

Quarterly Newsletter



THE
IRVING
LAW FIRM

October 6, 2026



The Irving Law Firm Turns 25

On September 11, 2026, The Irving Law Firm turned 25 years old. For 25 years, The Irving Law Firm has had the privilege of serving individuals, families, and businesses throughout Northern Virginia.

While much has changed since our doors first opened, our purpose has remained the same: to be there when people need us, to advocate fiercely for those we represent, and to serve our community through our five pillars: Community, Team, Integrity, Proficiency, and Empathy.

Each pillar encompasses a key component of how The Irving Law Firm strives to serve our clients and community and handle every case we take on.

Behind every case is a person. Behind every person is a story, a family, a future, and a life that matters. For 25 years, you have trusted us with those stories—and that trust has shaped who we are as a firm.

We have grown and expanded in ways we didn't even know were possible. Every single one of our attorneys, administrative staff members, and support staff members is an individual we believe embodies The Irving Law Firm at its very best, and through that, we are able to make leaps and strides that make everything worth it.

We are profoundly grateful to do this work.

As we celebrate this milestone, we are proud of the past and are looking forward to the future with open arms.

From all of us at The Irving Law Firm, thank you for 25 extraordinary years of trust, support, friendship, and community.

-Managing Partner

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you can expect:

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Legal Updates

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Legal Updates - What's happening with the law?

The Virginia Sealing Law: A Second Chance Is Now Real

"There are no second acts in American lives." – F. Scott Fitzgerald

Most people who've heard this quote think it means Americans don't get second chances. But that's actually not what Fitzgerald meant. What he really said was that he *used* to believe that — until life proved him wrong.

The same thing is happening right now in Virginia. For the first time, the law is giving people with old criminal records a real shot at starting over.

What the New Law Says

Starting July 1st, Virginia has a new law that allows certain people with criminal records to have those records *sealed* — meaning hidden from the public. The law covers people who were convicted of, or had charges dropped for, certain misdemeanors and lower-level felonies, as long as the offense happened on or after January 1, 1986.

In plain terms: if you have an old criminal record, you may now be able to ask a court to hide it from employers, landlords, and the general public — for good.

Why This Matters

As an American, you have rights. You have the right to a fair trial and legal representation. But even after someone has served their time, paid their fines, or had charges dismissed, that criminal record doesn't just disappear. It follows them everywhere.

Getting a job becomes harder. Many employers require applicants to disclose any criminal history, and a lot of them won't hire someone with a record — no matter how minor or how long ago it was.

Finding a place to live is just as tough. Since the 1980s, when criminal records became easier to look up, landlords have been running background checks on renters. By the 2000s, it became very common. Today, many landlords have a flat rule: if you have any criminal record at all, your application is denied — no questions asked.

This puts people at a serious disadvantage. After already going through one of the hardest experiences of their lives — whether that meant jail time, rehab, or just trying to get back on their feet — they're now fighting an uphill battle just to find work and a safe place to live.

A Fresh Start

That's what this new law is about. Getting your record sealed is like opening a brand-new notebook. What you write next is up to you.

A sealed record doesn't erase what happened. But it gives people the chance to move forward without being judged forever for their past. People will have better access to jobs, housing, and opportunities they couldn't reach before.

How The Irving Law Firm Can Help

At The Irving Law Firm, one of our most important values is empathy — truly understanding what our clients are going through and caring about their outcomes. We know that life is complicated. Good people make mistakes. And no one should have to pay for one mistake for the rest of their life.

We believe this new law is a real act of fairness, and we want to help people in our community take advantage of it. If you think you may qualify to have your record sealed, we want to walk with you through that process.

Fitzgerald eventually admitted he was wrong — there *are* second acts in American lives. You deserve yours. Let The Irving Law Firm help you step into it.

Meet the New Hires!



Mehak Majid

Mehak Majid came to us as a Law Clerk and just earned her Juris Doctor from the Washington and Lee School of Law in May of 2026. Mehak believes that her love of problem-solving and of the analytical parts of the law drives her commitment and dedication to being a law clerk. She is also passionate about advocating for her clients and enjoys speaking to each of them individually, knowing that shared experiences will shape how she works as a law clerk and, one day, as an attorney.



Molly Teare

We also welcomed Senior Paralegal Molly Teare. Molly is an experienced senior paralegal with nearly a decade of litigation experience across labor and employment law, construction law, family law, and criminal defense. Molly earned a Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology from George Mason University in 2020, bringing a deep understanding of human dynamics to her casework. She excels at keeping complex cases organized and empowering support staff to deliver exceptional results for clients.



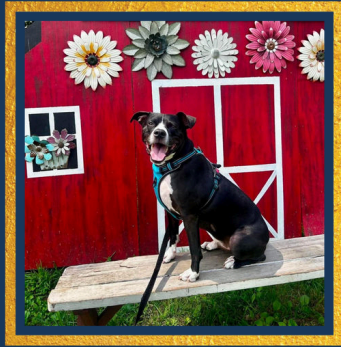
Mary Ellen Bokanovich

Mary Ellen Bokanovich is the Financial Analyst and Billing Specialist for The Irving Law Firm. Known for translating complex financial data into clear, actionable insights, Mary Ellen brings a collaborative leadership style, strong attention to detail, and a commitment to accuracy, compliance, and continuous improvement to her role. She is also a commissioned Notary Public. Before joining us, Mary Ellen worked at General Dynamics Information Technology for more than 30 years, where she built deep expertise in financial planning and analysis.



