

# **Law and Ethics in Counseling**

## **Conference 2026**

**(11th Annual)**



**January 27-30, 2026**

**Virtual Schedule**

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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.

## **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 formal 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

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

- Dr. Warren Wright is this year's Community Impact and Engagement 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](http://NBCC.org)

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](http://StephensCollege.edu)



**American Counseling Association**  
[American Counseling Association | A professional home for counselors](http://ACA.org)



<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.**

## **Virtual Conference Daily Schedule Summary**

**(All Times are in Central Time Zone)**

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

The virtual conference begins at 8:30 am on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, and ends at 12:30 pm on Friday, January 30, 2026. Virtual participants can also attend broadcasts of in-person sessions during the conference. All in-person and virtual sessions (except in-person roundtable sessions) will be available via video for one month after the conference ends.

<b>Tuesday</b> <b>January 27, 2026</b>	
8:30 am	Welcome to the Virtual Conference, Dr. Sarah Irvin
8:45-9:45 am	Virtual Presentations
9:45-10:00 am	Break
10: 00-11:00 am	Virtual Presentations
11:00-11:15 am	Break
11:15-12:15 pm	Virtual Presentations
12:15-12:30 pm	Break
12:30-1:30 pm	Virtual Presentations
1:30-1:45 pm	Break
1:45-2:45 pm	Virtual Presentations
2:45-3:00 pm	Break
3:00-4:00 pm	Virtual Presentations
4:00-4:15 pm	Break
4:30 pm	In-Person Conference Begins
4:30-6:00 pm	<p>Broadcast of In-Person Conference Opening Session</p> <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 Cumberlands</b></li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>January 28, 2026</b>	
8:30-9:30 am	Broadcasts of In-Person Presentations
9:30-10:00 am	Break
10:00-11:00 am	Broadcasts of 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</b></li> <li>• Broadcast of In-Person Presentations</li> </ul>
12:15-1:45 pm	Break
1:45-2:45 pm	Broadcasts of In-Person Presentations
2:45-3:00 pm	Break

3:00-4:00 pm	Broadcasts of In-Person Presentations
4:00-4:15 pm	Break
4:15-5:15 pm	Broadcasts of In-Person Presentations
<b>Thursday</b> <b>January 29, 2026</b>	
8:30-9:30 am	Broadcasts of In-Person Presentations
9:30-10:00 am	Break
10:00-11:00 am	Broadcasts of In-Person Presentations
11:15 am – 12:15 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broadcast of In-Person Keynote Address by Dr. Barbara Herlihy, Professor Emerita at the University of New Orleans</li> <li>• Broadcast of In-Person Presentations</li> </ul>
<b>Friday</b> <b>January 30, 2026</b>	
8:30-9:30 am	Broadcasts of In-Person Presentations
9:30-10:00 am	Break
10:00-11:00 am	Broadcasts of In-Person Presentations
11:15 am – 12:15 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broadcast of In-Person Keynote Address by Dr. Gerard Lawson, Professor of Counselor Education at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia</li> <li>• Broadcast of In-Person Presentations</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



# **Daily Presentation Schedule (Central Time Zone)**

**Tuesday  
January 27, 2026**

**8:30 am**

**Welcome to the Virtual Conference**

**Zoom Link:**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88570438726?pwd=PviVQoUVL3VjRuwcuNhX2GlbxOYTMb.1>

## **Virtual Presentations (Central Time Zone)**

**8:45-9:45 am**

**Virtual Presentations**

- AI Feedback in Counselor Education: Ethics, Policy, and Practice**

**ABSTRACT:** Institutions of higher education increasingly use AI to enhance grading and feedback, yet effectiveness and ethical responsibility remain with faculty. Four counselor educators share diverse instructional approaches using AI tools to explore ethical, andragogical, and programmatic challenges, including transparency, informed consent, and confidentiality.

Corinne W. Bridges, EdD, LPCC, NCC, BC-TMH, Core Faculty, Walden University (Minneapolis, MN); Kristi Cannon, Ph.D., LPC, Associate Professor, University of Western States; Heather Paessler-Chesterton, Ph.D., LMHC, Associate Professor, University of the Cumberlands (remote), Rochester, NY; Laura Rogers, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, ACS, BC-TMHP, Core Faculty, Walden University (remote), Germantown, TN

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88613504812?pwd=5QmPe5BIwvOex5BakqYDDehIjgr6cD.1>

- Staying Whole Behind the Walls: Resilience-Based Training for Correctional Mental Health Clinicians**

**ABSTRACT:** This program presents a trauma-informed, resilience-enhancing training model developed for correctional mental health professionals. Based on quantitative pre-post survey research, the training addresses burnout, psychological safety, and professional identity erosion in toxic work environments. Participants will learn about intervention components, study results, and practical applications for counselor educators and supervisors.

Mariah J. Zur, M.S., LPC, LCMHC, NCC, CCTP, Clinical Director & Owner of Private Practice, University of Cumberlands (Whispering Pines, NC); Tanasha Hooks, M.A., LCMHC, LCASA, NCC, CCMHC, Founder, Emotional Wealth and Wellness PLLC

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87218909098?pwd=nCMicu5aRrl0JV6ubW54DeGfFW3FSn.1>

- **Telemental Health Practice: Legal & Ethical Applications**

ABSTRACT: What are some of the best practices for telemental Health Practice? What are the legal and ethical obligations for counselors in order to effectively practice telemental health in good standing? This presentation seeks to explore these areas through presenter experience, research, laws, and review of various ethical codes.

Dustin Herbert Reed, Ph.D., LIMHP, LPC, BC-TMH, NCC, CRC, ALICE, Part Time Assistant Professor/Online Adjunct Instructor, National University/University of West Alabama, Reserve, Louisiana

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82980337398?pwd=ajtpUQhY1lTexldOqf5rXdCqUad09Q.1>

- **Ethical Considerations: Spiritual Integration in Supervision**

ABSTRACT: Integrating spirituality into clinical supervision is essential for a holistic framework for supervisees' wellness, to increase supervisees' spiritual awareness, and to build competence that aligns with ethical guidelines and best practices for counselors (ASERVIC Best Practices, 2025; Gutierrez et al., 2024; Gladding & Crockett, 2019).

Breanna McNeal, MEd/EdS, LMHC, Ph.D. Candidate, Liberty University (Lynchburg, VA); Jeremy Gillentine, MSC, LPC, Liberty University – Lynchburg, VA; Stacey Lilley, Ph.D., LPSC, LPC-S (VA), Associate Professor, Liberty University - Lynchburg, VA

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83375429833?pwd=vX0zbEqnLGFb9EVxtf4bQebfNd2Pl4.1>

- **Ethical Considerations of Secondary Trauma in Therapeutic Relationships**

ABSTRACT: Therapists can face secondary trauma when working with clients, experiencing symptoms like nightmares, hopelessness, and numbness. Research recommends self-care strategies, such as setting boundaries, engaging in restorative activities, and seeking support, to build resilience. This session will discuss self-awareness and work-life balance to help prevent burnout and protect therapists from trauma's psychological impact.

Dixie Powers, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Associate Professor of Counseling, LaGrange College (LaGrange, GA); Maggie White, Master's Student, LaGrange College, LaGrange, GA; Gloria Frimpong, Master's Student, LaGrange College, LaGrange, GA; Kelley Mautz, Ph.D., LPC, Assistant Professor, LaGrange College, GA

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83855117217?pwd=dKGJw8rys8LiHibrBqT8836097ljm.1>

- **Competent but not Certified? Ethical Practice Without Designation**

ABSTRACT: This session explores ethical practice in counseling specialties without formal certification (e.g., play therapy, trauma, grief, EMDR, IFS, etc.). Presenters will clarify distinctions between certification and competent training, examine scope-of-practice concerns, and discuss how clinicians can ethically represent their expertise.

June M. Williams, Ph.D., LPC-S, Professor of Counseling, Southeastern University, Lakeland, FL; Laura Fazio-Griffith, PhD., LPC-S., LMFT., Registered Play Therapist-S, Associate Professor of Counseling, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, LA

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89894340188?pwd=wjvlvfgY1d0lvthRpQ1CzD1idCpAGM.1>

- **Counseling Across State Lines: Legal, Ethical, & Practical Considerations to Utilizing the Counseling Compact**

ABSTRACT: Interstate licensure compacts (Counseling Compact, n.d.) have expanded practice opportunities for counselors, but multistate licensure raises complex questions. This presentation examines legal requirements, ethical obligations, commonsense considerations, and practical challenges of practicing across state lines, including scope of practice variations, business licensing, tax implications, insurance considerations, and telehealth regulations.

