pm-4:15 pm**

**Break**

**4:15 pm-5:15 pm**

**Formal Presentations**

- **Featured Presentation** **Psyched Up: Psychedelics, Ethics, and Counseling**

**ABSTRACT:** This session will explore research related to psychedelic use in counseling and the counselor's ethical responsibility. Participants will engage in a discussion of ethics and strategies to assist counselors, supervisors, and counselor educators.

Brenden A. Hargett, Ph.D., NCC, MAC, LCMHC, LCAS, Director of Ethics, National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc., Greensboro, NC

Location: Orleans Ballroom

- **Queering Counselor Ethics: The Practice of Collective Care and Liberation in the Gray Areas**

**ABSTRACT:** Amid today's increasingly tumultuous sociopolitical climate, counselor educators must redefine how the profession understands and teaches ethics. Drawing from continued research with LGBTQIA+ communities on systemic harm and group resilience, this session reimagines ethics as a relational, community-centered practice, highlighting adaptability, creativity, and advocacy as essential competencies for ethical practice.

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Mel Mason, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Research Fellow and Counselor Educator, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL

Location: St. Joseph

- **From Autonomy to Advocacy: Counseling Ethics with Military Clients**

ABSTRACT: This presentation reinterprets foundational counseling ethics through a culturally responsive lens attuned to the lived experiences of military and veteran clients by aligning principles such as autonomy and beneficence with collectivist and duty-centered worldviews.

David Gosling, Ph.D., LPC, Assistant Professor & Director of Military Counseling Concentration, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA

Location: St. Anne 1

- **Astrology Assisted Therapy: Legal and Ethical Implications - A Qualitative Analysis**

ABSTRACT: The presenter will offer historical and contemporary perspectives on the legal and ethical implications of Astrology Assisted Therapy. The presenter will share data from a completed qualitative study in which 20 licensed mental health professionals shared clinical, legal, and ethical perspectives on incorporating astrology into their therapeutic practice.

Jenae D. Thompson, Ph.D., LCPC, NCC, Core Faculty, Walden University (Remote: Chicago, IL)

Location: St. Anne 2

**4:15 pm-5:15 pm**

**Roundtable Presentations**

**Location: St. Mary 1-2**

- **Cultural Competency and Boundary Setting: Addressing the Gap Between Ethics and Morals**

ABSTRACT: Although setting boundaries is a key aspect of the therapeutic process, there is often a disconnect between culturally rooted conflicts and ethical practices. This presentation explores potential areas for culture-based dilemmas and how to address these gaps while adhering to ethical principles, reflecting on intersecting factors, and implementing appropriate approaches.

Heather Hernandez, BA, Graduate Student, Clinical Mental Health Counseling with Art Therapy Concentration Caldwell University, Caldwell, NJ; Traci Bitondo Ph.D., LPC, LPAT, ATR-BC, ACS, ATCS, Assistant Professor, Caldwell University, Caldwell, NJ; Mallory Lang, BA, Graduate Student Clinical Mental Health Counseling with Art Therapy concentration, Caldwell University; Lauren Clark Ph.D., LPC, ACS, NCC, Assistant Professor, Licensed Professional Counselor, Caldwell University, Caldwell, NJ

Location: Table 1

- **When AI/Chatbots Go Wrong: The Counselor's Role in Helping Protect Children/Adolescents and Legal Considerations.**

ABSTRACT: We will review the civil liability case involving Adam Raine, a 16-year-old who died by suicide with the assistance of ChatGPT. In addition to exploring the legal and ethical considerations

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related to AI risks, we will also discuss specific counseling strategies for use with children, adolescents, and parents/families.

Teresa Christensen, Ph.D., LPC, RPT-S, Professor, Core Faculty, Walden University, Minneapolis, MN; Sandra Urzua, LPC, CCTIP, Ph.D. Student, Walden University, Minneapolis, MN; William Presswood, LPC, Doctoral Student, Walden University, Minneapolis, MN

Location: Table 2

- **Beyond the Label: Ethical and Legal Issues in Diagnosing Marginalized Clients**

ABSTRACT: Diagnostic bias can lead to misdiagnosis and harm, creating ethical and legal concerns for counselors. This session examines ethical responsibilities, legal implications, and strategies for culturally informed diagnosis. Participants will learn to apply decision-making models, document effectively, and reduce risks when working with marginalized client populations.

Tiffany Hairston, Ph.D., LPCC-S, LICDC-CS, NCC, Assistant Professor, University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg, Kentucky (Virtual); Tiffany M. Darby, Ph.D., ACS, LPCC-S (OH, KY, PA), PSC (OH), Clinical Coordinator & Associate Professor, University of Western States, Online; Roseina Britton, Ph.D., LPC (IL), NCC, Clinical Faculty; CEO & Founder, Southern New Hampshire University; Cultivating Minds LLC; Serenity Healing Counseling Center LLC, Charlotte, North Carolina

Location: Table 3

- **Beyond the Classroom: Systemic Gatekeeping to Prevent Gateslippage**

ABSTRACT: Gatekeeping is an ethical mandate to protect the public. This session examines the systemic challenges leading to gateslippage by exploring the necessary alignment of counseling programs, institutional policies, and practicum site responsibilities. We will also address the essential yet often-overlooked emotional and legal impacts on counselor educators.

Matthew B. Tolliver, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, ALPS, Assistant Professor, West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, WV; Jennifer Randall-Reyes, Professor of Counseling & Program Director of Counseling, West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, WV

Location: Table 4

- **Ethical Quandaries: Navigating the In-Between**

ABSTRACT: This reflective session invites counselors to explore ethical dilemmas through the lens of curiosity, humility, and cultural responsiveness. Grounded in the ACA Code of Ethics and MSJCC framework, participants will examine personal limitations without shame, engage in self-reflection, and strengthen ethical alignment through supervision and reflective practice.

