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**McKinley Irvin Partners David B. Starks and Marc T. Christianson
Receive Fellowship in American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers**

*AAML Fellowship Recognizes Starks and Christianson as National Leaders in
the Practice of Family Law*

SEATTLE, Wash. – November 15, 2011 – McKinley Irvin, Washington’s largest law firm focused exclusively on divorce and family law, announced today that two McKinley Irvin partners were chosen to receive fellowship in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML):

- [Marc T. Christianson](#), Partner in Charge, Tacoma
- [David B. Starks](#), Partner in Charge, Seattle

Founded in 1962, the [AAML](#) states that it exists “to provide leadership that promotes the highest degree of professionalism and excellence in the practice of family law.” Academy Fellows are chosen based on the level of their negotiation and litigation skill in matrimonial and family law issues, as well as their recognition by judges and attorneys as “preeminent family law practitioners with a high level of knowledge, skill and integrity.”

The AAML offers fellowship to lawyers who meet multi-faceted membership criteria, as well as pass a written examination and oral interview. Membership criteria includes requirements for state bar membership, legal education, industry recognition as an expert, substantial involvement in the field of matrimonial law, trial experience, and good ethical standing on discipline records, among other considerations.

“It is a pleasure and honor to distinguish our partners Marc Christianson and David Starks as fellows of the AAML,” said Sands McKinley, founder of McKinley Irvin. “Their recognition for elevating the standards of family law practice is a perfect reflection of the vision and values of our entire firm. We sincerely congratulate both Marc and David for this achievement.”

Christianson and Starks join 19 other lawyers as Academy Fellows in the Washington State AAML Chapter. There are approximately 1600 total AAML Fellows in the United States.

About McKinley Irvin

Headquartered in Seattle and with offices throughout the Pacific Northwest, McKinley Irvin is a premier divorce and family law firm, and the largest family law firm in the state of Washington. McKinley Irvin has protected the rights of families since 1991—handling complex family law cases involving divorce, custody and international matters. For more information about McKinley Irvin, visit us at www.mckinleyirvin.com.

About The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers

Founded in 1962, the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML) is committed to encouraging the study, improving the practice, and advancing the cause of matrimonial law, in order to better protect the welfare of American families. Comprised of the top matrimonial attorneys throughout the nation, members are recognized experts in the specialized areas of matrimonial law, including divorce, prenuptial agreements, legal separation, annulment, custody, property valuation and division, support, and the rights of unmarried couples. More information about the AAML is available at www.aaml.org.

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