Tina Pharr, Ph.D., LCMHC, Program Director, Assistant Professor of Counseling, Gwynedd Mercy University, Gwynedd Valley, PA; Elizabeth Brokamp, Ph.D., LPC, ACS, NCC, BC-TMH, Assistant Professor, Gwynedd Mercy University, Gwynedd Valley, PA

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88632995607?pwd=OSuo6NbLoVzytHhhKhd4KuvPbZlZnk.1>

- **Conducting Immigration Mental Health Evaluations: Ethical and Clinical Considerations**

ABSTRACT: This presentation explores the role of immigration mental health evaluations in supporting clients facing legal proceedings. Attendees will examine ethical challenges, cultural considerations, and best practices in conducting evaluations that balance clinical integrity with legal relevance while protecting client welfare in high-stakes immigration cases.

Dr. Taqueena S. Quintana, LCPC, LPC, LPCC, NCC, ACS, BC-TMH, Immigration Mental Health Evaluator, Walking in Wellness, LLC (Washington, D.C); Dr. Sonia Gooden-Alexis, LMHC(MA), LCMHCS(NC), LCAS (NC), CCMHC, ACS, BC-TMH, Owner, SGA Counseling Services, Boston, MA; Dr. Marybeth Heather, LCPC, ACS, NCC, CDBT, CEO and Clinical Director, Allow Health, Baltimore, MD

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89254144526?pwd=qPpqEZy0yHXNbuh7B7kNiL359ravtU.1>

- **Counseling Moms: Ethics, Culture, and Barriers**

ABSTRACT: Motherhood includes implications relating to role identity and mental health. Motherhood challenges create perceived barriers to parents' engagement in therapy. Counselors have ethical and multicultural responsibilities to tailor treatment to the client's needs. This session challenges educational instructional norms and considers the individual needs of clients.

Kaitlin McIntosh, Ph.D., NCC, Assistant Professor, Liberty University (Lynchburg, VA); Natae Feenstra, Ph.D., LPC (TN), NCC; Assistant Professor; Liberty University; Lynchburg, VA; Melissa Ostrander, PhD., LCMHC, LMHC-QS, NCC; Assistant Professor; Liberty University; Lynchburg, VA

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87147250295?pwd=TCBPeay609TDkgdqDeV8IBay348beC.1>

- **Flipping the Script on Non-School Counseling- Credentialed Personnel: Navigating Legal and Ethical Challenges While Providing Support**

**ABSTRACT:** The nation is experiencing a school counselor shortage. Schools are filling positions with non-school-counseling credential personnel, leaving those hired with skill gaps leading to legal and ethical concerns. This session will discuss these issues from the perspectives of non-credentialed personnel, their supervisors, employers, and counselor educators and explore support options.

Capri Brooks, Ph.D., LPC, LPC-S, NCC, NCSC, Associate Professor of Counseling, Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia; Summer Kuba, Ph.D., EDS, MSW; School Counseling Program Director; Liberty University; Lynchburg, Virginia; Shannan Shiderly, Ph.D.; Professor; Liberty University; Lynchburg, Virginia; Kerry Bowles, Ph.D., NCC, NCSC; Clinical Director for School Counseling Practicum & Internship; Liberty University; Lynchburg, Virginia

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82944472718?pwd=mRgF1SHSHvdzy380KmGQaNP9GisiUa.1>

- **Finding the Line: The Ethics of Kinship and Familiarity in Therapeutic Practice**

**ABSTRACT:** Explore the ethical complexities of kinship and familiarity in counseling practice. This session examines how cultural and relational closeness can both strengthen and challenge ethical boundaries, inviting counselors to reflect on connection, community, and professional integrity through real-world cases and guided discussion.

Tarkisha Wallace, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, Assistant Professor of Counseling, Northwestern State University of Louisiana, Natchitoches, LA; Dr. Donyelle Clark-Kennedy, BCBA, LBA Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology and Addiction Studies, Northwestern State University of Louisiana, Natchitoches, LA

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86042563589?pwd=tlfkg46TE870bXnfqL1O1zbrTFe1Mh.1>

- **Ethical and Legal Considerations for Addressing Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Schools**

**ABSTRACT:** CSEC is a global public health problem, and many survivors and victims of CSEC are students in the American school system. This presentation examines the legal and ethical responsibilities of educators and introduces a three-step, trauma-informed model for identifying and supporting affected students.

Lacey Ricks, Ph.D., NCC, NCSC, Associate Professor, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA; Teshunda Hannor-Walker, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, CPC; Assistant Professor, Liberty University; Lynchburg, VA; Sarah Kitchens, Ph.D., LPC, NCC; Professor, Liberty University; Lynchburg, VA;

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85253503074?pwd=MazrCHP89qmcPfAanSDpTbHuuVq6mR.1>

**9:45-10:00 am**

**Break**

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

**Virtual Presentations**

- **Escaping Escapism: Differentiating Self-Care from Impairing Avoidance**

**ABSTRACT:** Counselors have an ethical mandate for self-care to prevent impairment (ACA Code of Ethics A.4.b). This session will differentiate intentional, restorative self-care from passive, maladaptive escapism. Participants will examine self-awareness and gain skills to monitor well-being, maintain professional efficacy, and ethical compliance.

Heyde Luz, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Assistant professor, Liberty University (Lynchburg, Virginia); Steve Warren, PhD, LPC, NCC, Professor, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA; Derek Parker, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Professor, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85936085841?pwd=iVOWH57aupLzJyn1zY7IG9q2OIlvRh.1>

- **The Counselors Moral Compass: AI Ethics in Action**

**ABSTRACT:** AI is advancing faster than ethical guidance, creating challenges for client welfare and accountability. This session equips counselors to uphold their moral compass amid real-world AI dilemmas, including client use of AI therabots, algorithmic bias, and confidentiality. Attendees leave with actionable tools to integrate AI responsibly while preserving human-centered care.

Chrisynda Samuel, LCMHC-A, LCAS-A, NCC, Doctoral Student, Counseling and Counselor Education Program, North Carolina State University (Raleigh, North Carolina)

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83169562893?pwd=Oq8XtaUVbr6yQXMBVsemuuvdX9D4hF.1>

- **Lights, Camera, Action: TV Counselors- Therapy or Entertainment?**

**ABSTRACT:** For many people, entertainment is their first exposure to the field of mental health. Join us as we explore the world of counselors presented on reality television shows. At the intersection of television and therapy, we will explore ethics and appropriateness around presentation of credentials and services provided to those featured on screen. We will work to separate fact from fiction.

Kris Browne, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Clinical Assistant Professor, Adams State University, Alamosa, CO

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89091300018?pwd=gAV3ZCPKfiwJvPfEYnpvWLEg8qnG3M.1>

- **Beyond the Couch: Ethical Considerations in Non-Traditional Therapeutic Practices**

**ABSTRACT:** Explore the ethical complexities of innovative, non-traditional therapeutic approaches, including RPG/roleplaying, spiritually-based, equine-assisted, and nature-based therapies, through the lens of counselor ethics and client welfare. This presentation examines boundaries, competence, and informed consent in creative, beyond-the-couch healing practices.

Andrea Garraway, Ph.D., NCC, CCS, ICAADC, ICCS, LCMHC-S, LCAS, Counselor Educator; Grand View University (Des Moines, Iowa); Rachel Price-Rayner, Student; Greg Glendy, Student; Mona Sterling, Student; Jared Wells, Student

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89835371891?pwd=eVYUqXhgiXgA3XL8aIHLPassiTkt1q.1>

- **Ethical Counseling Strategies for Youth with ASD**

**ABSTRACT:** This session equips counselors with practical, evidence-based strategies for supporting youth with autism spectrum disorder. Participants will explore behavioral, exposure, and feminist approaches to promote social, emotional, and adaptive functioning while emphasizing ethical, culturally responsive, and strengths-based interventions for children and adolescents with ASD.

Brittani Adache, LMHC, Doctoral Candidate in Counselor Education and Supervision, Powerful Principles, LLC, Stuart, Florida

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88059253074?pwd=MgQNNRr0BhJbhOuI5lvqsSsTJsiKKi.1>

- **Integrative and Holistic Practices in Counseling: Navigating Legal and Ethical Boundaries**

**ABSTRACT:** Integrative mental health practices (e.g., mindfulness, somatic work, nutrition, etc.) are increasingly utilized in counseling to promote holistic wellness for clients. However, these practices raise concerns regarding legal and ethical boundaries. This session will explore the responsible integration of these approaches with respect to professional codes and state licensure laws.

Brittany L. Prioleau, Ph.D. LPC NCC ACS CIMHP, Assistant Professor of Counseling, Mercer University, GA; Serenity Quant, MS, APC, Doctoral graduate student, Mercer University, Atlanta, GA

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88204464662?pwd=NVU6QqVRu1soOR732tKBnA40X6ZtKn.1>

- **Ethically Navigating Adolescent Self-Diagnosis Through Social Media in Counseling Sessions as Counselors**

**ABSTRACT:** Adolescents increasingly self-diagnose mental health conditions through social media, influenced by algorithm-driven content during critical developmental periods (Milton & Chancellor, 2022). This presentation examines common self-diagnosed conditions, misinformation challenges, and provides ethical strategies for counselors to address self-diagnosis while appropriately involving parents in treatment.

