



McKINLEY IRVIN

FAMILY LAW

JENNIFER PAYSENO

PARTNER



BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA® 2026
CHAMBERS HIGH NET WORTH
GUIDE 2025
WASHINGTON SUPER LAWYERS®
2026

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 JENNIFER

P 206.625.9600
E contact@mckinleyirvin.com
601 Union Street, Suite 3030
Seattle, WA 98101

Behind Jennifer Payseno's calm and deliberate demeanor are the intellect and ability of one of Seattle's finest family law attorneys. Affiliated with McKinley Irvin since 1999, Jennifer is highly regarded throughout the legal community for her integrity, courtroom skills, and unwavering commitment to every family she serves.

This veteran professional maintains that the primary keys to a successful family law practice are painstaking preparedness, in-depth legal knowledge, genuine respect for every client, and an ability to identify with each individual's special and specific concerns.

"For me, it comes down to listening and understanding. My clients come to me during an exceedingly difficult time in their lives. Divorce is a life-altering experience. It's real and it's personal. My capacity to appreciate the uniqueness of every case and every client is an important skill I bring to the table."

Indeed, one of the most appealing aspects of the practice, says Jennifer, is its exceptional variety.

"Every case is different," notes the outdoor enthusiast who enjoys weekend hikes with her husband and their two dogs. "On any given day, I might be dealing with complex business interests, real estate investments, stock options, parenting plans, or complicated tax issues.

"What never changes, however, are several principles on which I have built my practice: Provide a safe haven for my clients to vent their fears and frustrations and hopes for the future; consistently put the interests of my clients first; and always—always—negotiate from a position of strength."

McKinley Irvin founding partner Sands McKinley is an unabashed admirer of his colleague's skill and savvy.

"We met Jennifer years ago when she was the opposing attorney in a case," he recalls. "She was an extremely tough opponent, exceptionally well prepared, well-respected by the court, and a steadfast client advocate. She understood how to develop case strategy and execute it effectively. In sum, she was—and is—a real pro. We knew she belonged at McKinley Irvin, and we had the good fortune of persuading her to join us."

"The guidance from Jennifer and her team was exceptional, leaving nothing to chance and providing me with reassurance that the best possible argument was being prepared."

– FORMER CLIENT, SEATTLE, WA



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EDUCATION

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

DISTINCTIONS

The Best Lawyers in America® in the field of Family Law, 2020–2026
Ranked Band 2 in Chambers High Net Worth Guide for Family/Matrimonial in Washington State, 2018–2025
The Lawdragon 500 Leading U.S. Family Lawyers Guide, 2024–2026
Washington Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers®, 2010–2026
Top 100 Attorneys in Washington State by Super Lawyers®, 2023–2025
Top 50: Women Lawyers, Washington Super Lawyers®, 2023–2025
Leading Family, Matrimonial & Divorce Lawyers (Seattle) by Doyle's Guide, 2025–2026
Peer Review Rated BV Distinguished, Martindale Hubbell®
Avvo.com 10.0 "Superb" rating

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

President, King County Bar Association, 2019–2020
First Vice President, King County Bar Association, 2018–2019
Second Vice President, King County Bar Association, 2017–2018
Member, King County Judicial Screening Committee
Treasurer, King County Bar Association, 2013–2014
Chair, King County Judicial Screening Committee, 2009–2010
Trustee, King County Bar Association, 2000–2003
President, South King County Bar Association 1998–1999

MEMBERSHIPS

Washington State Bar Association
King County Bar Association, Family Law Section
Domestic Relations Attorneys of Washington (DRAW)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Author, "Preparing for the Future of the Legal Profession," *King County Bar Bulletin President's Page*, December 2020
- Author, "The Inevitable Evolution of Legal Services in Washington," *King County Bar Bulletin President's Page*, November 2020
- Author, "How Can We Help with the Immigration Detention Crisis?" *King County Bar Bulletin President's Page*, October 2020
- Author, "The Family Law Mentor Program and Call for Assistance," *King County Bar Bulletin President's Page*, September 2020

"We went through numerous motions and hearings and even though there is never a real winner or loser in a divorce, Jennifer won every battle for me."

– FORMER CLIENT, SEATTLE, WA

"Jennifer and her team went above and beyond for me. Jennifer exudes a combination of compassion and strength which gave me a sense of peace in an otherwise extremely stressful time in my life."

– JOSIE, 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.

