



McKINLEY IRVIN

FAMILY LAW

DAVID STARKS

PARTNER



BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA® 2019
WASHINGTON SUPER LAWYERS® 2018

AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Difficult Custody and 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
- Parenting Plan Modifications

CONTACT DAVID

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David Starks is a Partner at McKinley Irvin, a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, and a Diplomate of the American College of Family Trial Lawyers. He focuses his practice on divorce cases involving difficult custodial matters and the protection, valuation, and distribution of significant assets and business interests.

Early in his legal career, David gained significant experience in maritime and securities law in both federal and state courts, as well as arbitrations, through the National Association of Securities Dealers. His litigation, arbitration, and negotiation experience in 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.

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

His passion for resolving complex family law matters has led David to routinely represent clients with international divorce and family law issues in both state and federal court.

David is a Fellow of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and one of a very small number of U.S. family law attorneys whose practice includes international family law and treaties, including the various Hague Conventions on abduction, maintenance and the protection of children. He routinely assists in the local recovery of foreign support and maintenance awards.

David is president of the Washington state chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. He is also an active member of the International Law Section of the American Bar Association, having previously served as the Co-Chair of that section's Family Law Committee. He is licensed to practice law in Washington, Oregon, and Texas.

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

"Mr. Starks has that rare combination of a deep, practical knowledge of the law as it is practiced, as well as a personality that makes you feel comfortable and valued."

– FORMER CLIENT, SEATTLE, WA



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EDUCATION

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

DISTINCTIONS

Diplomate, American College of Family Trial Lawyers (ACFTL)
Fellow, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML)
Fellow, International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL)
Listed in The Best Lawyers in America® in the field of Family Law 2012-2019
Top 100 Attorneys in Washington State, Washington Super Lawyers, 2012, 2014-18
Distinguished as a Washington Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers, 2010-2018
Avvo.com 10.0 "Superb" rating

APPOINTMENTS

- President, Washington State Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML)
- Newsletter Ex Officio, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML)
- Executive Committee, International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL)
- 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)
- Past Co-Chair, American Bar Association, International Law Section Family Law Committee (2010-2011)

MEMBERSHIPS

American Bar Association, Washington State Bar Association, State Bar of Texas, Oregon State Bar, King County Bar Association
Member, King County Bar Association Judicial Screening Committee
Member, Washington State Bar Association Professionalism Committee

RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, Conclusion of Case, Final Pleadings, Trial Preparation, Dissolution from A-Z, King County Bar Association CLE, 2017
- Presenter, "Adventures with a Matrimonial Accountant," AAML Annual Family Law Conference, 2016
- Presenter, "Breaking Boundaries in Custody Litigation," AAML, 2013
- Presenter, "Equitable Distribution in Divorce," National Business Institute, 2013
- Presenter, "Unconventional Issues in Child Custody and Abduction Cases," American Bar Association (Anchorage, Alaska), 2013

"David is a rockstar attorney. If you need a smart, wise, responsive, attorney for a tough case, David is definitely it. I felt connected, informed throughout a hard and long divorce and educated on process and next steps when I needed to be. I'm convinced that my divorce would have taken a different path without his wisdom and clear but fair approach."

– FORMER CLIENT, SEATTLE, WA

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