Ana Ayala Cantu, M.Ed., NCC, LPC-A., Ph.D., Student, Clinic Supervisor, Penn State University (State College, Pennsylvania); Saiber Shaikh, M.A., M.S.Ed, Ph.D., Student, Penn State University

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81283171087?pwd=QwFqMRoqQDbyTfsOk7ahTobMuQzLab.1>

- **Ethically Mitigating the Risk of Counselling Practice Emergencies: Illness, Incapacitation & Death**

**ABSTRACT:** In many jurisdictions, ethical standards forbid client abandonment even in the event of illness or death. Solo counselors and psychology professionals may be legally and ethically exposed (especially rural professionals). Drawing on expertise as an entrepreneur, academic instructor, law student, and researcher, Vincent will offer solutions.

Vincent Mireau, R. Psych., Registered Psychologist & Graduate Law Student, Rock Lake Psychology Group (Alberta, Canada)

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83933524799?pwd=Z9ZYhDqJSYaOETOxcTAYNbORbo5u3h.1>

- **Counseling Ethics to Empower Voices: Listening to Academic Matriarchs and Other Professional Mothers**

**ABSTRACT:** In counselor education and counseling, the roles of academic matriarchs and other working mothers are often multifaceted. Working moms of all class statuses and professional positions often carry it all. Despite recent or past potential physical birth traumas, hormone changes, and identity shifts, mothers are often expected to flawlessly maintain professional roles in order to meet traditional employment expectations. Professional mothers' duties often encompass not only professional responsibilities, but also family obligations, family planning, social mobility considerations, and personal aspirations for career attainment. This presentation aims to raise ethical awareness about these roles and help counselors to better foster understanding and support for all working mothers, including for working mothers in counselor education and the counseling profession, as well.

Lucy Parker-Barnes, Ph.D., LCPC(IL), LMHC(IN), LPC(PA), CCMHC, NCC, CCTP, Counselor, Supervisor, Co-Owner of Empathic Empowerment Counseling PLLC, Assistant Professor, Quincy University, Quincy, Illinois; Kubra Civan, Ph.D., LPC(IL), NCC; Assistant Professor, Quincy University, Quincy, Illinois

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82071858190?pwd=6b3bQkZCRX7WPq4Tw5LSwmn7QJLIDs.1>

- **Supporting Military-Connected Youth: Ethical and Legal Considerations for School and Clinical Settings**

**ABSTRACT:** Although military-connected youth often demonstrate remarkable resilience and perseverance, they also experience significant challenges related to their caregivers' military service. Such challenges include frequent relocations, deployments, and additional transitional stressors. In this session, participants will explore legal and ethical considerations for counseling military-connected youth in school and clinical settings.

Crystal Hatton, Ph.D., NCC, NCSC, ACS, Associate Professor, Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia; Rebekah Cole, Ph.D., LPC, NCC; Assistant Dean of Academic Success, Uniformed Services University; Bethesda, Maryland; Taqueena Quintana, EdD, LCPC, LPC, LPCC, NCC, ACS, BC-TMH, RYT-200; Assistant Dean of Student Support, Antioch University, Keene, New Hampshire

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85286265887?pwd=xLnKlb9OyaVxdBH3EiSRGiBwiX9FDP.1>

- **Ethical and Cultural Bridges: Counseling within Collectivist Frameworks**

Clients from collectivist cultures often experience mental health barriers shaped by communal values, stigma, and tensions with individualistic counseling frameworks. This presentation examines how ethically informed multicultural competence enables counselors to navigate cultural value conflicts, prevent cultural harm, and uphold justice, beneficence, and respect for diverse worldviews in practice.

Jema A. Luna, B.S., Master's Student in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Caldwell University, Caldwell, NJ; Victoria L. Ramdin, M.A., Master's Student in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Caldwell University, Caldwell, NJ; Lauren Clark, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Assistant Professor, Licensed Professional Counselor, Caldwell University, Caldwell, NJ

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82631414484?pwd=O8aBGXdFg5fOI2AheaSkMbrn7ZF9XG.1>

**11:00-11:15 am      Break**

**11:15-12:15 pm      Virtual Presentations**

- **From Clinician to Educator: Institutional Support, Vulnerabilities, and Liability in Academia**

**ABSTRACT:** This session explores the multifaceted role of counselor educators in academia, highlighting institutional expectations, liability risks, and gaps in faculty coverage. Participants will examine the complexities of professional responsibility, discuss risk mitigation strategies, and identify institutional supports and coverage options that safeguard educators in traditional, supervisory, and clinical teaching roles.

Julia Dell Aquila-Linares, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Assistant Professor, University of the Cumberlands, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences; Adrienne Trogden, Ph.D., LAC, CCS, ADS, CFMHE, LPC-S, Associate Professor, University of the Cumberlands, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences; Kathleen Palmer, Ph.D., LLP, LMHC, LPC, Assistant Professor, University of the Cumberlands, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences; Shay Carper Ph.D., LPC-S, GCDF, Assistant Professor, University of the Cumberlands, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81400278716?pwd=r3NFywaGZipH1sDi0rkFn5H9Hz3oM.1>

- **CliniVRSE and the Ethics of Innovation: Advancing Mental Health Training Through Virtual Reality (VR)**

This session explores CliniVRSE, a virtual reality platform transforming how counselors are trained. The presenter will discuss ethical considerations around clinical fidelity, supervision, and thoughtful program integration. Participants will reflect on how innovative tools like CliniVRSE can be used responsibly to support skill development and prepare ethically grounded clinicians.

April R. Crable, Ph.D., MBA, LPC, CSOTP, BC-TMH, Director of Clinical Training, Professor, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89199714410?pwd=xSQ7fFV98g6ZKBAMFnLSyO8MnR4iaI.1>

- **Ethical Application of ASERVICs (2025) Spiritual and Religious Best Practice in Clinical Supervision**

**ABSTRACT:** ASERVICs (2025) Best Practices provides important guidance on the ethical integration of client religious and/or spiritual identities in counseling. Come and review the ways of being, ways of knowing, and ways of intervening it offers. Particular attention will be paid to utilizing the document in clinical supervision settings.

Anita A. Neuer Colburn, Ph.D., SIP, LPC (VA), LCMHCS (NC), ACS, BC-TMH, NCC, Clinical Professor, The Family Institute at Northwestern University, Evanston, IL (remote faculty)

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89787362408?pwd=Eh3WXIXrWyEF8wayr2BP8RO38RPU81.1>

- **Cultivating Professionalism through Ethical and Cultural Considerations**

**ABSTRACT:** In this session, we will examine the intersection of ethics, professionalism, and multicultural competence in counselor education by exploring how counselor educators can foster a classroom environment that honors diverse cultural identities while adhering to the professional standards and ethical guidelines essential for effective and competent counseling practice.

Cedar Stagner Kile, Ph.D., LPC, LAAC, Associate Professor, Associate Director of Clinical Partnerships, University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg, KY; Elise Dossaji, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, CCTP, Assistant Professor, CARE Committee Coordinator, University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg, KY

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87362947399?pwd=aOTahubrqskT5FRnDiF5L1Kz2Hi1Dh.1>

- **Ethical, Legal, and Clinical Considerations with Rural TeleMental Health Counseling**

**ABSTRACT:** There has been a continued increase in the use of TeleMental Health services, particularly since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. This increased use of TeleMental Health services is one reason why the current ACA (2014) Code of Ethics includes a section on distant counseling, and the use of social media and technology. However, the delivery of mental health services to rural communities continues to lag behind that of other communities, as there are many challenges in providing this type of service. In addition, counselors who provide rural area counseling often do not receive adequate training and supervision, especially regarding the ethical and legal mandates of providing rural TeleMental Health services.

Logan McCarthy, Ph.D., LCPC, NCC, ACS, Assistant Professor of Counseling, Liberty University (Lynchburg, VA); Jeff McCarthy, Ph.D., LCPC, NCC, CCATP, CTMH, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA; Candace McLain, EdD, LPC, ACS, Liberty University, VA

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86421404719?pwd=HfFkdZTcx34FWgH7XIaWxdH0jjNDRH.1>

- **Ethics, Assessment, and Professional Counselors**

**ABSTRACT:** Assessment is an integral part of the counseling process. However, counselors may find themselves navigating unique ethical challenges when selecting, administering, scoring, interpreting, or reporting assessments in counseling. Using case studies, presenters will facilitate group discussion to identify and discuss ethical issues and related decision-making. Audience members will receive handouts that include an outline of the presentation and a list of references and resources.

