



McKINLEY IRVIN
FAMILY LAW

April 14, 2026

Brendan J. O'Neill's Letter of Interest

Dear Members of the Nominations Committee:

I am writing to express my interest in serving as an At-Large Member of the Washington State Bar Association Family Law Section Executive Committee. As a practicing family law attorney in Washington, I am eager for the opportunity to contribute to the continued development of the section, support fellow practitioners, and help strengthen the delivery of family law services across the state.

I currently practice family law at McKinley Irvin in Everett, Washington. My work is grounded in a commitment to thoughtful advocacy, clear communication, and practical problem-solving. Prior to becoming an attorney, I worked as a family law paralegal for the Law Offices of Daniel Ehrlich, PLLC, which provided me with a comprehensive understanding of the lifecycle of family law cases and the real-world challenges clients face. During law school, I had the privilege of serving as a judicial extern to Judge Taki Flevaris of King County Superior Court during his rotation in the Unified Family Court. I also served as a law clerk for the Washington State Attorney General's Office in the Torts Division, where I gained an insightful look into matters involving DCYF. These experiences have shaped my approach to practice and reinforced my dedication to this field.

During law school, I actively sought leadership and service opportunities that align closely with the mission of the Family Law Section. I served as Vice President of the Student Bar Association, where I worked to support a diverse student body and improve institutional processes. I also served as Managing Editor of the American Indian Law Journal, where I helped facilitate a symposium entitled "*Reindigenizing the Law: Perspectives in the Pacific Northwest*." I served as a Rule 9 Intern in the Applied Family Law Practicum, which provided hands-on experience assisting pro bono clients with family law matters. Additionally, I served as President of the Family Law Society, where I organized networking, community-building, and educational events to encourage my peers to pursue careers in family law. These roles strengthened my ability to collaborate, lead, and contribute meaningfully to professional communities.

If selected, I would approach this role with a focus on practical, member-driven contributions to the section. I am particularly interested in expanding access to high-quality, practice-oriented resources for attorneys at all stages of their careers. This includes supporting CLE programming that is skills-based and directly applicable to daily practice, such as trial advocacy in family law, effective motion practice, and strategies for managing high-conflict cases. I would also welcome the opportunity to contribute to the development of sample materials, practice guides, or toolkits that newer attorneys can rely on as they build confidence and competence in their practice.

In addition, I am interested in strengthening mentorship and connection within the section. As a newer attorney, I have seen firsthand the value of accessible mentorship and informal guidance. I would be

eager to support the development of more structured mentorship opportunities and create avenues for meaningful collaboration between newer and more experienced practitioners across Washington.

I am also interested in improving communication and engagement within the section, particularly by increasing participation from members outside of the Seattle area. I would like to explore ways to expand virtual and hybrid programming to ensure that section resources, meetings, and events are accessible to practitioners statewide, regardless of geographic location.

Finally, I am committed to supporting the section's broader efforts to promote equity and inclusion within family law practice. This includes being mindful of how family law systems impact diverse communities and supporting initiatives that improve access to justice and culturally competent representation.

I value the opportunity to engage with colleagues across the state, participate in section initiatives, and contribute to discussions that shape policy, practice, and client outcomes. I am committed to being an active and dependable member who contributes both time and thoughtful perspective to the section's work.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be honored to serve the Family Law Section and contribute to its continued impact on the profession and the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

McKINLEY IRVIN, PLLC



Brendan J. O'Neill