



McKINLEY IRVIN

FAMILY LAW

ELIZABETH MICHELSON OF COUNSEL



BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA® 2026
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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For four decades, Elizabeth Michelson has practiced family law with a singular focus: “Providing my clients the best possible service. Every client. Every day.”

That philosophy has served this Snohomish County-based attorney—and those she represents—remarkably well. In the process, it has earned Liz an impressive array of public tributes that include Lawyer of the Year, Best Lawyers in America® and inclusion in the Best Lawyers publication for 24 years running; Leading Lawyers, Seattle Business Magazine; Top Attorneys in Washington, Seattle Met Magazine; and perennial appearances on the roster of Washington Super Lawyers®.

But it is not the exhaustive list of accolades that brings this Of Counsel member of the McKinley Irvin legal team her greatest professional satisfaction. Far from it.

“It may be a cliché, but I can honestly say that helping hundreds of clients over the years through one of the most stressful, emotionally grueling, and financially challenging times of their lives definitely has been the most rewarding aspect of my work. Every client is important to me. If it’s my case, it’s personal.”

What continues to motivate Liz, she adds, is a resolve to offer a level of legal service that guarantees all her clients walk away on conclusion of their cases convinced “beyond a shred of doubt that I did my very best for them.” It’s a high bar, indeed, and she meets it routinely, as is reflected in feedback from individuals and families she has served over the years.

“Rather than feeling like a file on her desk,” says a former client, “my lawyer made 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.”

Liz, a self-described fair weather gardener, proud grandparent of four and step-grandparent of two, possesses to this day those qualities that have made her such an effective advocate for so many years: empathy, perseverance, and an overarching motivation to help her clients successfully navigate their lives.

“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

The Best Lawyers in America® in the field of Family Law, 2001–2026
The Lawdragon 500 Leading U.S. Family Lawyers Guide, 2024–2025
Washington Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers®, 2008–2010, 2012–2021
Named 2017's "Lawyer of the Year" in Family Law by *Best Lawyers in America*®
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

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

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
Domestic Relations Attorneys of Washington (DRAW)

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

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.