RJ Davis, Ph.D., NCC, LPC, CSC, Associate Professor and Program Director, University of Houston Clear Lake, Pearland, Texas; Rochelle Cade, Ph.D. LPC-S, Senior Online Clinical Educator, Eastern Oregon University, La Grande, Oregon

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85275900730?pwd=4LokmD7ULxp80vs5ivhGOIC38CmCEw.1>

- **Managing Your Online Presence: Legal and Ethical Considerations Related to Professional Social Media Use and Digital Marketing Practices**

**ABSTRACT:** This presentation will highlight the Ethical Codes, Professional Guidelines, and academic literature related to the appropriate use of social media and digital marketing by mental health counselors. An overview of common social media uses and marketing practices, the unique ethical and technical issues associated with managing an online presence, and practical strategies for evaluating the suitability and effectiveness of various digital marketing tools are also presented.

Robert Casares, Ph.D., LCMHC, LPC, Associate Professor, Department of Counseling, Wake Forest University (Winston-Salem, NC); Joseph Pistorius, Ph.D., LPC-SA, NCC Director, Catholic Counseling Service, Archdiocese of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88398233888?pwd=u7SXeq7ENvUVTrMlzPAT51ldnWHdeE.1>

- **Examining the Intersection of Grief and LGBTQ+ Identities: A Context-Driven Approach**

**ABSTRACT:** LGBTQ+ individuals experience identity-linked grief shaped by systemic oppression and cultural erasure. This session introduces the Transcending Model of Grief and Loss (TMGL) and the Loss Template as ethical, justice-oriented frameworks for conceptualizing and validating non-death, disenfranchised, and suffocated grief experiences across intersecting identities in counseling, supervision, and education.

Katherine M. Atkins, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, ACS, PEL: School Counseling, Associate Clinical Professor, Clinical Training Director, Director of Student Support, The Family Institute at Northwestern University, Evanston, IL; Sonya Lorelle, Ph.D., LPC, RPT, NCC, Assistant Program Director, The Family Institute at Northwestern University, Evanston, IL; William Y. Li, MA, MHC-LP, Psychotherapist at Therapy Brooklyn, Adjunct Lecturer at National Louis University, Counseling Psychology Ph.D. student at Fordham University

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85117120626?pwd=vmc33XirOB0otNksfLdEBUKeSliPAf.1>

- **Silence is Complicity: School Counselor Ethical Responsibility in Addressing Racial Trauma**

**ABSTRACT:** School counselors advocate for safe learning environments for all students. However, many experience discomfort or institutional pressure leading to silence when students experience racial trauma. This presentation will highlight the ethical responsibilities of school counselors in addressing racial trauma among students and will identify strategies and interventions for doing so.

Tylon Crook, Ph.D., NCC, Clinical Assistant Professor, Director of School Counseling, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT (remote); Avery Rosser, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, CPCS, ACS, Clinical Assistant Professor, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT (Remote)

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83386765213?pwd=f0bQeReYhfl01pCCrubB7fwASCqHVp.1>

- **Healing in Color: Ethical Navigation of Professional and Cultural Identity as a BIPOC Clinician**

**ABSTRACT:** This session explores ethical considerations of navigating professional and cultural identity as a BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) counselor. Through a culturally responsive lens, presenters will examine the psychological, professional, and ethical implications that arise from vicarious trauma, internalized oppression, and systemic bias. Strategies shared for responsive care are grounded in ACA ethics and social justice competencies.

Gabriela Chapa Herrera, M.S., LPC-S, NCC, CSC, Counselor in Private Practice, Doctoral student, Sam Houston State University, Houston, Texas; Elizabeth Aceves, M.S., LPC, CSC, Counselor in Private Practice, Doctoral student, Sam Houston State University, Houston, Texas

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88171867153?pwd=YxkaYzX82lFCZP5AyP0uk89kX2BHfh.1>

- **Ethical Considerations When Providing Animal-Assisted Therapy**

**ABSTRACT:** This session explores ethical challenges and considerations in animal-assisted therapy (AAT), including informed consent, screening, competencies, risk management, and animal welfare. Using case examples and practical tools, attendees will apply ethical decision-making models and leave with a comprehensive understanding of risk response to ensure ethical and competent AAT practices.

Courtney Loveless, Ph.D., LPC-MHSP-S, Assistant Professor of Counseling, Gwynedd Mercy University, Gwynedd, PA; Mary Neal, Assistant Professor of Counseling, Christian Brothers University, Memphis, TN

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81825120930?pwd=QDzaFy4esgDr15WkaMAsmJeHNOPIZw.1>

- **Women and Trauma: Frameworks and Ethics**

**ABSTRACT:** The term "trauma" is ambiguous, even in formal academic literature (Blehm, 2025), yet whatever definition is utilized, trauma has become so pervasive that it is a public health crisis (Lehrer, 2021). Research has shown women's increased risk for interpersonal trauma (Lilly & Valdez, 2012). In this presentation, we will share research on trauma-informed care and ethical considerations for women.

Diane Lacen, Ph.D., LMHC, Assistant Professor of Counseling, New Mexico Highlands University, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Anna Koch, Ph.D., NCC, CRC, LPCC, Professor of Counseling, New Mexico Highlands University, Albuquerque, New Mexico

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86283513294?pwd=nwSVxVP7inbxKL5CzSzkMzgPD6WCTE.1>

**12:15-12:30 pm**

**Break**

**12:30-1:30 pm**

**Virtual Presentations**

- **Beyond City Limits: Ethical Multicultural Competence for Rural Populations**

**ABSTRACT:** This session explores ethical multicultural competence for counselors serving rural communities. Drawing on the ACA Code of Ethics and APA Multicultural Guidelines, we examine how ecological context and community values intersect to shape ethical decision-making and equitable, culturally responsive care for rural populations.

Paula Weaver, M.A., LPC, NCC, Doctoral Student, Liberty University; David Miller, M.A., LPC, Doctoral Student, Liberty University; John King, Ph.D., M.Div, M.A., LPC, NCC, Assistant Professor, Liberty University, Pennsylvania

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81700617392?pwd=yijuLVXxIZLI8bfZqH7nvk8MhelUYW.1>

- **Protecting Multicultural Counseling in Restrictive Political Times**

**ABSTRACT:** As sociopolitical climates grow increasingly polarized, multicultural counseling faces heightened scrutiny and constraint. This session equips counselors, educators, and supervisors with ethical and advocacy-based strategies to maintain culturally responsive practice amid restrictive political environments. Participants will examine practical tools for sustaining multicultural integrity, resilience, and ethical decision-making in their professional roles.

Jay Tift, Ph.D., LPC-MHSP (TN), NCC, ACS, Lecturer in Human Development Counseling, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84635513100?pwd=WBE2ynaadTd7zfyXV1vPBkMlsPku45.1>

- **Ethical and Legal Aspects of AI Use for Self-Care for Counselor Educators and Counselors**

**ABSTRACT:** This presentation explores the ethical and legal implications of using AI to support the self-care of counselors and counselor educators. While counselor self-care has been studied, the use of AI as a tool to promote this professional obligation remains largely unexamined. Counselor educators must consider how to navigate AI-generated self-care recommendations they may disagree with and how to maintain professional autonomy when AI offers guidance or predictions based on current behaviors. Identifying these challenges is essential for developing tools and innovations that reduce emerging ethical and legal risks in counseling and higher education. The session will examine these issues through the lens of the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics (2014).

Jessica Kuehne, Ph.D., LPC, LCMHC, NCC, Assistant Professor, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA; Jody Vernam, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Assistant Professor, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85940720387?pwd=KCaECe8EV96QIelogbaoxbaPZxPPgQ.1>

- **Who is the Client? The Ethics of Diagnosis and Treatment for Children with Experiences of Neglect in Early Childhood**

**ABSTRACT:** Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health is ripe with ethical dilemmas, and there is not one specific ethical code for practitioners. Focusing on complexities around counseling the child-caregiver dyad in instances of neglect, ethical codes are applied to a case study. Prioritizing

child versus caregiver well-being and considering culture and systemic injustice adds ethical complexity.

Melissa L. Nelson, EdD, MA, Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) Program Coordinator and Clinician, Youth Development Clinic (YDC), Newark, NJ

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81027913376?pwd=2DTvPqrpcpFbLqg6iyagqxjSVNWQl.1>

- **Ethics in Motion: Practicing Expressive Arts Therapy Responsibly In-Person and Online**

ABSTRACT: This presentation explores the ethical dimensions of incorporating expressive arts therapy within clinical mental health counseling. As creative modalities, such as visual arts, movement, writing, music, and drama, become increasingly utilized in therapeutic settings, practitioners need to ground their use in ethically sound, developmentally appropriate, and culturally responsive practice.

Christina Collins, MA, LCMHCS, CCSP, Adjunct Faculty at University of Holy Cross, Counselor in Private Practice, Leland, North Carolina

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84293862196?pwd=73bapckqbjJdPK2J6mwTF2bh4Ufkij.1>

- **Ethics of Working with Students with Problematic Gaming or Gaming Disorder in K-12 Schools**

ABSTRACT: Internet Gaming Disorder is characterized by persistent and recurrent use of the internet to engage in games, leading to clinically significant impairment or distress. If gaming affects academics, attendance, or mental health, counselors must balance student trust with the duty to intervene to involve parents or outside mental health professionals.

