



McKINLEY IRVIN

FAMILY LAW

MARK AREND

PARTNER



BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA® 2025
WASHINGTON SUPER LAWYERS® 2025

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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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."

"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®, 2020-2025
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

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

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
Domestic Relations Attorneys of Washington (DRAW)
Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity

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
Cascade Vista Youth Athletic Club, Board of Directors

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

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.



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