Traci L. Test, Ph.D., LPC-S, NBCC, CSC, Core Faculty & Contributing Faculty Supervisor, Walden University, Minneapolis, MN (Remote); Sarah H. Golden, Ph.D., LPCC, LPC, NCC, NCSC, Core Faculty School of Counseling, Walden University, Minneapolis, MN (Remote)

Location: Table 5

- **Ethical Considerations for Supervision and Clinical Work in Correctional Settings**

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**ABSTRACT:** Correctional settings have become de facto treatment centers for offenders struggling with mental illness and addiction. As non-traditional treatment settings, jails and prisons present unique ethical challenges and barriers for effective supervision and clinical practice. Considerations for confidentiality, dual roles, safety, and counselor readiness for work in corrections will be explored.

Vanessa Qualls, MEd, LMHC, Visiting Faculty/Doctoral Student, Purdue University Northwest/Walden University, Hammond, IN

Location: Table 6

- **Ethics in Action: Responding to Emerging Legal and Ethical Challenges in School Counseling**

**ABSTRACT:** School counselors face rapidly evolving ethical dilemmas intensified by shifting legal landscapes. This session examines emerging issues at the intersection of ethics, law, and policy, artificial intelligence, DEI restrictions, and advocacy for marginalized groups, including undocumented and LGBTQ+ students, through the lens of the ASCA Ethical Standards and applicable federal and state mandates.

Wendy D. Rock, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, NCSC, Lead Professional Learning Specialist, Hatching Results, San Diego, CA

Location: Table 7

**5:15 pm**

**End of Day**

**We appreciate your participation today. Please enjoy an evening exploring New Orleans, and we look forward to welcoming you back tomorrow.**



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# Thursday January 29, 2026

7:45 am-12:30 pm

Registration and Information: Hotel Entry Foyer

8:30 am-9:30 am

## Formal Presentations

- **Navigating Political Ideology, Ethics, and Advocacy: The Emotional Impact on Clients, Counselors, and Counselor Educators**

ABSTRACT: This workshop will explore the complex interplay between politics and the counseling profession, focusing on how these dynamics affect counselors and counselor education. Participants will explore strategies for navigating emotionally charged political landscapes while advocating for ethical, inclusive, and social-justice approaches to training future counselors.

Jeannie Falkner, Ph.D., LCSW, Core Faculty, Walden University, Minneapolis, MN; Linda Foster, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Core Faculty, Walden University, Minneapolis, MN

Location: Orleans Ballroom

- **When Silence Isn't Golden: Upholding Ethical Principles through Responsive Communication**

ABSTRACT: When silence speaks louder than words, ethics are at stake. This session unpacks the ethics of silence in counselor education and how delayed or dismissive communication erodes trust, justice, and care. Through candid dialogue and case examples, presenters offer strategies for turning silence into ethically responsive, compassionate communication.

Jayna Bonfini, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Associate Professor, University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg, KY; Rebecca Mayeux Gill, LPC, NCC; Doctoral Candidate, University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg, KY; Marina Bunch, Ph.D., LMHC-S, NCC, CCTP; Assistant Professor, University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg, KY

Location: St. Joseph

- **Scrolling for Support: Can Counselors Ethically Consult on Facebook**

ABSTRACT: There are many social media groups in which helping professionals consult on clinical and professional issues. Unfortunately, verifying members' identities is unreliable, making it unclear who has access to potentially sensitive client information being shared. Furthermore, the advice found in these forums can be unprofessional and not trustworthy.

Lisa Whitehead, Ph.D., LPC-S, LMFT, LCDC, RPT, Assistant Professor of Counselor Education, Texas A&M Texarkana, Texarkana, TX; Molly Stehn, EdD, LPC, NCC, BC-TMH, Associate Professor of Counselor Education, Texas A&M Texarkana, Texarkana, TX; Angela Harless, Ph.D., LPC-S, TA-S, Associate Professor of Counselor Education, Texas A&M Texarkana

Location: St. Anne 1



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- **Teaching Law and Ethics Through Experiential Learning: Innovative Strategies for Counselor Education**

ABSTRACT: This session presents experiential strategies for teaching law and ethics in counselor education. Participants will explore approaches such as mock hearings, ethical speed rounds, and case simulations to enhance ethical reasoning, engagement, and professional identity development, while aligning instruction with CACREP standards and professional ethical codes.

Jesyca Lyle, Ph.D., NCC, NCSC, APC, ACS, Assistant Professor of Counselor Education, Augusta University, Augusta, Georgia

Location: St. Anne 2

- **Case Notes to Felony Counts: The Acosta Wake-Up Call**

ABSTRACT: Co-led by a prosecutor-clinician pair, this session dissects the Acosta verdict to show how burnout and missed escalation led to case notes being used as evidence. We show how burnout, missed escalation, and documentation gaps became felony counts, what the judge actually weighed, and what that signals for clinical ethics, supervision, and agency policy across the field.

Emma Mikan, MA, LCPC, NCC, Doctoral Candidate, Counselor in Private Practice, University of the Cumberland, Palatine, IL; Tyler Mikan, J.D., Prosecuting Attorney, Lake County States Attorney's Office, Waukegan, IL

Location: Bourbon O

- **Ethical Considerations for Counseling Minority Youth Diagnosed with ASD**

ABSTRACT: This session explores ethical challenges in counseling minority youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), highlighting disparities in diagnosis, access, and care. Grounded in the ACA Code of Ethics, participants will examine culturally responsive strategies, decision-making models, and advocacy approaches to ensure equitable, competent, and ethical counseling practices.