Morgan Kiper Riechel, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Associate Professor of Counseling, Mercer University, Atlanta, GA

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85724678404?pwd=rK2dMSarQjtpKdVVC2b4g2IRSGWkqT.1>

- **Ethical Responsibility and Counselor Wellness in Virtual School Settings**

ABSTRACT: Virtual school counselors face unique challenges that impact their wellness and ethical practice. This session examines how ethical codes (i.e., ACA, ASCA) frame counselor wellness as a professional responsibility, addressing burnout, blurred boundaries, and compassion fatigue. Participants will explore strategies for maintaining competence through ethical self-care in virtual counseling environments.

Kristen M. Roush, MA.Ed., LPC, LPCC, NCC, Doctoral Candidate, University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg, KY; Emily Force-Tinsley, MA.Ed. School Counseling Doctoral Candidate, University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg, KY

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86833369056?pwd=hcAE5Lk4ahqba4OafEYzDK6NWB3zMN.1>

- **Addiction and Ethics: Examining Complaints against Addiction Professionals**

**ABSTRACT:** Numerous complaints surrounding ethical violations are often brought before the Addictions Board. Examples of complaints include dual relationships, engaging in sexual/romantic relationships, impairment, falsifying documentation, and extending boundaries. This presentation will highlight complaints and disciplinary actions taken against addiction professionals. Ethical principles/codes and recommendations for educational instructors will be explored.

Karlesia Montague, Ph.D., LCMHC, LCAS, CSI, NCC, Assistant Professor of Counseling and Director of Addiction Studies, North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85623186951?pwd=HrKphrZqojQsGOBoH41gDwEOrH5Gjb.1>

- **Building Trust in Natural Medicine: Legal and Ethical Responsibilities for Counselors**

**ABSTRACT:** As Natural Medicine (psychedelic) use continues to increase nationwide, counselors working with or considering natural medicine should be aware of how law and ethics intersect with their practice. Moreover, counselors should understand the important impact of integration techniques for clients who have had a natural medicine experience.

Desa Karye Daniel, Ph.D., LPCC (CO), LMHC (NM), NCC, Assistant Professor in Counseling, University of Colorado Denver (Denver, Colorado); Isaac Burt, Ph.D., NCC Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD; Bridgett Johnson, MA, APCC (CA), Community Mental Health, Arcadia, CA

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88080096680?pwd=5bQRf8C7Otf7ekQCPbylixyeo0Zx6.1>

- **Cultural Perspectives and Ethical Considerations of Forgiveness in International Contexts**

**ABSTRACT:** This presentation explores the ethical considerations and cultural perspectives on forgiveness, how forgiveness is conceptualized, the similarities and differences between Eastern/Western approaches to forgiveness, and the impact of forgiveness on mental health. The presenters will discuss embedding culturally-informed forgiveness to foster greater cultural knowledge and competence in working with diverse clientele.

Jama Davis, Ph.D., LMHC (IN, IA), LCMHC (NC), NCC, ACS, Online Department Chair & Professor of Counseling, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA; David R. Brown, Ph.D., LPCC-S, LCDC-III, NCC, ACS, Online Department Chair & Professor of Counseling, Liberty University; Lynchburg, VA; Jerry Vuncannon, Jr, Ph.D., LCMHC (NC), NCC, ACS, Associate Professor of Counseling, Liberty University; Lynchburg, VA

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84019282594?pwd=UIymBGB9WM76l6GRPUOnZeYerBjUND.1>

- **Ethical Considerations for Testifying in Court**

**ABSTRACT:** This presentation examines counselors' ethical responsibilities when testifying in court. Topics include balancing confidentiality with legal obligations, providing impartial and competent testimony, and avoiding dual relationships. Emphasis is placed on preparation, truthful

communication, ethical decision-making under pressure, and practical strategies for maintaining professional standards throughout testimony.

Beth Robinson, Ed.D., LPC-S, Professor of Counseling, Colorado Christian University, Lakewood, CO; Shauna Frisbie, Ed.D., LPC-S, NCC, Professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Colorado Christian University; Kaylene Brown, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC Associate Professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Lubbock Christian University, Lubbock, TX

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87153850960?pwd=udvbPlasjYSwCZx2o6Ip32FlQf2NG.1>

- **Best Practice, Ethical, and Legal Competency and Training for Counseling Children and Adolescents**

**ABSTRACT:** Given the importance of competencies, ethical standards, and the emphasis on best practices, the paucity of these factors in training for counselors working with child and adolescent populations is alarming. This presentation outlines issues counselors working with child and adolescent populations must consider and calls the field to action.

Rebekah Byrd, Ph.D., LPC, (TN), LCMHC (NC), NCC, ACS, RPT-S, Professor, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT (Remote); Kaitlin Hayes, MA, LPC, Milford Pediatric Group, Milford, CT

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87491369681?pwd=yv6sQIZN6fdH14anViexavcbJnJnjN.1>

**1:30-1:45 pm**

**Break**

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

**Virtual Presentations**

- **Ethical Cultural Adaptations for Counseling Interventions**

**ABSTRACT:** This presentation will address ethical issues in adapting evidence-based treatments to other cultures. Based on Shah's Ethical Cultural Adaptation framework, the presenters will provide a model to optimize interactions, avoid intrusions, and respect the native culture while striving to maintain the intervention's benefits and sustainability.

Shauna Frisbie, Ed.D., LPC-S, NCC, Professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Colorado Christian University, Lakewood, CO; Beth Robinson, Ed.D., LPC-S Professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Colorado Christian University, Lakewood, CO; Kaylene Brown, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, Associate Professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Lubbock Christian University, Lubbock, TX

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89276618724?pwd=56RroIf3QPlOhnD7ioWBGlPa3arqII.1>

- **Fulfilling Our Ethical Duty: Addressing Systemic Barriers for BIPOC Counseling Students**

**ABSTRACT:** Higher education aims to provide enriching learning opportunities for all, yet limited diversity in counselor education and mental health creates barriers for Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) counseling students. Counselor educators have an ethical

responsibility to acknowledge and address implicit biases that affect student outcomes. Mentorship is also crucial for BIPOC students navigating systemic oppression while shaping their professional identities. This session will provide strategies to increase awareness of bias, address biases, and develop an ethical framework that supports BIPOC students, while exploring mentorship as a social justice imperative in counselor education.

Duchana Gille, MA, LAC, MHC-LP, NCC, Counselor in Private Practice and Ph.D. Candidate, Colorado Christian University, Fairlawn, NJ; Candi Crawford, MA, MS, P-LPC, NCC, Counselor in Private Practice and Ph.D. Student, Colorado Christian University, Jackson, Mississippi

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83599220709?pwd=SssemalAZ7CCG0bzkKPJBrRmTFWq9S.1>

- **How Ethical Decision Making Informs Assessment of Clinical Competence**

**ABSTRACT:** Counselors are taught to practice according to their competence, but the counseling profession lacks a consistent model for assessing adequate knowledge, skills, and attitudes. Appropriate clinical competence may vary based on development (counselor trainee, supervised counselor/independent practitioner), setting, and specialty area. Presenters will discuss the application of a decision-making model with specific prompts related to clinical competence. Participants will discuss methods for teaching ethical decision-making and assessing clinical competence across various classroom scenarios.

Stephanie Hall Rutledge, Ph.D., LPC/LCPC, ACS, CT, Professor and Department Chair, Emory & Henry University, Emory, VA; Jessica Burkholder, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, ACS, CTRP, Associate Professor, Emory & Henry University, Emory, VA; Matthew Tirrell, MS, Doctoral Candidate ABD, LPC, NCC, ACS, Director of Field Placement and Clinical Professor, Emory & Henry University, Emory, VA

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87908446658?pwd=EfvVNk3oeRX7L9FhSBAagcyL8NcDnM.1>

- **The Ethics of Counseling Caregivers: A Practical Adlerian Approach**

**ABSTRACT:** According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are 37.1 million eldercare providers in the U.S. aged 15 and over, indicating that caregiving is likely to be a presenting stressor for those seeking counseling. Counselors providing services to caregivers should be aware of their scope of practice, as caregiving is a multifaceted and systematic activity. It is easy for providers to move beyond their competency when attempting to help their clients. Additionally, counselors can use powerful tools to help clients navigate the systems in which caregiving takes place. This session will explore the ethical and practical dilemmas associated with caregiving and provide clear tools for counselors to use when helping clients. An Adlerian approach to counseling caregivers will be discussed.

