



McKINLEY IRVIN

FAMILY LAW

LAWRENCE S. MERRIFIELD, JR.

SENIOR ATTORNEY



BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA®, 2027

AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Divorce
- Child Custody
- Child Support
- Legal Separation
- LGBT Family Law
- Relocation
- Unmarried Couples

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Lawrence S. Merrifield, Jr. (Larry) has been practicing law for more than 20 years, guiding clients through complex and emotional legal matters with a steady hand, practical insight, and genuine empathy. He focuses his practice on family law because he values the opportunity to help people navigate major life transitions with clarity and compassion.

Clients appreciate Larry's calm demeanor and direct, honest communication style. He takes time to explain not just the legal process, but what each step might mean for the people involved.

"I want my clients to feel empowered, not overwhelmed. Knowing what to expect, both the possibilities and the limitations, helps people move forward with confidence," he says.

Larry believes that the best outcomes often come through cooperation rather than conflict. While he is a strong and experienced courtroom advocate, he prioritizes resolving disputes amicably when it serves his client's interests.

"If we can avoid litigation and preserve a working relationship between co-parents, everyone benefits," he explains. "I always want to help my clients reach the best resolution, not just the fastest or most aggressive one."

Before shifting his focus to family law, Larry served as Director of Litigation at Epiq Corporation, managing high-stakes class action cases. He argued before the Washington State Supreme Court in *Aitchison v. Great Western Malting*, 161 Wn.2d 372 (2007). He has been trained and previously served as a Guardian ad Litem under RCW Chapter 26, appointed to protect the best interests of children in family law cases across Southwest and Eastern Washington.

Outside of work, Larry is an accomplished runner and passionate youth coach. A two-time World Masters Games gold medalist, he is currently training for the New York City Marathon and is proud to have run a sub-three-hour marathon in four different decades. He volunteers with the Bowerman Track Club, a Nike-affiliated organization, where he has been a youth cross-country coach for nearly a decade. "I keep thinking I'll step back, but then a new group of kids comes along and I fall in love with their passion and energy," he says. What began as a way to support his son has become one of his most meaningful commitments, giving back to the community through mentorship and consistency.

Larry lives with his wife and two children in Southwest Washington. He is a proud Gonzaga dad, a devoted cross-country parent, and a lifelong Timbers fan. Their rescue dog, Phoebe, completes the family.

"I personally felt that everyone involved in the case actually cared and enjoyed their job and were fighting for my rights. They definitely felt like family and treated me so."

– Z.N., FORMER CLIENT



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EDUCATION

J.D., Gonzaga University School of Law
B.S., University of Oregon, Political Science

DISTINCTIONS

The Best Lawyers in America® in the field of Family Law, 2027

MEMBERSHIPS

Clark County Bar Association
Washington State Bar Association
Domestic Relations Attorneys of Washington (DRAW)

IN THE COMMUNITY

Youth Coach, Bowerman Track Club, 2015–present

"Seeking out an attorney can be a nerve racking experience. You have to have representation with integrity, honesty, knowledge and have one's best interest always in mind. I am so very thankful that I chose to work with McKinley Irvin and the wonderful staff they have in place. Highly recommended."

– C.M., 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.

