

# Presenter Biographies



## Katie Franklin, LPC, NCC

Katie Franklin is a Licensed Professional Counselor, Collaborative Divorce Neutral, and national trainer specializing in child-centered, conflict-reducing family systems work. She is widely known for her warm, clear teaching style and for helping practitioners build systems that balance humanity with modern efficiency.

Katie serves on the Board of **Collaborative Divorce Texas** and chairs its statewide **Marketing & Communications Committee**, where she focuses on visibility, education, and ethical growth within Collaborative practice. Outside of her professional work, Katie can often be found with a watercolor paintbrush in hand, hiking in a park nearby or carting around her preteen girls to musical theater rehearsals (or the mall – let's be real).



## Deborah Bennett Berez, JD

Deb Bennett Berez, J.D. (pronounced Be-c, Ré-Réce), spent many years as a litigator before shifting her focus in 2015 to helping families who want to “do divorce **different**.” Through mediation and **Collaborative practice**, Deb is deeply committed to providing families with a **dignified, respectful** pathway through divorce.

Deb co-developed *The PRISM Perspective Collaborative Practice Training Program*, delivering trainings throughout Michigan and Florida. She has served as President of CPIM (*Collaborative Divorce Professionals of West Michigan*) and as Chair of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section of the State Bar of Michigan. She currently serves on the board of **Corewell Health South** and is President of the **Berrien County Bar Association**.

On a personal level, Deb is married to a clinical psychologist and is the parent of three adult sons and grandparent to 13 grandchildren (not a typo!). She enjoys international travel, studying Spanish, reading and pickleball. She would like to include knitting as a skill—but at present, she must be supervised.