Domonique Lemieux, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, Assistant Professor, Capella University, Minneapolis, MN; Brittani Adache, M.S., Ph.D. Candidate, Mental Health Counselor, Private Practice & Capella University, Stuart, Florida

Location: TJ's

**9:30 am-10:00 am**

**Break**

**10:00 am-11:00 am**

**Formal Presentations**

- **Featured Presentation** **The Draft ACA 2026 Code of Ethics: What is Changing?**

ABSTRACT: The ACA Code of Ethics is revised periodically to reflect changes in practice and society. The Ethics Revision Task Force has been working hard to ensure that the code remains relevant and valuable, particularly during this time when practicing has become so ethically challenging.

Lynn E. Linde, EdD, NCC, Chief of Professional Practice, The American Counseling Association, Alexandria, VA; Christian Chan, Ph.D. NCC; Assistant Professor, UNC Greensboro, Greensboro, NC;

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Barbara Herlihy, Ph.D., Professor Emerita, Univ. of New Orleans, Austin, TX; Ann Ordway, Ph.D., JD, Program Director, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Queen Creek, AZ

Location: Orleans Ballroom

- **I Saw It on TikTok: Legal and Ethical Challenges of Social Media in Counseling**

ABSTRACT: From viral self-diagnoses to blurred professional boundaries, social media is reshaping the counseling landscape. This session explores real-world legal and ethical challenges arising from clients' digital lives and counselors' online presence, offering practical strategies to respond ethically, set boundaries, and help clients evaluate the credibility of online mental health content.

Lotes Nelson, Ph.D., LCMHC-S, ACS, NCC, Associate Professor, Counselor Education and Supervision, University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg, KY (St. Augustine, FL - Remote); Tiffany Bartell, Ph.D., LPC-MHSP (TN), LPC (GA), NCC, Assistant Professor, Counselor Education and Supervision, Sue Haddad, Ph.D., LCPC, NCC, Associate Professor, Counselor Education and Supervision

Location: St. Joseph

- **Formed to Choose Well: The Role of Human and Virtue Formation in Ethical Decision-Making and Counselor Supervision**

ABSTRACT: This presentation examines how human and virtue formation serve as essential foundations for ethical decision-making and effective supervision in counseling. Participants will explore how emotional maturity, spiritual integration, and character development cultivate ethical discernment, resilience, and integrity in professional practice, aligning personal formation with ethical and supervisory excellence.

Dawn Brunkenhoefer, Ph.D., LPC-S, Assistant Professor, Southeastern University, Lakeland, Florida (online graduate program); Gail Roaten, Ph.D., LPC-S, CSC, Associate Professor of Counselor Education, Southeastern University, Lakeland, Florida

Location: St. Anne 1

- **Dual Systems, Dual Responsibilities: Legal & Ethical Collaboration Between Counselors and Educators**

ABSTRACT: Students with disabilities often exist at the intersection of mental health and education systems. This session explores counselors' legal and ethical responsibilities under IDEA, Section 504, FERPA, and the ACA Code of Ethics. Participants will learn strategies for ethical collaboration that protect confidentiality, promote equity, and ensure coordinated, holistic care.

Brittany N. Glover, Ph.D., NCC, LCMHCA, Assistant Professor of Counseling, San Diego State University, San Diego, California; Jennifer H. Stover, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, CSC, Assistant Professor, Sam Houston State University, Houston, Texas; Brian Wesley Harrington, NCC, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi

Location: St. Anne 2

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- **Sharpening Ethical Judgement in Treating Diagnostically Complex Clients**

ABSTRACT: Treatment planning may be hindered by such conditions as overlapping mood disorders, complex trauma histories, substance use, and chronic pain. These can cause looping of client disturbances and continuous states of crisis. Using actual case presentations, participants will practice prioritizing client disturbance levels, thereby helping ensure successful treatment outcomes.

Stacey Reicherzer, Ph.D., LCPC (IL), LPC-Supervisor (Texas), EMDR-Certified Therapist, Counselor in Private Practice and Adjunct Instructor, Yorkville University (Chicago, IL)

Location: Bourbon O

- **AI and the Schools: Ethics of the Now and the Future**

ABSTRACT: Join an exciting and engaging presentation exploring the burgeoning use of AI in schools. We will explore primary categories of school-based AI use and make connections to current ethical codes, including: (a) personal tools for mental health, (b) school-wide systems tracking communication, and (c) assistants to school counselors.

Jason Baker, Ph.D., LPC, Associate Professor of Psychology and Counselor Education, Millersville University, Millersville, PA

Location: TJ's

**11:00 am- 11:15 am**

**Break**

**11:15 am- 12:15 pm**

**Keynote Address:**

**Dr. Barbara Herlihy, Professor Emerita at the University of New Orleans**

***Surviving and Thriving in Tough Times: Maintaining Your Moral Compass Amidst Ongoing Moral Injury and Moral Distress***

**Location: Orleans Ballroom**

ABSTRACT: Each year in this keynote session, Dr. Barbara Herlihy addresses an emerging topic in counselor ethics. In 2026, Dr. Herlihy returns to a topic she presented in 2020 – moral injury/moral distress – focusing on these phenomena as experienced by counselors, counselor educators, supervisors, and students over the past year. Faced with persistent and ongoing attempts to erode the basic principles and values on which the counseling profession rests, each of us has been challenged to maintain our moral compass while striving to survive professionally. How can we best take care of ourselves and support each other as we struggle with these challenges?

**11:15 am- 12:15 pm**

**Formal Presentations**

- **Shame - The Elephant in the Supervision Room-Ethical Considerations**

ABSTRACT: Addressing shame is both a clinical necessity and an ethical responsibility in counseling supervision. Shame is a painful emotion that can interfere with a supervisee's development, compromise

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client care, and undermine the supervisory relationship itself. An effective supervisor must understand, recognize, and foster a safe environment for processing and mitigating shame.

