

AFCC MINNESOTA CHAPTER



# NEWSLETTER



## WELCOME!

I am very happy to be able to welcome you to the first AFCC-MN newsletter! This has been a long time coming and I have no doubt it will prove to be an invaluable resource for you as a member and the organization as a whole. With so many active committees, it can certainly be hard to keep up with all the great work and opportunities that our committees do and create. This newsletter endeavors to solve that for you! Thanks to the tireless effort of the Public Relations Committee (PR committee), you now will have a recurring source coming right to your email inbox providing information on what every committee is up to. This is also a great way for you to get involved. As a non-profit volunteer organization, it is crucially important that we continue to have active members, just like each and everyone of you! Through this newsletter, not only will you be in the know as to what is going on with each committee, you will also know who to contact if you want to join a particular committee. Again, a special thanks to the entire PR committee, especially the co-chairs Hunter Kinsey and Jim Street for their efforts in getting this off the ground. As always, if you ever have any questions please feel free to reach out to me at [carlof@hlfirm.com](mailto:carlof@hlfirm.com). Thank you for your membership, the vital work you do for our family law community, and your continued interest in the mission of AFCC-MN.

**CARLO FACCINI (AFCC-MN President)**

# UPCOMING AFCC EVENTS

<b>FEB</b> <b>6-8</b> 8 AM - 5 PM Family Mediation Training	<b>FEB</b> <b>13-15</b> 8 AM - 5 PM Family Mediation Training	<b>MAR</b> <b>10-13</b> 10 AM - 3 PM Child Custody Evaluation Training
<b>MAR</b> <b>17-19</b> 10AM - 3PM Child Custody Evaluation Training	<b>TBD</b> <b>TBD</b> TBD Stay Tuned for More!	<b>TBD</b> <b>TBD</b> TBD Stay Tuned for More!

