



McKINLEY IRVIN

FAMILY LAW

KIM SCHNUELLE SENIOR ATTORNEY



RATED AV™ PREEMINENT®
BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA® 2025
WASHINGTON SUPER LAWYERS® 2024

AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Divorce
- Child Custody
- Relocation
- Parenting Plan Modifications
- Child Support Modifications
- Paternity
- QDROs
- Unmarried Couples

CONTACT KIM

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Seattle, WA 98101

An adventure lover at heart, Kim Schnuelle spends her free time traveling to far-flung destinations, hiking the local Cascades, skiing the slopes of Mission Ridge, or ensconced in her Brewster, WA cabin, writing legal articles.

Avocations aside, this veteran attorney brings that same level of intellectual curiosity and boundless energy to her work. Since 2011, she has employed her considerable negotiation and litigation skills in support of scores of clients at McKinley Irvin. Prior to joining the Northwest's largest family law firm, she served for 17 years as a lawyer with the Family Support Division of the King County Prosecuting Attorney, resolving thousands of cases along the way.

"To be successful in family law, you need to possess a solid grasp of legal issues and statutes, a healthy psychological makeup, and a good heart," says the yoga enthusiast and animal lover. "Book smarts only get you so far. It's important to have compassion and empathy for each client so you can provide the kind of exceptional legal representation your clients need and deserve."

For Kim, that means staying abreast of current case law, treating clients (as well as members of the bar and bench) with fairness, kindness, and respect, responding in a timely fashion to client calls and emails, and appreciating the unique nature of each legal case.

"Clients facing family law litigation are living through one of the most stressful periods of their lives. As an attorney and advocate, it is my role to reduce that stress by listening actively to their desired goals, then implementing those goals through a strong, well-prepared, and effective case strategy."

Beyond those considerations, says Kim, it's incumbent on good lawyers to continue to improve their work, and to refine and sharpen their craft. She adds that working at McKinley Irvin—"a place full of smart, yet really caring folks"—contributes mightily to this effort.

"Kim Schnuelle and her team have done an excellent job representing us in a complicated case. Her strategy kept us out of lengthy and costly legal battles."

– CONSUELO, FORMER CLIENT



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EDUCATION

J.D. University of Washington School of Law
M.A. in Biology, University of California at Los Angeles
B.A. in Paleontology, University of California at Berkeley

DISTINCTIONS

Peer Review Rated AV Preeminent™ by Martindale Hubbell®
The Best Lawyers in America® in the field of Family Law, 2020-2025
Washington Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers®, 2014-2024
Avvo.com 10.0 "Superb" rating & "Clients' Choice" Award

APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Pro Tempore, King County Family Law Motions Calendar, 2018-2022

MEMBERSHIPS

Washington State Bar Association
King County Bar Association

IN THE COMMUNITY

Pro Bono Adjunct Professor, Seattle University School of Law, 2022
Volunteer Attorney, King County Bar Association Family Law Mentor Program
Past Volunteer, King County Bar Association Bilingual Spanish Legal Clinic

RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- "Privacy vs. Discovery: Legal Strategies for Diary Protection," King County Bar Bulletin, January 2025 (co-authored with Ericka Kendall)
- "When Does Child Support End?," King County Bar Bulletin, May 2024
- "GAL Considerations in Family Law," King County Bar Bulletin, November 2023
- "Managing High-Conflict Communications," King County Bar Bulletin, February 2023
- "Marital Privilege: Much More than Film Noir Plot Device," King County Bar Bulletin, July 2022
- "Family Law Practitioners Don't Forget Summary Judgment," King County Bar Bulletin, January 2022
- "Modifying Child Support Orders: A Hypothetical Case Study," King County Bar Bulletin, May 2021
- "Statutory Abatement of Child Support for Incarcerated Individuals," King County Bar Bulletin, 2020
- "Undisclosed Terms at Arbitration," King County Bar Bulletin, 2020
- "Assessing Separation Date in Divorce Actions," King County Bar Bulletin, 2020 (co-authored with Elizabeth Mount Penner)

"If you want someone to help you with a child custody case, divorce, separation, family issues, Kim is the one you want on your side. She knows these topics like the back of her hand. She responds quickly. She explains anything you need help understanding without making you feel bad about it. She knows the law in and out and has so much experience. She doesn't have to reference or research because she already has it memorized. This is very helpful in these kinds of cases because you can feel very confident that she will get the job done and it will be in your favor. I am so thankful to the whole team and the help they provided me. She met my expectations and beyond!"

– 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.



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