Imre (Emeric) Csaszar, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, Assistant Professor of Professional Practice, Program Director – Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge

Location: St. Joseph

- **Suicide in Rural Communities: Ethical Considerations for Counselors**

ABSTRACT: This program addresses the ethical challenges for counselors working with suicidal clients in rural communities. Presenters will discuss the unique characteristics of rural communities, the impact on clients facing a suicidal crisis, and strategies for addressing challenges. Presenters will use case studies to explore related ethical dilemmas in these communities.

Alex Becnel, PhD, NCC, LPC (LA), LCPC (KS), Assistant Professor, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC; Abigail Whitfield, MS, Doctoral Student, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

Location: St. Anne 1

- **Exiting Your Practice Ethically**

ABSTRACT: Professional wills, practice closure, executors, oh my! Many clinicians are excited to open their practices; very few consider the steps required to close one ethically. Don't worry. We've got you covered. Counselors seem lost about how to do so ethically. Helping counselors maintain their ethics is the heart of every presentation I provide.

Dr. Susan Meyerle, LPC, CEO, Ethics Rocks, Lincoln, Nebraska

Location: St. Anne 2

- **Healing Beyond the Norm: Ethics in Neurodivergent Trauma Work**

ABSTRACT: Neurodivergent individuals experience higher trauma rates and treatment-related retraumatization, yet most trauma models center on neurotypical processing. This session integrates trauma-informed care with neurodiversity-affirming ethics to guide inclusive, flexible, and ethical trauma treatment. Clinicians will explore frameworks promoting safety, consent, and empowerment for neurodivergent clients across diverse therapeutic modalities.

Michael S. Leeman, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, Associate Professor of Counseling, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, LA; Heather Olivier, Ph.D., LPC, PMH-C, CCTP, NCC  
Assistant Professor of Counseling, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, LA

Location: Bourbon O

- **Beyond Compliance: AI Ethics and Care in Counseling**

ABSTRACT: Current AI ethics frameworks emphasize data security and algorithmic fairness but overlook relational concerns in counseling. This presentation introduces care ethics to evaluate AI's impact on therapeutic boundaries, cultural safety, and client dignity. Participants will analyze realistic counseling scenarios and develop practical decision-making strategies for ethical AI integration in practice and education.

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Dr. Michael S. Jones, LPC-S, NCC, BC-TMH, Tenured Professor of Counseling, University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg, KY; Dr. Joseph Campbell, NCC, ACS, BC-TMH, LPC, Chair of Counselor Education, Associate Professor, Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas

Location: TJ's

**12:15 pm**

**Afternoon Free for In-Person and Virtual Participants. Profitez de votre pause de l'après-midi!**



**We appreciate your participation today. Please enjoy the afternoon exploring New Orleans, and we look forward to welcoming you back tomorrow.**



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# Friday January 30, 2026

7:45 am-12:30 pm

Registration and Information: Hotel Entry Foyer

**8:30 am-9:30 am**

### **Formal Presentation**

- **Helping Without Fear: Ethical Decision-Making in Eating Disorder Care**

ABSTRACT: Every clinician makes a difference. This engaging session demystifies ethical decision-making in eating disorder care. Build confidence, reduce fear, and learn to support clients ethically and compassionately. Attendees will gain strategies for trauma-informed ethics, cultural responsiveness, and real-world approaches to working with clients facing eating disorders or body image concerns.

Emily Ervin, MA, LMHC, NCC, PhD Student, University of the Cumberlands, Lafayette, Indiana

Location: Orleans Ballroom

- **Therapeutic Conversations with Our Machines: How AI and Chatbots Are Changing Mental Health Care**

ABSTRACT: Can a machine sound like a therapist? This session explores how GPT-based chatbots simulate empathy and reshape mental-health care. Participants will examine how these systems think, how therapy-style bots are trained, and how ethical codes and professional judgment can guide their responsible use.

Matt Morris, Ph.D., LPC-S, LMFT-S, Professor of Counseling, Counselor in Private Practice, University of Holy Cross, New Orleans, LA

Location: St. Joseph

- **Navigating the Ethical Landscape of Evidence-Based Therapies: A Comparative Analysis of CPT and PE in Treatment of PTSD**

ABSTRACT: PTSD presents challenges in therapeutic intervention. While cognitive processing therapy (CPT) and prolonged exposure therapy (PE) are recognized as first-line evidence-based treatments for PTSD, their application requires careful consideration of ethical implications. This presentation compares and contrasts ethical considerations inherent in using CPT and PE for individuals with PTSD.

Darleen Dempster, Ph.D., LPC-S (AL, OR), NCC, ACS, Associate Professor of Counseling; Assistant Director, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Bushnell University, Eugene, OR

Location: St. Anne 1

- **Behind the Ethical Curtain: Clinical Insights from a Counselor and Board Investigator**

ABSTRACT: Ethical practice remains the cornerstone of professional counseling, yet evolving cultural norms, digital realities, and complex client presentations continue to challenge counselors' ethical

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decision-making. This session, presented by a practicing counselor and former Counseling Board Investigator, provides a rare dual-lens perspective on emerging ethical trends and common pitfalls observed in recent disciplinary cases.

Nicholas DeJesus, MA, LCMHCS, NCC, Ethics Consultant/Board Investigator, NCBLCMHC, University of the Cumberlands, Raleigh, NC

Location: St. Anne 2

- **Ethical Leadership in Crisis: A Case Study of the American Counseling Association's Response to Legislative Challenges**

**ABSTRACT:** This qualitative case study examines how the American Counseling Association (ACA) approached decision-making, advocacy, and leadership following its response to Tennessee's Senate Bill 1556/House Bill 1840, legislation that allowed counselors to refuse services based on personal beliefs. ACA's stance led to the relocation of the 2017 conference and prompted important organizational reflection. Through interviews with 20 key decision-makers and a review of ACA documents, the study examined how leaders navigated the decision, what the organization learned, and how the experience shaped ACA's approach to advocacy and ethical leadership. Findings highlight key lessons that can guide professional organizations in maintaining ethical integrity while addressing complex organizational challenges.

