

***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, psychological assessments, 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. The focus of her doctoral dissertation was to build a model of mediation that is culturally sensitive and appropriate for diverse populations.

Dr. Bhatia worked as a family mediator for the Superior Court of Los Angeles for over 10 years, and she has worked passionately to make the process of divorce, for the children and families, as humane and as emotionally safe as possible. Most recently Dr. Bhatia has been actively involved in raising awareness regarding the impact of diversity on mental health and family law practice. Dr. Bhatia has served as a member of the Board of Directors Los Angeles Collaborative Family Law Association. She has been trained as a divorce coach and child specialist. She also serves on the Board of Directors of Los Angeles County Psychological Association and co-chairs the Diversity Committee.

## **PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND**

**August 2002 – Present: Private Practice**

**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 1993 - June 1994: Peer Mediation Supervisor (Volunteer)**  
Alternative Dispute Resolution, John Adams Middle School, Santa Monica, 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)**  
**Member of the Los Angeles County Psychological Association (LACPA)**  
**Los Angeles Collaborative Family Law Association (LACFLA)**  
**Association of Family Conciliation Courts (AFCC)**

## **Recent Presentations**

- Therapist Self-Care from Diverse Perspectives – Annual CPA convention 2012, Monterey, California.
- Cultural Complexities in Child Custody Decisions – California 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

Additional presentations over the years cover a range of topics related to parent training, human development and communication.

[www.gitubhatia.com](http://www.gitubhatia.com)

[www.culturecounts.net](http://www.culturecounts.net)