



McKINLEY IRVIN

FAMILY LAW

LAURA SELL

LAW PRACTICE MANAGING PARTNER



BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA® 2024
WASHINGTON SUPER LAWYERS® 2023

AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Divorce
- High Asset Divorce
- Child Custody
- Parenting Plans
- Parenting Plan Modifications
- Child Support Modifications
- Paternity
- Family Law Mediation

CONTACT LAURA

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As Law Practice Managing Partner, Laura Sell is responsible for training and mentoring members of the McKinley Irvin legal team, consulting with individual lawyers on complex and cutting-edge cases, serving as the firm's human resources point person, and overseeing new attorney recruitment. With all of this on her plate, Laura insists she relishes the challenge.

"Family law is such a crucial area of practice," she notes, "because it's 100 percent focused on the most important aspects of people's personal lives: their family, children, income, and assets. Representing clients in this arena is a weighty responsibility."

Laura contends without equivocation that her McKinley Irvin colleagues are up to the task.

"We hire and retain lawyers who are fully committed to family law, who are excited and energized about their practice, who are accomplished legal practitioners devoted to outstanding client service, and who are dedicated to continued professional growth. Let's not forget that exceptional lawyering is a continuum, not a destination."

A member of the McKinley Irvin executive team since 2017 and whom founder Sands McKinley calls "one of the funniest people I know," Laura retains a fierce loyalty to the firm and the principles for which it stands, all the while invoking her infectious sense of humor and storytelling gifts "to create community and put people at ease."

"We hold a unique place among law firms in this region," she maintains. "We have endured for nearly 30 years because of our commitment to innovating and elevating the practice of family law. We challenge the status quo. We are a leader, both in terms of the way we practice and the quality of all our professionals—not just the lawyers."

"Because of where we are and who we are, we are able to offer unparalleled service to every person we represent."

"Laura is worth her weight in gold! I will always be grateful for her expertise and kindness during a very difficult time in our lives. She is a rock star attorney and I cannot recommend her enough."

– WINDY, FORMER CLIENT



McKINLEY IRVIN

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EDUCATION

J.D., University of Dayton School of Law
B.A., Western Washington University

DISTINCTIONS

Listed in The Best Lawyers in America® in the field of Family Law 2019-2024
Distinguished as a *Washington Super Lawyer*, 2018-2023

MEMBERSHIPS

American Bar Association
Washington State Bar Association, Alternative Dispute Resolution
Washington State Bar Association, Family Law Section
King County Bar Association, Family Law Section
QLaw: The GLBT Bar Association of Washington
International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP)
Association of Workplace Investigators

RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Program Chair, "Dissolution from A to Z," King County Bar Association CLE (Seattle 2017)
- "Protecting Your Practice from Divorce: Tips for Solo and Small-Firm Practitioners," author, King County Bar Bulletin (October 2016)
- "Spousal Maintenance," chapter co-author with James McGuire, LexisNexis Practice Guide: Washington Family Law (2016)
- "Internal Investigations - Who, What, When Where and Why," co-presenter with Aviva Kamm, Stokes Lawrence Employment Law Institute (December 2015)
- "Investigation Issues - Who, What, When, Where and Why," co-presenter with Aviva Kamm, Employment Law Institute CLE, King County Bar Association (September 2015)
- "Prenuptial Agreement Basics," author, blog post, Stokes Lawrence Washington Divorce & Family Law (July 2015)
- "Financial Wisdom for Women," co-presenter with RoseMary Reed and Cornerstone Advisors (June 2015)
- "Post-Dissolution Disputes Involving Neglected Assets and Liabilities," co-author, Matrimonial Strategist (February 2008)
- "The Non-Biological Parent; Washington Creates a Common-Law Parentage Cause of Action," co-author, Matrimonial Strategist (May 2005)

"I have worked with many great attorneys in Seattle across multiple legal disciplines. I never thought I would need a family law attorney but when I did, I found the best in Laura. She is very bright, detailed, and can be creative in working through the unique elements of each case. She was exceptional at managing all facets of my case and when needed could be very stern with opposing counsel. She managed my expectations well and knew exactly how to support me through the process. I could not have found a better partner during a difficult time."

– 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.



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