



McKINLEY IRVIN

FAMILY LAW

AMY CAREI

LEAD ATTORNEY,
CLIENT EXPERIENCE



**BEST LAWYERS: ONES TO WATCH®
2026**

AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Divorce
- Child Custody
- Parenting Plans
- Relocation
- Parenting Plan Modifications
- Child Support Modifications
- Legal Separation
- Domestic Violence
- Third Party Custody
- Unmarried Couples

CONTACT AMY

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Amy Carei comes from humble beginnings. She was the first person in her extended family to go to college, let alone attend law school. Raised by a single mother with limited means, Amy understands the importance of family and the value of a dollar. She takes neither for granted in her law practice.

"Having received an advanced education, I feel that I now owe something to the world. I strive to use my degree to help people who really need help. I find that there is great opportunity for service in family law."

Amy prides herself on being a genuine and approachable person first and a lawyer second. She takes time to understand what her clients are going through and has a knack for explaining complicated legal processes in plain English.

She believes that true collaboration leads to the best legal outcomes.

"I see myself as the navigator and my client as the pilot. I want my clients to participate actively in the process. I serve as the legal authority; they are the authority on their own lives."

Amy has significant experience representing clients in times of crisis. Before transitioning to private practice, she worked for an agency that was dedicated to helping survivors of domestic violence. She is passionate about providing families with opportunities to create safer, more stable lives.

A fifth generation Washingtonian, Amy lives in Tacoma with her spouse, her three children, and two dogs—a Newfoundland/Lab mix named Huxley and a St. Bernard named Ellie. The family enjoys cooking, gardening, and hiking together. Amy's hobbies include playing the violin, remodeling her 1890's Craftsman house, and restoring old Toyota hatchbacks.

"Amy was caring, compassionate and understanding in making a difficult situation a little less difficult. She took her time to break down all the legal jargon and lay out scenarios to calm my mind. Not only is she an exceptional attorney but she was personable and truly connected to my situation and didn't treat us as 'just another case.'"

– TONI, FORMER CLIENT



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EDUCATION

J.D., Seattle University School of Law

- CALI Award for Foreclosure Mediation
- Diversity Scholarship Recipient

Certified Mediator, King County Center for Dispute Resolution

Certified Guardian ad Litem

B.A., Pacific Lutheran University

DISTINCTIONS

Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America in the field of Family Law, 2024-2026

Washington Rising Star by Super Lawyers®, 2023-2024

MEMBERSHIPS

Washington State Bar Association

Tacoma Pierce County Bar Association

Domestic Relations Attorneys of Washington (DRAW)

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Contributing Author, "How to Handle Child Custody and Visitation During the COVID-19 Pandemic," *McKinley Irvin Family Law Blog*, 2020
- Presenter, "Ethics in Parenting Plans for Incarcerated Parents," *Institute of Continuing Legal Education*, 2020
- Presenter, "Silent Petitioners and the RPCs," *Institute of Continuing Legal Education*, 2019

"Amy is an incredible attorney who goes above and beyond to help her clients in what can be a very difficult and stressful time. She takes the time to truly listen to your concerns and goals, I found her to be not only supportive but extremely knowledgeable and informative. I highly recommend Amy to anyone dealing with a family law issue, she is exactly who you want in your corner."

– EMILY, FORMER CLIENT

ABOUT MCKINLEY IRVIN

McKinley Irvin is the Pacific Northwest's premier law firm dedicated exclusively to family law. For over thirty years, our attorneys have been recognized for their leadership in a wide range of traditional and innovative family law matters, including high-conflict divorces, complex property division, collaborative law, contested child custody, international family law, military family issues, and LGBTQ+ family law.



Super Lawyers®

