



# McKINLEY IRVIN

FAMILY LAW

## ELIZABETH MICHELSON OF COUNSEL



BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA® 2019  
WASHINGTON SUPER LAWYERS® 2019  
FAMILY LAW LAWYER OF THE YEAR 2017

### AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Divorce
- Complex Divorce (cases involving business interests, complex financial issues, or asset values of \$1 million or more)
- Contested Child Custody
- Relocation
- Child Support Modifications
- Parenting Plan Modifications

### CONTACT LIZ

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Everett, WA 98201

Attorney Elizabeth Michelson has practiced Family Law in Snohomish County since 1980. She focuses her practice on complex divorce and custody cases, and has been recognized within the legal profession and in the community for her exceptional ability in the practice of family law. She is a longtime Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML) and has been named a “Best Lawyer in America” since 2001.

By working to understand her client’s needs and expectations, Liz helps her clients make rational decisions, and provides a strategic, achievable plan to meet their goals.

*“I develop a relationship of absolute trust with my clients,” says Liz. “Total honesty—I don’t soft pedal or avoid difficult conversations about the difference between what is possible and what is likely. People respect and deserve that.”*

She continues, “Every client is important to me. If it’s my case, it’s personal. I know their case backwards and forwards, and I make it my mission to get them the results they need.”

Liz is dedicated to helping clients remove themselves personally, legally, and financially from unhappy marital situations. She is especially motivated when, with the support that she and her team provide, clients become emotionally empowered and less fearful and dependent.

“Being a family law attorney has defined who I am over the last nearly forty years,” says Liz. “What continues to motivate me is never having a single client walk away after the case is finished believing that I didn’t do my best for him or her.”

Liz has worked as a mediator and finds the experience and training has given her an advantage in family law disputes. She has also served on the Reduce Family Conflict Committee of the Domestic Relations Commission of the State Judicial Administration Board.

Liz and her husband have a three-legged dog, Smokey, who is a local celebrity. Stories about Smokey have been featured in the local media, and he is regularly recognized and pampered by his adoring fans.

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*“She knows the law and her length of experience brings with it an understanding of the court system. Rather than feeling like a file on the desk, Liz makes me feel like a person going through a life changing event. She is caring and supportive, and is not afraid to fight for what is right.”*

– JULIE, FORMER CLIENT



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## EDUCATION

J.D., University of Colorado School of Law  
Graduate, Pacific Family Mediation Institute  
Professional Mediation Skills Training Program

## DISTINCTIONS

Named 2017's "Lawyer of the Year" in Family Law by Best Lawyers in America®  
Listed in The Best Lawyers in America in the field of Family Law 2001-2019  
Distinguished as a Washington Super Lawyer, 2008-2010, 2012-2019  
10 Best in Washington for Client Satisfaction, American Institute of Family Law Attorneys, 2015  
Leading Lawyers, Seattle Business Magazine, 2013  
Top Attorneys in Washington, Seattle Met Magazine, 2012  
Pro Bono Publico Service Commendation, Washington State Bar Association, 2007

## APPOINTMENTS

Fellow, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, 1996-present  
Committee Member, Domestic Relations Work Group, State Board for Judicial Administration, 2000-2001

## MEMBERSHIPS

Snohomish County Bar Association  
Washington State Bar Association  
Washington Women Lawyers

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, "Spousal Maintenance: Modification, Suspension, Termination," Snohomish County Bar Association CLE, 2005
- Presenter, "Pros & Cons of Prenuptial Agreements," American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers CLE

*"Liz wins (to the extent anyone wins in a divorce). I have referred 3 other clients to her and they all came out well. She is the finest family lawyer in the county."*

– PETER, FORMER CLIENT

*"She continuously demonstrates an ability to focus on the important and weed out the chaff. Her diligence, strategy, planning, and execution are backed up by extremely competent and kind staff. I couldn't recommend her more highly."*

– BRYAN, 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.



Super Lawyers®



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