## LEGISLATIVE CORNER

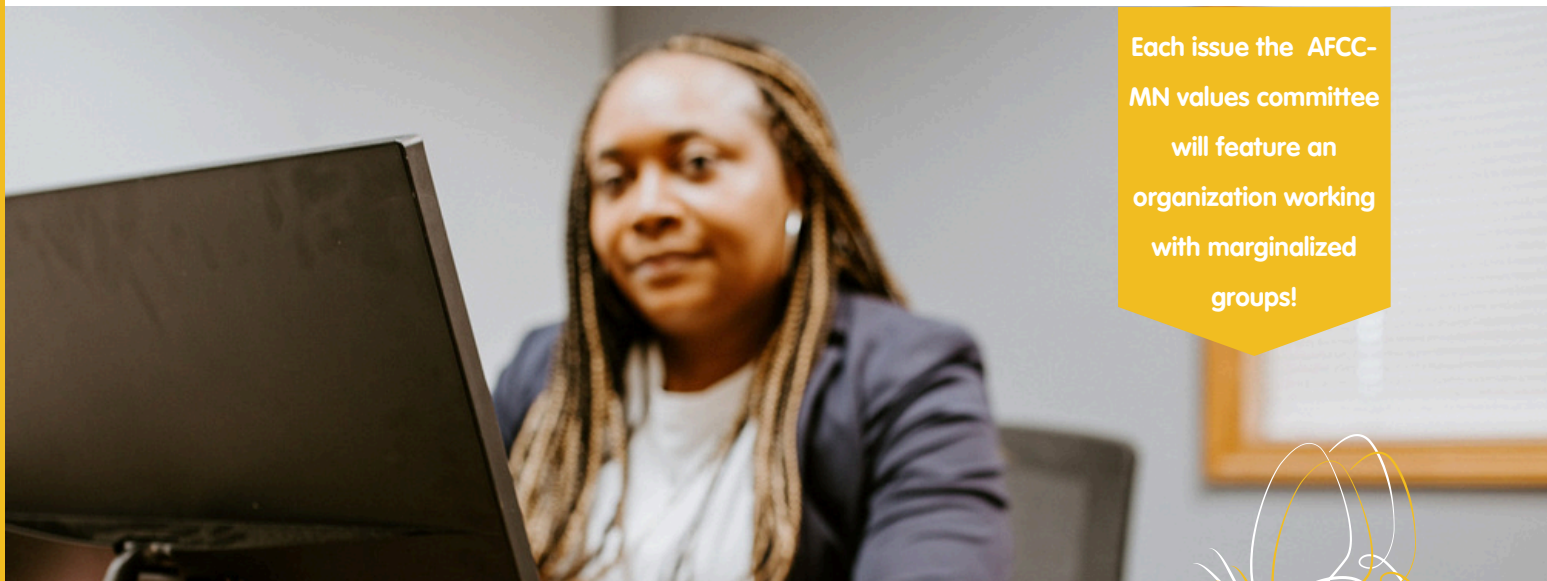
### Legislative & Public Policy Updates

AFCC-MN’s legislative and public policy (LPP) committee has been committed to their ongoing work on expanding the definition of domestic abuse in Minn. Stat. Section 518.17 to include coercive control. This has been an ongoing policy priority to permit the courts to explicitly weigh a more expansive definition of domestic abuse when considering the best interests of the children relative to custody and parenting time.

Co-Chair Deb Link has been working for several years to try to come to a consensus around legislative language that is acceptable to all the various stakeholder groups impacted by a potential legislative change.

Recently Deb has been working with representatives from Violence Free Minnesota (vfmn.org) to organize listening sessions with practitioners from these stakeholder groups to discuss proposals, address concerns, and clarify what a proposed legislative change might look like in practice.

There will be three (3) hour-long listening sessions held in December 2024 (dates and times to be determined), with the goal of seeing if some legislative language could be identified prior to the start of the upcoming legislative session.



Each issue the AFCC-MN values committee will feature an organization working with marginalized groups!



## AFCC-MN'S PARTNER ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT:

# LCSS

Levan Counseling & Consulting Services

### Empowering Change: Levan Counseling & Consulting Services Offers Healing for All

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE AFCC-MN VALUES COMMITTEE

In a world where mental health struggles often go unchecked, Levan Counseling & Consulting Services (LCCS) stands out as a beacon of hope. Founded by Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor Erika McAfee-Levan, LCCS is dedicated to empowering individuals, couples, and families to navigate their mental health challenges with compassion and expertise. With a focus on building partnerships with clients, LCCS is reshaping the narrative around counseling, emphasizing that change is not only possible but achievable.

LCCS operates under the belief that everyone has the ability to grow and change. "Understanding your challenges is the first step toward transforming them into strengths," says McAfee-Levan. "We teach our clients that the answers they seek are already within them. With patience and understanding, they can uncover their potential." The practice offers a wide range of specialized services that address various mental health issues, including depression, anxiety, mood disorders, and relationship challenges.

The counseling process at LCCS is deeply collaborative. Clients are encouraged to set personal goals, establish healthy boundaries, and embrace the empowerment necessary for lasting change. The philosophy is built on the understanding that problems can serve as valuable lessons, guiding individuals toward self-discovery and growth. "We help our clients see that their challenges are not just obstacles but gifts that lead to deeper self-awareness," McAfee-Levan explains.

