



McKINLEY IRVIN

FAMILY LAW

MARC T. CHRISTIANSON

CHAIR, LAW PRACTICE
MANAGING COMMITTEE



FELLOW, AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
MATRIMONIAL LAWYERS (AAML)
BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA® 2021
FAMILY LAW LAWYER OF THE YEAR 2015

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When it comes to the practice of family law, Marc Christianson has done it all: law practice managing partner for McKinley Irvin, distinguished solo and small-firm practitioner, experienced mediator and arbitrator, collaborative law expert, Superior Court Commissioner and Judge Pro Tem, founder of the Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Association Family Law Section, and former chair of the Washington State Bar Association Family Law Executive Committee.

Over the course of his distinguished career, Marc has established an enviable reputation among colleagues and clients alike—people who point to his wide-ranging legal knowledge and superior legal skills, his calm and responsive legal counsel, his extraordinary respect for the legal profession, and, above all, his steadfast commitment to excellence. The South Sound native and perennial Super Lawyer honoree captures his practice philosophy in simple, straightforward terms:

“My success has come from a genuine desire to help people resolve their problems, from working honestly and effectively with other attorneys, and from focusing on accuracy and truthfulness in everything I do. At all times and in all situations, my aim is to be the very best attorney I can be.”

A Tacoma lawyer since 1976, Marc has touched the lives of thousands of individuals and families going through “one of the most life-changing, emotionally draining, and financially difficult times of their lives.” By providing clear advice, carefully explaining the process, “talking to—and not at—my clients,” and frequently checking in with those he represents, Marc maintains he is able to minimize the fear and stress that inevitably accompany a family dissolution.

Now retired from practicing law, Marc continues to work with the firm on mentorship and attorney development. He enjoys golf, traveling with his wife, and socializing with friends. He adds that his years with McKinley Irvin, the Northwest’s premier family law firm, have been the very best of his lengthy and notable legal career.

“It has been a pleasure to work with a cadre of talented, dedicated attorneys who, like me, are committed to meticulous, tenacious representation,” he notes, “and who, like me, believe that successful results can be achieved in a dignified and respectful manner.”

“Marc is over-the-top competent, intuitive, caring, and responsive. I also felt genuine kindness in the initial consult with Marc that quite frankly exceeded my expectations. We are forever thankful.”

– A.N.C., FORMER CLIENT



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EDUCATION

J.D., Seattle University School of Law
B.A. University of Puget Sound

DISTINCTIONS

Fellow, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML)
2015 "Lawyer of the Year" by Best Lawyers in the field of Family Law, Seattle metro
Top 100 Attorneys in Washington State, Washington Super Lawyers, 2012-2018
Distinguished as a Washington Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers®, 2006-2020
Listed in The Best Lawyers in America® in the field of Family Law, 2005-2021
Peer review rated AV® Preeminent™ by Martindale-Hubbell®
Avvo.com 10.0 "Superb" rating

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

Washington State Bar Association Family Law Executive Committee, Past Chair
Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Association, Past President
Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Association Family Law Section, Founding Member
Pierce County Superior Court Commissioner Pro Tempore
Pierce County Superior Court Judge Pro Tempore

MEMBERSHIPS

Washington State Bar Association, Family Law Section
Washington State Bar Trust Account Responsibilities and Retainers Task Force
International Association of Collaborative Professionals
Collaborative Professionals of Washington
Collaborative Law Professionals of Pierce County
Domestic Relations Attorneys of Washington (DRAW)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Author, "11 Cardinal Rules of Family Law Mediation," *Pierce County Lawyer*, June 2014
- Author, "Mediation in Family Law: Eight Lessons Learned," *King County Bar Bulletin*, February 2014
- Interviewee, "Interview with Marc T. Christianson: The Power of Collaborative Divorce," *Parent Alliance*, February 2014
- Presenter, "Family Law 101: Time for a Reality Check," Washington State Bar Association CLE, December 2010

"Your kind and calm demeanor set me at ease, even as we discussed difficult choices I would have to consider. Your quick grasp of my complicated business arrangements made me immediately grateful that I had found excellent representation."

– J.M., FORMER CLIENT

"Marc, it has been a pleasure doing business with you and a privilege to be represented by you. I truly appreciate your steady advice during a very critical situation. Most importantly, I appreciate your integrity."

– R.C., 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.