Shon D. Smith, EdD, MA, LMHC, LCAS-A, LSC, CRC, HS-BCP, Associate Professor of Counseling, Clinical Coordinator, Retaliation Counselor Education Association & North Carolina Counseling Association (North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky)

Location: Bourbon O

- **Scaffolding Ethical Practice: Preparing Practicum Students**

**ABSTRACT:** Practicum is a formative stage with critical ethical implications for student development and client welfare. This session explores strategies for ethically preparing practicum students, including anxiety management, clear expectations, scaffolding growth, leadership, and community-building. Emphasis is placed on ACA ethical standards, supervision, and competence, with practical tools for orientation and support.

Emma Vdoviyak-Markow, LPCC-S, LMFT-S, NCC, ACS, BC-TMH, Doctoral Candidate, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Ashley Martin-Cuellar, Ph.D., LMFT, Senior Lecturer, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

Location: TJ's

- **Ethics in a Small Town: Addressing Challenges in Rural Settings**

**ABSTRACT:** From running into clients at Walmart to attending school and town events together, counselors who practice in rural settings constantly face challenges. In this session, we will discuss dual relationships, boundary issues, confidentiality, inadvertent self-disclosures, and informed consent related to life in small towns.

Mary Steiner Iames, Ph.D., LSC, Director of Master of Arts in Clinical Counseling Program, Associate Professor, Winebrenner Theological Seminary, Findlay, Ohio



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Location: St. Mary 1

**9:30 am-10:00 am**

**Break**

**10:00 am-11:00 am**

**Formal Presentations**

- **Supervision with Heart: Applying Attachment and EFT Principles to Ethical Supervision**

ABSTRACT: Supervision is a cornerstone of ethical clinical practice, supporting client welfare and clinician competence while reducing burnout. A strong supervisory relationship is consistently linked to clinician growth and well-being. Attachment theory offers insight into the relational patterns that shape supervision, as both supervisors and supervisees bring attachment needs that affect safety and openness in the alliance. Integrating Emotionally Focused Therapy (EFT) principles—such as identifying negative cycles, tracking emotions, and strengthening secure bonds—gives supervisors practical tools to deepen attunement, repair ruptures, and build effective, ethical supervisory relationships.

Kami Ball Tran, Ph.D., LPC-S, RPT-S, NCC, Clinical Assistant Professor of Counseling, Owner, The Healing Place Therapies, University of North Texas, Denton, TX; Taran McGowan, LPC, Doctoral Student, University of North Texas, Denton, TX.

Location: Orleans Ballroom

- **Dualities and Dissonance: Ethical and Legal Implications When Supervising School Counselors Pursuing Clinical Licensure**

ABSTRACT: School counselors pursuing clinical licensure often experience fractured supervision. This can lead to role ambiguity and conflicting expectations due to dual and inconsistent supervisory systems and a lack of clinically trained supervisors. This session explores how these dualities create dissonance in professional identity development, legal compliance, and ethical practice. Drawing from current research, real-world examples, and CACREP-aligned expectations, presenters will examine the systemic, developmental, and ethical risks of fragmented supervision.

Jennifer H. Stover, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, CSC, RYT, Assistant Professor, Counselor Education Department, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas; Ashley Frutos M.Ed., LPC, NCC, CSC, Counselor Education Doctoral Student, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas; Lindsey Taylor M.S., LPC-S, NCC, CSC, Counselor Education Doctoral Student, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas

Location: St. Joseph

- **Balancing Duty and Care: Ethical Practice with Military Service Members and Veterans**

ABSTRACT: Counseling with military populations presents unique ethical challenges related to confidentiality, cultural competence, and dual roles. This session examines these complexities, with a focus on informed consent, risk assessment, and ethical decision-making, and offers practical strategies for ethically serving those who serve.

Jodi H. Manton, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, Associate Professor of Professional Practice, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

Location: St. Anne 1

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- **Ethical Issues Related to Counseling Boomerang Children and Their Families During Periods of Economic Hardship**

ABSTRACT: The frequency of young adults returning home to live with their parents has increased due to recent economic events. This presentation will review important financial considerations, academic literature, and Ethical Codes related to counseling boomerang families undergoing economic hardship. Strengths-based approaches and practical strategies for navigating relevant ethical dilemmas are also provided.

Robert Casares, Ph.D., LCMHC, LPC, Associate Professor, Department of Counseling, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC

Location: St. Anne 2

- **Fear-Based Ethics or Braving the Wild? Exploring Ethical Identity in Supervision**

ABSTRACT: What ethical legacy are you leaving? This session contrasts fear-based ethics with values-driven training, inviting reflection on how we shape ethical identity in supervision. Through candid narratives and critical dialogue, presenters challenge participants to rethink how ethics are taught, embodied, and passed on.

John Robbins, Ph.D., LMFT, Core Faculty, Walden University, Layton, UT; Kristen Czech, MS, MSN, LMFT, RN, CRNP, President and CEO, Therapy, Collegeville; Melissa Petersen, MA, LMFT, EMDR, NCC, Private Practice, Sierra Family Wellness, Reno, NV

Location: Bourbon O

- **The Legal Anatomy of Counseling: Ethics, Education, and Insurance Compliance**

ABSTRACT: This session explores legal and ethical intersections in counseling practice, preparation, and supervision. Participants will gain practical strategies for diagnosis, insurance compliance, and educator accountability, bridging clinical and academic roles. Designed for licensed providers, counselor educators, and supervisors committed to aligning best practices with evolving legal standards.

