

## ***Gitu Bhatia, Psy.D.***

***Licensed Clinical Psychologist (PSY18274)***

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### **EDUCATION**

#### **Doctor of Psychology (2000)**

Graduate School of Education and Psychology  
Pepperdine University

#### **Master of Science, Counseling and Guidance (1985)**

Outstanding Graduate Student Award -1985  
Graduate Dean's List of University Scholars and Artists-1985

#### **Pupil Personnel Services Clear Credential, CA. 1985-present**

Graduate School of Educational Psychology  
California State University Long Beach

#### **Bachelor of Education (1981)**

#### **Bachelor of Science - Child Development (1980)**

Lady Irwin College  
University of Delhi, New Delhi, India.

Dr. Bhatia has extensive experience working with individuals, couples and families. She provides psychotherapy, parent training, mediation and collaborative law. Besides her private practice, she is an adjunct faculty member in the Graduate School of Psychology at Pepperdine University. She also enjoys teaching and has conducted trainings for therapists, teachers, and parents on several subjects related to human development. Dr. Bhatia is the Past President of Los Angeles Psychological Association 2015 and has been a passionate supporter of raising awareness regarding issues of diversity.

### **PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND**

**August 2002 – Present: Private Practice**

**October 2017 – 2021: Clinical Instructor (Voluntary) David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences.**

**May 2003 – Present: Adjunct Faculty,  
Graduate School of Education & Psychology  
Pepperdine University, CA**

**October 2000 – July 2002: Staff Psychologist  
Child and Family Guidance Center, Northridge, CA**

**September 1999 - August 2000: Psychology Intern  
Child and Family Guidance Center, Northridge, CA**

**September 1998 -August 1999: Psychology Practicum Student  
St. John’s Hospital Child and Family Development Center**

**September 1997 - August 1998: Psychology Extern  
San Fernando Valley Child Guidance Clinic  
Family Stress Center**

**October 1996 - August 1998: Doctoral Trainee  
Pepperdine University Clinic, West LA**

**November 1996- January 1997: Headstart Program Consultation  
Graduate School of Education and Psychology  
Pepperdine University, West LA**

**September 1993 - June 1994: Peer Mediation Supervisor (Volunteer)  
Alternative Dispute Resolution, John Adams Middle School, Santa Monica, CA.**

**January 1994 - January 1995: Resource Specialist -Parenting Groups  
Sunshine Preschool, Brentwood, CA**

**June 1985 - August 1996: Senior Family Mediator As-needed  
Family Mediation and Conciliation Service of Los Angeles  
Superior Court of Los Angeles**

**September 1984 - May 1985: Family Mediator-Intern  
Family Mediation and Conciliation Service of Los Angeles  
Superior Court of Los Angeles,**

## **Professional Associations**

- **Member of the California Psychological Association (CPA)** On the Executive Committee of CARE.
- **Past President of the Los Angeles County Psychological Association (LACPA) 2015 Continues to serve on the Board of Directors of LACP and** serves as the Diversity Committee Chair.
- **Association of Family Court Services (AFCC)** Presented at National and California Conventions and on the DE &I Committee
- **American Psychological Association (APA)**

### **Publication:**

Dr. Gitu Bhatia has co-authored a chapter in the book, "Parenting Plan Evaluations: Applied Research for the Family Court, Second Edition. Edited by Leslie Drozd, Michael Saini, and Nancy Olesen" published in March 2016 by Oxford University Press.

Co-Developed Divorceworks app. It is a culturally sensitive and mindful tool to help people, going through divorce and separation, navigate their emotional journey. It is also a tool to help mental health and legal professionals working with divorcing families.

### **Recent Presentations**

- Can We Still Heal Fractured Relationships Amid Politics and Polarization? Strategies for Effective and Defensible Resist-Refuse Interventions. AFCC California 2023
- Winning the War against Implicit Bias (Live Webinar). Beverly Hills Bar Association 2023
- Ending the Year with Hope and Resilience: Understanding and Mitigating Burnout (Live Webinar). CPA Dec 2022
- Systemic and systematic changes needed in Psychology and Family Law. Cultural Competency in Family Law Practice 2022
- Integrating complexities of culture in Child Custody Evaluation, Steve Frankel Group Online CE Courses.
- Therapist Heal Thyself: Moving target of self-care during COVID 19 Pandemic, Steve Frankel Group On line CE Courses
- Wildfires and Hurricanes: The Personal and Collective: Need for Self-Care, CPA Convention 2018
- Presented Annually at the Cultural Competence Seminars in LA (2012-2016).
- Tools and Strategies for Families Going Through Divorce – LACPA 26th Annual Convention, October 18, 2014.
- Divorce- Lisa Zonder Style – Divorcetalkradio.com: Guest speaker on several episodes involving divorce discussions.

- Cultural Competency In Family Practice: Piercing the Veil of Culture – University of West Los Angeles, School of Law, 2013.
- Therapist Self-Care from Diverse Perspectives – Annual CPA convention 2012, Monterey, California.
- Cultural Complexities in Child Custody Decisions – The Association of Family and Conciliation Courts California Annual Conference, 2012 Los Angeles.
- Cultural Complexities in Family Law Matters – The Association of Family and Conciliation Courts California Annual Conference, February, 2011 San Fransisco.
- Cultural Complexities in Family Law Matters – AFCC National annual conference in Orlando, Florida, 2011.
- Complexities of Culture in Dispute Resolution in Family Law matters LACFLA 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011.
- Cultural Diversity: Family Practice in a Culturally Diversified Society, Inns of the Court November 2010
- Complexities of Culture: 4 Hour Continuing Education workshop LACPA 2010.
- Annual Board of Directors LACPA Diversity Training 2007-present.