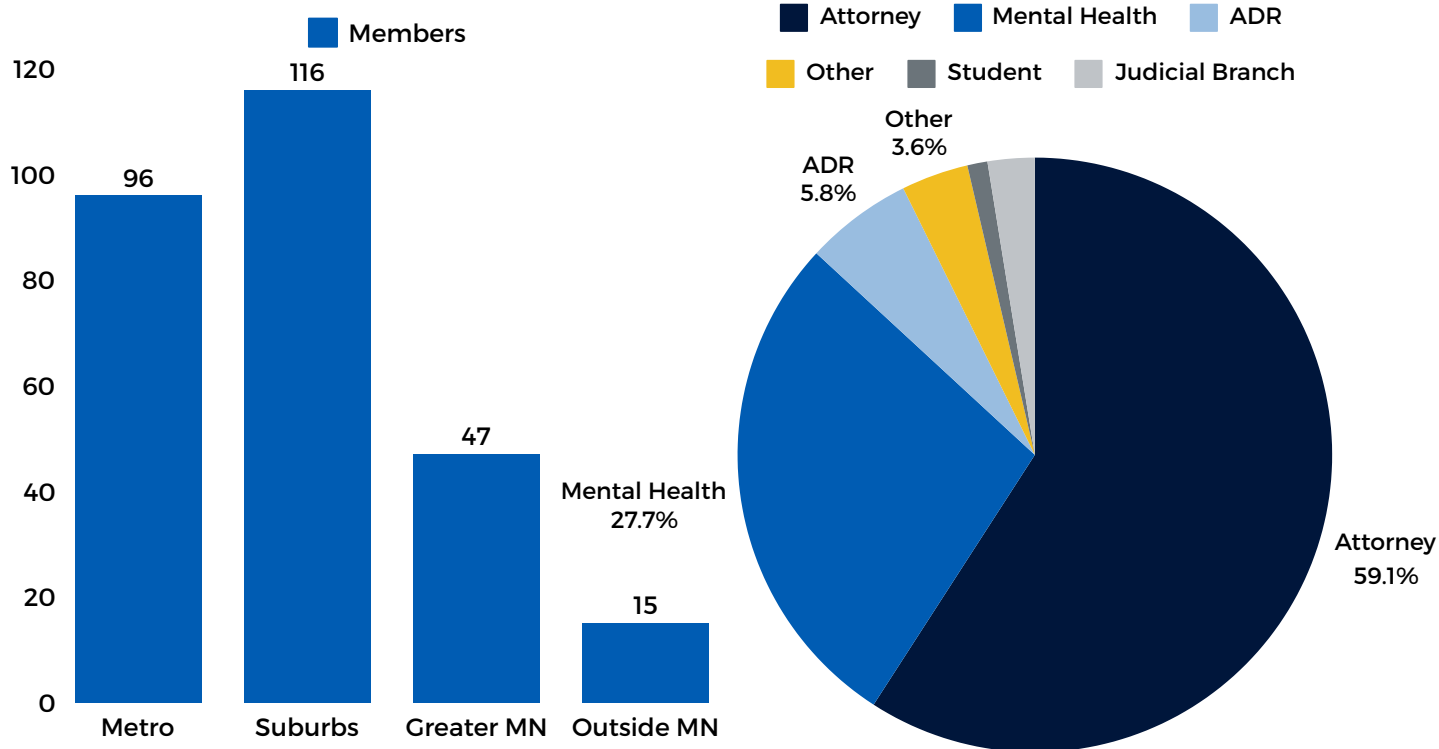
LCCS's commitment to client-centered therapy is reflected in its core values: empathy, respect, cultural competence, and evidence-based practices. According to a recent client testimonial, "The support I received at LCCS was life-changing. My therapist truly understood my struggles, and I learned how to communicate my feelings and manage my emotions better."

In conclusion, Levan Counseling & Consulting Services is more than just a counseling practice; it is a transformative space for individuals seeking understanding and support. By fostering a culture of empathy and collaboration, LCCS empowers clients to unlock their potential and embrace the unique journey of self-discovery. With a renewed sense of hope and a commitment to personal growth, the wonderful person you were created to be is waiting to emerge.

visit [www.levancounseling.org](http://www.levancounseling.org) to learn more

# MINNESOTA MEMBERSHIP BREAKDOWN

Who are the members of AFCC-MN?



## Did You Know

AFCC-MN's longest member is Deborah Anderson. Deb has been a member since January 1, 1990. Mary Lauhead is the runner-up, having been a member since March 23, 1993.

## FUN FACT

The most popular month for new membership for the Minnesota Chapter of the AFCC this year was

**JUNE.**



### Law firms with 100% AFCC-MN Membership

Capistrant Van Loh

Cheney-Hatcher & McKenzie Dispute Resolution Center

DeWalt, Chawla & Saksena

Runchey, Louwagie & Wellman

Tuft, Lach, Jerabek & O'Connell

Wermerskirchen & Blomquist LLC

... who will be next?

