



McKINLEY IRVIN

FAMILY LAW

RACHEL BENDER

SENIOR ATTORNEY



**BEST LAWYERS: ONES TO WATCH,
2024**

**RISING STARS, WASHINGTON
SUPER LAWYERS® 2023**

AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Divorce
- Child Custody
- Child Support
- Relocation
- Domestic Violence
- LGBT Family Law
- Third Party Custody

CONTACT RACHEL

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An experienced courtroom lawyer, Rachel Bender's practice focuses on high net-worth divorces, property distribution, UCCJEA issues, non-parent custody, and domestic violence matters.

Rachel has quickly earned a reputation as a go-to attorney in the Seattle area, having achieved successful outcomes for her clients through mediation and at trial. She has been recognized repeatedly by her peers as a top attorney in Washington, and has been named a Rising Star by Super Lawyers® every year since 2018. Rachel's passion is working closely with families, individuals, and businesses to protect their rights, loved ones, and financial future.

"I hope it gives my clients comfort to know that we will champion their interests and are truly invested in achieving a successful outcome on their behalf."

While Rachel is a skilled trial lawyer, she is also an effective negotiator who frequently achieves optimal results without litigation. Having managed an active family law practice before joining the firm, Rachel says success in family law boils down to one thing:

"Obviously, strong legal knowledge and skills are imperative. But more than anything, what sets a truly effective lawyer apart is compassion. This is the most personal area of law to practice, period. If you don't have compassion, patience, and understanding, you can't serve your clients well."

Rachel and her husband are the proud parents of two young daughters. An artist and adventurer at heart, she also enjoys painting, open-water diving, and woodworking, a skill she learned from her grandfather, a Master Carpenter. She is currently reconstructing her pantry from her own design.

"It was wonderful to have someone who cares so deeply about her own family help take care of our own. Rachel takes pride in what she does for a living and you can tell she's passionate about the security of people's futures."

– KATHARINE, FORMER CLIENT



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EDUCATION

J.D., Seattle University School of Law

- Outstanding Service Award, Pro Bono Pledge Program
- Grant Recipient, Public Interest Law Foundation
- Vice-President, ACLU Student Board

B.A., University of Houston, *with honors*

DISTINCTIONS

Listed in Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in the field of Family Law, 2024

Distinguished as a *Washington Rising Star* by Super Lawyers®, 2018-2023

Listed in Top Women Lawyers by Seattle Met, 2018-2021

Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell® 2020

Avvo.com 10.0 "Superb" rating

Pro Bono Service Commendation, Washington State Bar Association, 2016, 2019-2020

MEMBERSHIPS

Washington State Bar Association

United States District Court, Western District of Washington

Federal Bar Association, Western District of Washington Chapter

King County Bar Association

National Association of Women Lawyers

Washington Women Lawyers

Greater Seattle Business Association

Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Volunteer Attorney, Eastside Legal Assistance Program (ELAP), 2017-Present

Board Member, PAWS, 2016-2017

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, "Child and Spousal Support: Top Issues that MUST be Addressed," Top Challenges in Washington Family Law, National Business Institute, November 2022
- Featured in "Next Gen in Law Series," Puget Sound Business Journal, January 2023
- Presenter, Estate Planning Seminar Series, 2016-2022
- Presenter, Finances & Estate Planning: What You Need to Know Before You Get Married, Marriage & Money Seminar, 2016
- Presenter, Partnership & Shareholder Disputes From Start to Finish, National Business Institute, 2014
- Presenter, Domestic Violence & Gender Identity, Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Annual Conference at Reed College, 2012

"She is incredibly knowledgeable, clear, concise and compassionate. I never felt alone or isolated throughout the process. She was there every step of the way and helped me negotiate through some contentious terms. I cannot say enough good things about Rachel. Don't think twice and don't consider anyone else. Rachel is the only person you'll need in your corner."

- FORMER CLIENT

ABOUT MCKINLEY IRVIN

Founded in 1991, McKinley Irvin is the Pacific Northwest's premier law firm focusing exclusively on the practice of family law. Attorneys at McKinley Irvin are acknowledged leaders in a range of traditional and cutting-edge areas of the practice, including divorce matters involving complex financial issues, collaborative law, contested child custody, international family law, military family law, and LGBT family law.



Super Lawyers®



Ranked Tier 1
in the Seattle
Metro in
the field of
Family Law