Sherritta Hughes, Ph.D., LPC, ACS, CWC, Senior Lecturer/Clinical Director, University of Southern California and Hughes Integrative Mental Health Care, Somerset, NJ

Location: TJ's

- **Counseling and Corrections: Ethical and Legal Considerations**

ABSTRACT: According to the Department of Justice, there are more than 1.9 million people incarcerated in the United States. Historically, more than twenty percent of these individuals receive regular mental health treatment. This presentation will discuss the legal and ethical challenges of providing counseling in a correctional setting.

Neil E. Duchac, DrPH, Ed.D., Ph.D., LMHC, LSC, Executive Director of Behavioral Health, Indiana Department of Correction/ Core faculty member, the University of Phoenix, Indiana Department of Correction/ University of Phoenix, Indianapolis, IN

Location: St. Mary 1

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- **Client-Initiated Boundary Crossings and Violations: The Case for Trauma-informed Supervision and Ethical Decision-making**

**ABSTRACT:** Counselors-in-training (CIT) are more vulnerable to client-enacted boundary crossings and violations due to their development and growing clinical judgment. Supervisors can utilize trauma-informed supervision to enhance protective factors to ensure timely addressing of boundary crossings and violations. Participants will apply concepts to a case involving a client's indecent exposure.

Cortny Stark, Ph.D., LPCC, LADAC, CRC, NCC, Assistant Professor, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM; Dana Owens, MA, LPC, NCC, Counselor in Private Practice, Into Bloom Counseling, Colorado Springs,

Location: St. Mary 2

**11:00 am- 11:15 am**

**Break**

**11:15 am-12:15 pm**

**Keynote Address:**

**Dr. Gerard Lawson, Professor of Counselor Education at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia**

***Ethics Complaints and Sanctions: A Licensing Board Perspective***

**Location: Orleans Ballroom**

**ABSTRACT:** There are many avenues for ethics complaints to be reviewed, and investigations or sanctions by licensing and regulatory boards carry significant consequences for both clients and counselors. Because these boards are responsible for protecting the public and ensuring client welfare, counselors must adhere closely to ethical codes, practice standards, laws, and regulations. This keynote highlights research conducted by the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) examining the frequency and variation of complaints and sanctions across state boards. Findings reveal patterns of violations consistent with earlier studies, with slight shifts in the most common ethical concerns and substantial variation in sanctions across states and licensee types. This keynote will help counselors, counselor educators, supervisors, and other stakeholders better understand how boards manage complaints in their role of safeguarding the public.

**11:15 am-12:15 pm**

**Formal Presentations**

- **Beyond the Gate: Wellness and Relational-Centered Remediation in Counselor Education**

**ABSTRACT:** Gatekeeping is often perceived as a punitive barrier designed to exclude students from the profession. This presentation reframes gatekeeping/remediation as a proactive, relational, wellness-centered process that supports student development and upholds ethical standards. Attendees will explore strategies for implementing remediation practices that cultivate personal wellness and professional maturity.

Anabel Mifsud, Ph.D., NCC, Assistant Professor, Counselor Education Program, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana; Harriet L. Glosoff, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, ACS; Associate Professor, Professional Counseling Program, Texas State University; San Marcos, Texas; Kathy Ybanez-Llorente,

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Ph.D., LPC-S, Associate Professor, Professional Counseling and Associate, Dean for Student Success, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas

Location: St. Joseph

- **Can You Take Me Off Work? Ethical and Legal Considerations for Therapists Completing FMLA Paperwork for Mental Health Leave**

ABSTRACT: Mental health therapists are increasingly asked to complete FMLA and leave paperwork for clients seeking time away from work due to psychological conditions. Although these requests stem from genuine need, they place therapists in the middle of complex ethical, legal, and professional challenges. This session explores the risks and responsibilities involved in completing FMLA and mental health leave documentation, offering strategies to maintain boundaries, ensure accurate clinical documentation, and balance client support with legal compliance. Case vignettes will provide practical guidance for navigating these situations effectively.

Dr. Tiffany C. Anderson, LPC-S, NCC, Clinical Director, Miracle Counseling Services, LLC, Jackson, MS

Location: St. Anne 1

- **Pause for the Paws: Ethical and Legal Considerations of Animals in the Counseling Space**

ABSTRACT: Counselors may encounter service, emotional support, and therapy animals within the profession, yet there are many misconceptions about these animals, their purposes, and the roles they serve. This presentation aims to equip counselors with foundational competencies to adhere to ethical and legal standards.

Melissa D. Deroche, Ph.D., LPC-S, ACS, NCC, Assistant Professor of Counseling, Tarleton State University, Fort Worth, TX; Elizabeth Kelley Mautz, PhD, LPC, CRC, MPA Assistant Professor and Clinical Coordinator, Lagrange College, Lagrange, GA; Leslie Wofford, Ph.D., CRC, Clinical Assistant Professor and Clinical Coordinator, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

Location: St. Anne 2

- **Faith, Strength, and Silence: Ethical Implications in Counseling Black Women Navigating Religious Trauma**

ABSTRACT: This presentation explores the ethical complexities of counseling Black women as they navigate religious trauma and cultural strength narratives. Attendees will examine intersections of spirituality, gender, and culture through ethical frameworks, learning to apply ACA and MSJCC standards to ensure culturally responsive, trauma-informed care that honors both faith and emotional authenticity.