## AFCC-MN MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: PR EDITION

### Committee Co-Chairs



#### **Jim Street (Tuft, Lach, Jerabek & O'Connell)**

Jim Street is the co-chair of this committee. He is a past president (2019-20) of the Chapter and recently finished three two-year terms on the Board of Directors. Jim is excited about making the website more useful to members including the inaugural issue of this newsletter. If you have ideas on how this website can be more useful to you, please reach out to one of us on the committee. Jim is actively involved in Alternative Dispute Resolution cases in family law as a shareholder for Tuft, Lach, Jerabek & O'Connell, PLLP.



#### **Hunter Kinsey (Heimerl & Lammers)**

Hunter Kinsey is the co-chair of the AFCC-MN PR committee. She is also an associate attorney at Heimerl & Lammers, LLC, focusing her entire practice on all things family law. Her favorite family law cases are third-party custody cases due to their unique and complex nature. Hunter is excited about expanding the reach of the MN Chapter of the AFCC and bringing quality, important content to its current membership. If you have ideas on how this newsletter or the AFCC-MN website could be improved, please reach out to Jim, Hunter, or any of the other PR committee members to discuss.

### Committee Members



#### **Referee Jason Hutchison (Hennepin County)**

Referee Jason Hutchison is a Hennepin County judicial officer and the Board Liaison for the AFCC-MN PR Committee. Referee Hutchison has been presiding over the family law bench in his role as a judicial officer since 2016. Referee Hutchison takes pride in being an active participant in the family law bar and working to continue to educate and build trust in the Minnesota Judicial Branch among the parties with which it comes in contact.



#### **Lindsey O'Connell (Tuft, Lach, Jerabek & O'Connell)**

Lindsey O'Connell is an attorney practicing almost exclusively in family law. Lindsey is a Rule 114 Qualified Neutral and does mediations, including child inclusive mediations, FENEs, SENEs, personal property mediations/arbitrations, and is a Parenting Consultant. Recognized as a "Rising Star" by Super Lawyers since 2017 and named to The Best Lawyers in America since 2021, her experience includes training in domestic and sexual abuse, and she previously volunteered as a Guardian ad Litem in Ramsey County. Lindsey is a board member of the Washington County Bar Association and Family Law League, in addition to her work on the AFCC's PR Committee.

## Committee Members (continued)



### Heather Hamilton (Heimerl & Lammers)

Heather Hamilton is an associate attorney at Heimerl & Lammers, LLC, who focuses her practice exclusively in the area of family law. Known for her child-focused strategies and straight-forward approach, Heather is committed to achieving the best possible outcomes for families during challenging times. She excels at finding amicable solutions through mediation, but she is also a skilled litigator when necessary. Heather is a member of the American Bar Association Family Law Section and AFCC. She regularly participates in continuing education to stay current with evolving family law trends and legislation.



### Anthony Schrier (Hill Crabb)

Anthony Schrier is an associate attorney at Hill Crabb, LLC who focuses exclusively on family law matters. He has experience representing clients in all areas of family law, including divorce, child custody, parenting time, child support, spousal maintenance, orders for protection, harassment restraining orders, and third-party custody matters. Anthony also serves as a board member for the Family Law League, a local non-profit organization focused on professional development and promoting collegiality among family law professionals. In his free time, Anthony enjoys playing guitar and spending time with his wife and children.



### Jenni McBride McNamara (Touching Trees)

Jenni McBride McNamara is a Licensed Married and Family Therapist, coach, mediator, and parenting consultant in Minnesota. In her private practice, she provides individual, couple, and family counseling, Discernment Counseling, decoupling counseling, parent coaching, and ADR services. Jenni specializes in high conflict relationships, and her methodology has helped hundreds of individuals reach their personal and relationship goals, even when there has been a lot of conflict or court involvement. Jenni is the developer of High Conflict Relationships: Rescue, Recovery, and Restoration, a video course for individuals stuck in high conflict relationships.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
OR TO REGISTER FOR AN EVENT  
VISIT [AFCCMN.ORG](https://afccmn.org)**