Jennifer Nivin Williamson, Ph.D., LPCC-S (KY), LPC (TX), NCC, HS-BCP, Professor/Counselor/ Supervisor, PAX Consulting and Counseling PLLC, Waco, Texas; Daniel Williamson, Ph.D., LPCC-S (KY), LPC (TX), NCC, HS-BCP, PAX Consulting and Counseling PLLC, Waco, Texas

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84293642998?pwd=iUN6CWkHMNFveOZWzrKcxum5Cbn1rt.1>

- **Integrating Disability and Ableism into Ethics Education for Counselors: Moving Beyond Compliance Toward Inclusive Practice**

**ABSTRACT:** Counselors are ethically obligated to promote inclusion and equity, yet disability and ableism remain underexplored in ethics education. This presentation offers practical strategies for integrating disability awareness into counselor training, emphasizing cultural humility, accessibility, and advocacy to strengthen ethical practice and reduce systemic barriers for clients with disabilities.

Terri Lucas, Ph.D., LPC, NPT-C, Assistant Professor, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA; Brittany Lashua, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA,

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87014980258?pwd=dmSMup9AsBPUahMaW67bBiaMYOR3Hs.1>

- **Gatekeeping and Remediation in Online Counselor Education**

**ABSTRACT:** Online learning has changed the landscape of counselor education and clinical training. Gatekeeping and remediation are essential pieces of any counseling program. However, they look different in the context of online learning, since our communication and interaction with students is different online than in person. In this presentation, presenters will discuss lessons learned about gatekeeping and remediation in working in online counseling programs.

Erik Braun, PhD, NCC, Associate Professor of Counseling, Bradley University, Peoria, IL; Christie Nelson, Ph.D., LCMHCS, BC-TMH, Program Director and Assistant Professor, Bradley University, Peoria, IL

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88271837518?pwd=7rpFWvudmNcYo26WRCRhmPLSbOaCzo.1>

- **The Criminalization of Mental Illness**

**ABSTRACT:** A brief history of the institutionalization and the subsequent deinstitutionalization of mental illness in the United States during the 20th century is provided. It evaluates how the resulting policies in the 20th and 21st centuries have created our present mental health crisis and further facilitated the criminalization of those with mental illness.

Quinton A. Clawson, LMHC, QS, Mental Health Counselor and Adjunct Professor, Essence Counseling, Florida Southern College, Lakeland, FL

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82399304039?pwd=fguSwTnU15OOI6yCK39A1W6LxBFYyl.1>

- **Ethical Decision-Making in Using Artificial Intelligence in Research: Applying the EQUITY-AI Framework**

**ABSTRACT:** This session introduces the EQUITY-AI Framework for ethical decision-making in AI-integrated research. Participants will explore how counselor educators, researchers, and practitioners can apply professional ethical standards to address transparency, authorship, bias, and equity challenges when using AI tools in counseling research and practice. Practical strategies and case examples are included.

LoriAnn Stretch, Ph.D., LPC (VA), LCMHC-S (NC), NCC, ACS, BC-TMH, Professor, AD of Scholarly Engagement, University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg, KY

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83862762903?pwd=amiT5at3rmVzLxYDULoEj1R79mHbeO.1>

- **Legal and Ethical Issues for Generation Z Youth: Self-Diagnosis in the Social Media Era**

**ABSTRACT:** This presentation explores the ethical and legal complexities counselors face when Gen Z clients arrive with social-media-driven self-diagnoses. By addressing the impact of digital platforms on identified risk factors and preventive strategies, counselors can set a precedent for continuing to provide ethical therapeutic relationships to clients.

Brandon Colle, MA, LAC, ATR-P, NCC, Counselor in Inpatient Hospitalization Setting, Academy of Applied and Clinical Psychoanalysis, Livingston, New Jersey; Dan Summer Ph.D., LAC, ATR-BC, LPAT, LCAT, ATCS, Associate Professor and Chair of the Graduate Counseling Program, Caldwell University, Caldwell, New Jersey; Gabriella Kucel, BA; Clinical Mental Health Counseling Graduate Student, Caldwell University, Caldwell, New Jersey

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81163718919?pwd=c0d2s3HmHh4x5XrhnofbFRiDwjc63m.1>

- **Ethical Considerations for Integrating Play Therapy Techniques in Counseling Supervision**

**ABSTRACT:** Integrating play therapy techniques into counseling supervision is a creative way to enhance engagement and support supervisees in integrating new learning with clinical practice. However, it is imperative that supervisees are competent in play therapy skills and aware of the risks and ethical considerations when using non-traditional supervisory strategies.

Megan N. Long, Ph.D., LPC-S, RPT-S, NCC, CRC, Assistant Professor of Counselor Education and Director of CACREP Programs, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS; Elizabeth Mills, B.A., Graduate Research Assistant, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8172665531?pwd=qxxZpoPPzb26tFoa6PaXLQ5WNxLgsy.1>

- **Navigating Dispositions: Balancing Accreditation Requirements and Ethical Mandates**

**ABSTRACT:** This presentation explores effective strategies for assessing and addressing counselor-in-training dispositions while balancing accreditation standards and ethical mandates. Attendees will gain practical tools for implementing fair, transparent evaluation and remediation processes aligned with CACREP standards and the ACA Code of Ethics, promoting ethical development and program accountability in counselor education.

Lauren Clark, Ph.D., LPC, ACS, NCC, Assistant Professor, Licensed Professional Counselor, Caldwell University, Caldwell, New Jersey; Traci Bitondo, Ph.D., LPC, LPAT, ATR-BC, ACS, ATCS, NCC, DRCC, Assistant Professor, Caldwell University, Caldwell, New Jersey, and Empowered Hearts Therapy, LLC, Rockaway, New Jersey; Heather Hernandez, BA Graduate Student, Clinical Mental Health Counseling with Art Therapy Concentration Caldwell University, Caldwell, New Jersey; Mallory Lang, BA, Graduate Student, Clinical Mental Health Counseling with Art Therapy Concentration, Caldwell University, Caldwell, New Jersey

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87430561153?pwd=FE9qLLt2Ta8eQyTUHDEuj8T1JQKZvj.1>

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

**Break**

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

**Virtual Presentations**

- **Keeping Online Counselor Education Ethical**

ABSTRACT: Online counselor education programs are accessible forms of training and potential vehicles for expanding diversity in the field and remediating mental health workforce shortages in underserved communities. This presentation will explore ethical best practices in technology-mediated counselor education and supervision, as well as telemental health, grounded in scholarship and the code of ethics.

Angela Banks-Johnson, Ph.D., LCMHC, NCC, ACS, BC-TMH, Associate Professor, Department of Counselor Education and Family Studies, School of Behavioral Sciences, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA; Amie A. Manis, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, ACS, BC-TMH, Southern New Hampshire University, Clinical Faculty, Manchester, NH

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83204042577?pwd=M1X5MbUvj6h4ADNp8IbdAwaGa1HIbi.1>

- **School Counselors in Court: Lessons Learned from Cases Involving Students and Suicide Risk**

ABSTRACT: School counselors have a legal and ethical obligation to prioritize student safety. However, many school counselors encounter legal and ethical challenges when supporting students with suicidal ideation. This presentation will explore lessons learned from court cases involving school counselors and students at risk of suicide.

Angelica Greiner, Ph.D., LSC, CDF, Associate Professor, Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia; Crystal Hatton, Ph.D., LSC, NCC, NCSC, ACS, Associate Professor, Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87261205761?pwd=hs66B5BKMhfEFY3gAnBheurVOaZxZE.1>

- **Beyond Behavior: Ethical Approaches to Emotional Development and Discipline Equity for African American Boys**

ABSTRACT: This session explores the ethical and legal responsibilities of counselors working with African American boys affected by exclusionary discipline. Grounded in research on emotional development, trauma, and systemic inequities, this presentation offers culturally responsive and developmentally appropriate strategies for supporting whole-child wellness in ethically sound ways.

Delarious O. Stewart, EdD, LPC-S, LSSP, ACS, NCC, NCSC, NCSP, Assistant Professor, East Texas A&M University, Commerce, TX

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82169684639?pwd=OpEsSITElYE6bBhjyYPN7pv70wSTSr.1>

- **Gatekeeping Vs. Gossip: Universal Ethical Approaches to Professional Interactions**

**ABSTRACT:** This timely presentation focuses on building ethical and collaborative professional relationships. This presentation will differentiate between gossip and gatekeeping, provide the ethical standards and codes pertinent to this topic, engage the audience through interactive case studies, and offer practical steps to implement what has been learned.

Kathleen Wallace, Ph.D., LPC-S, LADAC, NCC, Counselor Educator, Liberty University, Arlington, TX

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83202247602?pwd=oAwy3VBZKt8AdhOZhyahwkfemucjsK.1>

- **No Means No: The Ethical Imperative for Saying No in a World of Yes**

**ABSTRACT:** This presentation explores saying no as an ethical imperative for counselors. The presenters will discuss the fear of saying no, examine the ethical considerations involved, introduce strategies to empower counselors to use this word effectively, and advocate for a professional culture in which saying no is received and respected.

