

BIOGRAPHY

DAN O'CONNELL, ESQ, CPA



Practice Experience

Named the 2021, 2018, and 2016 Minneapolis Area Family Law Mediation “Lawyer of the Year” and the 2015 Minneapolis Area Family Law “Lawyer of the Year” by Best Lawyers in America®, Dan O’Connell has been guiding clients through the legal system for 38 years. Only a single lawyer in each practice area in each community is honored as the “Lawyer of the Year”. He helps his clients overcome the fear and uncertainty of divorce. He works hard to help his clients achieve a fair and amicable settlement. He helps clients make marriage dissolution decisions out of their highest aspirations instead of their worst fears and impulses. Dan is also a licensed CPA, so is able to understand, negotiate, and litigate complex financial and tax issues, business valuations, retirement, executive compensation, intellectual property, and other business issues, as well as non-marital asset issues and spousal maintenance. He has handled pre-marital and post-marital agreements, as well as cohabitation agreements.

He represents clients in child custody, parenting time, grandparent visitation, and third-party custody/parenting time matters.

Dan’s calming demeanor and empathetic manner help him assist clients and lawyers toward amicable and dignified resolutions through ADR. Dan has been appointed by the courts to act as a neutral evaluator in dozens of cases involving financial issues and custody and parenting time issues. He is an arbitrator and CSM (private judge). He is a Fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML), a member of the Collaborative Law Institute, and the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. He is a past president of the Minnesota Chapter of the AAML. Dan practices law regularly in Ramsey, Hennepin, Washington, and Dakota counties, but has had cases in many other counties throughout Minnesota.

He mediates both civil law and family law disputes. He has represented lawyers, doctors, dentists and other professionals in licensing and ethics matters for over thirty years.

Bar Admissions

1981 Minnesota

1983 U.S. Tax Court

1984 U.S. District Court (Minnesota)

1984 U.S. Court of Appeals (8th Cir.).

Professional Associations & Memberships

Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers 1992-present

American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers 2004-present

Minnesota Chapter President 2011-2013

MN Board of Managers 2006-2010 and 2011-2019

MN Strategic Planning Committee Chair 2010-2011 and 2015-2016

Collaborative Law Institute 2004-present

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts 2007-present

MSBA 1984-present

Council 2003-2006

Assembly 1991-1994 and 2003-2006

Governance Committee Chair 2004-2006

Multijurisdictional Task Force 2004-2006

Operations Committee 1992-2004

Assn. Governance Task Force 2003
Co-chair 2001 and 2006 MSBA Conventions
Multidisciplinary Practice Task Force 1999-2002
Family Law Section 1985-present
Alternative Dispute Resolution Section 1995-present
RCBA 1984-present
Past-President 2002-2003
President 2001-2002
President-Elect 2000-2001
Vice President 1999-2000
Secretary/Treasurer 1995-98
Personnel Committee Chair 2002-2003
Family Law Section 1985-present
Memorial Committee 1986-present
Strategic Planning Committee 1998-2001
Co-chair 2000-2001
Minnesota Association of Justice 1985-present
American Academy of Attorney-Certified Public Accountants 1992-present
American Institute of Certified Public Accountants 1979-present
Minnesota Society of Certified Public Accountants 1979-present
Association for Conflict Resolution 1991-Feb 2023

Education

William Mitchell College of Law, MN, 1981, J.D.
University of St. Thomas, MN, 1977, Magna cum Laude

Awards and Recognition

Named to list of Best Lawyers in America® since 2008
Minneapolis Area Family Law “Lawyer of the Year” 2015
Minneapolis Area Family Law Mediation “Lawyer of the Year” 2016, 2018, 2021
Named a Board-Certified Family Law Trial Advocate by the National Board of Trial Advocacy 2016-2022
Selected as a Minnesota Super Lawyer since 1996
Named to the Minnesota Top 100 Super Lawyers® list since 2012
2006 Recipient of the Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award of the Ramsey County Bar Association
Rated AV (the highest possible rating in both ethical standards and legal ability) by Martindale-Hubbell, one of the nation’s oldest and most respected attorney listings

Community Involvement and Pro Bono

Member of Ramsey County Pro Se Litigant Program 2000-present
Recognized as a North Star Lawyer by the Minnesota State Bar Association for his pro bono work in 2013, 2017, 2018, 2020, and 2021
Represents clients for Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services
Conducted mediations for the former Catholic Charities Mediation Program
St. Pascal's School Baseball Coach 1995-2012 and 2008-2012
Church of St. Pascal Baylon Men's Club Christmas Tree Sales 1996-2012
Maplewood Athletic Association. Baseball Coach 1991-2000
Maplewood Parks and Recreation Department Soccer Coach 1991-1997
Leadership St. Paul (Graduate 1996)

Employment

Shareholder, Tuft, Lach, Jerabek & O’Connell, PLLC, 2109 County Road D East, Maplewood, MN 55109-5444; telephone number: 651-771-0050; email: dan@tuftlaw.com; www.tuftlaw.com.