



### **Custody Mediation: King Solomon's Nightmare** **7 hours**

Evolutionary changes in the family are occurring in divorce. Using mediation to find a balance between the constitutional rights of privacy, equality, and protection of parents, and the best interests of their children may often be a slippery slope. This workshop offers tools for mediators to address their own biases to understand mediation in the context of custody law in order to help parents negotiate as they work to sort out what is best for their children.

In the effort to resolve the conflicts between the rights of the parents and best interests of children, the courts, and many attorneys and mediators, have landed on joint custody as “the answer.” Research on joint custody indicates that it takes good communication and mutual respect of both parents, to make it work. Rather than participate in a “one-size-fits-all” approach, ideally, mediation should offer the opportunity for parents to make custody decisions geared for their unique family.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

1. To help mediators identify their own preconceived notions that define “family,” by looking at divorce in an evolutionary and historical context.
2. To provide tools for mediators to help parents end the battle; thus nurturing children's healthy development and their future relationships.