Sara Wood, PhD, LPC (VA), LCMHC (NC), NCC, Associate Professor of Counseling, Colorado Christian University, Lakewood, CO; Sean Dougherty, MS, MEd, LAPC Assistant Professor/Doctoral Student, Lancaster Bible College/Colorado Christian University, Lancaster, PA; Sarah Jarvie, EdD, LPC, NCC, Associate Professor of Counseling, Colorado Christian University, Fairfax, VA

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82659354702?pwd=eBqX1I9QWi8tqVnlmWjafWWibWPIJK.1>

- **Biopsychosocial Drivers of Self Care: The Intersection of Ethics & Law in the Counseling Profession**

**ABSTRACT:** Counselors face issues of compassion fatigue and burnout. This presentation approaches the issue from a biopsychosocial perspective. A case study is discussed and participants are encouraged to share their experiences and reflections on dealing with difficult clients, burnout, and self-care.

Michael Szirony, Ph.D., Core Faculty, Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Rick Cicchetti, Ph.D., LCPC, CRC, Core Faculty, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, School of Counseling, Walden University; Craig R. Blum, PhD, LMHC, LP Core Faculty, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, School of Counseling, Walden University

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86264396086?pwd=O9LB8LGHwN7Ee3qAZg6Zluf6phGS9Z.1>

- **The Ethics of Knowing: Rethinking Epistemology, Positionality, and Equity in Counseling Research**

**ABSTRACT:** This session explores how epistemology, power, and positionality shape ethical decision-making in counseling research. Participants will examine practical, specific dilemmas in practitioner inquiry, including studying one's own clients or students, insider/outsider roles, and equitable dissemination of knowledge. With an emphasis on epistemic justice and reflexivity, the session challenges procedural ethics by asking whose knowledge is valued and why.

Vasti Holstun, Ph.D., LPC, ACS, NCC, NCSC, Associate Professor, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA; Lynn Bohecker, Ph.D., LMFT, Professor, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81467169080?pwd=1aeX6AdA4XSE2Mjk8rTGmS1r5vYRJ5.1>

- **The A.I. Horizon: Proactive Thinking to Address Technological Advancements in the World of Counseling**

**ABSTRACT:** Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly reshaping industries, including counseling and psychotherapy. As AI tools become more common in clinical settings, questions about ethical use, client safety, and data privacy continue to grow. This session will explore the current and emerging role of AI in counseling, highlighting its possibilities and limitations. Participants will examine multicultural concerns, legal and ethical considerations, and the education and advocacy needed to integrate AI responsibly into practice and policy.

April Jones, M.Ed., C.S.C., School Counselor & Counselor Education & Supervision Doctoral Student, East Texas A&M University, East Texas A&M University, McKinney, TX

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84138115540?pwd=YgKUPyc2JbrNBpZFk0pkvdXznymwXe.1>

- **Supervising with Cultural Awareness and Integrity**

**ABSTRACT:** This presentation explores strategies for embedding multicultural awareness into supervision and gatekeeping practices in clinical mental health counseling. Attendees will learn how to evaluate supervisees with cultural humility, provide feedback that supports diverse developmental pathways, and structure gatekeeping decisions so they honor cultural context while maintaining professional standards.

Yuleinys A. Castillo, Ph.D., LPC, CRC, CVE, Associate Professor, California State University, Fresno, CA; Godfrey Ddungu, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Assistant Professor, California State University, Fresno, CA

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81489692666?pwd=iwwR1UkzEhilmzQaWbGBjLaa2mCSsc.1>

- **Good Intentions Pave the Way to Bad Mental Health Law**

**ABSTRACT:** This presentation covers the unintended consequences to counseling of well-intentioned but ultimately problematic mental health laws. This historical overview traces the evolution of mental health legislation intended to improve the lives of counseling patients, from de-institutionalization to Colorado House Bill 24-10-34 (which addresses competency in the legal system).

Katherine Sammons O'Hara, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Rehabilitation and Human Services, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82639009576?pwd=0DYsvqj3aQnIp2PRH64z4j60uVrRQu.1>

- **Counselor Safety: An Ethical Component of Counselor Preparation, Well-being, and Service Delivery**

**ABSTRACT:** Classroom discussions about safety typically focus on the risk of client harm to self or others. Conversations about workplace violence incidents and protocols are lacking in classrooms and at field placement sites, despite trainees being at higher risk of victimization. Both trainees and licensed counselors have reported insufficient preparation and follow up after workplace violence incidents, resulting in reduced quality of client care, increased burnout, and a range of intense emotional responses. This presentation addresses counselor safety, an often-overlooked aspect of ethical counselor preparation, wellbeing, and service delivery.

Rebecca Milner, Ph.D., LPC-MHSP-S (TN), LPC-S (VA), Associate Professor of Counseling, East Tennessee State University (Johnson City, TN)

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87593546615?pwd=k4QKjoSmcU4Ba1QN71aHa2mQCkhYes.1>

<b>4:00-4:15 pm</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>4:30 pm</b>	<b>In-Person Conference Begins</b>
<b>4:30 pm-6:00 pm</b>	<b>Conference Opening Session</b>
	<b>Dr. Ted Remley, Conference Director, Professor, University of Holy Cross</b>
	<b>Dr. Sarah Irvin, Program Chair, Assistant Professor, Stephens College</b>
	<b>Dr. Lisa M. Sullivan, Provost &amp; Vice-President for Academic Affair, University of Holy Cross</b>
	<b>Dr. Kylie Dotson-Blake, President and CEO, National Board for Certified Counselors</b>
	<b>Keynote Speaker: Mary Hermann, JD, Ph.D., LPC Professor at the University of the Cumberlands</b>
	<b><i>Update on Legal Cases Involving Counselors</i></b>

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82604307296?pwd=HkAGY2BAPqs4pF8W7WXVWwcHxYU8fa.1>

**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.

# Wednesday January 28, 2026

## Formal Presentations Broadcast

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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81375639014?pwd=iQqF2SOd4Q7sJtjf3NGOQ8v4g1IrH.1>

- **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)

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88569133976?pwd=mqcDaC8ZN3ygcjDopTrenDGbryeIFJ.1>

- **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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88993413622?pwd=dsOpreMr3ajsI4BiLUmra5zHt45U3f.1>

- **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 between academic stakeholders can ensure the development of 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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88986003821?pwd=bsKWXbiET90KalYXnFvKTbdcT3KQUz.1>

- **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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89701207365?pwd=oBjjWqPlvnsCVJ1NE6EJyY3Hut8ahb.1>

- **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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81357205736?pwd=dAOUBUU9La1aRpUR41uoWaqjraazsO.1>

**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

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81963105281?pwd=08BqpdUivo3e6GNiKdUdwZbf0UYP7K.1>

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

**ABSTRACT:** State policies and school district regulations play a major 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

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81826534675?pwd=aGdkGcbVfo29liQTvWFutUreakIpee.1>

- **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

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83600481804?pwd=agohmqOU7vlaf9JTYmYtDR1AmbyJgr.1>

- **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 and associated discipline for 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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88093458441?pwd=6OoSRxaDjNn7YtnbfhBx1xInk1b1rL1>

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

**ABSTRACT:** Disordered eating (DE) and eating disorders (EDs) can be difficult 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 related to DE and EDs in 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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82973051125?pwd=msq2ZbRj0z05i6NyAWV1EZ1IS57Vfb.1>

- **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 Livingston, 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)

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87344527476?pwd=hgzLcQpYldcJBPZzc1ED57Wa5WtQiy.1>

**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: Ethical Considerations of Black Professional Counselors Addressing Racial Trauma in Counseling***

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86393611274?pwd=haBclZ7aqAyw9AACNJJLcOjLIGZ79s.1>

**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

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81568839780?pwd=pYEBI7BD2RA7GA49IjybawMVSuX88d.1>

- 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

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87020497093?pwd=t23lXzW1AxaC86cztiZDPAavgABiz.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

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87825649572?pwd=ehneKwYYP14nfamLxxG8WJmLvfbpk8.1>

- **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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86062035342?pwd=YhLvok0HQjvbOVJglEaavri9HhOknM.1>

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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85864309481?pwd=nKnAr3RbfH0kevPxC2w0ip2MzuDZVN.1>

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

**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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85384232805?pwd=tXEHFavc4JfJChzmEP38e2aSVkbZYm.1>

- **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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87260498712?pwd=ZvcCcpHcYJ85oLWIy3WflRwtnhJDbk.1>

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

ABSTRACT: We will explore intimate dual relationships and the effects they have 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, Master's of Clinical Mental Health Counseling Students, Loyola University, New Orleans, LA

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89960183221?pwd=KbwymbVBhBfXE5P7NYRTJkczb5p5IY.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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84753358846?pwd=ly1OcORDalm7OKuoBAHeXSbpPf5urr.1>

**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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83597564608?pwd=JdRyaisakRJO3R9Ybq8oDMMVPv4DY3.1>

- **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.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84542325086?pwd=HxqhbC0eHkWu3RuLVZVnxaoJZ2oWSL.1>

- **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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89563837041?pwd=D3N9WGg6NmfrkQHC6zLYp8SUW6aIkS.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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89086853583?pwd=UUwa2VvEQ1mi3oDU2R7T4lb5SpGpP6.1>

**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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89790834553?pwd=XbDOl7yYeX30SOBZvZpTcYDl4IKE6.1>

- **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.