Ebony T. Holliday, MS, PLPC, SC, Doctoral Student, Contributing Faculty, Walden University, Shreveport, Louisiana; Name: Ebony T. Holliday, PLPC, SC

Location: St. Mary 1

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12:30 pm

**In-Person and Virtual Conference Ends. *Merci*  
de votre présence.**



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**Krewe of Cleopatra Parade**

### **New Orleans Tourist Information**

**Websites: For information on things to do in New Orleans.**

- <http://www.neworleanscvb.com>
- [https://www.tripadvisor.com/Tourismg60864New\\_Orleans\\_Louisiana-Vacations.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Tourismg60864New_Orleans_Louisiana-Vacations.html)
- The Scout Guide | New Orleans
- Magazine Street | Shopping, Dining & Things To Do In New Orleans

### **Future Conference Dates**

The Law and Ethics in Counseling Conference is held annually at the Bourbon Orleans Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. The dates change each year because the conference is scheduled around Carnival and Mardi Gras in New Orleans. To plan ahead, please mark your calendars for the following dates for the annual Law and Ethics in Counseling Conference:

**February 23-26, 2027 (12<sup>th</sup> annual conference)**

**February 1-4, 2028 (13<sup>th</sup> annual conference)**

**January 23-26, 2029 (14<sup>th</sup> annual conference)**

### **Questions?**

If you have questions regarding the conference, please contact the Conference Director, Dr. Ted Remley, Professor of Counseling at the University of Holy Cross, at [tremley@uhcno.edu](mailto:tremley@uhcno.edu)

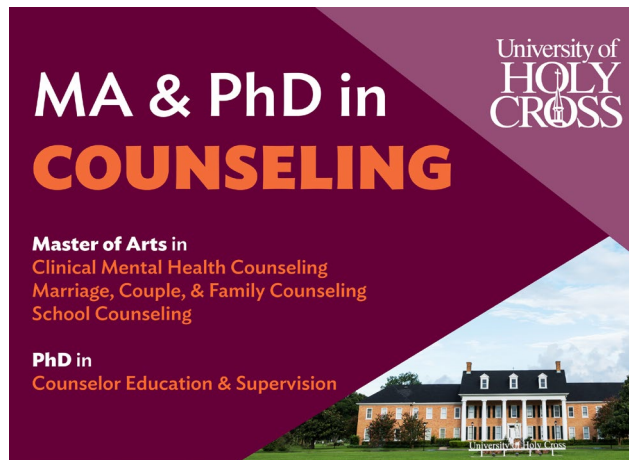


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### **Opportunities at the University of Holy Cross**

MA Degree Programs: <https://uhcno.edu/ceb/counseling/counseling-ma.php>

PhD Degree Program: <https://uhcno.edu/ceb/counseling/counseling-phd.php>



Get your MA or Ph.D. in Counseling online at the University of Holy Cross! We offer MA degrees in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling, and School Counseling. or, pursue your Ph.D. in Counselor Education & Supervision! For detailed information, visit the websites listed above or contact Dr. Michaela Hartline at [mhartline@uhcno.edu](mailto:mhartline@uhcno.edu) or call 504-398-2233.

### **Continuing Education Opportunities at the University of Holy Cross**

**Weekend Workshops with Dr. Gerald Corey  
Counselor Supervision Workshops**

<https://uhcno.edu/academics/ways-to-learn/continuing-education.php>

**Continuing Education Questions?**

Contact Dr. Ted Remley at [tremley@uhcno.edu](mailto:tremley@uhcno.edu)



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### **Keynote Presentations & Speaker Bios**

**Dr. Mary A. Hermann**

**Tuesday, January 27, 2026, 5:00 pm (Central Time Zone)**

#### ***Update on Legal Cases Involving Counselors***

This keynote session will address recent legal cases related to the counseling profession. The session will provide information on the impact of these cases on counselors, supervisors, and counselor educators. The session will further clarify the role of ethical codes as they relate to these cases.

Suggestions for minimizing legal liability will be provided.

Dr. Mary A. Hermann is a professor at the University of the Cumberland in Williamsburg, Kentucky. Before this position, she served on the faculty of Loyola University New Orleans, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Mississippi State University. Dr. Hermann is a licensed attorney, a licensed professional counselor, a national certified counselor, and a certified school counselor. Her research has focused on legal and ethical issues in counseling and women's experiences. She has authored over 75 publications and more than 200 presentations. She has served on the American Counseling Association (ACA) Ethics Committee and the ACA 2014 Ethics Revision Task Force. She co-chaired the ACA Gender Equity Task Force, and she is the founding director of the Women's Lifespan Development Research Lab. She has earned numerous awards for her teaching, scholarship, and leadership, including being named an ACA Fellow.

**Dr. Warren Wright**

**Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 11:15 am (Central Time Zone)**

#### ***The Burdens We Carry: A Transcendental Phenomenological Exploration of Black Professional Counselors Working with Clients Who Experienced Racial Trauma***

Dr. Warren B. Wright is the Community Impact and Engagement Keynote Speaker sponsored by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC). His presentation explores the ethical dimensions of racial trauma work through the lived experiences of Black professional counselors.

Grounded in Dr. Wright's dissertation research, *The Burdens We Carry: A Transcendental Phenomenological Exploration of Black Professional Counselors Working With Clients Who Experienced Racial Trauma*, the presentation delves into five central themes that emerged from the narratives of Black counselors on the frontlines of racial healing: Bearing Witness, Collective Woundedness, Barriers and Challenges, Healing-Focused Approaches, and Counselor Preparation and Development. Through the integration of research, personal testimony, and ethical inquiry, this keynote challenges the counseling profession to move beyond performative equity efforts and engage in ethically sound, justice-oriented practice. Attendees will critically examine how Anti-Blackness, institutional silence, and systemic harm show up in clinical spaces and what it means to respond in an ethical manner. Moreover, this keynote is a call to action for professional counselors, counselor educators, supervisors, and leaders to examine their ethical responsibilities in addressing racial trauma while honoring the labor and legacy of those who carry its burden daily. Dr. Wright's book, *S.A.C.R.E.D. Strategies to Heal Racial Trauma Workbook* is available at <https://warrenbwright.gumroad.com>.