Paul Roques

Paul Roques is an Administrative Legal Assistant for The Irving Law Firm, where he helps manage the front desk and answers incoming client calls. He also supports our administrative staff and attorneys with any assigned tasks. Paul graduated from the South Dakota School of Mines with a Bachelor's Degree in Science, Technology, and Society (STS) in 2026. He hopes to eventually attend law school, pass the bar exam, and work as a criminal defense attorney one day.

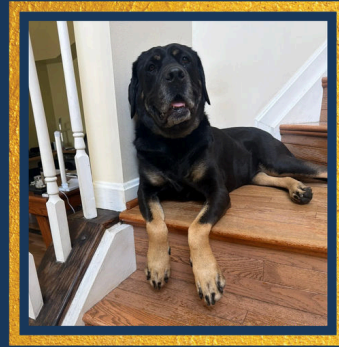


Pets Corner: Eddie

Whenever Victor (Paralegal) isn't working out of our Arlington office, he brings his dog, Eddie, to our Manassas office!

Eddie loves to chew on his bones, sleep in his cozy bed, go for walks around downtown Manassas, and hang out in the kitchen around lunchtime.

A three-year-old Pit mix, Eddie is super friendly, loves a good scratch behind his ears, and is always in the mood to play!



Pets Corner: Scout

Whenever we get new hires, Daria (Communications Specialist) makes sure the photographer (her dad) comes to snap pics for our website... and Scout always comes to assist too!

Scout loves to greet our team with big wet kisses and will even give you one of her massive paws to shake in exchange for a treat.

A seven-year-old Mastiff-Lab mix, Scout is what we at ILF would call a gentle giant. Just be careful around lunchtime, as she is known for jumping onto tabletops!



A Stellar Client Review!

"Miss Kayla Brown, she is an amazing lady- professional and quite brilliant in planning her game plan. We are continually impressed by her logical approaches to some of this world's most ugly people and their devilish ways. Ms Kayla is quite the warrior and I would recommend her highly to anyone in pursuit of truth and real justice."



Q3 2026 Work Anniversaries

John Irving - July 6 - 25 Years

David Rouzzo - July 15 - 2 Years

Rachel Goldsher - August 28 - 4 Years

Angela Morehouse- September 1 - 8 Years

Alexandra Mannix- September 3 - 1 Year

Madison Howell- September 22 - 1 Year

Daria Hodies -September 29 - 1 Year

Attorney Spotlight



CAROLYN ABBATE, REBECCA THACHER,
ANGELA MOREHOUSE

Our incredible COO, Angela Morehouse, and Family Law Team Leads Carolyn Abbate and Rebecca Thatcher were featured in Northern Virginia Magazine's July 2026 "Women Making the Mark" issue. They were highlighted for their wonderful leadership and attorney skills, and we could not be more proud of them!



MADISON HOWELL

Madison Howell, through extensive research and negotiation, was able to secure a nolle prosequi (a type of dismissal) for a client who was accused of and charged with a DUI. Madison's continuous hard work and commitment to pursuing justice are what set her apart from so many attorneys and why ILF believes she truly is a stellar attorney, teammate, and individual!



WHITNEY MELTON

Whitney Melton was appointed to and subsequently approved by the Virginia Legislature to serve on the Attorney Disciplinary Committee for the Virginia State Bar. The Irving Law Firm knows Whitney is such a hard-working, focused, and dedicated attorney and is so proud of her for this achievement!



BRENDAN KELLY

Brendan Kelly was able to secure an important plea deal for a juvenile client he was representing. After countless meetings, hearings, and long hours filled with trial prep, Brendan was able to protect the client and give them a good outcome. Brendan's passion for the law and kind demeanor never fail to shine through while he is working at ILF!

Admin Team Spotlight



ELNAZ AZIM

Elnaz Azim is the Legal Assistant for our Criminal Team and someone ILF considers a true rockstar! Supporting five attorneys, Elnaz assists them with case intake, investigations, discovery, drafting documents, coordinating filings, and preparing trial materials. She has also recently become a notary and can always be found working hard with a smile on her face!



DIANA GOMEZ

Diana Gomez is our Intake Team Specialist. In this role, she screens potential new clients, coordinates much of the communication within the firm, and helps our team in any way she can. Diana's love for people aligns seamlessly with her role at ILF, and we truly believe she holds her Intake Team and so much of the firm together with her warm demeanor and hard-working attitude!



MIRANDA COLT

Miranda Colt was promoted to the title of Senior Paralegal after 5 years with our firm. Miranda focuses on Family Law, where she helps the attorneys with everything behind the scenes, from drafting legal documents to scheduling meetings to preparing binders for trial and everything else in between. Much of her time is also devoted to communicating with clients. Miranda's hard work and dedication to our firm are a constant that we believe is a rare find, and we are thrilled to have her in this new position!



JAILENE GALLO

Jailene Gallo is our Legal Assistant for the Family Law Team, and she is always on top of her game! Jailene was born and raised in Honduras, which is where she spent most of her life before moving to the United States at 15 years old. Jailene is currently balancing her work at ILF with her studies toward an Associate degree in Paralegal Studies through Northern Virginia Community College. Her efficiency and initiative in helping clients and our firm make her a key part of the ILF family!

Thank you
for
reading!



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