



# McKINLEY IRVIN

FAMILY LAW

## MARK AREND PARTNER



BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA® 2025  
WASHINGTON SUPER LAWYERS® 2024

### AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Divorce
- Child Custody
- Parenting Plans
- Relocation
- Parenting Plan Modifications
- Child Support Modifications
- Estate Planning
- Military Family Law
- Mediation

### CONTACT MARK

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Tacoma, WA 98402

Before becoming an attorney, Mark Arend had accrued an impressive professional portfolio as a distinguished Air Force pilot and a successful corporate entrepreneur. It was during his time as a high-tech business executive that this now-veteran attorney first entertained the idea of learning the law.

While his original intent was to return to the business world following law school, Mark's plans shifted along the way. Today, a partner in McKinley Irvin's Tacoma office, he conveys an air of competence, compassion, and refreshing common sense. A divorcee himself, the happily remarried father of three knows firsthand how divorce can be "emotionally devastating and fraught with uncertainty."

*"My approach to practicing family law is informed by several principles. The first is to be a good listener—not just on behalf of my clients but also my coworkers and the courts. For me, that's the first commandment in the law: Talk less. Listen more."*

A second mandate, says Mark, centers on what he calls emotional intelligence—speaking one's arguments in calm, persuasive tones; and "remaining civil, professional, and ethical in all circumstances."

Creating a safe environment for clients is another of Mark's best-practice principles. For him, that means treating clients with empathy and respect, "telling them the truth from the outset through conclusion of our case," and remaining readily accessible to respond to questions and concerns.

At the end of the day, Mark concludes, the most important traits of a first-rate family law attorney may well be a strong grasp of the law and human nature—and the capacity for sheer, hard work.

"We've got to be willing to burn the midnight oil for our clients," he contends. "I don't know of a single attorney out there doing a fantastic job by coming into the office late and leaving early."

There is none of that complacency at McKinley Irvin, notes this Operation Military Family volunteer and outdoor enthusiast, who adds: "We're determined to be different—and great. And we've got the talent and resources to do it."

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*"Mark is very caring and showed us that he truly cared about our whole family. He is the most honest lawyer I have ever met and if we ever had to use a lawyer again we know right where to go."*

– SUE, FORMER CLIENT



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## EDUCATION

J.D., Seattle University School of Law  
Graduate, Trial Skills, National Institute of Trial Advocacy  
Certified Mediator, King County Dispute Resolution Center  
B.A. University of Washington

## MILITARY

United States Air Force, Fighter Pilot and Officer, 1983-1988

## DISTINCTIONS

Fellow, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML)  
*The Best Lawyers in America*® in the field of Family Law, 2025  
*Washington Super Lawyer* by Super Lawyers®, 2020-2024  
*Washington Rising Star* by Super Lawyers®, 2012-2018  
Rated "Superb" 10 out of 10 on Avvo.com  
WSBA Pro Bono Award, Washington State Bar Association, 2012

## APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Pro Tempore, Pierce County  
Chairman, Platinum Achievement Committee, Honorable Robert J. Bryan  
American Inn of Court, Chapter XXV

## MEMBERSHIPS

Washington State Bar Association, Family Law Section; Rules of Professional Conduct Committee: 2011-2012; Continuing Legal Education Committee: 2011/2012; Professionalism Committee 2009-2011  
Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Association  
Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity  
Cascade Vista Youth Athletic Club, Board of Directors

## IN THE COMMUNITY

Operation Military Family, Volunteer Attorney, 2009-present  
WSBA Home Foreclosure Legal Aid Project, Volunteer Attorney, 2009-present  
Tacoma-Pierce County Legal Clinic, Volunteer Attorney, 2008-present

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, "Better Client Contact Through Use of Form Letters," Washington State Bar Association, 2022

*"Mark educated me on my options and helped me feel empowered. The empowerment relieved stress, which I did not expect an attorney to provide. He reminds me of a Dr. that treats the whole patient not just the symptom. It's not about the ailment; it's about how you are doing holistically. That is a rare characteristic matched with great integrity. I am fortunate to have Mark as my attorney and recommend him highly to anyone."*

– 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