**Dr. Barbara Herlihy**

**Thursday, January 29, 2026, 11:15 am (Central Time Zone)**

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### ***Surviving and Thriving in Tough Times: Maintaining Your Moral Compass Amidst Ongoing Moral Injury and Moral Distress***

Each year in this keynote session, Dr. Barbara Herlihy addresses an emerging topic in counselor ethics. In 2026, Dr. Herlihy returns to a topic she presented in 2020 – moral injury/moral distress – focusing on these phenomena as experienced by counselors, counselor educators and supervisors, and students over the past year. Faced with persistent and ongoing attempts to erode the basic principles and values on which the counseling profession rests, each of us has been challenged to maintain our moral compass while striving to survive professionally. How can we best take care of ourselves and support each other as we struggle with these challenges?

Dr. Barbara Herlihy is a Professor Emerita at the University of New Orleans. She is the co-author of four current textbooks and numerous book chapters and articles, primarily on the topics of ethics, feminist therapy, and social justice. She is a past recipient of the Southern Association for Counselor Education & Supervision (SACES) Courtland Lee Social Justice Award and the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) Outstanding Mentor Award. In 2023, she received the Chi Sigma Iota-International Thomas J. Sweeney Professional Leadership Award, and in 2025, she was honored with the ACA David K. Brooks Distinguished Mentor Award. Dr. Herlihy has served as Chair of the ACA Foundation and the ACA Ethics Committee. She is a Past President of Chi Sigma Iota - International and is an Associate Editor for *Counseling and Values*. She has presented seminars and workshops on ethical issues and other topics across the country and internationally.

### **Dr. Gerald Lawson Friday, January 30, 2026, 11:15 am (Central Time Zone)**

#### ***Ethics Complaints and Sanctions: A Licensing Board Perspective***

There are numerous venues for ethics complaints to be heard and addressed, and investigations and sanctions by licensing and regulatory boards are high stakes for clients and counselors. State regulatory and licensing boards are charged with protecting the public and ensuring client welfare, underscoring the critical need for counselors to follow the appropriate codes of ethics, standards of practice, laws, and regulations. This keynote will center on research conducted by the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) examining the frequency and variation in complaints and sanctions imposed by state counseling boards. What emerges is a pattern of violations similar to those observed in previous studies, with some minor shifts in the order of the most frequently occurring ethical violations. And, in terms of sanctions, there is a great variety in what sanctions are imposed for what types of violations, by state, and by type of licensee. Information from this keynote will deepen the understanding of counselors, counselor educators, supervisors, and other stakeholders in how Boards manage complaints in the service of protecting the public and ensuring client welfare.

Dr. Gerard Lawson is a Professor in the Counselor Education program at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, where he has taught since 2002. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Licensed Substance Abuse Treatment Practitioner in Virginia. Dr. Lawson serves on the Virginia Board of Counseling and is the immediate past-president of the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB). He was the 66<sup>th</sup> President of the American Counseling Association (ACA), and is a past-president of the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES). He was awarded the inaugural Martin Ritchie Award for Advocacy in 2015, in 2017, he was awarded the Virginia Tech College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Land-Grant Scholar Award, and in 2019, he was among the inaugural recipients of the ACES Legacy Awards. He is an American Counseling Association fellow, one of the highest professional recognitions in the counseling profession.

### **Dr. Ted Remley Conference Director**

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Dr. Theodore P. Remley, Jr. (Ted) is a counseling professor at the University of Holy Cross in New Orleans, Louisiana. Dr. Remley holds a Ph.D. in Counselor Education from the University of Florida and a law degree (J.D.) from Catholic University in Washington, D.C. He is a National Certified Counselor (NCC) and a member of Chi Sigma Iota. He is licensed as a Professional Counselor (LPC) in Louisiana and is licensed to practice law in Virginia and Florida. Dr. Remley is the author and co-author of several articles, books, and book chapters related to legal and ethical issues in counseling. For more than 20 years, he directed very popular counselor institutes in Italy and Ireland, and in cooperation with the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC), in Bhutan, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Malawi, Africa, and France. Dr. Remley has been a school counselor and a college counselor and practiced law for seven years. In the past, Dr. Remley has held full-time counseling faculty positions at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia; Mississippi State University; the University of New Orleans; and Old Dominion University. Dr. Remley is a former Executive Director of the American Counseling Association. He was awarded an honorary doctorate from The Chicago School for Professional Psychology. He has been named a fellow in the American Counseling Association, and he received the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016 from the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES). He also received the Past President's Lifetime Membership Award from the American Association of State Counseling Boards.

## Memories

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### **Thank You**

Thank you for being part of the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Law and Ethics in Counseling Conference. The continued success of this event is made possible through the dedication of many—our proposal review committee, our outstanding technical team, the generous support of NBCC, our committed volunteers, and the expertise and insight shared by each of our presenters. Your contributions create the high-quality, meaningful experience that defines this conference year after year.

It is an honor to gather with such an engaged and thoughtful community of counseling professionals. I am sincerely grateful for your participation, your energy, and the spirit of collaboration you bring to this event. As we look ahead, I am excited to reconnect with familiar faces and welcome new ones at the next Law and Ethics in Counseling Conference. Thank you for your support, your commitment to excellence, and for being an essential part of this continued journey.

Best,

*Sarah Irvin*

Sarah Irvin, Ph.D., LPC (MS), NCC  
Assistant Professor, Stephens College  
School of Health Sciences, Counseling Program  
Program Chair, Law and Ethics in Counseling Conference 2026



*Merci  
Beaucoup*