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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89166035160?pwd=oHxqeABeqguX8tErCUGttOULIgIJ3b.1>

- **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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84564069890?pwd=01ZAoRZWzuoZpv1AgW7RW8fDM2cHkJ.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 participated in sharing clinical, legal, and ethical perspectives around incorporating astrology in their therapeutic practice.

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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83035761193?pwd=bxuXWXAHvJVDXnblaQnngQJswjKPpw.1>

**5:15 pm**

**Broadcast of In-Person Presentations ends for the day. We appreciate your participation.**



**\*Scroll down to view the next day.\***

**Thursday  
January 29, 2026**

## **Formal Presentations Broadcast**

**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, with a focus on how these dynamics impact 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

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84171062345?pwd=6F434cutO7WaYy7a494IIfyasYlArX.1>

- 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

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87247717044?pwd=T52gMjyblWCeaingab8ijaOw1soWv3.1>

- 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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81034459315?pwd=Kjl6PxtFAwD2FDigg7NpfObKczivZh.1>

- **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 used to enhance ethical reasoning, engagement, and professional identity development while aligning instruction to CACREP standards and professional ethical codes.

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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89362095064?pwd=M0dAZYU0Je5jrJg49nUgblaFBO0ghE.1>

- **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, LPCC, NCC, Doctoral Candidate, Counselor in Private Practice, University of the Cumberlands, Palatine, IL; Tyler Mikan, J.D., Prosecuting Attorney, Lake County States Attorney's Office, Waukegan, IL

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85917051415?pwd=mo6upYfa6cq3GVRZJG56MxERAsUnTz.1>

- **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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84971405101?pwd=Zoi2POZPe8wbBAFzxCFBmp0Qn1YK58.1>

**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; 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

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81118453291?pwd=ibhuDHi50cubR0lzW61s7yJgASe3cY.1>

- **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 sparked by clients' digital lives and counselors' online presence, offering practical strategies to respond ethically, set boundaries, and help clients evaluate the credibility of mental health content online.

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

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82470169050?pwd=LfrroOnYwUXbAbS ZXzmbCDK2rWPtp.1>

- **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

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83860697794?pwd=9LuZ1FX28LbnacaPXOm91PaVcbzdF2.1>

- **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

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88589481869?pwd=P4KwHGkcReHxNLNXxtYLxDpRTklbnE.1>

- **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.

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

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87837550343?pwd=SqNPE1yxij0I5lIbrBPDN9JWIHO8J9.1>

- **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

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84038550552?pwd=cEJbbUVP8Qo7lNb39w76N0dsmFf2sc.1>

**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***

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81340606645?pwd=PetculaUGrXpkpGaGKmKc55ieKG3uA.1>

**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 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

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86418344702?pwd=4Vt423rFuf2d0lsimXFQ9TzcH7CCTS.1>

• **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

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88069023359?pwd=fgbFKatxq7acSUIsbw55r4AmavPYgV.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 ethically close one. 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, LIPC, CEO, Ethics Rocks, Lincoln, Nebraska

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89039953771?pwd=Va3YKDzWy7yNkjdnVIE27qAx8PImZ.1>

- **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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84172163269?pwd=sMhaGYaCWzJENjXuaioatVibrNRa8H.1>

- **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.

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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84446056968?pwd=UeprRI6S2EXaRwdEHILRy5yZyEYO4g.1>

**12:15 pm**

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



**Friday  
January 30, 2026**

## **Formal Presentations Broadcast**

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

### **Formal Presentations**

- 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 disorder or body image concerns.

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

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86189447316?pwd=3pgnqTo6SHG0rMuAEpr55OrtrBKYe1.1>

- 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

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85960056481?pwd=1Q37u9QEXmjoUaMEktpWraC6DyIFIO.1>

- 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

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82821796761?pwd=tNitKqKhfV8htTHcmLLb1Un9IVMzGv.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 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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84232235160?pwd=XMbSQE2Icn5Yz2Gh3hK9eBaEwlAwja.1>

- **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)

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89467299524?pwd=IE5K6SFxEkmtXuLViFxbtJC03o1vIz.1>

- **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 Vdoviak-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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88394030886?pwd=mvooRo6lMQ6cl8wXnzzE6jpmm9mbuS.1>

- **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 Iiames, Ph.D., LSC, Director of Master of Arts in Clinical Counseling Program, Associate Professor, Winebrenner Theological Seminary, Findlay, Ohio

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81132552719?pwd=eYIOWbz7jUXcMEOn0z5dfGfBv4kTLC.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.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87360568279?pwd=5byABxGfXgPHDkZztYH6ZA1le4FVP1.1>

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

**ABSTRACT:** School counselors pursuing clinical licensure often face fractured supervision experiences. 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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87677090473?pwd=unbrjkzkw4ruEMqMJWBwjCrh9am7jL.1>

- **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, offering 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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82185183517?pwd=q3X9LvWFo6m2NoFUhX97jfO7iZsQLo.1>

- **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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88905383894?pwd=IjOJIXkEfac8XKkNOo9kQKMstBOL44.1>

- **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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82185183517?pwd=q3X9LvWFo6m2NoFUhX97jfO7iZsQLo.1>

- **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

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89495722223?pwd=c9u3NsiavbYavyN7QAx1le05L9r0U0.1>

- **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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81510039035?pwd=1OKB5CoH5IL1v8VSSJXLN0BpTBj0Er.1>

- **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 client 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,

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88697075817?pwd=IaRnaPayfl51AuOqgXRuGj7D4c2dDD.1>

**11:00 am- 11:15 am**      **Break**

## 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***

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87880831112?pwd=hbhZ8NsqDU4IM9RE19yo0eEThNO3UW.1>

**ABSTRACT:** 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, which tends to highlight 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. Moreover, 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.

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

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88019231134?pwd=apSoSdrW14ef2LEkN6m3xZFSemFZy6.1>

- 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 for maintaining boundaries, ensuring accurate clinical documentation, and balancing 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

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89566921510?pwd=Ow7Si314XHtds7USmu23VDqgCbQQDK.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 many misconceptions persist 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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81906229525?pwd=Rj5qqdaxdKJ7Ytu5rBTq6HrealWxe.1>

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

**ABSTRACT:** This presentation explores the ethical complexities of counseling Black women navigating 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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84386295583?pwd=oaVzIA1V3FpNyqG0a6RNhv2RrSZMlg.1>

12:30 pm

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



**\*Scroll down to find more information about the conference, New Orleans, keynote speakers, special memories, and a thank you from the Program Chair.\***



**Krewe of Cleopatra Parade**

## **New Orleans Tourist Information**

### **Websites: 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 each year in the French Quarter 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)**

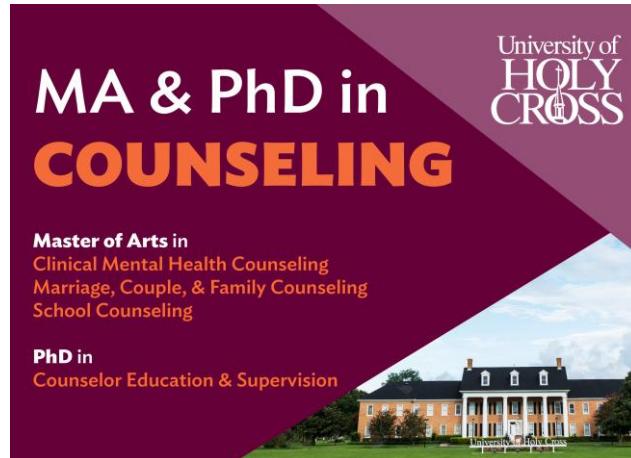
**January 23-26, 2029 (14<sup>th</sup> annual conference)**

## **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).

## 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)**

## **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 Cumberlands in Williamsburg, Kentucky. Prior to 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 as a member of the American Counseling Association (ACA) Ethics Committee as well as 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 this year's Community Impact and Engagement 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://warrenwright.gumroad.com>.

### **Dr. Barbara Herlihy**

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

#### ***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 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, which tends to highlight 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 among complaints and sanctions that were 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 great variety in what sanction is imposed for what types of violations, by state, and by type of licensee. Information from this keynote will deepen the understanding for counselors, counselor educators, supervisors, and other stakeholders in how Boards manage complaints in 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 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**

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

Share your memories by tagging our social media pages:

**Facebook:** Law and Ethics in Counseling Conference **Instagram:** Law and Ethics in Counseling  
#LawandEthicsinCounseling2024



## 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  
Chair, Program Committee, Law and Ethics in Counseling Conference 2026



*Merci  
Beaucoup*