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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

International and local relocation

Child support modifications

Parenting plan modifications

CONTACT DAVID

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David Starks is McKinley Irvin's Managing Partner and a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. He focuses his practice on divorce cases involving complex financial interests and the protection, valuation, and distribution of significant assets and business interests. His passion for resolving complex family law matters has also led him to routinely represent clients with international divorce and family law issues in both state and federal court.

David also continues to enjoy assisting clients through the challenges they face in other family law matters, including parenting and support modifications, relocations, and other matrimonial litigation.

Although David is a seasoned negotiator and litigator, he is equally dedicated to providing his clients with excellent personal service.

"The foundation of a successful attorney/client relationship is rooted in good communication and shared trust," says David. "Every client wants and deserves an attorney who will listen closely, speak honestly, and work tirelessly to identify and achieve their goals. Whether I am at the negotiating table or in the courtroom, I am always driven to protect and advance my client's interests."

"My clients are real people leading active lives with a lot at stake in their cases. I don't forget that. Their concerns are my concerns. Their stress is my stress. Their worries are my worries."

David's experience as the firm's Managing Partner along with his litigation, arbitration and negotiation experience in complex family, business, and commercial law make him particularly well qualified to represent divorce clients with financial, business, executive compensation, or spousal maintenance interests at stake, as well as clients involved in interstate or international family law matters.

"I enjoy practicing family law because of the personal connection that comes with getting to know my clients and then working to protect their rights and interests during one of the most challenging times of their lives," says David. "Complex family law is an intense and challenging area of practice. From case to case, I routinely deal with many areas of the law including tax, real estate, corporations, ERISA, tort law, international law and treaties, immigration, employment benefits, trusts and estates, contracts, and so forth."

David is one of few family law attorneys whose practice includes international family law and treaties, including the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, as well as the local recovery of foreign support and maintenance awards. He is presently co-authoring a chapter in the Washington State Family Law Desk Book concerning the international aspects of family law in Washington and abroad. David is an active member of the International Law and Family Law Sections of the American Bar Association.

David lives in the Magnolia neighborhood of Seattle with his wife and two sons.

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DAVID STARKS

MANAGING PARTNER

EDUCATION

- J.D., *cum laude*, Seattle University School of Law
- B.A. in English, *cum laude*, Southern Indiana University

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Selected by his peers as one of *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2012 in the field of Family Law
- Distinguished as a *Washington Super Lawyer* by Super Lawyers® 2011, 2010

MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

- Fellow, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers
- Member: American Bar Association, Washington State Bar Association, State Bar of Texas, Oregon State Bar, King County Bar Association
- Member, King County Bar Association's Judicial Screening Committee

APPOINTMENTS

- Co-Chair, American Bar Association, International Law Section, Family Law Committee (2010-present)
- Section Advisor of the American Bar Association to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws' Drafting Committee on the Implementation of the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children (2011-present)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Co-Author, *International Family Law*, Washington State Bar Association Family Law Desk Book (publication pending)
- Panelist, *Saving a Stolen Childhood: How to Prevent and Resolve International Kidnapping Cases*, American Bar Association CLE (2011)
- Panelist, *Family Enterprises in Distress: Issues to Consider*, American Bar Association CLE (Dublin, Ireland 2011)
- Presenter, *Divorce Litigation, Start to Finish*, National Business Institute CLE (Seattle, 2011)

“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.

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ABOUT MCKINLEY IRVIN

Founded in 1991, McKinley Irvin is the Pacific Northwest's largest law firm focusing exclusively on the practice of family law. Attorneys at McKinley Irvin, who possess more than 240 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 LGBT family law.



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