

Claire McNamara

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EXPERIENCE

McNamara Law Firm, Of Counsel

Seattle, WA and Tucson, AZ (May 2021–Present)

- Led discovery and motions practice in products liability, negligent road design, and medical malpractice cases.
- Directed work of administrative staff member and outside co-counsel, including for three multi-week jury trials.
- Obtained approximately \$10 million for our clients through mediation, settlement, and jury verdict over three years.
- Pursued contentious multi-year discovery of patient deaths and hospital safety events involving a local surgeon (who had denied their existence) and successfully opposed motions in limine to ensure their admission in wrongful death trial.

Pacifica Law Group, Litigation Associate Attorney

Seattle, WA (March 2017–May 2021)

- Participated in all litigation stages for complex civil matters in state and federal courts throughout Washington, representing public, private and non-profit clients including the State Housing Finance Commission, the State Association of Counties, De-Escalate Washington, Civic Ventures, and the National Democratic Women's Caucus.
- Served as a Special Assistant Attorney General to draft policies for all state law enforcement agencies, health facilities, shelters, schools, and courthouses to help them comply with the 2019 Keep Washington Working Act.
- Addressed variety of issues including policy development, Public Records Act compliance, low-income public housing development and loans, and defended State initiatives.
- Completed 617 total pro bono hours including by representing an unaccompanied minor from El Salvador through Kids in Need of Defense and Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and the Hawaiian Islands.

Washington Court of Appeals, Div. II, Law Clerk to Hon. Jill Johanson

Tacoma, WA (October 2015–March 2017)

- Researched civil and criminal issues, prepared draft-ready, advisory pre-hearing memoranda, made recommendations for case resolution, and aided in drafting final opinions.
- Advised judges on issues such as possible dissents or concurrences, assisted with court preparation for case conferencing, and served as court bailiff during oral argument.

American Civil Liberties Union of Washington, Litigation Extern

Seattle, WA (January–May 2015)

- Interviewed potential clients and conducted legal research for various active and projected cases addressing issues like legal financial obligation policies and reproductive rights.
- Supported depositions and trial planning for active cases including *A.B. (Trueblood) v. Washington State DSHS*, a constitutional challenge to the length of time individuals spent detained awaiting court-ordered competency evaluations and *Ingersoll v. Arlene's Flowers*, regarding a florist's refusal to sell a couple flowers due to their sexual orientation.

Seattle University Ronald A. Peterson Law Clinic, Rule 9 Defense Advocate

Seattle, WA (August–December 2014)

- Represented clients in juvenile court while supervised by the Defender's Association. Researched other counties' restorative justice programs; created and proposed a mediation plan for an assault case; and implemented the first restorative justice mediation plan in King County Juvenile Court with my clinic partner for our young client.
- Successfully obtained release for an adult sentenced to life without parole under the three-strikes law.

EDUCATION

Seattle University School of Law, Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude* (GPA 3.6, Top 13%)

Seattle, WA (May 2015)

- Honors: Dean's Medal; Presidential Scholarship; Kellye Testy Scholarship for Advancement of Women's Leadership
- Leadership: Managing Editor, Seattle Journal for Social Justice & President, Dispute Resolution Board
- Publication: Seattle Journal for Social Justice, *A Call for Reform of Gun Rights Legislation and Policies to Protect Domestic Violence Survivors* (Published Fall 2014, Volume 13, Issue 2)
- Activities: Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project (represented an Afghani journalist seeking asylum) & Alaska Program 2013

Scripps College, Bachelor of Arts, *cum laude*, English; Minor, Social Psychology

Claremont, CA (May 2009)

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES & RECOGNITIONS

Federal Bar Association, *Pro Bono Committee Co-Chair* (2017-present), *Litigation Academy* (2020), and *Access to Justice Initiative Reentry Committee Member* (April 2024-present) • Washington Rising Stars, *Awardee* (2018-2024) • Tucson Lifestyle, *Best Lawyers: One to Watch* (2024) • National Lawyers Guild (2020-2021), *Seattle Legal Observer* • Yoga Behind Bars (2018-2020), *Governance Board Chair* • OneAmerica and Seattle Office for Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (2010-2019), *Citizenship Clinic Volunteer* • Yoga Instructor (2012-2017) • Family Law CASA of King County (2009-2012), *Special Advocate & Development Committee Member*