

DAVID STARKS

PARTNER



“It is so hard to find a reliable lawyer; but, I must say, you’re one of the best.”

—FORMER CLIENT R.F.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Divorce
- Complex divorce (cases involving business interests, complex financial issues, or asset values of \$1 million or more)
- Hague Convention cases
- International divorce and child custody
- Relocation
- International relocation
- Child support modifications
- Parenting plan modifications

David Starks is a strategic thinker, a gifted advocate, and a warm “people person”—qualities that serve his clients well. A McKinley Irvin partner, David focuses his practice on divorce cases involving the protection, valuation, and distribution of significant assets or business interests, as well as other family law matters, including international divorce and family law.

“Practicing family law is emotionally satisfying for me,” says the honors law graduate who has been named a Seattle Rising Star by *Washington Law & Politics* magazine. “I much prefer the personal connection that comes with protecting the rights of my clients and their families to the impersonal process of representing corporations. People rely on me to guide them and safeguard their interests during one of the most challenging times of their lives, and that is exactly what I do.”

David knows what he is talking about. Although he began his family law career as a student intern with McKinley Irvin, he practiced maritime and securities law in federal court following graduation from law school in 1998, gaining significant negotiation and litigation experience in the process. It wasn’t long, however, before he began to miss the human interaction he experienced as a family law attorney.

“My clients are real people leading active lives with so much riding on the outcome of their cases. I don’t forget that,” David insists. “Their concerns are my concerns. Their stress is my stress. Their worries are my worries.”

“Whether I am at the negotiating table or in the courtroom, I am always ready to resolve the case in the best interest of the people I represent.”

“You wake up a little earlier than the other guy. You work a little later. And you make sure you’ve done everything you can. That’s what family law is all about.”

--PARTNER DAVID STARKS

While he focuses largely on complex divorce and U.S. family law cases, David is also one of a select few family law attorneys whose practice emphasizes international law and treaties, including the Hague Conventions on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and the Recovery of Child Support.

“These cases move fast and the stakes are very high,” David notes. “You have to come out prepared and you have to do it right.”

DAVID STARKS

PARTNER

“David Starks and his staff not only provide the best legal representation, they truly care about you as a person, even after your case has concluded. I can think of no better firm than McKinley Irvin and no better attorney than David Starks.”

—FORMER CLIENT M.L.

EDUCATION

- J.D., *cum laude*, Seattle University School of Law
- First Place and Best Brief, Seattle University Intellectual Property Competition
- Regional Finalist, J. Giles Sutherland Intellectual Property Competition
- Regional Finalist, American Trial Lawyers Association Moot Court Competition
- The Order of Barristers
- B.A. in English, *cum laude*, Southern Indiana University

IN THE MEDIA

- *Legal Line* with Bob Pittman on KTTH Radio
- “In Any Tongue, It’s Still ‘Goodbye,’” *Washington Law & Politics*, Winter 2009

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

- Washington State Bar Association
- Texas Bar Association
- King County Bar Association, Family Law Section
- American Bar Association, Family Law Section and International Law Section
- Former member, Washington State Bar Association Professionalism Committee
- Former member, Tacoma-Pierce County YMCA Board of Governors

RECENT CASES, PUBLICATIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

- Washington State Court of Appeals Division II, *In re the Marriage of Meredith*, February 2009
- International Family Law: The Hague Convention, King County Bar Association CLE, September 2008
- “Washington’s Resolution to Equal Custody,” *King County Bar Bulletin*, January 2008
- “Family Law Takes on Global Perspective,” *King County Bar Bulletin*, December 2007
- International Travel With Children: Identification Requirements, White Paper, Winter 2007
- Shared Custody is Now Shared, White Paper, Fall 2007
- Co-Author, International Family Law, *Washington State Bar Association Family Law Desk Book* (publication is currently being authored).

CONTACT McKINLEY IRVIN

T: 206.625.9600
F: 206.223.1999

contact@mckinleyirvin.com

425 Pike St., Suite 500
Seattle, Washington 98101

ABOUT McKINLEY IRVIN

Founded in 1991, McKinley Irvin is one of the state’s largest, most established law firms focusing exclusively on the practice of family law. Attorneys at McKinley Irvin, who possess more than 100 years of combined legal experience, 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, relationship agreements, and GLBT family law.