



McKINLEY IRVIN

FAMILY LAW

LAURA SELL

LAW PRACTICE MANAGING PARTNER



BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA® 2019
WASHINGTON SUPER LAWYERS® 2019

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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Laura Sell believes that in the practice of law, few things are more important than helping clients protect the aspects of their lives that they value most – be it obtaining a favorable parenting plan or protecting their financial security. For that reason, she chose to transition her career as a civil litigator to focus exclusively on family law.

Her experience as a civil litigator gives Laura a diverse background and skills in a variety of complex legal and financial issues. This wider lens also gives her a well-rounded perspective on legal matters, which she leverages to achieve successful results for her clients. She excels in cases involving high value assets, closely-held businesses, professional practices, and complex compensation structures.

Laura is committed to providing superior advocacy and personalized client service in every case. She and her team are resourceful and strategic. Along with their strong work ethic, they strive to obtain favorable results for their clients.

“Once I help my clients identify their goals, I work tirelessly to achieve those goals for them,” says Laura. “I make it my priority to get them the results they need in order for them to transition into the next chapter of their lives.”

Laura often serves as a mediator and settlement conference master in family law cases. She uses her understanding of the pressures people face during a family law matter to help them work past their differences, resolve their disputes, and settle their cases.

“My work as a mediator and attorney go hand-in-hand,” says Laura. “They’ve both taught me to listen to my clients. People often know what is fair and what will work for their family. I work to get them to that place, whether as a mediator or as their advocate.”

As the firm’s Law Practice Managing Partner, Laura also leads our attorneys in practice development, training and mentoring, as well as consulting on cases and ensuring the firm’s high standards of quality.

Outside of work, Laura enjoys entertaining and cooking for friends and family and admits that a karaoke machine is often found at her parties. She and her family love traveling together, with beach destinations being among their favorites.

“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



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EDUCATION

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

DISTINCTIONS

Distinguished as a *Washington Super Lawyer*, 2018-2019

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.



Super Lawyers®



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